

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

October 2018 Volume 16 Number 10



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



OCTOBER 22 MEETING: THE TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

David Yeates, Executive Director of the Texas Wildlife Association, will be the speaker at our monthly meeting. The monthly meetings of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter are free and open to the public. We meet in the Upper Guadalupe Authority's Lecture Hall, 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Socializing begins at 6:15; the program starts at 6:45.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Lisa Flanagan

It's Saturday, the day of the triathlon and the new Texas Arts and Crafts Show, now at the Hill Country Arts Foundation. And it's raining. The showers are moving through the Hill Country in waves, some light, others heavy. I feel sorry for the weekend activities that are affected by these rains. But.....

The rains are so very welcomed! The Hill Country seems to be in various stages of drought all the time now. We need these rains to replenish our aquifers, lakes, and rivers. I am always amazed to hear people who really don't know any better claim the drought is over. We know that this is not true and this part of Texas is becoming more arid as the years roll by. We need to adjust our thinking about water needs BEFORE it is too late. We encourage the use of native plants that can withstand dry periods and unrelenting sunny, hot days. It's not easy to convince new residents who come from green areas to leave old ideas of gardening and landscaping behind. Endless watering of non-native plants, some of which are real water gulpers, is not a good practice. But this is part of our mission: to inform, to educate.

I have attended a few of the 2018 class sessions. I thoroughly enjoy hearing the speakers again, as it never gets old. I was in the class of 2013. Refreshers are always good, and sometimes bring reminders of issues or ideas that have slipped the mind. Master Naturalist members can visit the classes (with permission from Leslie Hannah, Class Director) if you want to hear a particular speaker again. No non-members, as these classes are closed to the public.

The cooler weather is moving in. I love Autumn months (weeks?) of transition out of the hot summer. It's time to take those hikes and do the outdoor work that summer always seems to discourage. I hope we get good Fall colors!

Enjoy!

This Month We Honor

Certification

Charles Laird

Special Recertification

Laura Grant, Leslie Hannah, Dora McDaniels, Cynthia McKenna

Recertification

Pam Goolsby, Lucy Griffith, Veronica Hawk, Nancy Kerr, Carl Luckenbach,
Barbara Marquer, Tony Plutino, Andrew Robinson, Ron Scoggins, Regina Wheaton

Milestones

Rick Harter, Amanda Martin - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

*Congratulations to members who were certified or recertified
at the September meeting:*



From left to right: Donna Dutton, Sarah Hilburn, Kathy Daleo, Charles Harrington,
Catherine Gauldin, Laurence Doxsey, Koy Coffey, Ann Schneider, David Davies,
Sarabeth Mayfield, Morgan Williams, Tyra Kane, Katy Kappel, Lisa Flanagan

**Milestone Highlights:
Chapter Members Who Received Recognition of Milestones
at the September Meeting**

Kathy Daleo, a Class of 2017 member, was recognized for reaching the 250 volunteer hour milestone. Kathy has volunteered at both the Texas Tech (Junction) and Kroc Center Outdoor programs for children. She is also a Riverside Nature Center guide and helped conduct nature field trips for elementary school children. Additionally, Kathy represented the Riverside Nature Center at the Blooms and Barrels festival. Kathy serves on the Class Committee for the 2018 training program. As part of her duties, she organized the Volunteer Fair for this year's training group, contacting and coordinating representatives of multiple projects and agencies in the Hill Country area which utilize Texas Master Naturalists volunteers. Kathy's efforts received rave reviews.



Katy Kappel, another member of the Class of 2017, also was recognized for achieving the 250-volunteer hour milestone. Katy is a Riverside Nature Center guide; she helps to orient visitors and performs other duties there as needed. She also volunteers at the Pollinator Garden at Kerr-Schreiner Park, helping with plant maintenance, watering, and weeding. During the summer of 2018, Katy provided water sampling for the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. She also serves as the Class of 2017 representative on the Chapter Board and is on the Class Committee for the 2018 training class and received acclaim for her "barista" talents

Sarah Hilburn, a member of the Class of 2012, was recognized for the outstanding achievement of the 2500 volunteer hour milestone. Sarah is an Interpretive Guide at Old Tunnel State Park, helping visitors and guests understand the population of bats who reside there. She also volunteers at Muleshoe Farm and Ranch, doing monthly bird counts and Nest Box monitoring there. She participates in monthly surveys of the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project at Kerr Wildlife Management area. Sarah also participates in monthly bird counts at several public parks in Kendall County, as well as Christmas Bird Counts. She has volunteered at the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival in San Antonio. At the Cibolo Nature Center, Sarah is involved in the Center's Field Research, doing incidental and breeding bird counts. She has volunteered at Riverside Nature Center, helping with plant sales and also participating in the Fourth Grade Field Day. She volunteers with the Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center, the Journey North/Journey South programs, the Kerrville-Schreiner Park Pollinator Garden, and the Canyon Lake Gorge. Sarah has helped with the youth programs at YMCA Roberts Ranch, and also participates in eBird and NestWatch activities.



The C.A.R.E. committee invites you to join fellow Master Naturalists for an informal social hour prior to our monthly meeting. Gather at El Sombrero, 303 S.Sidney Baker St. in Kerrville, at 4:30 and order dinner if you wish.

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

9/1/18	Hypoxylon: The OTHER Oak Tree Disease
9/8/18	How to Live in the Country Without Spoiling It
9/15/18	Animals and Their Food Choices
9/22/18	How Does a Tree Work?
9/29/18	Tips for Growing Native Plants

These and all other previous Kerrville Daily Times columns can be found at www.hillcountrynaturalist.org .

From Katy Kappel

Save the Date and Donations Needed

It is not too early to pencil in the Hill Country Master Naturalists Holiday/Volunteer Recognition Party!

It will be a luncheon on Saturday, December 8 at the YO Hotel: good food, door prizes, music, skits, and a silent auction.

If you are crafty, please donate a piece of your work or art. If you eat out, please ask your favorite restaurant manager to donate a dinner for two. Or, donate anything else seasonal or nature-related. Email katykappel@yahoo.com and I will collect the items. All proceeds will go to the HCMN operating account.

Workshop October 16

Autumn Flower Arrangements with Native Grasses and Plants

Floral designer Pat McCormick will conduct a hands-on workshop teaching flower arranging for the autumn table with seasonal native plants and grasses.

Pat McCormick trained at the Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A&M and has several years of experience in designing arrangements for the altar and events. The workshop will be on Tuesday, October 16 at 6:00 pm. at Fredericksburg High School, Room 235. Cost is \$10.

To register, contact Joanie Kramer at (830) 997-7182 or joaniek@fisd.org. Sponsored by the Native Plant Society in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Independent School District Community Education Program.



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 6:30, Melissa Huffman will present
"Winter Outlooks for South Central Texas."
Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Oct. 23, Jim Stanley and John Huecksteadt
will present "A Grass Class."
Social at 6:30, program at 7
Fellowship Hall of Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 1:30, Bridget Langdale will present
"Dark Skies: Help the Native Pollinators
and See the Difference it Makes!"
Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville.

These chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

WELCOME

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. The board meets at the Riverside Nature Center at 2:30 on the Monday of the chapter's monthly meeting.

A HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE EVENT

HILL COUNTRY LIVING + RAINWATER REVIVAL FESTIVAL



Free + Fun For All!

Celebrate living lightly, responsibly and beautifully in the Texas Hill Country.

SATURDAY, OCT 20
10AM TO 5PM

DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

RAINWATERREVIVAL.COM

Fun things to do!

- WANDER** 70+ vendors & exhibitors.
- SHOP** the Hill Country Marketplace.
- LISTEN** to speakers/experts all day.
- DANCE** at acoustic music stage.
- PLAY** at Raindrop Stop for kids.
- EAT** well from good food trucks.
- DRINK** Hill Country wine.
- DREAM** about your own tiny home.
- PLAN** a trip in a tricked-out trailer.
- PET** some friendly chickens.

Good things to learn!

- CATCH** the rain.
- MANAGE** wildlife.
- STEWARD** healthy land.
- CONSERVE** water & energy.
- BUILD** green & low impact.
- PROTECT** dark night skies.
- PLANT** native & drought-tolerant.
- BEE** pollinator-friendly.
- EARN** CE credits for realtors.
- RAISE** happy chickens.

ON THE MUSIC STAGE!	10:30 - 11:15AM "MR WILL" DUPUY For kids of all ages!	12 NOON - 1:15PM JOMO AND THE POSSUM POSSE "Guy on a Buffalo!"	3:30 - 5PM KELLY WILLIS & BRUCE ROBISON Y'all Come!
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Hill Country Alliance is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

HARVEST MOON CELEBRATION



\$10 Adults
\$5 Youth 6+
Under 6 Free

Saturday, October 27, 2018 Noon - 9 PM

Muleshoe Farm & Ranch Trust | 306 Highway 87 | Comfort, TX

Birds of Prey | Live Music | Crafters | Hay Rides | Owl Walk
Kids' Costume Contest & Activities | Farm & Nature Demos

Proceeds to benefit Last Chance Forever & Muleshoe Farm & Ranch Trust

www.harvestmooncelebration.org

Teaching About Clean Water at the Kroc Program

Tara Bushnoe and Travis Linscomb of UGRA set up a change of classroom at the Kroc Center due to rain. Master Naturalist volunteers Teresa Coleman, her mentee, Marsha Baumann, John Sloan, Martha Miesch, and her husband Pete, who lends a hand when needed, assisted. Tara and Travis planned an excellent program to help these students learn more about what it means to keep the water in our area clean. Tara reminded them of an important project that UGRA organizes each year with volunteers to remove trash that collects in our beautiful Guadalupe River. Travis collected insects from the river water that indicate healthy, clean water. These insects were fascinating to the students, who could observe the insects in individual jars that were labeled. They could then have an outlined picture of each that they could identify and color.



While one group worked on that project, another worked at two tables that were set up with clay and other ornamental pieces so that students could create their own insects and set them on paper plates to dry and take home. It was amazing how creative the students were in creating insects.

As we left the classroom at the conclusion of this session a few of the students who were not allowed to take part in this program expressed a desire to do it another time. Our nature study program is extremely popular among the after school students at the Kroc Center.



The View from Rusty Bend



September Storm

Cooper's Hawk

*Such a romantic, those
private performances for your mate.
You sweeten courtship with a sky dance,*

*start the day with a murmuring song.
She answers with hers,
a two-toned duet before mating.*

*Today, you take a break from
strafing the feeder.
Your tastes turn to rodents as*

*I follow you down the lane.
Your cargo hangs below
the finery of your banded fan.*

*The rat's tail swings like a shoelace,
shining in the sun
as you carry him home.*

September feels somewhat strange this year at Rusty Bend. Our rain dances opened the heavens to fling at least a foot of rain upon the ranch. This welcome event breathed life into the drooping Frostweed just in time to flower for migrating pollinators. I take walks in the rain to savor singular treats: the sound of raindrops on grapevine leaves—a sort of whisper, and rain on cottonwood leaves—like water hitting paper. Put on a hat, give it a try.

September has snippets. In particular, snippets of light. One has to look quickly, then it's gone. Like a stage spot, morning sun will flare a tree, changing it into something altogether new, then extinguish. Or, a soft lavender light appears at dusk for just a moment, then vanishes. As Annie Dillard observed: "Life is moving; time is a live creek bearing changing lights."

Against this background of sudden moments, wildlife events resemble one act plays:

Skinny Pete. A Great Blue Heron is a one-man show as he fishes from the same place on the river every day. Andy and I see him from the railroad bridge, a stick fisherman. He hangs out, motionless, where the water runs over an old bridge/dam below us. As we watch, a huge carp shoulders its way up the waterfall, golden scales writhing, Pete doesn't move; his equipment is too dainty.

Lumbering across the yard one morning, we see an unwelcome porcupine. I call him "**Sticker Bear**" and want to send him back to the forests of New Mexico. Sticker Bear, I say, we have no trees to spare. Go home.

JUMP. On the Comedy Channel, Divot, a young armadillo goes wild in the yard, root-plowing for pillbugs. To encourage a move elsewhere, Andy walks near to herd him away. He is oblivious. Andy claps, Divot jumps straight up, then returns to his plowing. Andy claps, he jumps. Clap, jump. Finally, Divot gets the message, exits stage right.

Kite Games. One evening we see more than sixty Mississippi Kites land in the pecan trees on the river. Their elegant white and grey forms wheel and dive. Kabuki Theater is echoed in the silhouettes of their sharp wings, hawking squadrons of dragonflies.

continued on next page

Then, **Baby Fox Rodeo**. One morning as I run up the paved road I see a fox, crossing as she sometimes does. This morning a small shadow, a mini-me, follows her. Mama ducks into the bar ditch but baby wants to play. He bounces, he flips in the road. She walks back out, gives him the stink eye, *Junior, get out of the road!* and returns to the brush. Like any toddler, he doesn't comply; he dashes, he leaps. Finally, she lopes back out of cover and herds her "maverick calf" to safety.

Invasion of the Wasp People. This three-act play would be Andy's multi-day effort to remove an infestation of yellow jackets near the house. (most unwelcome before granddaughters visit). After he got five stings and they followed him into the house, he was a man obsessed. Soapy water and persistence saved the day.

So here is my recommendation: go outside. Feel that fleeting pocket of cool air. Watch the cypress begin to tarnish from their bright spring green. The sun has lost its bite. Be still. Catch a cup of light.

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2018

Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry, her muse, a tractor named Mabel. She has just completed the story of the Burro Lady of West Texas, told in poems. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists. Comments welcome at doctorluz@hctc.net



The bug man cometh



Advanced Training

**TUESDAY, OCT. 16 7-8:40PM FREDERICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 235 1107 HIGHWAY 16
AT18-273 FALL TABLE ARRANGEMENTS WITH NATIVE GRASSES AND PLANTS**

Pat McCormick will be the presenter. Space is limited; sign up at the Fredericksburg ISD Community Education site by contacting Joanie Kramer at 830-997-7182 or joaniek@fisd.org. Cost: \$10. This is a hands-on class. Bring scissors, clippers, and an 8"-10" vase.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17 5:30-6:30PM DIETERT CENTER, KERRVILLE
AT18-249 FOSSILS CONNECT THE PAST TO THE PRESENT**

Michael McGinnis will speak on how fossils are studied and some of the secrets they have recently revealed. Cost: \$15. To register, go to https://clubed.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=48582&int_category_id=0&int_sub_category_id=0&int_catalog_id=0.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 18-SUNDAY, OCT. 21 EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON, SAN ANTONIO
AT18-265 2018 NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS SYMPOSIUM**

The symposium presentations and field trips will explore the use of native plants by inhabitants of the San Antonio River system from the indigenous era to the present; the restoration of the Mission Reach; plant-based low impact development to slow storm water runoff and enhance water quality; and the transition of the plant communities of the Blackland Prairie to the surrounding ecoregions along the San Antonio River and tributaries, with topics related to habitat improvement for butterflies, pollinators, and fauna. To register, go to <https://npsot.org/wp/symposium2018/registration/>.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 19 TEXAS CITY PRAIRIE PRESERVE, TEXAS CITY
AT18-288 PRAIRIE RESTORATION ROUNDUP**

There will be presentations of projects in the region, a grass ID mini-lab, and a tour of the prairie seed grow out facility. Cost: \$25. Contact Jamie Gonzales, 261-660-6683, for more information.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 20 10AM-5PM DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK
AT18-287 COUNTRY LIVING AND RAINWATER FESTIVAL**

For information, go to <http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/>

**SATURDAY, OCT. 20 12-1PM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED, KERRVILLE
AT18-286 NATIVE BEES IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY**

Entomologist Ray Dutton will speak on the importance of the over 300 species of bees that live in the Hill Country, how to recognize them, and how we can garden in ways that help them thrive. Reservations are required; call the store at 830-895-7393 or email gotseed@windstream.net. No charge.

**MONDAY, OCT. 22 7:45-9PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE
AT18-255 TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION**

David Yeates, Executive Director of the Texas Wildlife Association, will be the presenter at the monthly chapter meeting.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 23 10:30-11:30AM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE
AT18-271 EXPLORING BIRD LANGUAGE**

Whether you have been a birder for life, or you don't know an eagle from a sparrow, explore the language of the birds! Interpreting bird language entails understanding what birds are saying and how they are saying it, and is an ancient skill that people have used to help them survive and thrive for thousands of years. Lee Burton will be the presenter. For more information: RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com, 830-257-4837.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 23 1-2PM WEBINAR
AT18-199 "FIFTH GENERATION" MONARCHS: WHAT DO WE KNOW AND NOT KNOW?**

Dr. Kristen Baum will focus on what is known and not known about this generation, including the timing of activity, habitat use, tachinid fly parasitism, OE infection, and tag returns from the overwintering grounds in Mexico, with an emphasis on Oklahoma and Texas. Go to <https://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/announcing-the-2018-monarch-conservation-webinar-series>.

TUESDAY, OCT. 23 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG
AT18-259 "A GRASS CLASS"

Now is your chance to identify those mystery grasses growing on your property! Which grasses are native? Which are introduced? Which are invasive? Bring samples (bundles including the seed head, stems and leaves) to this Fredericksburg Native Plant Society meeting. Following an introductory presentation, Jim Stanley and John Huecksteadt will assist attendees with identification of their grasses.

TUESDAY, OCT. 23 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT18-261 ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL FORESTRY IN SUPPORTING POLLINATORS

Common agroforestry practices include windbreaks (including shelterbelts, hedgerows, living snow fences), riparian forest buffers, alley cropping, silvopasture, and multi-story cropping (also known as forest farming). Examples of FY2019 payment scenarios for these practices will be provided. This webinar will summarize how these practices can be designed and managed to support pollinators..NOTE: A "view" button will be available within one week of the live presentation date to access the on-demand recording of this webinar. Gary Bentrup will be the presenter. Go to <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/role-of-agroforestry-in-supporting-pollinators> .

THURSDAY- SUNDAY, OCT. 25-28 SHERATON HOTEL, GEORGETOWN

AT18-274 2018 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL MEETING

For AT entries, enter the title of the class, the location, (may be a room number), the speaker, the length of the class and the AT hours. Use code AT18-274 for each class.

MONDAY, OCT. 29 7-8PM SCHREINER UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY CENTER BALLROOM, KERRVILLE

AT18-278 NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

Dr. Bill Reed, Former Director of the National Hurricane Center, will share his experience as a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center. Additional information and a campus map is available at www.hcnwa.club .

SATURDAY, NOV. 3 8:30AM-2PM SUNRISE BEACH VILLAGE CIVIC CENTER, SUNRISE BEACH VILLAGE

AT18-285 HEALTHY CREEKS AND RIPARIAN AREA WORKSHOP

Steve Nelle, David Riley, and Kenneth Mayben are the instructors. \$10. registration includes a light lunch. Space is limited; to register, go to <http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/event/sandy-creek-healthy-creeks-and-riparian-areas-workshop/>.

THURSDAY, NOV. 8 12-1:30PM WEBINAR

AT18-264 THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: BUILDING A WEATHER READY NATION

Paul Schlatter will explain why we need to be Weather-Ready and how it's becoming more difficult, given the increasing vulnerability in many parts of the country. Go to <https://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=wxtalk> .

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT18-283 EPHEMERAL GULLY EROSION: WHAT IT IS AND HOW DO WE TREAT IT?

Giulio Ferruzzi, Conservation Agronomist, will be the presenter. Go to <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/ephemeral-gully-erosion-what-it-is-and-how-do-we-treat-it?sr=wp~mkt-whenPubwebinars/> .

THURSDAY, NOV. 15 7-8PM WEBINAR

AT18-279 NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION - SEVERE WEATHER WORKSHOP

Meteorologist Richard McAlister will explain how to use internet based tools to forecast severe weather. For further information, go to richardmcalister@outlook.com .

MONDAY, NOV. 26 6:45-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE

AT18-TBA MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Jeff Forman will be the speaker at our monthly chapter meeting.

The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow listing all AT events in each issue.
 Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT.

T E X A S



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months (but not in August) at 7:00 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Join us at 6:30 for our social half-hour. Everyone is welcome.

Texas Master Naturalist mission:
To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Board of Directors 2018

- Lisa Flanagan -- President
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- Katy Kappel-- 2017 Class Representative
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The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please email them to:
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The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse organizations or commercial sources mentioned in our newsletter. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and editor.



Questions about our chapter?
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