

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter
March 2020 Volume 18 Number 3



Hungry native bee - image by Vern Crawford



Our Hill Country chapter Board of Directors, after consideration of current recommendations from the CDC and Texas Department of State Health Services, voted [on March 12] to cancel this month's chapter meeting at the UGRA lecture hall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

On a nice sunny day last week, I stepped out into my back yard, weed burner in hand, to destroy a patch of dandelions that seemed to have appeared overnight. But, as I drew closer to the bright yellow flowers, that plan was quickly abandoned. The reason? Bees! A lot of native bees busy nectaring on those flowers. How did they find this little patch of flowers? How far did they travel to get here? What amazing creatures!

Did you know that many native plants can only be pollinated by native bees or other native pollinators? They are also very effective agricultural pollinators and it is estimated that the annual value of native pollinators to U.S agriculture is \$3 Billion.

We've all heard about the decline of the bee population across the nation but the good news is that recent research has proven that we can do something to reverse the loss of our pollinators.

Their needs are simple. Nectar and pollen for food and suitable places to nest. The research proved that planting urban pollinator gardens significantly improved the health and numbers of native pollinators that visited those gardens. Adding pockets of native plants increased the diversity of nectar sources and ensured a range of food sources for a variety of pollinators.

The Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program is designed to educate and encourage our local residents to establish pollinators gardens on a small scale. This program partners with the members of the Native Plant Society chapters in Kerrville, Fredericksburg, and Boerne. If you are interested in working in this program please contact the project coordinator, Richard Coleman, rwcoleman10@gmail.com.

Switching to another subject:

I had a conversation with Michelle Haggerty earlier this week concerning the coronavirus. Because there is so much false and misinformation on social media, we are encouraging you to get correct, up to date information from the links provided below. I am adding, below, the email that has been sent to all chapter presidents on March 14 to share with their respective chapter members.

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The Short Story: The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are statewide sponsors of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. As such we must adhere to the policies set forth by both of our sponsoring agencies. Late last night, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension mandated that ALL AgriLife face to face events, programs and meetings be cancelled for the week of March 16-20, 2020. This includes Texas Master Naturalist face to face events, programs, and meetings.

More information and details are as follows:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose significant challenges and is likely to remain a concern for the next several weeks. As the President declared a national disaster declaration March 13, we encourage you and your chapters to be socially responsible in our programming for the next few weeks by helping to minimize the spread and impacts of this novel virus—This includes cancelling all face to face events, programs and meetings for the upcoming week.

As you are aware, the Texas Master Naturalist Program is sponsored statewide by both the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Late Friday evening, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service instituted the following measures agency-wide to help minimize the impacts and spread of the COVID-19 Virus in Texas. Since our TMN Program is sponsored by Extension through our partnership it is prudent that our TMN Program follow these response rules and recommendations. At this time, we do not have direction from TPWD that would be different or additional to AgriLife Extension's policies set above and below. Thus, we will follow AgriLife Extension's lead on this issue at this time.

The agency also recommends these best practices for educational programs [Including TMN Programs]:

- No food demonstration at any programs until further notice. [Consider this being extended for serving food to others at your meetings and events that may take place in the coming weeks.]
- Protect vulnerable populations over 65 with underlying health conditions. [A large portion of our TMN volunteers fall within this age group.]
- Communicate cancellations as soon as you know them.

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Ron Childers, Bernard Waren

Recertifications

Bob Binney, Kristie Denbow, Frank Garcia, Tom Harrigan, Sharon Hixson, Molly Houck, Tyra Kane, Wendi Leonard, Bob Lodowski, Sheryl Pender, Carla Stang, Deb Youngblood

Special Recertifications

Janis Arterbury, Lois Gaines, Nancy Scoggins

Milestones

Constance Weaver - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly

Terry Lashley, Van Turner - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly

Norma Bruns - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

Congratulations to members who received awards at our February meeting:

Right: Lori Kendrick and Pal Lucas

Below: Claire Mitchell, Juan Leal, Van Turner, Jill Boyter, Molly Houck, and Robin May



Recent Hill County Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

2/1/20	The Big Four Forbs of Texas
2/8/20	Oak Trees Make the Hill Country Special
2/15/20	Leopold: Thinking Like a Mountain
2/22/20	Ecological Conscience Part I
2/29/20	Ecosystem Services
3/7/20	Ecological Conscience Part II

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

For All Events—check beforehand with contact person on whether the event will be held.

From Tom Burke, Volunteer Service Projects Director

New Volunteer Opportunities

Spring is arriving in Doss! Agarita and redbuds are blooming, buds are out on my Blanco crabapples. Need some volunteer hours? Think about birds and pollinator gardens!

1. Frio Canyon Garden Club. Join the group in Leakey to work on native plant and pollinator gardens as well as some rainwater catchment projects. Pamela Bird can provide more information at pambird47@gmail.com. This new project is RE-08-A.
2. Zion Lutheran Church Pollinator Garden. PGARP provided advice in the planning of this garden which is now underway. Katy Kappel has a dedicated work team but could use some additional hands. Our kickoff day is Saturday, March 28. Bring your favorite tools. Water and drinks will be provided. We will design and plant our monarch pollinator garden and tend the rest of the native wildscape. Contact person is Katy Kappel (katykappel@yahoo.com). Time coded as KR-03-B.

From Carla Stang, Membership Director

Spring green greetings!

Spring is off to a great gallop with all of the AT sessions and volunteer opportunities to help us grow and get a robust start to the season. Spring is also a time when we ramp up our outreach efforts for soliciting new folks for the 2020 Master Naturalist Class. The application process goes “live” on April First. Y’all are THE BEST form of “advertising” we have to inform and encourage others to submit an application to attend the HCMN class. Your words and deeds speak volumes! There will be rack cards available at the Riverside Nature Center; please take a couple to pass on to interested parties or post in prominent places.

Thanks for all you do to support our mission!



The Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District is getting ready to host our **Annual Spring Fish Sale!** Restock your ponds and tanks and help the District raise money for our Scholarship Fund. Download order forms at www.kerrcountyswcd.com.



For All Events—check beforehand with event contact on whether the event will be held.



Bee Keeping 2020
April 6, 2020 6:30PM
Hill Country Youth Event Center

Presentations by:

Molly Keck - Integrated Pest Management
Program Specialist & Board Certified Entomologist
&

David Rodriguez - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
and County Extension Agent - Horticulture

RSVP to Double L Feed:
830-367-4100 or 830-896-7722
and reserve your seat today

Sponsored by: Double L Feed, Kerr County Farm Bureau
&
Texas AgriLife Extension - Kerr County

Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter
&
Riverside Nature Center
invite you to...

SPRING 2020
Native Plant Sale
& Festival
Saturday
April 18th
9am - 2pm
Free Family Fun



At Riverside Nature Center

- Native Plants selected to thrive in our climate & soil
- Plant experts to answer questions & offer advice
- **Save! One day tax-free shopping for plants & gifts**

All net proceeds benefit RNC & NPSOT education efforts.

 **Raffle**
\$5 tickets * 5 for \$20

Family Activities
Bean Bag Toss *
Photo Op * Nature Walks

Informative Displays
Pollinator Garden Assistance & Recognition Program
Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter
UGRA- Water Quality & Conservation
Hill Country Beekeeping Association
Hill Country Master Naturalists
Hill Country Master Gardeners
Glory Community Garden
Ask the Plant Expert



Check Website for Details



830-257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org
150 Francisco Lemos Street • Kerrville, Texas 76026

For All Events—check beforehand with event contact on whether the event will be held.

Mostly Native
PLANT SALE
Cibola Nature Center & Farm

Saturday, April 18th
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Kendall County Fairgrounds
1307 River Road, Boerne

PLANT SALE
FARMERS MARKET | BLOOD DRIVE
\$5 ADMISSION PER PERSON

MEMBER PRE-SALE
Friday, April 17th
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sip & Shop with Us

Information | nature@cibola.org | 830.249.4616

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

 

From Becky Etzler, Riverside Nature Center

Looking for a Few Eager Gardeners!

Each week (usually on Wednesday morning) a group of intrepid workers with a passion for plants and a love of the outdoors meets at Riverside Nature Center to help maintain some of RNC's gardens, particularly the butterfly garden and the meadows. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about native plants and their place in the Hill Country ecosystem from others who share your passion for nature. Whether you are an experienced nature lover or just getting started in your journey learning about our local plants and the wildlife that depend on them, you are welcome to join this group as we experience the beauty of our Hill Country home.

As our plants bloom, mature and go to seed, the gleaning part of their life cycle comes into play. RNC's garden tenders actively gather, clean, store and (later) sow seed from our native flora. Here is an excellent opportunity for learning the who-what-when-why-and-how of gleaning and propagating our native plant species.

Volunteer hours are counted by both Riverside Nature Center and Texas Master Naturalists (KR-02-A-NPA). For further information, please contact Lydia Jetson at rnc.kerrville@gmail.com.

The Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center
Presents

A Guided Bird Walk at Lost Maples State Natural Area (AT20-155)

Join us to learn about the park and its history from TMN Greg Walton, and about the birds who call it home. We will be hunting for the Black Capped Vireo and the Golden Cheeked Warbler along with the spring migrants in the park with expert birders Bill Lindemann and Jane Crone.

Wednesday, April 22, 2020
Lost Maples State Natural Area, Vanderpool

Arrive and check in to the office by 9:00am. Bring your park pass, or carpool with someone who has one as there is a park fee. Bring a picnic lunch, and don't forget your hat, water and binoculars. You may get your feet wet!

To register, please contact Nancy Person at
nancykperson@gmail.com or 830-992-8411

Please register by April 15
This workshop will be limited to 20 participants
Please let us know if you have to cancel so we can fill the spot.

From Katy Kappel, Hill Country Chapter Vice President

Ephemeral Waters Endangered

All of our efforts as Master Naturalists depend upon the availability of water, for our life as well as for wildlife. Many of us live on land with a "seasonal creek." The Texas Waters Specialist program of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department aims to improve our understanding of water issues all over the state, but water issues are critical in the USA and the world. You can watch the new webinars on your own or catch them at the Riverside Nature Center with other Master Naturalists. The excellent textbook, *Texas Waters: Exploring Water and Watersheds*, edited by Johnnie E. Smith, can be downloaded from https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_k0700_1931_watershed_curriculum.pdf.

Also, take a look at the webinar first shown on July 16, 2019 - "The Importance of Playas in Texas High Plains" with Don Kahl, TWPD Migratory Game Bird Specialist. It's out of our geographical area, but important to the success of migrating birds: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>.

Then consider this article from the newsletter of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute on proposed changes in the Clean Water Act: <https://t.e2ma.net/message/mr8ojr/ehnf3fb>.

There are many actions that affect our water supply without due consideration of the long-term consequences. We all need to be informed.

For All Events—check beforehand with event contact on whether the event will be held.



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, April 7, Eddie Seidensticker from the Kendall Soil and Water Conservation District will be our speaker. His topic is "Marsh Restoration at San Jacinto Park."

Social, 6:30; presentation, 7:00

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, April 28, Susan Longacre and Barbara Marquer will speak on "Seeds. . . The Fruit of the Matter."

Social, 6:30; program, 7:00

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Main Street

NPSOT Kerrville Monthly Meeting

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street

Tuesday, April 14 meeting is cancelled.

NPSOT meetings are free and open to the public.

From Catherine Gauldin, Communications Director

Preserving the Irreplaceable: Dark Skies

Something is irreplaceable if it is impossible to replace if lost or damaged. That definition can apply to almost everything we do as Texas Master Naturalists, as we work to preserve the natural world because living without it would be impossible. Walt Whitman said "Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air, and to eat and sleep with the earth." Dark Skies are something that anyone who has lived here for any length of time has seen diminish to some extent on an annual basis.

For a number of years it has been the mission of Bridget Langdale to make others aware that the night sky unblemished by bright lights which block out the stars is something worth preserving. "When I first started giving classes about Dark Skies," she said "it was from the Astronomy viewpoint, for science, for data and all that and most people don't care about astronomy. Now I talk about what's important to people. For five years my focus was in getting the information out over the ten counties. I would talk to any group, even if it was three people or a roomful of people. Then about four months ago it occurred to me that I needed to share this information with others so that they could be equipped to go out and give these presentations. So instead of me doing these presentations, there should be fifty of us Master Naturalists doing them. Now I'm doing 'train the trainer.'" Bridget went on to talk about the most important things that homeowners can do to preserve the dark skies in the Texas Hill Country. "People need to evaluate their home and their outside lights, and not only their outside lights but you need to walk around your house because there could be light inside your house that's next to a window that doesn't have drapes or anything and the light is shining outside."

The Hill Country Chapter now has a YouTube channel that can be accessed through the Chapter website. It's my intention in 2020 to post videos there that highlight the activities of our various partners and the programs where members of the Hill Country Chapter are invited to participate. In this past month videos have been posted about Lost Maples State Natural Area near Vanderpool and the Nature Box Program, sponsored by Cibolo Nature Center. We are also in the process of advertising in our ten-county area by distributing information about the application process for the 2020 Texas Master Naturalist Training Class.

The Hill Country Living FESTIVAL + Rainwater Revival
returns to the Dripping Spring Ranch Park
now rescheduled to October 24, 2020.

This free, one-day event promises something for everyone who loves the Texas Hill Country — whether you call it home now, plan to make it home in the future, or just like to visit and play here. The Hill Country Alliance (HCA), FESTIVAL planner and host, has once again packed the day with fun things to do and good things to learn about living lightly in our precious Hill Country.

In 2020 we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Rainwater Revival with attractions that include a green living Vendor Hall, a Hill Country Marketplace for artists and artisans, a native plant sale, Texas Night Sky Festival® team exhibits and demonstrations, and numerous opportunities to learn more about land stewardship, wildlife management, water conservation, renewable energy, green home building, sustainable products, and more.

Go to <http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/rainwaterrevival/>
for further information.

From Martha Miesch

Learning About Water at the Kroc Nature Study Program

Tara Bushnoe and Travis Linscomb gave the students a great afternoon program learning facts about water on February 20. They set up three stations and the students switched every 15 minutes, for some good exposure to different aspects of water. The volunteers at one station were John Sloan and Tyra Kane, who helped the students create pictures of a river and various things in nature that survive near water. An assortment of choices were available for the students to choose from in composing their pieces of art which they could take home. Patty Scrafford and Tara Bushnoe were at another station. Patty read an interesting book to the students about water and its importance in human life and Tara offered examples of why clean water is important. Travis Linscomb, at the third station, had an outstanding platform illustrating nature's uneven surfaces that permit water to flow at different levels that can allow pollution to enter waterways. The students could quickly see the rise and fall of water levels. I took pictures of all the activities. Tara and Travis were very pleased with the volunteer help, and we volunteers always learn new things from these programs we share with the students.



From Lucy Griffith

The View from Rusty Bend



February mist on Guadalupe

Cure for a Late Spring

1. *Pick a window, place a chair near, a welcoming kind of chair.*
2. *Hang feeders outside, fashion a brush pile close.*
3. *Add a bird-bath. For perching, lean a shapely branch.*
4. *Put your feet up. Mind the birds' come and go.*
5. *Sustained attention, dose yourself.*
6. *Feel your heart rate slow, stabilize.*
7. *Ride those alpha waves, a tincture, unhurried.*
8. *In the long exposure of your gaze, look for patterns.*
9. *Sit. Stare. Sit some more.*
10. *Take your medicine*

Rusty Bend still has one foot in winter. Most years we are farther along by now, marching into a celebration of greens. This year, however, the Elbow Bush, nicknamed Spring Herald, blew its golden horn of bee-loving blossoms, only to be stung by another frost.

Andy has completed our annual report for our Wildlife Management Valuation. This summary of all of our activities: cutting regrowth cedar, treating fire ants, capturing cowbirds, controlling erosion, feeding turkeys, songbirds, and nest monitoring is always satisfying. We have photo points where we compare the pasture to the year before. Those, however, are a grim reminder of how little rain we have gotten.

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Still, it is Wrenville, USA around here. Canyon Wrens are back up from the river and singing like mad. There are song duels between them and Carolina Wrens, with the wood pile functioning as a Demilitarized Zone. Any walk in the pasture is accompanied by the spring song of Bewick's Wrens "*chip, chip, chip, de-da-ah, tee-dee!*"

Crowds of Cedar Waxwings decorate the live oaks. Their startling plumage is so porcelain and fine. Small groups of ducks cruise the river and Northern Flickers *kleeer* from the trees. One week we dubbed skunk week. The skunk we call the 7:06 cantered round the yard one morning. The next day he was back right on time, and two more Striped Skunks loped along behind him, like a play day at the arena.

Another morning, as we sat with our coffee we heard a crash-bang and a strange racket. Six turkey jakes decided to explore our porch. They saw themselves reflected in the glass doors and set to wild gossiping in their boisterous outdoor voices.

My garden is ready for warm weather, the asparagus bed is top dressed and ready for six weeks of tender tips. I've got three blueberry bushes in containers in a group and have my fingers crossed for fresh fruit. Forecasting pleasure is the best part of gardening.

As I wander the pasture, there is a felt sense of hesitation, as if the landscape is holding its breath for warm days and more rain. A recipe for spring. It's contagious and I also find myself in a "between" state of mind. I watch the tops of trees and see the hatch, clouds of bouncing bugs, a crown of spinning gnats. I watch spider webs drift south. On a small scale, change is afoot. On a larger scale, I am restless; I think I'll make like the turkeys and *cluk, chitter, putt* on down the road.



Turkey visit

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 just been awarded the Wrangler Award for Poetry by the Western Heritage and Cowboy Hall of Fame. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists.

Comments welcome at lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com .

For All Events—check beforehand with event contact on whether the event will be held.

Advanced Training

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 6:30-8PM SILVER SAGE, 803 BUCK CREEK DRIVE, BANDERA

AT20-042 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN SEMINAR

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 1-2 PM WEBINAR

AT20-081 MONARCH CONSERVATION WEBINAR

Learn more about the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its role in monarch conservation.

The presenter is Naomi Edelson, National Wildlife Foundation. Go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtHgTLVcNQerGVVbYIWAHNL9hrhDcH7D-2qvc6_9CwaWXLLA/viewform to register. You will receive additional details about participating in the webinar in a follow up email prior to the webinar.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 9-10AM WEBINAR

AT20-016 SOIL MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY TREES

Tree health and risk is heavily influenced by the health and quality of the soil surrounding it. This webinar will explore how aesthetic design issues affect trees and the sustainability of urban development projects and landscapes. Jason Gordon and Holly Campbell, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, are the presenters. Go to <http://www.climatewebinars.net/webinars/soil-management-for-community-trees/>.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 2-3PM WEBINAR

AT20-144 TXDOT ROADSIDE CHAT: ONGOING ANALYSIS AT THE CASA FRIO SITE

The Casa Frio Site in Frio County comprised a burial site in what appeared to be a burned prehistoric pit house. Registration is required to join this event. Register at <https://txdot.webex.com/txdot/onstage/g.php?MTID=e656a8175ac0cf306b0bec90c7e881647>. You will receive a confirmation email and reminders with details about the webinar.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 9AM-4PM WIMBERLY COMMUNITY CENTER

AT20-117 PRESERVING HILL COUNTRY OPEN SPACES NOW!

A special panel led by Hays County Commissioner Lon Shell, Hays County Precinct 3, will introduce new strategies for successful residential development that preserves natural resources and appeals to families seeking the best of the Hill Country experience. *Registration is limited*. Go to <https://reg.attendeenet.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x27342abcd> to register.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 8AM-5PM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT20-068 INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE LANDSCAPES, LEVEL 1

The Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) is a four level certification program developed by the Native Plant Society of Texas that teaches the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes. Level 1: Introduction to Native Landscapes; Level 2: Landscape Design with Native Plants; Level 3: Installation and Maintenance of Native Landscapes; Level 4: Stewardship of Native Plant Communities (to be developed). Participants must complete Level 1 before attending any other level. Subsequent levels may be taken in any order. The course includes classroom sessions and outdoor plant knowledge walks. Attendees should bring a sack lunch. Cost: \$45. Go to <https://npsot3.123signup.com/event/details/rptfj> to register.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 9AM-12PM HERFF FARM, BOERNE

AT20-145 BIRDING BY EAR WORKSHOP

Master birders Tom & Patsy Inglet will introduce you to many of the common bird calls heard in the Hill Country. Time in the field practicing bird call identification will be included. Register at <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event/2020/04/04/farm-birding-by-ear-workshop/277697>.

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.

For All Events—check beforehand with event contact on whether the event will be held.

Advanced Training

... continued

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 10AM-12PM HUNT FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY CENTER
AT20-157 FIREWISE

This event will present Firewise concepts to help take actions now to prevent losses from wildfire. This includes learning to burn brush piles safely and how to manage natural resources so fires will be less damaging. The instructor is Jacob Gosschalk, Wildlife Urban Interface Specialist, Texas A&M Forest Service.

MONDAY, APRIL 6 9AM-1PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE
AT20-139 INATURALIST WORKSHOP

Join Texas Nature Trackers Biologist Craig Hensley for an iNaturalist workshop covering making observations using the iNaturalist app, exploring the website to maximize user experience, and hands-on practice with an outdoors mini-bioblitz of the nature center grounds. Bring a sack lunch for a working lunch. **Prior to the training:** Download the iNaturalist app on your cell phone; Create an account if not already done; Go to the computer and open iNaturalist at www.iNaturalist.org; Click on the "Profile" tab; Click on the "Edit account settings & profile blue box); Under Time Zone, sets to Central Time; very important for the bioblitz.

MONDAY, APRIL 6 4-5PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE
AT20-142 COCORAHs WITH BILL RUNYON

This is a repeat showing of the webinar originally shown on March 18. Bill Runyon, CoCoRaHs Texas State Coordinator, Retired is the presenter. With discussion led by Master Naturalists, this event counts toward certification as a Texas Water Specialist.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 6:30-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM, BOERNE
AT20-162 MARSH RESTORATION AT SAN JACINTO STATE PARK

Eddie Seidensticker from the Kendall Soil and Water Conservation District will speak on the importance of restoring the marsh at San Jacinto State Park with native plants. Restoration of the marsh will enhance the historical setting of the San Jacinto Battle. The marsh played an important role in how Texans won the battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 8:30-10:30AM HEADWATERS AT INCARNATE WORD, SAN ANTONIO
AT2-103 BIRDING BY EAR

This will be a leisurely walk through the Sanctuary with Lora Reynolds, one of our birding specialists. Anyone fascinated by the sights and sounds of birds is welcome. This is a great opportunity for beginning or intermediate birders to develop and improve their identification skills. Headwaters encourages a connection with nature through ecological restoration, education, and reflection. We are restoring our urban landscape through the removal of invasive plants and propagation of native species in an effort to increase biodiversity and benefit local wildlife. Free; donations welcomed. Please wear closed-toe shoes. Binoculars will be available for the session. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-friday-birding-in-the-headwaters-sanctuary-tickets-86582511623>.

MONDAY, APRIL 22 9AM-12PM LOST MAPLES STATE PARK, VANDERPOOL
AT20-155 A GUIDED BIRD WALK AT LOST MAPLES STATE PARK

We will start with the Friends of Last Maples State Park to learn about the history of the park, followed by a guided birding trip led by Bill Lindemann and Jane Crone to find the Black Capped Vireo and the Golden Cheeked Warbler, along with other spring migrating birds. Bring a sack lunch, hat, water, sunscreen, and binoculars. Registration is required; this trip is limited to 20 people. RSVP to Nancy Person, nancykperson@gmail.com or 830-992-8411. Please let us know if you have to cancel.



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months—but not this month— 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 2020

Elsa Roberts -- President

Katy Kappel -- Vice President

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Frank Garcia -- 2019 Class Representative

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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 Carla Stang

Membership Director

hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

