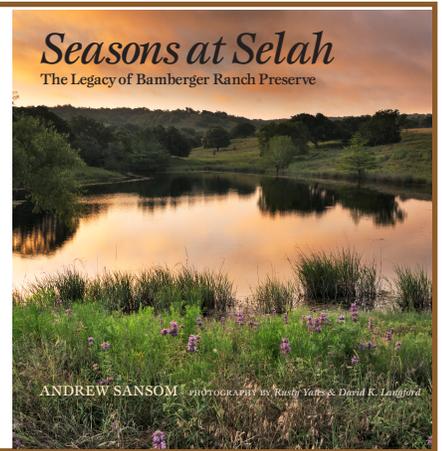


The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

March 2019 Volume 17 Number 3



MARCH 25 MEETING: Seasons at Selah:

The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve.

David K. Langford will join us for a book signing and photography exhibit featuring *Seasons at Selah: The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve*. Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve serves as a model for land conservation and environmental education. Both photographs and the book will be for sale.

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

Oh, Spring is upon us! Trees are leafing out, many blooming, and those that survived the recent freezes (still do not know the fate of the peaches) are still strutting their stuff. Bluebonnets are coming in, as well as paintbrushes and other wonderful seasonal flowers. Many of us will get out there to enjoy them.

If you have never been to The Big Bend to see their bluebonnets, GO NOW!! I am hearing that they have not bloomed so profusely for 30 years. I saw them last week...amazing! They are a deeper blue, almost with purple, and can get to three feet tall or more. The yuccas, ocotillos, bicolored mustards, desert marigolds and bladder pods are all looking great. The desert really does know how to come to life.

Back to the Hill Country....

Many of you saw my email earlier this week regarding the passing of Priscilla Stanley. She was very active in our chapter, and was a charter member. You can never replace someone like her...only strive to do as much for our chapter as she did. She will be greatly missed. Priscilla was in the 2002 class. She took a leadership role in the formation and ongoing mission of the Hill Country Chapter. She took a very active role with each training class, being on the class committee, as well as being a presenter regarding fire control around our homes and properties. She participated with her husband, Jim Stanley, in the Land Management Assistance Program, as well as the annual Riverside Nature Center/NPSOT/Master Naturalist plant sales, for many years. Priscilla earned one of the first 5,000 hour awards in our chapter in 2009, and attained 9,864 reported hours of volunteering during her time as an active member. Most likely, she did far more than that! Her service, guidance and influence with our chapter will be missed.

There will be no services for Priscilla. To honor her memory, Jim suggests donations to the Riverside Nature Center or your favorite nature organization.

To Jim Stanley, our deepest, heartfelt condolences.

As for the rest of us, let's go out there and try to be the volunteers Priscilla would want us to be.

This Month We Honor



Initial Certifications

Robin Hale, Barbara Pankratz, Leslie Washburne

Special Recertifications

Kim Berthold, Barbara Pankhurst

Recertifications

Bob Binney, Rheda Boardman, Reggie Cox, Catherine Gauldin, Tom Harrigan

Milestones

Chris Lienhard - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

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 Mondays of the monthly chapter meetings.



Congratulations to members who received awards at our February meeting:

From left to right: Eldon Sheffer, Mark Richardson, Carla Stang, Joe Braly, Susan Clark, Katy Kappel, Gracie Waggener, Mackenzie Brown, Julie Clay

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

2/2/19	Learning from the Master: David Bamberger
2/9/19	What is the Ideal Hill Country Habitat?
2/16/19	The Big Three Problems Facing Land Managers in the Hill Country
2/23/19	Oh No! Poor Live Oak

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

The 2nd annual South Llano River State Park Birding Festival, sponsored by the Friends of the SLRSP, Llano River Watershed Alliance, and TTU Center at Junction is in need of volunteers on both April 27th and 28th.

This year's festival will be staged at the pavilion at the TTU Center at Junction, with shuttles going to the park and around town for guided birding walks and tours. Volunteers are needed as bird blind hosts, to help visitors with basic bird ID, in the four bird blinds at scheduled times. Volunteers are also needed for staging areas and as roving emergency contacts on some of the walks.

Volunteers will be given a volunteer's birding festival t-shirt to wear, lunch on Saturday, and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers will also be given a free parking sticker.

To learn more, go to <https://www.facebook.com/slrspbirdingfestival/?ref=bookmarks>. Please contact Scott Richardson at: southllanoriverbirdingfestival@gmail.com or by calling 325-475-2271 or 830-459-2271, to discuss assignments, etc. before March 26 in order to receive a t-shirt. For free lunch and breakfast volunteers must commit before April 12.

NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 - 8:30, Susan Tracy will provide a show-and-tell on "The Ferns of Texas." Social with light refreshments at 6:30; speaker presentation at 7:00.

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, March 26, Steve Nelle will be our speaker. His topic will be "What is Real Land Stewardship?" Social time with light refreshments begins at 6:30; program at 7.

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, April 9, Virginia Sawin will present "What's in Your Garden? The Good, The Bad, and. . . Our pollinator the Moth." Come at 1:00 for conversation and refreshments; the program will begin at 1:30.

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street

These chapter meetings are free and open to the public.



From Reggie Cox

Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) EduScape Project

The Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter has entered into a partnership with UGRA to plant a Pollinator/Wildflower garden as part of the EduScape project. UGRA has already completed the design and planting of the rest of the project.

The purpose of the EduScape project is to provide an educational platform to help teach residents of the Texas Hill Country how to conserve water, keep our rivers and creeks clean, plant native plants to provide shelter and food for birds, butterflies, and other pollinators, and much more—as you will see.

Take a look at their website: ugra.org . Look under “Major Initiatives - EduScape.” The plan is to have examples of the recommendations at the Headquarters of UGRA, 125 North Lehmann Drive, in Kerrville,, where our monthly chapter meetings are held. Signage describing the various components is in place.

UGRA has constructed a rain water catchment system including a large storage tank, an HVAC condensation storage tank, and rain barrel. Rain gardens are started, but remain to be completed.

Our chapter’s part of the partnership is to plant the native plant pollinator garden and maintain it. We will also be participating in the maintenance (weeding) and assisting with replacement of plants that fail in the overall garden. (Many of these plants are native, but there are also adaptive plants in the landscape.) UGRA wants to provide choices for yards that will survive and provide food and shelter for native animals, especially pollinators which play a huge part in our food and other plants’ growth. The big focus is on conserving water and keeping river clean.

UGRA and other groups, including our chapter, will be able to use the Edu-Scape for tours by our annual class, our fellow master naturalists, schools, interested residents, visitors, etc. The Edu-Scape will be a source of information on the Guadalupe River and our eco-system.

In return for our assistance, UGRA is waiving all room fees for our Chapter Meetings and Annual Class sessions. These fees are a significant part of our annual budget, so we will benefit directly in return for maintaining our pollinator garden and assisting with the project.

I will be the Project Director and would appreciate your help with the project. The weather is finally here for planting and making this garden a success. If you have a particular plant that thrives in your garden, I would like to know about it. Donations of plants when you are dividing plants would also be appreciated. We do have a budget from UGRA for plants, but can use as many as we can get so that we can replace some of the non-natives as they fail to thrive.

This is not a fenced garden so information on your success (and also failures) with deer issues would be appreciated. An email is sufficient for adding to our knowledge base.

Please contact me at 830-896-5153 or reggiemcox@gmail.com if you would like to participate in this project, with your plant suggestions, deer strategies, rain gardens, and workdays.

We have held a few workdays and will be having more as the project progresses. Thank you to Brenda Fest ,Gary Fest, and Veronica Hawk for plant identifications and suggestions. Thanks also to Kim Burkhart, Al Cox, Pam Goolsby, Nancy Huffman, Katy Kappel, Rebecca Laird, Pam Lienhard, Marian Worthington, and others who have come to workdays to get the ball rolling.

Spring Native Plant Sale & Earth Day Festival

Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville

Saturday, April 20, 2019, 9am - 2pm (Easter weekend)

Native wildflowers, shrubs, grasses, and trees will be available.

The plants are sourced from local nurseries.

A special pre-sale will be held 4:30 to 6pm on Friday, April 19 for RNC and

Kerrville NPSOT members.

If you would like to volunteer to help,

email Sharon Hixson at sharonhixson859@gmail.com .

Co-sponsored by Native Plant Society Kerrville Chapter and Riverside Nature Center



23rd Annual Birding Classic

The biggest, longest, wildest birdwatching tournament in the U.S.

2019 Tournament Dates: April 15 - May 15, 2019

For details on how to participate, go to

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic>



This biennial event will be held Saturday, March 30, from noon to 11 p.m. at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park and Event Center. This free family friendly celebration of the Texas night sky offers something for everyone, from kids to nature lovers to astronomers. The festival will feature fun daytime and nighttime activities including solar observations, mobile planetariums, demonstrations of glare-reducing lighting, opportunities to meet astronomers, tales of the night sky from indigenous cultures, delicious food, live music, and a good, old-fashioned Star Party.

Festival goers also won't want to miss hearing from world-renowned speakers and music by headliner Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines.

On Sunday, March 31, 2019, night sky advocates are invited to participate in a workshop led by the International Dark-Sky Association at the festival location.

For more information, please visit www.TexasNightSkyFestival.org .



Come Wander Brazos Woods Preserve

The lush Columbia Bottomlands beckon visitors to spend a day wandering the woods in a little slice of paradise that's just 60 miles southwest of Houston—but feels a million miles away. Nestled within this natural haven you'll find our Brazos Woods Preserve, a 681-acre expanse that helps protect one of the most biologically diverse regions in Texas.

On **April 6, 2019**, The Nature Conservancy invites you to come wander the Brazos Woods with us during a special preserve open day and dedication event.

We're honored to be recognizing our partner and special guest, BHP, whose support is instrumental in the continued protection of this critical natural area. Bring the family, and join us for a day filled with food, fun, and a chance to find your own adventure! You'll have ample opportunities to hike, bird watch, or simply relax among the trees.

Rich, wild and unspoiled, the Brazos Woods welcome you to come wander—and then stay a while, immersing yourself in all the beauty nature has to offer.

To RSVP and for directions, contact Colleen Pate at cpate@tnc.org. Space is limited, so reserve your spot now! A buffet lunch will be provided.

**All activities will be held at our newly-completed Brazos Woods education pavilion. UTVs will be available for mobility for those in need.*

April 6, 2019 Brazos Woods Preserve Schedule of Events:	
9:30-11:00AM	Preserve opens, coffee served
11:00-11:30AM	Featured speakers and dedication
11:30AM-NOON	Free time to explore the preserve
NOON-1:00PM	BBQ buffet lunch
1:00-3:00PM	Guided hikes and education stations
3:00PM	Visitors depart, preserve closes

From Martha Miesch

Learning about Snakes at the After-School Kroc Nature Study Program

Steve Parks gave 29 enthusiastic first graders a program on snakes. He has been a teacher of English and now works for the Parks and Wildlife Department. Master Naturalists Tyra Kane, Martha Miesch, and John Sloan also learned a lot from what Steve had to tell about his collection of live specimens. One of the interesting facts is that snakes swallow things whole and then don't eat again for six months. It's hard to imagine such a thing. They also sluff their skin, which most of the students knew because they had seen their shredded skins before. The students were really excited when he started taking individual live specimens out of cloth containers and bringing them around for each of the them to see closely as the snakes climbed up his hand and arm. The students touched some of them; that was quite a thrill. The Black-Headed Garter snake was one of the first specimens he showed.

Steve said there are four venomous snakes in this country. The most common is the rattlesnake. The sound of the rattle is similar to that of the child's rattle, as he demonstrated. The other three are the copperhead, corral snake, and cottonmouth water moccasin. Another interesting fact he shared was that the python is the longest snake in the world: 32 feet. He used a 32-foot rope as a good illustration. Steve also showed us a black widow spider, a bull snake, and a Honduran milk snake.

The students gave Mr. Parks a round of applause before leaving the classroom that day. He shared great information with us.



The View from Rusty Bend



Sunset at Rusty Bend

Pruning

I am made more beautiful by losses — Howard Moss

Each day I pass an orchard,
unkempt.
Thirty untended trees
peaches, pears.

Beneath them,
the ground is knobby with rot and crush.
Fractured by fruit,
misshapen wrecks crash in a rough row.

Something in me breaks too
as I imagine my father's soft drawl
Mighty wasteful, what a pity.
But I can wait.

Some moonlit night,
when I can smell the nearness of spring,
I want to cut a hole in the fence,
slip in with loppers and shears.

A midnight sculptor to
form a mood for each tree,
shape a scaffold for pears,
thin the canopy.

Mold a cradle for peaches,
open the center to sun and air.
Dock the damage,
snip the suckers,

cuttings, leavings piled around me—
letting go in the dark to grow true.

continued on next page

It is February at Rusty Bend and little dramas play out each day. As we sit in the dark with our coffee, Andy and I look out the window across the valley in the bend of the river. We like to watch it make a morning. At exactly 6:54 a.m. each weekday, our first little drama unfolds. The Comfort school bus comes around the bend far across the pasture and stops. First flashing yellow, then red as the neighbor's five-year-old jumps from his mom's truck, blasts through the ranch gate and swings in front of the bus to hop in. Though this happens a half-mile away, as he crosses in front of the bus he lights up like a star. We call it the morning "spark of life." A superb way to start the day.

For the rest of our February dramas, imagine this soundtrack: a mockingbird in his crisp fresh morning coat of gray and white, scrolls through his songbook from the top of a tree.

Peanut Butter Toes, a Comedy

I drill some holes in a plank, fill them with Bark Butter and hang it on the porch. The peanut butter mixed with suet is irresistible to the Carolina Wrens, especially on cold days. Sticky though, they wag their tongues wildly after feeding and then pick at their toes to get every bit. The wrens yield to the Chipping Sparrows who try to hover as they grab a bite. Finally, the chippers learn to hang on the edge of the board. Their fragile legs are so transparent they seem to disappear.

Doves for Dinner

Though unwelcome, White-winged Doves have made themselves at home at the turkey feeder. Scores of them. Zone-tail Hawk thinks this is a fine idea. Sitting ducks, so to speak. A pile of gray feathers tells the end of that story. Then one day I see the doves take off in unison and head across the valley. As a group, they abruptly make a sharp U-turn. Golden Eagle flies by, no wonder.

Z-Z Chickadee

With the Bewick and Carolina Wrens singing their courting songs, I put out my stash of nesting materials. Snips of yarn and ribbon, and some Angora wool in a suet cage. The Chickadees love that Angora. They pull and pull until they have a long white beard of fluff, then dash to the nest.

Barb Wire Bob

On my morning runs, there is always something new. Tufts of White-tail, snagged on the fence, tell of a badly mis-judged jump into the brush. A narrow escape from the grill of a truck? I speculate.

The Elbow Bush is blooming, heralding spring. If you wonder where I am, I'm out pruning.



Barbed Wire Tale

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith
Copyright 2019

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.

Advanced Training

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 10:30-11:30AM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT19-077 NED TALK: BIRDING ON A BUDGET

Crystal Ledezma will share with us her love and expertise on birding in Texas and Central America "on the cheap". Suggested donation \$5.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT19-091 MONARCH CONSERVATION WEBINAR

Monarch Butterfly Population Modeling with Dr. Chip Taylor Contact information: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEaCRKo_Fg5xQEs7UPNP71hqGTje_33LQKeLReJSQF6RTwng/viewform .

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT19-037 SENATE BILL 2: INSTREAM FLOW STUDY ON THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER

Gordon Linam, TPWD Stream Ecologist, will provide an overview of the activities performed (including hydrology and hydraulics, biology, physical processes, water quality, and connectivity) to achieve that goal. Organization Website :<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist/> .

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 11AM-12PM WEBINAR

AT19-098 WILDLIFE IN THE CITY

Dr. John Tomecek will discuss the increasing interaction between urban dwellers and wildlife. The two-hour program will discuss animal biology, management practices, and state laws regarding coyotes, feral hogs, and vultures. To receive the presentation link and password, email robin.hill@dentoncounty.com .

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT19-099 WEBINAR INTO THE WIND

Karen Kosiba, Center for Severe Weather Research, Boulder, CO will share with you the adventures (and misadventures!) of learning about tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, and other high impact weather from over a decade of field work, and discuss what projects are on the horizon.

Website: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3624185334888454915> .

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 7-9PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE

AT19-101 OWLERS AND GROWLERS

Craig Hensley will offer a presentation on owls followed by a hike that he will lead. Members, \$8; Non-Members, \$10; Children \$5; Children 6 and under, Free.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 9AM-4PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT19-021 HOME ON THE RANGE: RANGELAND CURRICULUM WORKSHOP FOR K-5 EDUCATORS

Register in advance online at <https://riversidenaturecenter.org/home-on-the-range-workshop/> or 257-4837 or rnc.kerrville@gmail.com . The registration fee is \$20.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 1-2:30PM WEBINAR

AT19-087 NORTH AMERICAN BAT MONITORING PROGRAM

The Bat Acoustic Monitoring Portal (BatAMP) is an open-access, web-based tool that enables upload and display of echolocation monitoring data that allows results from research efforts to be dual-purposed to help understand regional- or continental-scale phenomena such as migratory connectivity. It is a valuable source of data to address conservation issues—such as white-nose syndrome and wind energy development.. Presenters: NABat-Brian Reichert, Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey; BatAMP-Theodore J. Weller, USDA Forest Service. Website: <https://www.nationalwind.org/tools-for-collecting-archiving-and-visualizing-bat-monitoring-data/>

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 8:45AM-3:45PM LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER, AUSTIN

AT19-097 NATIVE PLANT SPRING SYMPOSIUM]

This is a one-day seminar teaching the benefits of native plants for maintaining biodiversity and attracting local wildlife, followed by a tour of the Center gardens. Contact Information : Jon Klick, NPSOT State Coordinator, state@npsot.org or 830-997-9272 .

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 9AM-12PM TATSCH HOUSE, LADY BIRD JOHNSON PARK, FREDERICKSBURG
AT19-026 BIRDING BY EAR

Learn how to identify birds by their songs and calls. The instructors, Patsy and Tom Inglet, will include classroom and field lessons. Some walking required so wear appropriate footwear and bring binoculars. Limit of 25 attendees. Suggested donation \$10.00 to cover costs. RSVP to Nancy Person nancykperson@gmail.com or 830-992-8411.

MONDAY, MARCH 25 6:46-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE
AT19-094 SEASONS AT SELAH: THE LEGACY OF BAMBERGER RANCH PRESERVE

David K. Langford will join us for a book signing and photography exhibit featuring *Seasons at Selah: The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve*. Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve serves as a model for land conservation and environmental education. Both photographs and the book will be for sale.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT19-092 MONARCHS IN A WEB OF LIFE: PREDATORS, PARASITES, AND DISEASE

Drs. Karen Oberhauser and Sonia Altizer will describe how monarchs interact with dozens of other species in diverse ecological communities through pollination, herbivory, competition, and as hosts or as prey to natural enemies. Contact Information: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfFEfCq76R5-06kxvWQk6zJzm3PNlvcl-JHu-sJtwQRvnP9Q/viewform?fbzx=-1780178530786993982>

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG
AT19-059 WHAT IS REAL LAND STEWARDSHIP?

Steve Nelle, a foremost expert in range and riparian conservation throughout Texas, is the speaker. He has over 40 years of experience as a range conservationist and wildlife biologist, including 35 years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 7-8PM LIONS FIELD ADULT CENTER, SAN ANTONIO
AT19-107 NATIVE BEE IDENTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION'

Dr. Jessica Beckham will speak on the natural history of bees in Texas and identify some of the major groups of native bees, including bumble bees, sweat bees, leafcutter bees, and more. Also, she will introduce plants and practices that aid in the conservation of these vital pollinators.

WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, MARCH 27-APRIL 12 10AM-12PM DIETERT CENTER, KERRVILLE
AT19-048 A GEOLOGICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE HILL COUNTRY

Ted Schulenberg and Steve Stoutamire are the instructors for this course, which will meet on Wednesdays and Fridays for six two-hour sessions. Cost: \$20.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 7-8PM SCHREINER UNIVERSITY, KERRVILLE
AT19-010 NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION LECTURE

Meteorologist James Span, a legend in the meteorological community and expert in severe weather safety, is the speaker. The lecture is at the Cailloux Campus Activity Center; for additional information and a campus map, go to www.hcnwa.club.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 8AM-5PM SAN ANTONIO BIOLOGICAL GARDEN
AT19-063 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM LEVEL 2

Mike Pecen, a licensed Texas Landscape Architect and LEED AP (Leadership Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional), is the instructor. For more information, go to nlcp@npsot.org or call 512-589-1316.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 9AM-3PM TATSCH HOUSE, LADY BIRD JOHNSON PARK, FREDERICKSBURG
AT19-027 FLYING WILD WORKSHOP

This workshop is for teachers and naturalists who are interested in working with or educating students about birds and nature. Lessons can be used in either the indoor or outdoor classroom. There is a \$25.00 fee to cover the cost of the book that the attendee will take home for their use. This workshop will be limited to 25 attendees. Attendees will need to bring a lunch. The instructors are Patsy and Tom Inglet. RSVP to Nancy Person nancykperson@gmail.com or 830-992-8411.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 10AM-2:30PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT19-074 CEDAR REMOVAL AND GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Ryan Banta and Richard Slattery of the USGS will describe the 10-year controlled experiment in brush management at the Honey Creek State Natural Area, from 2001-2010. This will be followed by an on-site visit to the actual research area at Honey Creek SNA to review the results of the experiment. For a description of the experiment and photos of the area, go to <https://friendsofgrhc.org/research-effects-of-brush-management-on-aquifer-recharge-and-soil-conservation/>. Bring a sack lunch and drinks, wear good hiking shoes, and bring a hiking stick, if desired. The path to the research area will be through a rough non-maintained trail. Event Contact Information: Mackenzie Brown, mbrown@trinity.edu.

MONDAY, APRIL 8-THURSDAY, APRIL 11 MUSTANG ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTER, PORT ARANSAS
AT19-028 MUSTANG ISLAND SPRING BIRDING TRIP

For detailed information, contact Jill Boyter: jill.boyter@gmail.com or 210-254-0835. To reserve a spot, send a deposit of \$100 to Jill Boyter, 158 Jungfrau Hill Road, Comfort, TX78013.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 8AM-4PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT19-068 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, LEVEL 1

Introduction to Native Landscapes Learn the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes, discover the differences between sustainable and conventional development, understand your Texas vegetation region and soil, become familiar with 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and five plants to avoid. The instructors are Gary Fest and Brenda Fest. For further information, contact Veronica Hawk, Host Chapter Manager, veronica.hawk@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG
AT19-096 18 YEARS OF NATIVE PLANT GARDENING IN THE HILL COUNTRY

Kathy Lyles will speak on her "Lessons Learned" as a native plant gardener.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 12-1PM WEBINAR
AT19-105 INVASIVE BAMBOO MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST U.S.

Dr. Deah Lieurance, University of Florida, will cover the biology, identification, and management of several common invasive bamboo species in the southeastern U.S. Go to <http://www.conservationwebinars/invasive-bamboo-management-in-the-southeastern-us?sr=wp~upcomng>.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 7-8PM SCHREINER UNIVERSITY, KERRVILLE
AT19-011 NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION LECTURE

Dr. Patrick Marsh will speak on his experience as a severe weather forecaster. The lecture is at the Cailloux Campus Activity Center; for additional information and a campus map, go to www.hcnwa.club.

**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 at 6:45PM 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

