

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

February 2020 Volume 18 Number 2



FEBRUARY 24 MEETING:

Feral Pigs in the Hill Country: Confessions of a Novice Hog Trapper



Craig Childs, retired pathologist, member of our chapter, and current Program and Ranch Manager for Roberts Ranch, will provide an overview of the problem, review management strategies and zoonotic illnesses, and provide an interactive discussion with the audience on the role of hog toxicants.

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 Lecture Hall, 115 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Socializing begins at 6:15; the program starts at 6:45.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

In the Hill Country, watching the transition from winter to spring is like watching a wrestling match leaving us wondering which one is actually winning. Old man winter desperately tries to hold on to his title but spring just keeps up a steady attack until she finally wins. Most of us find ourselves cheering for spring. I am definitely in spring's corner.

Yet spring can be so fickle, as she was on April 24, 1995 when we had a freak cold front that delivered freezing temperatures and snow. Then there was May 2011 when we experienced a string of days that delivered temperatures of over 100 degrees. I have sympathy for the meteorologists who try to predict what our weather is going to do.

Before the next newsletter is published, we will have pushed our clocks forward one hour. Yes, on March 8, daylight savings time begins. Funny, but I'm not aware that I've saved any daylight, but I certainly am aware that my body's internal clock is resisting.

As Spring moves into the Hill Country, our activities will shift into high gear. The official application period for the 2020 training classes will officially open in April. New rack cards advertising our new classes will be available soon and we are planning to have information tables at some of the local spring activities around the Hill Country. We will be asking you to help recruit people you know who might be interested in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist. We need 40 quality applicants to fill the class.

I'm looking forward to this year. Together we can be a powerful voice for the natural beauty and health of the Hill Country.

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Lorri Kendrick, Pat Lucas

Recertifications

Stephen Bishop, Van Turner, Constance Weaver

Special Recertification

Juan Leal

Milestones

Jill Boyter, Molly Houck, Sheryl Pender - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly

Robin May - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly

Claire Mitchell - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

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.



Congratulations to members who received awards at our January meeting:

From left to right: Kevin Wessels, Greg Walton, Terry Lashly, Donna Dutton, Eric Edwards, Sharon Jay

continued on next page

Congratulations to members who received awards at our January meeting (continued):



2019 Initial Certification:
Janis Arterbury, Laurel Rhodes, Stephanie Roberts



2019 Special Recertification:
Deb Youngblood



250 hours Milestone:
Van Turner



1000 hours Milestone:
Bridget Langdale, Mac Brown



500 hours Milestone:
Sharon Jay, Dora McDaniels, Nancy Huffman

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

1/4/20	How Fast Are We Losing Our Trees
1/11/20	Our Landscapes Should Go Scruffy
1/18/20	Leopold on Predator Control
1/24/20	It Ain't What We Don't Know

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

From Kristie Denbow, Webmaster

What Is, and How Do I Sign Up For, the Texas Master Naturalist Listserv?

The Texas Master Naturalist Listserv is a communications medium hosted by Texas A&M for the Texas Master Naturalist at no charge to Master Naturalists. The purpose of the Texas Master Naturalist Listserv is to provide a means of quickly distributing news, announcements, notification of events, grant opportunities, and other items pertinent to Texas Master Naturalists. To sign up for this free service (you may unsubscribe at any time), please follow the instructions below.

Complete the [Texas Master Naturalist Listserv Sign-up submission form](#).

There is no fee for the Listserv and you may unsubscribe at any time.)

1. Click the SUBMIT button on the form.
2. Within a few minutes you should receive a confirmation request from the Listserv. You **MUST** reply to this confirmation or you will **NOT** be added to the Listserv.
3. Again, within a few minutes you should receive a message similar to the following:
"Your subscription to the Texas Master Naturalist list has been accepted."

That's all there is to joining! You should receive announcements automatically via the email from which you signed up. If your email address changes, you will need to register again.

After completing the steps above, you can now create a password on the Texas Master Naturalist Listserv web server and view the archived postings anytime you like, along with already receiving notifications pertaining to the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

4. To set your password for this server, visit **Create a Texas Master Naturalist Listserv password** .
5. Use the same email address as you did above (for example: myemail@gmail.com) as your username and you can use the same password as your email account or create a new password just for the TMN Listserv server.
6. Again, within a few minutes, you will get an email confirmation that you want to create a web login password to the listserv; you must confirm you want to do this by clicking on the link provided or a server username will not be created for you. (You'll still get listserv notifications; you just won't be able to look at the postings whenever you want to do so online.) You may now log onto the listserv website at **Texas Master Naturalist Listserv**
7. Don't forget to log out when you finish.

From Larry Eskridge

The Pollinator Garden at Kerrville-Schreiner Park

To find the seemingly secret, unknown Pollinator Garden (previously the Butterfly Garden/Theatre), one only has to drive south from Kerrville on State Road 173/Bandera Highway past the intersection with Loop 534. Within a quarter of a mile, turn left into Kerrville-Schreiner Park (KSP), proceed past the Administration Building, and take the first left. You will find yourself at one of Kerrville's Best Kept Secrets (somewhat of a left-handed compliment). A better description would be a diamond in the rough. This 18-year-old high-fenced pollinator area within the park covers just over 10,000 square feet. It is filled with native plants, many of which have spilled over into the surrounding meadow. This mature natural garden is +97% native plants in a wide variety of species, including over 114 trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, perennials, annuals, grasses, and milkweed. With a staggered blooming cycle from early spring through late fall, this large, vibrant and compact combination of native flora provides continual, critical nectar and larval food for the large numbers of butterflies, bees, moths, beetles, and hummingbirds native to the Hill Country.

Beyond the general pollinator population, these nectar and larval food plants prepare the monarchs for their annual migrations, north towards Canada in the spring, south to Mexico in the fall while providing constant food for Queen and other butterflies over the summer and early fall. The quality, quantity, and variety of plants as well as location on the Monarch Flyway led to certification of the garden as a Monarch Way Station in 2006. Subsequently, the Monarch Larva Monitoring Program (MLMP) was organized. A weekly census counts milkweed plants, nectar flora, presence and stages of butterfly larva (instars), and approximate counts of adult butterflies. Collected information is reported up-line as part of a national data collection effort. In 2017, we were recognized as a Recognized Hill Country Pollinator Garden.

Because our garden is "mature," it requires careful observation, planning, and meticulous maintenance. Over the past few years the Pollinator Garden has declined as a result of general benign neglect and lack of resources. As original volunteers aged, they moved to easier volunteer activities. Another factor has been the disappearance of the KSP Pollinator (Butterfly) Garden Friends Group.

In a typical year, KSP issues 12,000 or more camping and usage permits. In addition to the campers, we would like to gain more local citizen visitors to overcome the "Best Kept Secret" disadvantage. Approximately 18 months ago we started a restoration project that is the first step towards unveiling the "KSP secret." By continuing to increase our volunteer task force we can return the garden to showcase condition for Kerrville and restore it to an inviting, viable, educational venue for schools, scouting groups, garden clubs, church, and civic organizations who are interested in Hill Country ecology, including native plants and pollinators. All of this points to a serious need for a larger volunteer presence because we have reached a critical point where extensive efforts are required if we want to ensure that the "Native Garden Maintained by Texas Master Naturalist" sign presents a positive image of the Hill Country Chapter that reflects our skills, knowledge, and pride.

We work every Thursday morning from about 8:15 until 11:00 or so, or until too hot or cold, tired, or both, weather PERMITTING (reasonable temperatures, no precipitation, etc.). While this is a Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter activity (KR-04-A), we welcome anyone who wants to learn more about native plants, their care, pollinators, and other beneficial ecological renovation practices.



Chapter Project Coordinators:
Larry Eskridge, el_e@swbell.net
Paula Harley, prharley57@gmail.com



South Llano River Birding Festival

April 24-26, 2020

Texas Tech Llano River Field Station, Junction



The birding festival is now in its third year. Registration is open.

This year there is a new online registration website:

<https://indico.ads.ttu.edu/confRegistrationFormDisplay.py/display?confId=1414>

TMN participants are eligible for AT credit for some activities. The code is AT20-018.

Festival activities begin Friday evening with a Meet and Greet social and festival registration at the Texas Tech Llano River Field Station in Junction. Saturday activities start early with Breakfast with the Birds. After a day of field trips, it winds down with a banquet dinner and keynote speaker, Dr. Clint Boal, speaking on “Land Fragmentation and its effect on Raptors.” The day begins and ends at the Texas Tech Llano River Field Station. On Sunday, all activities will be conducted at South Llano River State Park, starting with Breakfast with the Birds, the Big Sit!, and roving guides until 11:30 a.m. Participants are welcome to spend the entire day at the state park.

TMN Volunteers have assisted with a variety of festival activities in past years. This year’s specific volunteer needs haven’t been determined yet. If you are interested in volunteering with the 2020 festival, mark your calendar to save the date/s. As soon as specifics are available, a request will be made for volunteers. The code for festival volunteers is KM-01-A-DO.

Hillside Stewardship: Reducing Erosion and Building Soil

Tuesday, February 25, 1:00 — 4:00 PM

Join us as we learn from landowners, Vick and Dorothy Williams, and Restoration Ecologist, Mollie Walton, about a variety of methods for slowing and sinking water along hillsides to reduce erosion, build soil, mitigate floods, enhance groundwater replenishment, and improve habitat. During this hands-on field day, participants will discuss effective structures that rely on rock, Ashe juniper (cedar) wood, and the contours of the land to build soil. Snacks, water, and printed materials will be provided. Cost is \$10, RSVP's requested, and space is limited.

Contact Daniel Oppenheimer, Hill Country Alliance, at 210-287-047
or daniel@HillCountryAlliance.Org

From Katy Kappel

Three Ways to Get Animals Out of Your Attic

It's that time of year when raccoons or squirrels may take up residence in your attic. Here are 3 things you can do to persuade them to leave:

1. Put lights with high wattage bulbs in the attic, and leave them on for 3 nights.
2. Soak rags in ammonia OR vinegar, and scatter them in the attic.
3. Put a radio in the attic, and play loud music for at least a few hours day and night.

It's very possible your attic resident is there to have babies. Once you're sure the animal and its young have moved out, close up their attic entry holes. If you don't, another animal will move in. Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition has more tips for dealing with attic animals; go to https://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org/its-that-time/?utm_campaign=owl&utm_source=Jan2020.

From Deborah Youngblood, AT Director

Monarch Watch Milkweed Programs

Monarch Watch can help many of you with your milkweed needs! There are three programs, underwritten by grants, that make this possible: Free milkweeds for schools, Free milkweeds for restorations of two acres or more, and Low cost milkweed flats for anyone at all who orders. Milkweeds will only be shipped to their region of origin, and arrive in special packaging to help keep them safe. Check with Monarch Watch to see if there are milkweeds for your zip-code, and do it soon! When they are gone, they are gone. For more information: <https://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/free-milkweeds/>.



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, March 3, George Cates from Native American Seed will be our speaker. His topic is "Perspectives on Native Seeds."

Social, 6:30; presentation, 7:00

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, February 25, our speaker will be Robert Edmonson. His topic is "What is an Understory?"

Social, 6:30; program, 7:00

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Main Street

NPSOT Kerrville Monthly Meeting

will be on Tuesday, March 10, at 1:30.

Social time begins at 1:00; program at 1:30

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street

NPSOT meetings are free and open to the public.



Citizen Scientists who participate in the Incidental Bird Count (IBC) enjoy a peaceful morning walk, listening to and watching song birds. Each species is identified and tallied and lists are kept according to the habitat in which the birds are seen. The data collected during the bird count are submitted to eBird, an online database administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which collects citizen science data from around the world.

Our next survey dates are Saturday March 9th, Wednesday March 11th and Saturday March 14th.

7:45am—10:00am

RSVP at <https://givepul.se/weglkt> .

Questions? donna@cibolo.org .

From Ruth McArthur

Help Needed for Golden Cheeked Warbler Survey at Roberts Ranch

This is the third year that Roberts Ranch is conducting surveys for the presence or absence of golden cheeked warblers. Last year we detected 15 nesting pairs, up from six pairs in 2018. We need volunteers to pull this off; both new and experienced birders are welcome.

- New birders will be paired with an experienced birder.
- Surveys will be conducted from mid-March to the first of June
- Depending on the number of volunteers, no one person will survey more than three times during that period. You may, of course, volunteer for additional surveys.
- The surveys will be conducted on the Apple Valley Trail and the newly developed Ridge Trail. Both trails have some strenuous elements, so the ability to climb and descend steep grades is a must.
- Volunteer pairs will be assigned a particular week in which to perform the survey. As there are parameters about weather, the individuals will work out which day they will survey.
- Training will be held Monday, March 2, 9 am at Roberts Ranch.

Contact me at ruth.f.mcarthur@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.



Nestbox Monitor Training

THURSDAY, FEB. 27TH | 10AM-12PM

Join us for a Citizen Science training to monitor bird boxes as part of our team, or in your own backyard! Identify common birds that use nest boxes and learn how to determine which species are present based on nest structure and materials, predator hatch and fledge dates, and more!

Presenters: Dick Park, Donna Taylor

Suggested Donation: \$10
Returning monitors are free

Herff Farm
33 Herff Rd, Boerne



NestWatch
Where Birds Come to Life



We are 1 of only 5
Cornell Labs of Ornithology
NestWatch Chapters in the
state of Texas

MORE INFORMATION: CONNA@CIBOLO.ORG

LAND STEWARDSHIP SERIES



PRESCRIBED BURN WORKSHOP

Prescribed burning is safe and beneficial for wildlife and forest control. Experts in prescribed burning will provide you with everything you need to know to conduct a prescribed burn.

February 22nd
Time: 9am-4pm
Location: Cibolo Nature Center
140 City Park Road
Presenters: Dusty Bruns & Ben Eldredge
Cost: Members: \$50
Non-Members: \$60

Register and learn more at cibolo.org



LAND STEWARDSHIP SERIES



PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORKSHOP

This workshop will cover land stewardship practices, preparation of old fields for restoration, selecting and sourcing native seeds, as well as grants and programs to assist with land restoration.

February 29th
Time: 9am-2pm
Location: Herff Farm
33 Herff Road
Presenters: Rufus Stephens, Bill Neiman and Ben Eldredge
Cost: Members: \$30
Non-Members: \$40

Register and learn more at cibolo.org



LAND STEWARDSHIP SERIES



ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR LAND

Dick Park, local birder and landowner, will show us how to attract nesting, migrant, and wintering birds to your land.

March 14th
Time: 9am- Noon
Location: Cibolo Nature Center
140 City Park Road
Presenters: Dick Park
Cost: Members: \$25
Non-Members: \$35

Register and learn more at cibolo.org





NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Level 1

Introduction to Native Landscapes

hosted by the

Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter

The day-long class will include two classroom sessions and an outdoor plant identification walk.

- Learn the value of including and preserving natives in landscapes.
- Discover the differences between conventional and sustainable landscaping.
- Understand your Texas vegetation region and soils.
- Learn 45 native Texas plants for your landscape and 5 plants to avoid.
- Participants receive **completion** certificates from the Native Plant Society of Texas – or **competency** certificates if you additionally pass a test.
- TX Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA): 6 CEUs
- TX Master Naturalists or Master Gardeners: 7 hrs advanced training

Level 1 is a prerequisite for Levels 2 and 3. Levels 2 and 3 may be taken in any order.

When: **Saturday, May 16, 2020 – 8:15 am to 4:15 pm**

Where: **Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville, TX 78028**

Cost: **\$45 - Snacks provided. Lunch not included - bring your own, please!**

Class descriptions, schedules, and register online at nlcp@npsot.org

For more information: Meg Inglis at nlcp@npsot.org or 512.580.1316

From Denise Coulter, NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Communications Director

Fredericksburg Native Plant Society Presents

What: Community Education Class

Topic: Create Your Own Pollinator Garden

If you would like to create or maintain a pollinator garden on your property but the details are unknown or overwhelming, this class is for you. You will leave this class with information that will simplify the process of creating, installing, and maintaining a native pollinator garden. You can help the declining numbers of pollinators and have fun at the same time!

Cost is \$20. This is sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Fredericksburg in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Independent School District Community Education Program.

Instructor: Mary Frushour

To Register: Contact Rachel Malinak at 830-997-7182 or rachelm@fisd.org .

Date: Wednesday, March 18

Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm

Where: Fredericksburg Middle School Library, 110 West Travis, Fredericksburg

From Martha Miesch

Learning About Bats at the Kroc Nature Study Program

Tyra Kane, with the assistance of volunteers Teresa Coleman, Martha Miesch, and Susan Parker, presented a program on bats in our January meeting. Tyra had some great visual materials that she showed to the students, some of whom had been to the Bat Tunnel in Fredricksburg where she is a volunteer, and she told them that there is another well-populated bat cave east of San Antonio. Tyra explained that these bats frequently migrate to Mexico in May when it is warm and return to the tunnel in June to have their babies, which at birth are a fraction the size of their moms. She also explained that bats are a great asset to the farmers en route because they eat moths and other insects that can damage farmers' crops.



Tyra had a fun activity for the students: we measured their wing span as if they were bats. She also showed them a Bat House she had made which sparked their interest. All of the students received their own bat rings as they left the classroom.

From Lucy Griffith

The View from Rusty Bend



Fog Bowls

This morning dew point
and temperature crossed paths with a caress,
their breath combined.

Throughout the scrub,
fog-laced spider webs hang in January dawn.
Shaped like stacked bowls,

a maze of delicacy,
a tracery of suspension bridges.
Such frailty,

as if phantoms had snagged their pockets in the brush.
Or incense weary altar boys had tossed their thuribles.
Baskets for weightless treasures.

Containers of the ephemeral.
What do they hold?
Innocence in its tender brevity?

That suddenness of joy?
Or perhaps most fragile—
hope, cupped in a bowl of fog.

A version of this poem was first published by Avocet Journal, 2019

Hello January, and it's sixty shades of brown at Rusty Bend. We are diverted though. We've had a couple of rains that activated a fog factory. Andy and I delay getting out for ranch chores so we can watch what develops. A veritable encyclopedia of fog right out the window. First there is the one that lifts off the river, an albino snake. If it is very still, wisps of fog lift off each curve of the river, like a row of teapots steaming. Then the winter oat field gathers a layer of ground fog hovering at eye level, as if the oats were breathing. Damp spots in the pasture are marked with a thinner layer, like yards of white chiffon.

From the southeast, big fogs roll in that smell of the Gulf of Mexico. The smell is so evocative of dunes and seaweed, I find myself listening for fog horns and bell buoys. These are heavy concealing fogs, the highest hills peek out like humpback whales. All is muted. Our house floats on a bed of cotton. Then there are revealing fogs that alert us to the world writ small. Besides the fog bowls, there are little blankets of spider webs cast on the ground with an inviting cave in the middle to snare the unwary. The fogs with the most moisture smell like wet limestone with herbal top notes that hug the ground, smells that hint at spring.

We are feeding lots of suet and sunflower seeds due to the cold weather. Carolina and Bewick's Wrens have mastered the art of negotiating peanut butter, with separate strategies. Carolina perches and eats until full, banging away, apparently oblivious of predators. Bewick's grabs a bite, then jumps down to feed on what is dropped below, always looking over his shoulder for a Cooper's Hawk. The Carolina Chickadee grabs one seed, tucks it in a claw, grabs another and takes for cover. Lunch and a snack.

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It's raptor time and we marvel at a protracted aerial dogfight between a large Redtail Hawk and a Merlin. Merlin makes huge sweeps and loops dive bombing a bird five times her size. Then Caracara flaps by, such ungainly birds, their flight is gawky and twitchy. Major effort required just to stay airborne. Nice hairdos though, a rakish falcon sweep.

So that's the news from Rusty Bend; got some rain, need some more. Spring will come. I find a perfect fox print in the mud. It strikes a chord of joy that rings for days.



Fox prints in mud

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2020

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 been published by Main Street Rag. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists. Comments welcome at lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com .



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 meetings.

Advanced Training

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 6:30-8PM TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, FREDERICKSBURG

AT20-040 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN SEMINAR

Landowners in Ag or Timber: learn, from Plateau Land and Wildlife biologists, how a wildlife management plan keeps your already low property taxes in place. Free Seminar.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 9:30AM-12:30PM ANHALT DANCE HALL, SPRING BRANCH

AT20-013 SAVING FAMILY LANDS: LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

Topics will include conservation easements, the role of land and trust organizations, open space and wildlife valuations, financial tools/resources available to land owners, and a panel discussion with landowners. Cost: Individual, \$15; Couple, \$20, walk-ins welcome. To register: www.hillcountryalliance.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 9AM-4PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE

AT20-052 PRESCRIBED BURN: RESTORE YOUR LAND

When conducted properly, prescribed burning is safe and beneficial for wildlife and brush control. The instructors, Dusty Bruns and Ben Eldridge, will provide what you need to know to conduct a prescribed burn. Bring your own sack lunch. Cost: \$50 for members; \$60 for non-members.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE

AT20-045 FERAL PIGS IN THE HILL COUNTRY: CONFESSIONS OF A NOVICE HOG TRAPPER

Craig Childs will provide an overview of the problem from a local, national, and international perspective, will review management strategies, and give insights on how to integrate the tools for hog management that would be appropriate for a given property and management goals. There will be a review of zoonotic illnesses and feral hogs, and an interactive discussion with the audience on the role of hog toxicants.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 1-4PM WILLIAMS RANCHITO, 519 HAY HOLLAR ROAD, BANDERA

AT20-094 HILLSIDE STEWARDSHIP: REDUCING EROSION AND BUILDING SOIL

During this hands-on field day, participants will discuss effective structures that rely on rock, Ashe juniper (cedar), and the contours of the land to build soil. Snacks, water, and printed materials will be provided. Cost is \$10; RSVP requested; space is limited. Register at https://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/1891/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=101606.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT20-080 MONARCHS IN THE ROUGH

Marcus Gray will present the program that Audubon International and Environmental Defense Fund have teamed up to create. Monarchs in the Rough partners with golf courses to restore pollinator habitat in out-of-play areas. This program works to create essential habitat for butterflies and increase awareness of the golf sector's contribution to the monarch conservation challenge. Go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxL0GRMZM_eI3wfxOCFn0Ka6OZCIQ8RgyO8sHBgZn4m6iziQ/viewform to register. You will receive additional details about participating in the webinar in a follow up email prior to the webinar.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG

AT20-039 WHAT IS AN UNDERSTORY?

Robert Edmonson will discuss the vital role of understory in the environment and present many of the understory trees and bushes that were a part of our Hill Country landscape heritage. He will offer advice on how to re-establish these trees.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - 28 8AM - 5PM AUSTIN, HILTON AIRPORT HOTEL

AT20-095 THE TEXAS LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

This annual three-day conference brings in experts from around the state and nation to provide unparalleled networking and education opportunities and provides an exceptional opportunity to advance the land conservation movement in Texas. Cost: \$35 – \$450. Registration required, go to: <https://www.cvent.com/events/2020-texas-land-conservation-conference/registration-4360fcce43d644f79669c9b015f6bc67.aspx?fqp=true>.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 8AM - 4PM JACKSON COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE, EDNA
AT20-074 URBAN STREAM RESTORATION TRAINING

This free riparian education program includes both indoor classroom presentations and outdoor stream walks. It provides an introduction to riparian principles, watershed processes, basic hydrology, erosion/deposition principles and riparian vegetation, as well as potential causes of degradation and available local resources. At the conclusion, participants will receive a certificate of completion. **RSVP is required by February 24, 2020.** Go to clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu. A catered lunch is available for \$10 or you may bring your lunch. Dress comfortably for the weather; we will be outside along the river during the afternoon.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 8AM - 3:45PM LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER, AUSTIN
AT20-032 NPSOT NATIVE PLANT SPRING SYMPOSIUM

This one-day seminar focuses on the benefits of native plants for maintaining biodiversity and attracting local wildlife. Wear clothing and shoes appropriate for walking around the LBJWC grounds. Workshop will be followed by a special tour of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Gardens. Registration includes entrance to the gardens and a boxed lunch. Registration ends Feb. 29. Cost: NPSOT/LBJWC members - \$50.00 Non-members - \$60.00. Go to Linda Knowles, NPSOT, state@npsot.org or 830-997-9272 .

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 9AM - 2PM HERFF FARM, BOERNE
AT20-076 PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORKSHOP

Ben Eldredge and Rufus Stephens will cover land stewardship practices, preparation of old fields for restoration, selecting and sourcing native seeds, as well as grants and programs to assist with land restoration. Bring your own sack lunch. For more information, go to Laurie Brown, laurie@cibolo.org or 830-331-2210 .

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 10AM - 11:30-PM TTU HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING SITE, MARBLE FALLS
AT20-059 WINDOW ON A TEXAS WILDSCAPE

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers shows and tells how she created a wildlife haven with primarily native Texas plants, some rocks and a lot of mulch. Cost: \$15 for members; \$30 for non-members. For more information, go to <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/olli/> ; then to p. 14, Highland Lakes Catalog. Or, call 830-693-0478 .

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 1 - 2PM WEBINAR

AT20-087 Crape Myrtle Bark Scale: Biology, Monitoring, and Management

Dr. Erfan K. Vafaie will discuss this new invasive insect pest that has spread to 13 states in the southeastern U.S. and has been found on other host plants. Crape myrtle bark scale appears as white or gray waxy secretions on stems, large twigs, and trunks, but rarely on foliage. Management includes mechanical, chemical, and biological options. Related URL: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/crapemyrtle-bark-scale/> .

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 6:30 - 8PM PATRICK HEATH PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOERNE
AT20-041 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN SEMINAR

Learn how a wildlife management plan keeps your already low property taxes in place. Free seminar.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 10AM - 12PM HERFF FARM TEACHING GARDEN, BOERNE
AT20-077 INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

Mike Mendez is the instructor. Cost: \$20. Register at <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event/2020/03/07/farm-introduction-to-beekeeping/276920> .

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 8:30AM - 1:30PM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN
AT20-086 WATERSAVER LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Our first Design School of 2020 will be held on March 7 and the second one on May 3, at the Botanical Garden. Four members of the San Antonio gardening community will present information that will give you new insight into good gardening. You will have the opportunity to talk on-on-one with a consultant and have your landscaping questions answered. It is recommended that you bring a sketch of your yard; suggestions will be offered to assist you in your projects. Cost: \$30; \$50 for two from the same household.

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.



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.

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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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