

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter  
July 2019 Volume 17 Number 7



## JULY 22 MEETING: AN INTRODUCTION TO TRAIL MAINTENANCE



Kevin Deiters has years of experience in building and maintaining hiking trails with the Central Texas Trail Tamers. He will introduce the trail maintenance curriculum developed by the Pacific Coast Trail Tamers. His presentation emphasizes safety awareness in trail work and understanding hillside hydrology.

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 6:25; the program begins at 6:45.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . Lisa Flanagan

Hello everyone!

I hope your summer is going well...good trips, good weather wherever you are, even those who choose to run off to Alaska or Colorado to escape the heat. Our summer really has not been that bad yet. All the rains have kept us somewhat cooler, though the tradeoff is humidity, mosquitos, and weeds that are growing faster than the speed of sound!

Our class of 2019 has pretty much been formed, at 40 this year, and we look forward to classes beginning in August. Each class has its own personality and skills to offer, so I can't wait to see what this one brings. Master Naturalists who have offered to be mentors have a great experience ahead of them.

There will be no Chapter meeting in August, as this is when we have the reception for the new class with the Board and class mentors. I wish we had enough room for everyone, but we don't, so this is not open to the membership. It is my hope that many of our class will be at the September Chapter meeting, so please be there to greet them, and wear your name tags so they can start getting to know everyone.

Until then.....

## This Month We Honor



### Special Recertification

Leslie Washburne

### Recertifications

Lucy Griffith, Ric McCormick, Alexis McRoberts, Andy Robinson, Charles Smith

### Milestones

Eva Broad, Marylein Davies - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Susan Clark, Sherry Wilson - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 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 Monday of the chapter's monthly meeting.

*Congratulations to members who received awards at our June meeting:*



*Milestones: Carla Stang - 250 hours;  
Vivian Fink, Tyra Kane - 500 hours*



*Recertifications: Ron Scoggins, Brenda Fest,  
Cathy Binney, Sarabeth Mayfield, Sherry Wilson*

*photos by Gary Fest*



The Fredericksburg Native Plant Society Presents

“Let’s Have a Ball!”: Making Seed Balls

Znobla Wooten, Native American Seed

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

6:30 p.m. - Light refreshments and social; 7:00 p.m.- meeting

Families invited! Bring your children, grandchildren, and your inner child to a fun, interactive evening with Znobla Wooten, from Native American Seed. Znobla, prior President of the South Llano River Watershed Alliance, brings her extensive knowledge of wildflower propagation to this event.

Seed balls are an effective way to encourage wildflower propagation in the unpredictable drought/deluge environment of the Hill Country. Wrapped in a protective, nutrient-rich blanket of compost and clay, the seed ball waits for just the right environment conditions to germinate.

Memorial Presbyterian Church  
601 North Milam, Fredericksburg

The Fredericksburg Native Plant Society Presents

“How to Use I-Naturalist”: Become a Citizen Scientist

Kelly Bender Simon, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

6:30 p.m. - Light refreshments and social; 7:00 p.m.- meeting

I-Naturalist is a robust, on-line tool to assist in the identification of all things nature. Don’t know what that wildflower is? What is that animal track? What kind of snake is that? Is that plant poisonous?

Using a smart phone (I-phone or Android), snap a photo of anything nature-related and upload it to the I-Naturalist app. The photo will be immediately disseminated to a world of I-Naturalist users. Someone in that group will be able to identify your photo.

Not only is I-Naturalist useful for individual queries; the information is also used by scientists for data collection.

Bring your cell phone. Become a citizen scientist.

Memorial Presbyterian Church  
601 North Milam, Fredericksburg



**Nature Box Workshop**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
to lead elementary grade activities in the classroom as part of the Cibolo Nature Center Outreach "Nature Box" program.

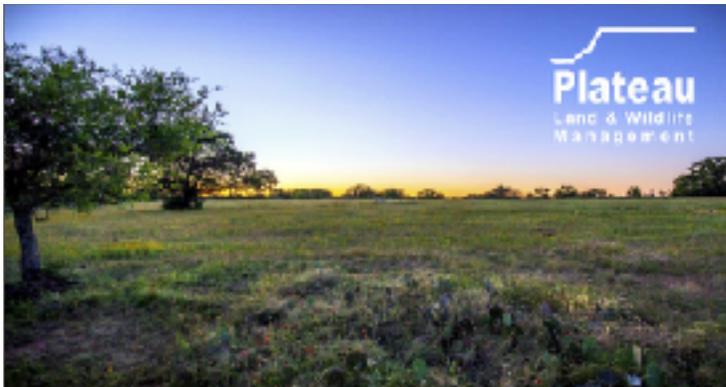
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST**  
8:30AM-12:30PM | FABRA FARM  
32665 Interstate 10W, Deerne, TX

**TOPICS:**  
Worms and Composting  
Ecosystems and their Food Webs  
Hill Country Woods and Creeks  
Coral Reefs

**\$15 PER PERSON, VOLUNTEERS FREE**  
REGISTER: [WWW.CIBOLO.ORG](http://WWW.CIBOLO.ORG)

Acquire CEUs and Master Naturalist AT Hours

**CIBOLO**  
Nature Center & Farm



**PLATEAU LAND & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**  
+ HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE PRESENT:

**LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**  
**FREE SEMINAR**

An Overview of Available Programs, How They Benefit You, How to Find Them and the Application Process

**JULY 25, 2019 | 2:00PM - 3:30PM**  
**KIMBLE COUNTY LIBRARY, JUNCTION 78848**

RSVP at: [www.plateauwildlife.com/summer-seminars](http://www.plateauwildlife.com/summer-seminars)  
For more information:  
(512) 894-3478  
[info@plateauwildlife.com](mailto:info@plateauwildlife.com)

 **hill country alliance**

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORKSHOP**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2019**

\$20 REGISTRATION  
**CIBOLO NATURE CENTER**  
 AUDITORIUM  
 140 City Park Road | Boerne, TX 78006

**WORKSHOP TOPICS TO INCLUDE:**

- the basics of conservation easements
- tax implications and estate planning
- open space valuation
- the role of land trust organizations
- a panel discussion with landowners

REGISTRATION: 1:30 PM  
 WORKSHOP: 2:00-5:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE @ [www.cibola.org](http://www.cibola.org)  
 (walk-ins welcome)

For more information, contact:  
**Cecelye Vogel**  
 Workshop Coordinator  
 (512) 633-4995  
 covegel2013@gmail.com

Hosted by The Cibolo Conservancy

PROUD MEMBER SMALL LAND TRUST COUNCIL

Member of Land Trust Alliance  
 together, we can protect the land

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Fall Native Plant Sale**  
 Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 9am - 2pm  
 Co-sponsored by  
 Texas Master Naturalists Hill Country Chapter  
 and Riverside Nature Center



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

Plants are sourced from local nurseries.

A special pre-sale will be held for RNC and HCMN members only.

4:30pm to 6pm on Friday, October 4.

Earn TMN volunteer hours by helping with this event.

If you would like to volunteer, email Sharon Hixson at [sharonhixson859@gmail.com](mailto:sharonhixson859@gmail.com).

Watch for more information in future issues of this newsletter.

The View from Rusty Bend



*Lady Guadalupe after a rain*

The day after

a soaking rain deserves a name.  
As forest people call  
half of August and half of September  
the *Month of Smoke*, so a name is needed.

Such a rain leaves its signature upon the land.  
I wake to a view of the valley  
strewn with a crazy quilt,  
a sampler of fogs.

Streaks of uncarded wool layer the hills,  
tendrils of steam rise from the river,  
buttermilk pools in the swales.  
Still as a watercolor.

Walking out, I'm hit with wet limestone.  
Top notes of lemon peel  
seep from crushed forbs, kidneywood and threadvine  
candy the air with tiny blossoms.

A benevolence of birdsong  
mushrooms around me,  
the pasture's sequined with dew,  
drought-cracks in red dirt healed,

grass reaches for sky.

*continued on next page*

Raining, raining, raining at Rusty Bend. Most every morning, the cypress trees on the river are flocked with dew. Hence, we have a second spring. New shoots of fresh green top the Live Oaks, the Texas Ash, and persimmon. As soon as one raft of wildflowers completes its show, another blooms to carry on. Wall to wall, wildflowers for miles. Especially, it seems, the tiny ones. It's tic-tac-toe time at Rusty Bend. The white X's are Heliotrope, the lilac ones are Tiny Bluets, and the O's are well represented by newly blossoming Frog Fruit.

Second and third nestings have filled the yard with birds. House Finches are especially comical as they try to learn the ropes of being a "big bird." Whole families fly wildly to the oak trees and sift down the branches to the feeder. On a feeder with multiple perches, juveniles land on each other in a clumsy ballet. One tumbles off, grabbing his sibling's tail at the last minute to hang on. That tiny wiry foot scrunched around his brother's tail, unforgettable.

We have had a productive year with our own birdboxes, beyond the ones Andy monitors at the parks. So far, 79 fledged birds. Lots of Ash-throated Flycatchers and we hear them now blowing their coaches whistles from the edge of the pasture. Such a distinctive call. Sounds like busy soccer fields. Freshly minted Carolina Chickadees in their little tuxedos hang upside down from small branches, oblivious to gravity. Juvenile Crested Titmice dash from limb to limb, their crests pale and floppy. But we are especially pleased to have two batches of Eastern Bluebirds flying around for the first time. They love a particular box at the edge of a field with a high wire nearby for perching.

On my morning runs, mockingbird trills through his repertoire. A jingle for every song he has stolen, a pause for appreciation between each one. A wild casting upward in celebration, like a diver perfecting a full gainer. At the conclusion of his performance, a little something new. Now he ends his medley with cheery warbled notes of bluebirds—ta-daaa.

### *Priscilla's Corner (In Memory of Priscilla Stanley)*



*Ibervillea lindheimeri* Lindheimer's Globeberry

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith

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*Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry, her muse, a tractor named Mabel. The story of the Burro Lady of West Texas, told in poems, We Make a Tiny Herd, has just been published by Main Street Rag. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists. Comments welcome at [doctorluz@hctc.net](mailto:doctorluz@hctc.net).*

## Advanced Training

**MONDAY, JULY 22 6:45-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE**

AT19-168 BASICS OF TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Kevin Dieters will present the trail maintenance curriculum developed by the Pacific Coast Trail Tamers. His presentation emphasizes safety awareness in trail work and understanding hillside hydrology.

**TUESDAY, JULY 23 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT19-165 "LET'S HAVE A BALL": MAKING SEED BALLS

Znobia Wooten, from Native American Seed, will bring her extensive knowledge of the propagation of wildflowers to this event. Families are invited.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 6-7:30PM DIETERT CENTER, KERRVILLE**

AT19-160 COLLECTING RAINWATER IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Barry Wall will speak on the benefits of installing a rainwater system, how to size systems, and basic system installation. Questions are welcome; bring pencil and notepaper. Tuition: \$21.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 10AM-12PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER**

AT19-124 EDUSCAPE TALK AND TOUR

Dr. Chrissie Segars, a turf grass specialist with AgriLife, will discuss ways in which the responsible use of turf grass in landscapes can be beneficial. Seating is limited; please RSVP to [rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com) or 830-257-4837.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14-FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 MCM ELEGANTE SUITES, ABILENE**

AT19-172 STATEWIDE QUAIL SYMPOSIUM

The symposium includes one field day and two days of seminars. For more information, including a full agenda, go to <https://quailsymposium.nri.tamu.edu/about>. Registration is now open; early registration cost is \$50; \$20 for students. To register, go to [agobeli@tamu.edu](mailto:agobeli@tamu.edu).

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT19-166 "HOW TO USE I-NATURALIST": BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Kelly Bender Simon will introduce this on-line tool to assist in identifying all things in nature. Bring your phone or other hand-held device.



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 6:45 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
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- 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](mailto: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](mailto:hillcountrymembership@gmail.com)

