

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

January 2019 Volume 17 Number 1



image by Lucy Griffith



January 28 Meeting: Climate Change and Water

Climate change affects our ecosystems in many ways. How competing influences sort themselves out will have important implications for aridity, streamflow, riparian communities, and water infrastructure. John Nielsen-Gammon, the Texas State Climatologist and faculty member at Texas A&M University, will discuss these influences at our January 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 River 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

Hello everyone! Happy New Year!

I hope your new year holds many good things, in health, prosperity and success in all you do.

I heard a story on NPR last week that included a quote, probably from Socrates, that has made me think about things. "An unexamined life is not worth living." Apparently, at the time, he was on trial for impiety and corrupting youth, and subsequently he was sentenced to death. Aren't you glad we are not held to such standards today?!?

When I heard this quote, it made me think about different aspects of my life, my own personal examination. How appropriate as we head into a new year. When I thought of it in terms of my involvement in Master Naturalists, I realized some shortcomings to be dealt with.

1. I am particularly bad about writing down everything I do to get volunteer hours.
2. I do not always take ATs that might interest me and lead to new ventures.
3. I procrastinate and end up doing "last minute" marathons to complete things I need to do.
I really need to fix that!

This is my short list. There is more, but I will spare you.

At the top of the list, regarding getting my hours in, is what I will work on first, because it is so important to the Master Naturalist organization. This is what helps Michelle Haggerty get the money necessary to run it. No money comes from the state or TPWD. Do you enter all your hours for the work you do? If not, please consider "examining" your reasons for not, and start doing it. Some people only enter up to 40 hours for volunteering, and 8 hours for ATs, then no more for the rest of the year, no matter how many hours they put in. Are you cheating yourself? Maybe you don't care about earning milestones. Are you cheating the Texas Master Naturalists for not entering your hours monthly? Definitely! More hours entered = more money for our organization. What we do as Master Naturalists is so valuable. It is even more valuable when we record them as part of the system. Many of us know that Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth are the ONLY paid employees of this program. They are understaffed and overworked. What if everyone entered all their hours and by doing so enabled Michelle to hire another employee? They do get a couple of interns every year, but that doesn't solve the problem.

Enough said there. Please "examine" what you do and why you do it, and please enter your hours. I will do the same. I assure you that you will not be put on trial if you don't. Socrates lost his life...you will not.

Until we meet again, stay warm and healthy, and have a good year! (How did 2019 get here so fast? Didn't we just celebrate the Millennium?)

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Kim Berthold, Marge Cid, Don Gray, Molly Houck,
Melissa Riggs, Carla Stang, Kevin Wessels

Recertifications

Jim Bobbit, Carla Brady, Kristine Burkhart, Betty Clyburn, Steve Clyburn, Cindy Cox, Vern Crawford,
Mildred Dworsky, Connie Fluegel, Mary Frushour, Robin Graham, Tim Graham, Becky Laird,
Wendi Leonard, Susan Longacre, Linda Myers, Colette Nicholl, Steve Ramirez, Mark Richardson,
Nina Stieler, Joyce Towers, Joe von Rosenberg, Amy Zesch

Milestones

Pam Bird, Mack Brown, Leslie Hannah, Terry Lashley, Charleen Moore - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours
FE Baxter, Teresa Coleman, Jim Jones, Barbara Oates - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 Hours
Tom Harrigan - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours



Congratulations to members who received awards at the November meeting:

Left to right, top photo: Lenore Langsdorf, Jim Jones, Wendy Leonard, Kris Bobbitt,
Nancy Huffman, Sharron Jay

Left to right, bottom photo: Robert Binney, Cathy Binney, Nancy Huffman, Dora McDaniels,
Joyce Studer, David Davies, Kris Bobbitt, Julie Clay

Milestone Highlights
Chapter Members Who Received Recognition of Milestones
at the November Chapter Meeting



Bob Binney certified in the Rio Grande Valley Chapter and transferred in 2016. He has given 2500 hours of volunteer service.



Kris Bobbitt, a member of the Class of 2013, has given 1000 hours of volunteer service.



Julie Clay, a member of the Class of 2007, has given 4000 hours of volunteer service.



David Davies, a member of the Class of 2016, has given 500 hours of volunteer service.



Nancy Huffman certified in the Coastal Prairie Chapter and transferred in 2018. She has given 250 hours of volunteer service.



Dora McDaniels, a member of the Class of 2017, has given 250 hours of volunteer service.



Joyce Studer, a member of the Class of 2016, has given 250 hours of volunteer service.

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 South Sidney Baker St. in Kerrville, at 4:30 and order dinner if you wish.

From Lisa Flanagan

A Request About Reporting Volunteer Hours

We are now in 2019, and your VMS team has a request for you.

A few members of our chapter comprise the VMS team that is responsible for approving the volunteer hours and Advanced Training hours that our members enter into the system. Some of these approvers have long lists of members for whom they approve hours. There are members who wait until THE LAST MINUTE to enter their hours for the entire month. This puts a hardship on approvers who also have busy lives away from the computer! We are asking you to consider entering your hours on a weekly basis (ideal), or at least every couple of weeks. This would help tremendously!

We are not approving the events so much as approving that your entry is done correctly. Our non-Master Naturalist auditors will kick out anything they see is not right, so please choose the correct project code:

CB – Chapter Administration

DO – Direct Outreach: directly teaching, training others, interpretive hikes

PO – Public Outreach: events where others come and go, docent, staffing booths, writing articles

FR – Field Research: Any census, survey, or research and actions related to research, data entry, etc.

NPA – Nature/Public Access: Gardens and trail

TG – Technical Guidance: Using TMN expertise to advise other organizations

OT- Other: Serving on boards of other groups where the membership is an administrator, not advisor

As always, we are available to help you with any questions or issues. We are here for you.

Thank you for all you do,

Your VMS Team:

Sandy Leyendecker: VMS Data Manager

Kristie Denbow: VMS Projects Manager

Approvals Team: Reggie Cox, Brenda Fest, Lisa Flanagan, Claire Mitchell



Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

11/3/18	The Backyard Creek, Repeat.
11/10/18	The Joy of Watching Nature and How to Spread the Joy
11/17/18	Master Naturalists Graduates its 17 th Class
11/24/18	Detritivores and Decomposers: Nature's Recyclers
12/1/18	Understanding Fall Leaf Drop
12/8/18	Restoring the Horned Lizard to Central Texas
12/15/18	Hill Country Winters are Semi-green
12/22/18	Ferdinand Roemer: The Hill Country in 1846
12/29/18	The Sumac Family of Shrubs

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



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

How to Prune Native Plants with Kathy Lyles

What: Hands-on Outdoor Workshop

Topic: "How to Prune Native Plants"

Expert native plant gardener, Kathy Lyles, will conduct a hands-on workshop teaching how to prune native Hill Country plants. Natives need minimal maintenance, but proper and timely pruning will increase flower production, extend bloom life, and shape for the landscape aesthetic. Cost is \$20. Sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Fredericksburg in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Independent School District Community Education Program.

Bring pruning shears and gardening gloves.

To Register: Contact Joanie Kramer at 830-997-7182 or joaniek@fisd.org.

Date: Friday, February 1, 2019

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Where: Fredericksburg Post Office
1150 North US Highway 87, Fredericksburg

From Reggie Cox, Membership Director

The Class of 2018 Commencement

The Class of 2018 had their commencement on November 18, 2018. The class completed 12 class sessions and four field trips to the West Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Honey Creek, the Gorge at Canyon Lake, and Selah, David Bamberger's ranch reclamation project. All of these field trips are great examples of master naturalist interests.



This was the second class to complete their training at the UGRA Building Lecture Hall. This facility has space for board members, class mentors, and guests to observe classes if requested.



I attended most of the classes and noted that this class was exceptional in its efforts to learn about the ecosystems of the Hill Country. They worked hard, asked great questions, and made new friends. The volunteer fair was very successful and the sign up to participate in the various projects surpassed expectations.

To my knowledge—thinking back to earlier classes—this class had the most trainees who completed the requirements for certification by commencement day. Leslie Hannah, Class Director, did a great job of keeping the class interested and motivated toward certifying. Jim Stanley's presentations and Advanced Training opportunities were, as always, a huge contribution.

These trainees were presented with their Initial Certification and dragonfly pin at Commencement:

Kim Berthold, Marge Cid, Cindy Cox, Mildred Dworsky
Connie Fluegel, Rebecca Laird, Wendi Leonard,
Steve Ramirez, Mark Richardson, Joyce Towers, Amy Zesch

Class member Carla Stang has volunteered to be the 2019 Class Director.

We are proud of the 2018 class and look forward to working with them on master naturalist projects and making new friends in this dynamic group.

photos by Catherine Gauldin

From Katy Kappel

Water Specialist Certification

The TPWD has posted the webinars that lead to certification as a Waters Specialist, as well as AT credit . The Riverside Nature Center will host a series of showings and discussion groups beginning at 4 pm on Monday, January 21. The curriculum is available online and we will have a few books available. The first webinar is on invasive apple snails.

For further information see the website Texas Waters Specialist — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Or call Katy Kappel at 512-589-1498.



TPWD photo

NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, 6:30 - 8:30, Deanna Pfeffer, TPWD Lead Biologist as the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, will be our speaker. Her topic will be "Ecosystem Management of the Edwards Plateau's Kerr WMA: How Plant Communities and Ecosystems Have Changed Over Time."

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 7, David K. Langford, photographer and author, will be our speaker. His topic will be "*Seasons at Selah: The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve*," and he will autograph copies of the book. Social time with light refreshments begins at 6:30.

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 1:30, Susan Tracy will present a program on Texas ferns. Come at 1 p.m. for refreshments and conversation.

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street

These chapter meetings are free and open to the public.



From Paula Harley, Advanced Training Director

Inaugural VMS Awards.

The 2018 Volunteer Recognition Event at the Volunteer/Holiday Party on December 8 included the Inaugural VMS Awards. In the "Most Volunteering Person" category, Tom Harrigan took the prize with 1175 hours from Jan. 1 to Nov. 30. Hal Zesch is the recipient of the "Most AT Hours Attended" title, with 82 hours of continuing education, and Craig Childs won the prize for the "Farthest Travelled for an AT Event." He traveled nearly 1000 miles round trip to learn about wild hogs. I look forward to the 2019 VMS Awards when volunteers again will be recognized for outstanding performance that demonstrates their interest in and dedication to Ecological Conservation.



From Nyta Brown

Volunteering at Old Tunnel State Park

Old Tunnel State Park is looking for a few good men and women to volunteer. Old Tunnel is located between Comfort and Fredericksburg on Old San Antonio Road. The main feature at the park is an old abandoned railroad tunnel that is home to approximately three million Mexican free-tailed bats that migrate to Texas for the summer.

Volunteer opportunities include assisting with education and interpretation on bats and the history of the tunnel on evenings during bat season, March through November. Volunteers are also needed to assist with trail work, general maintenance, and outreach activities.

Volunteers are given many opportunities for appreciation trips and activities as well as receiving volunteer awards based on cumulative hours volunteered each year.

The only requirement is that all attend a training that will be held in the spring each year. We hope to get at least 10 new volunteers for our 2019 season. If you are interested, please send an email by January 31st to Nyta Brown – nyta.brown@tpwd.texas.gov. I will send you more information about the training.

From Eileen Gotke

“Nightmare Before Christmas”: Big Winner Entry for Old Tunnel State Park in Christmas in Comfort 2018 Parade!

Once again, the Old Tunnel State Park volunteers, with superintendent Nyta Brown, ended bat season 2018 with their prize winning community outreach float entry in the Comfort parade. The theme included bats, of course, along with Jack, Sally and Zero. The First Place plaque for “Best Christmas Spirit” went to Old Tunnel’s “Nightmare Before Christmas”! It was a hit with the judges and with the parade spectators as well!



Left to right: Bob Binney, Sarah Hilburn, Dale Bransford, (Jack), Diane McMahon, Barbara Jansen, Nyta Brown (Sally), and Wilma Teague. All are HCMN volunteers.



Old Tunnel State Park entry: Zero guiding the bats pulling the coffin sleigh, with Jack and Sally aboard.

From Lisa Flanagan

2018 Holiday/Volunteer Party



Riverside Nature Center Presents
February 2019 NEEd Talk:

The Pleistocene Fauna Of Kerr County & Central Texas

February 19, 2019

10:30am-11:30am

Presented by Steve Stoutamire

Thousands Of Years Ago There Were Some Big And Dangerous
Critters

Many of the animals that became extinct at the end of the Pleistocene geologic epoch are preserved in world class sites within Texas.

In this talk we will discuss the Imperial Mammoth remains at the Waco Mammoth Site and the remains of extinct buffalo at the Bonfire Shelter site.

Also being discussed will be The Friesenhahn Cave in Bexar County which contains the most remains of one variety of saber tooth cat, as well as Hall's Cave which has been studied for over 50 years.

The presentation will also discuss the association of the earliest Native Americans with the extinct animals preserved within these sites.



**Urban Wildlife:
Habits & Habitats**



January 24, 8 am-5 pm*
Sponsored by Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lomas St., Kerrville, TX 78028
(810) 267-9877 www.riversidenaturecenter.org

Workshop Topics Include:

Urban Wildlife Issues Ticks & Other Dangerous Insects Bats- Habits & Habitats Rabies	Chagas Disease First Aid in the Field Wildlife Rescue Understanding Snakes
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Lunch & Snacks Included

*Advance Registration: \$50. 8 AT hours for Texas Master Naturalists

From Martha Miesch

Studying Bats at the Kroc Nature Study Program

Marsha Baumann, Teresa Coleman, Pam Lienhard, Martha Miesch, John Sloan, our great leader Tyra Kane, and her good friend Patty Stafford divided up some responsibilities to support the presentation of the program planned by Tyra. Tyra is a bat-loving Hill Country Master Naturalist who volunteers at the Bat Tunnel in Fredericksburg. Her enthusiasm about bats stirred up an enthusiastic response by the students in the after-school program. When she started showing some great pictures that she borrowed from the Bat Tunnel, questions started coming. Tyra was really surprised that the students were so interested and had so many questions.

Tyra brought with her a small bat in a clear box that she had recently found inside her house on a wooden beam. Everybody grabbed a close look at the little critter and questions continued. She brought several selections of pictures and a variety of coloring materials for the students to use creatively. There is no question that she stimulated their interest in bats. Close to half the group of more than 30 had visited a bat tunnel with their families and friends. Each of the students was given several handouts about bats to take home to share with their families. Our friendly flying bad-insect eradicator likes moths and mosquitoes. We're glad they act as nature's exterminator.



The View from Rusty Bend



Vermillion Flycatcher

Image by Ken Butler

Into the wind

~ for Jill Boyter

*Taloned upon
Spanish Dagger, a
vermillion puff ball,
the flycatcher*

*leans into a blue norther—
a gaudy ornament.
Yucca point, beak point,
feather point, claw.*

*Pom-pom, scarlet fluff,
half an ounce of clinging duff.
Angling in, pressed against the wind
like a long kiss.*

*In this scene of
crimson and green,
he etches the lesson.
When you're trapped in a gale,*

befriend the wind.

Winter is the time of long shadows at Rusty Bend. I find I must stop and be still. What is it about that angled light that pushes me toward reflection? Appreciation mandatory, contentment soon to follow.

It's Grand Central Station on the river. Much to-ing and fro-ing as we watch. The pecan branches thicken with birds. Cedar waxwings, wild in their porcelain glory and robins by the hundreds decorate the trees. On the ground we watch White-crowned Sparrows dance in the dust, bathe in small groups and generally teach us what communal harmony is all about.

By far the most action occurs in the Winter season of *The Raptor Show*:

Episode 1

"From Wolf-birds to Human-birds"

When I hear gunshots on a cold morning, I watch for ravens. They'll be perched and alert, but they cluck and snort at each other for fifteen minutes or so. Then, look at each other, as if to say *It's time*, take off and fly purposefully toward where the shot occurred. If the author of *Mind of the Raven*, Bernd Heinrich, were here, he'd have to laugh. There are no more wolves to follow, but the ravens know the patterns of camo-clad hill country hunters. They wait just enough time for field dressing a deer, then feast on gutpiles for breakfast.

Episode 2

"You're breathing my air"

The river is running clear and clean. Good fishing. I watch one day to see two enormous brownish birds land in a sycamore. Juvenile Bald Eagles? Twice the size of most of our raptors, I grab the binocs and watch them fuss and squabble with each other, tumbling from limb to limb, then cartwheel upriver.

continued on next page

Episode 3

Westwind Hover

Andy and I double check all apparent vultures. If one has a long tail this time of year, it is likely to be a Zone-tailed Hawk. Turkey Vultures have moved to other territories and all that remain are blunt-tailed Black Vultures. The golden beak of the Zone-tailed is distinctive and the spread of the striped tail mimics a flamenco dancer in the wind, flaring her skirts. One day with a strong westerly wind, I look out and Zone-tailed is hovering motionless at eye level, hunting the river. The trees are tossing but the hawk is still, perfectly balanced against the wind.

Episode 4

Merlin Madness

If the woods go silent on one of my runs, I search for Merlins. Sure enough, a mated pair start scree-ing at each other. They must be giving those poor bats at Old Tunnel a break and have come to Rusty Bend to terrorize our birds instead. Kek, kek, klee— all of the other birds have vanished.

Episode 5

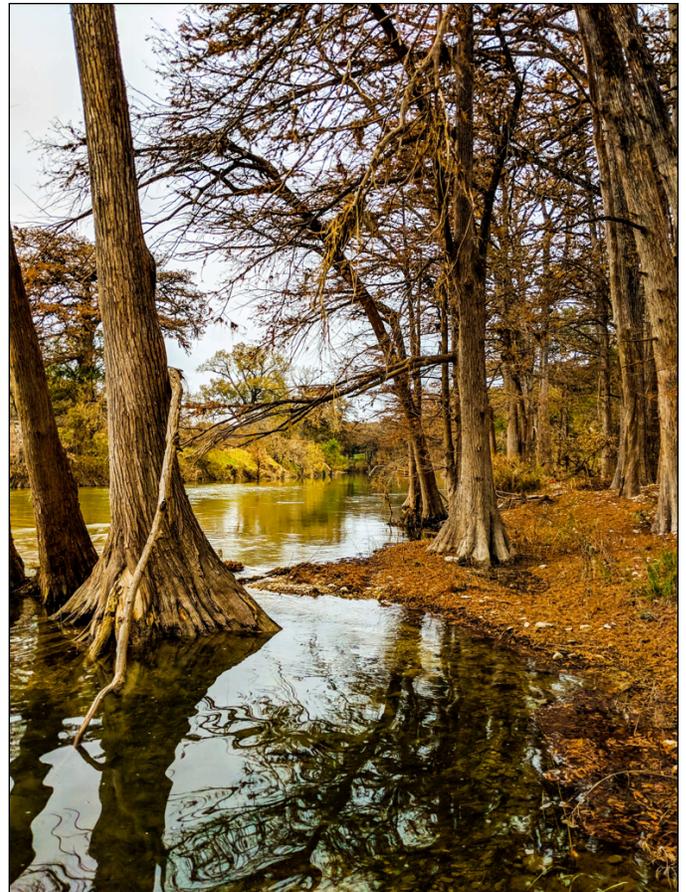
Waltzing with the Harrier

If we have a favorite, it has to be Northern Harrier. Flying low over the golden grasses, she is a study in grace, master of the effortless glide. We stop and watch. Deep sighs ensue.

Always something happening at Rusty Bend; the last leaves sift to earth. I go forth every day, between those long shadows, suffused in gratitude, cleansed by winter's sun.

Poem, second image, 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 Guadalupe in Reflection

Advanced Training

TUESDAY, JAN. 22 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG

AT19-012 "SEASONS AT SELAH" BY DAVID K. LANGFORD

From its ignoble beginning as a degraded landscape, the Bamberger Ranch Preserve is now a showplace with clean and abundant water, healthy wildlife, and diverse flora. The Preserve serves as a model for all who are concerned about property restoration and land stewardship. Langford's presentation marks the first of several Fredericksburg Native Plant Society 2019 programs focusing on restoration of Hill Country land. "Seasons at Selah: The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve" will be available for purchase and autograph by the author, for \$45.

TUESDAY, JAN. 22 6:30-7:30PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT19-034 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN SEMINAR

Dusty Alexander will explain how a Wildlife Management plan keeps your Ag or Timber valuation in place while improving the beauty of your land and ease of operation. This will be repeated on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24 8AM-5PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT19-003 URBAN WILDLIFE HABITS AND HABITATS

Judit Green, Dr. Kim Lohmeyer, Nyta Brown, Dr. Amanda Kieffer, Ava Donaldson, David Barker, and Dr. Mary Seger are the presenters. Cost: \$50, including lunch. To register, contact RNC, 830-257-4837.

FRIDAY, JAN. 25 8:30AM-4PM DENNIS JOHNSTON PARK, SPRING

AT19-016 MONARCH WORKSHOP - TRAIN THE TRAINER

This is a one day course on monarch biology, ecology, and conservation. You will learn the basics of monarch habitat creation and conservation and you will leave the course with the knowledge and confidence to engage diverse groups to take action on behalf of the monarch butterfly. The suggested donation of \$60 will cover workshop expenses including materials, lunch, and refreshments. To register, go to online.nwf.org/site/Calendar?id=108921&view=Detail&src=flyer.

MONDAY, JAN 28 8:30AM-12:30PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (FABRA FARM, 39665 IH-10, BOERNE)

AT19-022 NATURE BOX TRAINING WORKSHOP

Nature Box volunteers are needed for elementary classrooms in Cibolo Nature Center's Outreach program. Kathy Ward and Kathy Wilson will show how to lead activities for Mammals, Pollinators, and Simple Machines. Register in advance at www.cibolo.org; numbers are limited. Cost: \$15;Volunteers: free.

MONDAY, JAN 28 6:45-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE

AT19-014 CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist and faculty member at Texas A&M University, will discuss the influence of climate change on water supplies and the ecosystem at our January meeting.

TUESDAY, JAN. 29 6:30-7:30PM BASS PRO SHOP, 17907 IH-10, SAN ANTONIO

AT19-034 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN SEMINAR

See description on Jan. 22.

FRIDAY, FEB. 1 1-3:30PM FREDERICKSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1150 NORTH US 8, FREDERICKSBURG

AT19-024 HOW TO PRUNE NATIVE PLANTS

Kathy Lyles will be the presenter. Bring pruning shears and gardening gloves. To register, contact Joanie Kramer at (830) 997-7182 or joaniek@fisd.org. Cost: \$20.

SATURDAY, FEB. 2 8:15AM-4PM NWS SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING, ACC EASTVIEW CAMPUS, AUSTIN

AT19-013 SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING, BASIC AND ADVANCED

National Weather Service encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Free; register at site.

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.

SATURDAY, FEB. 2 9AM-3PM HERFF FARM, BOERNE

AT19-002 WILDLIFE TAX EVALUATION WORKSHOP SESSION III

Sessions I and II were early in January, 2018. Session III focuses on Current Law and Regulations. Rufus Stephens, Craig Hensley, Dusty Burns, and David Langford are the instructors. Cost: Member, \$90 person or \$110 couple; Non-Member, \$100/person or \$130 couple. Pre-register at www.cibolo.org or 830 249 4616 and bring a sack lunch.

TUESDAY, FEB. 5 6:30-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM, BOERNE

AT19-023 ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT OF THE EDWARDS PLATEAU

Deanna Pfeffer, TPWD Lead Biologist at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, will discuss how communities and ecosystems have changed over time.

TUESDAY, FEB. 5 6:30-7:30PM TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY CENTER, FREDERICKSBURG - HEB ROOM

AT19-034 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN SEMINAR

See description on Jan. 22.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6 11AM-12PM WEBINAR

AT19-033 TRANSFORMING MANURE FROM 'WASTE' TO 'WORTH'

This webinar will include discussion of plant availability of nitrogen in organic sources (compost, manure, cover crops, and specialty products), how to estimate timing of nitrogen availability, how to estimate nitrogen's contribution and availability from mineralization, and the impacts of manure on soil quality and selecting fields for gaining the greatest value from manure. The presenter is Rick Koelsch, Professor, Biological Systems Engineering & Animal Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Webinar Website: <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/transforming-manure-from-waste-to-worth/?sr=wp~upcoming> .

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT19-035 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: A DIFFERENT WAY TO MANAGE YOUR LAND

MarkHefner is the presenter; the program will also be available on March 6. The event website is : <https://plateauwildlife.com/event-directory/>

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6 6-8:30PM WITTE MUSEUM, 3802 BROADWAY, SAN ANTONIO

AT19-018 IS TEXAS WILD? CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS, THE BIRDS AND BEES

Dr. Jessica Beckham and Dr. Janis Bush, University of Texas at San Antonio and Lee Marlowe, San Antonio River Authority, will discuss how to ensure pollinators have a place in our future. Admission includes gallery exploration of The Birds and the Bees installation. Cost:\$25 Adult; \$15 Member. Texas Master Naturalists get Member Admission when you bring your TMN badge to Walker Admission Desk. To purchase tickets, go to www.WitteMuseum.org . For questions, please call: 210.327.1910.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7 12-1PM.....WEBINAR

AT19-029 TROUBLESOME MUSTARDS IN TEXAS

The Brassicaceae or Mustard Family is the sixth largest family of plants in Texas with 46 genera and 123 species. Many are introduced annuals, such as the bastard cabbage, *Rapistrum rugosum*. Dr. Barron Rector will help you learn to identify plants in this group and their value on your land. The event website is <https://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/webinars/troublesome-mustards-in-texas/> .

THURSDAY, FEB. 14 12-1PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER

AT19-030 LUNCH AND LEARN: NATIVE PLANTS AT THE CIBOLO

Boerne Native Plant Society Past President Veronica Hawk will discuss what plants are found on the grounds of the CNC&F and why native plants are important. Then she will lead a plant walk to identify specific plants on the grounds. This event is open to current and past volunteers at the Center and Farm.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20 10AM-3PM KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, 2625 FM 1340, HUNT

AT19-004 MONARCH LARVA MONITORING PROJECT VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Cathy Downs is the Instructor. Pre-register with Gracie Waggener at gwaggener@flow-apps.com .



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months at 6:45 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:15 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 2019

- Lisa Flanagan -- President
- Craig Childs -- Vice President
- Katy Kappel -- Secretary
- Cathy Binney -- Treasurer
- Paula Harley -- Advanced Training Director
- Catherine Gauldin -- Communications Director
- Reggie Cox -- Membership Director
- Tom Burke -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Carla Stang -- 2019 Class Director
- Steve Ramirez -- 2018 Class Representative
- Brenda Fest -- Immediate Past President
- Vern Crawford -- State Representative

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:

Lenore Langsdorf, Editor
LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

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?

Email Reggie Cox,
Membership Director
hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

