

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter
April 2020 Volume 18 Number 4



photo by Vern Crawford



In accordance with scientific advice and government requirements, we are not meeting this month.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

It is beginning to seem like it has been a very long time since our Texas Master Naturalist chapters began to endure the suspension of monthly meetings and group volunteer projects that we all enjoy so much. Hopefully, these restrictions will begin to ease up beginning in May and we will be able to gradually return to our normal routines by June.

Humor about the inconveniences of staying home and practicing social distancing have helped to ease the pain a little. Here in the Hill Country where there are so many hunters with a wealth of firearms and ammunition, we have still had a spike in the purchase of those items and someone was asked if they needed these additional means to protect their toilet paper. What is the panic buying of TP about anyway? And here is the latest product that is a guaranteed remedy for touching your face. It's called Tabasco sauce hand sanitizer. Claims it not only kills germs, it also prevents you from sticking your fingers in your eyes, nose, and mouth a second time.

Michelle Haggerty, TMN Program Director and Mary Pearl Meuth, Assistant State Coordinator have done a tremendous job in creating alternative ways for some of our work to continue. The expansion of AT credits for webinars from four to eight will help us all fulfill that yearly requirement. They also divided all of the chapters into regions and set up Zoom accounts for each region. These can be used for virtual meetings of any kind that a chapter may need to use them for. Some chapters were in the middle or just beginning their annual training classes and are continuing their classroom portions of training via this tool with the scheduled presenters/teachers presenting their part via live online classrooms much like the children who are out of school are continuing their schooling with their teachers today. Of course, our own individual citizen science projects are continuing, and we hope that these restrictions will begin to ease up in May so that we will be able to gradually return to our normal routines by June.

For interim policy for training requirements, use this important link for their latest information on policy changes:

<https://txmn.org/covid-19-response/> .

Also, Michelle and Mary Pearl have created an events calendar for our program: <https://txmn.org/events/> .

continued on next page

“Here are few things to note about this calendar:

- Events added to this calendar are **not** automatically approved as advanced or basic training opportunities. You **MUST** get local chapter approval for training hours before attending.
- This is obviously not an exhaustive calendar of all the incredible online opportunities happening right now. Your chapter training directors have been made aware of the calendar and will be adding to it shortly. Please email your chapter president/training director if you have something you'd like to add.
- Each event should have an Organizer listed as a TMN chapter or organization. Please refer questions about the specific events to those organizers, not to the TMN state office.

We hope this helps with our TMN volunteers' ability to maintain connection and educational engagement during this period of shutdown.”

One thing that has happened with my change of routine is that I am reading more now than I have in a long time. There are so many wonderful nature videos and blogs to be found on the internet. I have discovered that I can spend most of my day just reading and watching. I had convinced myself, before the pandemic hit, that due to all my TMN activities, I didn't have time for much house cleaning. But, alas, I found out that wasn't the truth because now that I actually do have the time, I spend it doing other preferred things like reading and working on TMN stuff from home. Don't get me wrong. I am doing the necessary cleaning chores; I just don't stress about it being a little messy.

Here are some suggested reading resources I received from Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth. Perhaps you will enjoy them too.

“In the words of Karen Benson, MCTMN Class of 2011: ‘The ongoing situation with COVID-19 had led us to delay sending out my nature columns. But I realize that maybe we all need nature now more than ever!’

If you don't already subscribe to Karen's blog, here are links to her most recent nature essays:

- 04/02/2020 – What are Those Little Butterflies?
- 03/19/2020 – Tiny Hatchling May Be World's Smallest Turtle
- 03/05/2020 – The 2020 Texas Wildflower Season Begins
- 02/20/2020 – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- 02/06/2020 – The Virginia Partridge: What is That?
- 01/23/2020 – Great Horned Owls Are “Out and About” Right Now
- 01/09/2020 – Long-billed Curlews Are Winter Texans

For Karen & Robert Benson's website, go to reflectionstexas.com .

Here are some interesting 2019 insect webinars, although they're not usable for AT's.:

<https://ant-pests.extension.org/2019-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series/> .”

Our new training classes will be starting in August. Since the application process was opened on April 1 we have received 10 completed applications. We are looking forward to having 40 applications by the time classes start. Your chapter officers and board of directors are encouraging you to help get the word out about our upcoming classes and how to apply. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Our Communications Director, Catherine Gauldin, cgauldin@outlook.com, sent everyone a copy of the rack card that has detailed information about the classes and how to apply. This is something you can email to friends and family and post on your own social media pages. If any of you have an interesting story about your experiences as a volunteer in the Texas Master Naturalist program that you would like to share through any public media such as newspapers, magazines, or letters to the editor, it **MUST** be sent to the Communications Director. She has the skill and tools for working with the media in adherence with the strict guidelines in our code of conduct regulations that must be adhered to, and she knows the proper procedures for submitting articles for publication.

If you find interesting YouTube videos, webinars, blogs or web sites that you think others would enjoy, please send the links to me and I will pass them on in next month's article. Hopefully, by this time next month we will be well on our way to returning to the things we love doing.

Please take care of your health and the health of others.

This Month We Honor



Recertifications

Chris Anderson, Dale Bransford, Norma Bruns, Tom Collins, Cecilia Fuentes, Sarah Hilburn, Sandy Leyendecker, Pam Lienhard, Ruth McArthur, Diane McMahon, Tara Randle, Andrew Robinson, Eldon Sheffer, Robert Shock, Rae Tucker, John Walker, Debbie Windham

Special Recertifications

Dennis Akkola, Penny Bryant, Ron Childers, Laurel Rhodes, Stephanie Roberts

Milestones

Frank Garcia, Ron Scoggins, Robert Shock - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly

Recent Hill County Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

2/14/20 Where Can We Get More Water?

3/21/20 What is the Most Valuable Part of Your Land?

3/28/20 In Defense of Prickly Pear

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

From Catherine Gauldin, Communications Director

2020 Training Class

The current situation regarding the COVID-19 virus has made it very difficult to advertise the application process for the new Texas Master Naturalist Training Class, which is due to begin in August, to the general public—especially, to do that in the ways we have always depended on in the past. Because of the necessity for social distancing, the use of printed material such as Rack Cards, and our schedule of outreach opportunities have essentially been eliminated as advertising options, and we are having to rely on the newspapers and social media to get the word out.

By a large percentage, it is our membership list that is our greatest asset when it comes to spreading the good news about the Texas Master Naturalist Program. I recently sent a copy of the New Class Rack Card out to the membership of the Hill Country Chapter, so please continue to forward the image to as many people as you have on your email list who you think might be interested in becoming a member of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country chapter. It has all of the information necessary to direct potential applicants to the website and the online application. We have the same information posted on the Chapter website, <https://txmn.org/hillcountry/>, and on the facebook page. and there is detailed information about the Texas Master Naturalist program on the YouTube channel. Social media is a powerful method of communication, so share the information on those sites with any potential applicants you may have on your contact list.

From Michelle Haggerty, State Program Coordinator

Dear Texas Master Naturalists,

For the past three years, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) through the Texas Nature Trackers program, has promoted and participated in the annual global City Nature Challenge (CNC) event, a biodiversity survey framed as a friendly competition between cities to see who can document the most species of plants and animals in and around urban areas. However, due to the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation and its global impact, this year the City Nature Challenge will not be a competition, but rather a collaborative global effort in which we celebrate the healing power of nature and document our local plants and animals however we safely can.

Most scheduled events in Texas have been, and likely will be, cancelled as shelter-in-place and other orders regarding crowd size and social distancing are implemented at the local, state, and national levels. The health and safety of our communities is our top priority and we ask that Texas Master Naturalists who wish to participate in the CNC comply with the latest local, state, and national rules to slow and reduce the spread of this deadly virus. We also ask that you adhere to the rules implemented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service pertaining to Texas Master Naturalist activity during this time.

Texas Nature Trackers will still monitor iNaturalist observations made during the four-day challenge (observation period runs Friday, April 24 through Monday, April 27) and we invite you, if nothing else, to document the plants and animals of your yard, common area, or even along the sidewalks when you get out for exercise for yourself and/or your pets.

Secondly, one of the greatest challenges the TNT staff has following the CNC is adding identifications to observations made during the four-day event. We encourage TMNs to help us with identifying observations from participating metro areas starting Friday, April 24 through Sunday, May 3.

If you need assistance getting set up to help with this important aspect of the CNC, please email Tania at tania.homayoun@tpwd.texas.gov or Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov and they will get you on-board.

Finally, please consider using the hashtag #yard challenge on social media or as a tag in iNaturalist observations to share how you are engaging in this year's event. To learn more about what the City Nature Challenge is, please visit: https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/naturechallenge/ for Texas-specific information and project links and <https://citynaturechallenge.org/> for a global perspective.

These are challenging times and we know that all of you are anxious to have this in the rearview mirror. Working together we will see a day in the not-so-distant future when once again we can all gather, hug, shake hands, and celebrate all that we are together and continue to move conservation of Texas' natural resources forward.

Take good care, stay healthy, and enjoy the peace and wonder of the natural world as much as possible.

The Texas Nature Trackers Team

From Pat Lucas

Nectar and Rest

My photo on the cover of the March 19 Journey North News Update. WOW, was I surprised! I felt like I was in Dr. Hook & The Medicine Show's song "Cover of the Rolling Stone." Did I say I was surprised and VERY excited??? As a newly certified Texas Master Naturalist, I was in shock.... What other words can I use to describe my surprise..... There I was jumping out of my chair and hopping up and down in front of the computer.

I was fortunate enough to be helping at the Kerrville Schreiner Park Pollinator (KSP) garden on March 12 when this beautiful Monarch stopped in for a visit. It was my second time to help with garden maintenance and my first time to help with the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP). I live in Boerne, so January of this year was the first time I went to KSP. Everything of course was dry and in need of gardening. Both times I've been there, Paula Harley has been great about explaining what to do, answering my questions, and teaching me as much as possible. In fact, everyone I've met there is awesome. Gardening is not something I have done in the 31 years we've lived in Boerne. Our home is wild, really really WILD. Weeds are green and that's been fine, until now. So I'm helping at KSP, but KSP is helping me much more. I can only imagine how beautiful it looks when everything is green and in bloom. The dedication to maintaining this garden is incredible. Definitely something I want to continue doing.



I helped some with the garden that day, but also volunteered to help with the MLMP group. It was their first time meeting this year and again, everyone in the group was wonderful about teaching me and answering my questions. When we got started with the MLMP activities, I quickly grabbed my camera. Someone asked, "what are you going to take pictures of?" I replied, "I don't know, but I've got it just in case." As we made our way, checking the rain gauge, looking for milkweed, plants, and trees in bloom, we spotted some butterflies. I started taking pictures. At the very end, I photographed a couple of butterflies on the Mexican Plum. Mildred Dworsky and I took a closer look and realized one of the butterflies was a Monarch. That made my day, or so I thought.

After the MLMP group left, I stayed to help the gardening group a little more. To my surprise, the Monarch came back and I grabbed my camera and started taking pictures. It was such a sweet and polite Monarch that it posed on that Redbud to let me take several photos. I loved this photo in particular because it showed all the wear and tear on its delicate wings. Just thinking about the migration they make and how they keep going with holes in their wings is amazing. I heard of Journey North when I took the Monarch Larva Monitoring advanced training in February and also during the fall TMN training course. One of the ladies at KSP that day kept telling me I needed to get on Journey North. After I got home, I was so excited about the photo that I quickly logged on to Journey North and posted the photo. I had never seen one of the Journey North newsletters before and did not realize they use photos that individuals post. When I got my first Journey North newsletter and I saw my photo, I was like a kid opening Santa's gift at Christmas; yep, hopping up and down. Now to have it included in our newsletter... I'm beyond hopping... I am so honored and thrilled. I hope you all enjoy it as much as I enjoyed taking the photo. Becoming a TMN is one of the best things I've done for myself and I need to thank my husband for suggesting I take the course.



Texas State Parks Temporarily Close to the Public

At the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott, Texas State Parks will be closed to the public effective at the close of business Tuesday, April 7 in order to maintain the safest environment for visitors, volunteers and staff. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will continue to stay current with the latest public health recommendations and will announce when a definite reopening date has been determined.

“Given the myriad of challenges and heightened risks of operating the parks at this time, we believe this is the best course of action right now in order to meet the health and safety expectations the state has set out for the citizens of Texas,” said Carter Smith, Executive Director of TPWD. “All state parks will remain temporarily closed until public health and safety conditions improve. During the closure, staff will continue to steward and care for the parks to ensure they can be immediately reopened to visitors at the appropriate time.”

Outdoor recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, biking, jogging, walking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and the like are essential activities for Texas citizens. TPWD will continue to do its part to actively encourage and promote these opportunities in ways that are safe and close to home, said Smith.

Through this trying time, TPWD has worked diligently to facilitate access to the outdoors across the state, including in the state park system, which hosted nearly 740,000 day and overnight visitors throughout the month of March.

Despite the implementation of increasingly restrictive visitor use measures to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, TPWD has reached a point where public safety considerations of those in the parks, and in the surrounding communities, must take precedence over continued operations. Difficulty in ensuring compliance with social distancing, problems in maintaining adequate supplies, and keeping park facilities sufficiently sanitized are only a few of the challenges encountered by state park staff.

While parks are closed to the public, staff will be working to help maintain the standard upkeep, maintenance, stewardship, and continued regular cleaning of site facilities. The Texas State Parks Customer Service Center is currently working toward contacting customers with upcoming overnight reservations to reimburse stays booked through the reservation system. Group and facility reservations have been cancelled until April 30. Cancelled reservations will not be charged normal administrative fees.

Day passes purchased through the reservation system, not associated to the Texas State Parks Pass, will also be refunded without penalties. The Texas State Parks Customer Service Center will automatically process cancellations of both overnight and day-use reservations. If your reservation is impacted by a facility or park closure, a Customer Service Center agent will contact you – you do not need to contact us. We are contacting customers in order of arrival date and appreciate your patience.

Questions regarding state park reservations can be emailed to customer.service@tpwd.texas.gov and general park information can be found at TexasStateParks.org.



EVENT – Tree Planting & Selection – VIRTUAL CLASS

Information on proper practices for planting a tree with a nine-step approach to successful planting and establishment. Purchasing a tree is a lifelong investment. How well this investment grows depends on the type of tree selected and the planting location, the care provided during planting, and the follow-up care after planting.

Texas A&M Forest Service's **ALL ABOUT TREES** has moved several of our all live presentations to a WebEx platform. This is in response to the important stay-at-home ordinances related to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Join us for this series of presentations created to bring experts in forestry and arboriculture to answer your questions interactively through a dynamic **CHAT** feature.

Check with your local Texas Master Naturalist or Texas Master Gardener chapters for Advance Training AT credits. This class will be live on our WebEx platform allowing professional foresters and arborists to answer your questions in real-time meeting state AT requirements.

COST: FREE

Thursday, April 23, 2020

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Program information is available by emailing or calling John Warner, jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu or 936/546-3169.

LINK: [Register](#)

Or copy and paste this link in your web browser:

<https://tfs.webex.com/tfs/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed3d58d6e3bf3dfb883b03c4005a8ad11>

Why Volunteer for the KSP Pollinator Garden Restoration Project? (KR-04-A)

- A single learning site for: Site Restoration, Native Plants, and Monarch Larva Monitoring Program (MLMP) data collection
- Work with a group of experienced, dedicated, and friendly Master Naturalists who readily share knowledge
- Expect weekly garden status updates and communication as to planned work efforts, times, anticipated weather, etc.
- **THIS IS A PARTICIPATE WHEN YOU CAN - IT IS NOT A MANDATORY, LOCKED IN FOREVER EFFORT**
- Develop skills and knowledge that you can apply to your property or teaching others
- As a team member, be involved in proposals for garden projects and improvements
- Learn and identify Native Plants, including:
 - Their role in garden restoration and renovation
 - Use in Landscaping - what, when, where, how, etc.
 - Preparation Techniques including Soil Solarization
 - How to successfully plant or transplant material
 - Propagation Techniques - including Milkweed from seed (tough to do)
 - When and how to glean seeds and store or plant them (Regular volunteers can glean seeds for personal use as well as have extra plants for transplanting.)
 - Maintenance and pruning, when, how, etc.
 - Dealing with the 10, 20, 30, etc. MOST un-WANTED PLANTS
 - Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques
- Participate as a member of the MLMP (Monarch Larva Monitoring Program) group, to learn
 - Milkweed variety census and nectar source identification
 - Butterfly egg & Larval (INSTAR) stages, i.e., Stage 1, 2, etc. census
 - Butterfly counts
 - Recording of environmental conditions

PLUS MANY OTHER GREAT REASONS, BUT OVERALL, A WONDERFUL CHANCE FOR ASPIRING MASTER NATURALISTS TO GROW BOTH LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY

REMEMBER, A WEED IS A PLANT YOU DON'T WANT SOMEPLACE YOU DON'T WANT IT



photos by Paula Harley



The View from Rusty Bend



Osprey with fish

Green, amplified

In the Texas Hill Country, fresh Cedar Elm sprouts reflect the color of Persian limes, while Elbow Bush proclaims spring with chartreuse, a blinding neon.

*Hackberry leaves are pure avocado, guacamole on a tree.
New leaves of Texas Persimmon suggest asparagus.*

*Texas Oak fronds wave a strange pink-green, weirdly soft.
Escarpment Cherry shoots glow emerald, lined with scarlet.*

The mighty Cottonwood leaf, as big as my head, sports olive underneath, upended by the wind.

And sweetest of all, Lady Agarita, iridescent gold, curing to prickles, blue-green.

March roared into Rusty Bend with a symphony of greens. Each day draped with a new layer, fashioning a view that lowers your heartbeat. A slow-motion movie of spring, punctuated with little dramas.

Wake Up!

Canyon Wrens sing me awake each morning, as if they are saying “Get up, don’t miss anything!” Then Carolina Wrens agree, loudly, hollering “*We do! We do!*” Mockingbird surprises us with a new song, the cries of a seagull. The courtship songs of spring are sung at high volume.

The Osprey Diaries

Osprey has taken possession of our section of the river. We watch her dismantle a carp with exquisite precision. Balancing on one leg, she slides the fish up inch by inch, like a typewriter return. She devours it methodically beginning at its head, until only the tail is left to be tossed aside. One morning I hear the usual guttural croak of a Great Blue Heron followed by an “ACKKK.” Osprey chases him out of the river as if he was robin-sized, appearing to claim “This is MY fishing hole!”

Temporary Housing

Bluebirds are nesting near the house and at the edge of our old field. Their sweet songs and flashing slivers of sky make them welcome neighbors. Canyon Wrens are on the front porch, having constructed a hilarious tower of sticks. We use the side door now to give them some privacy. Ravens are doing fly-bys with scavenged branches and the occasional paper plate.

continued on next page

Kid in the Road

One morning on his run, Andy finds a goat kid in the middle of the road, so fresh his umbilical cord was hanging below. No mama in sight. My tender-hearted husband kneels, talks to him and is eventually able to gather him in his arms where baby goat promptly starts nibbling and rooting for milk. He is soft as an ache and startling white with doe brown ears. Andy carries him up to our neighbor, who lowers him into a five-gallon bucket for transfer back to his mom in the pasture. Goat bucket.

Antidote to Hoarding

The birds are here to teach us. White-crowned Sparrows are models of sharing as they feed on the ground. No fussing, just a gentle ebb and flow as each gets a chance to forage. As for water, the Cedar Waxwings have it down. They line up in the Texas Ash tree and come to the bird bath four to six at a time. Then, like the vintage bobbing chickens toy, they dip for water one at a time in a gentle rhythm, your turn, now mine.

Side Effects of Social Distancing

Turkeys, especially hens everywhere. They don't miss the traffic. Bobcat tracks appear. Now we are able to hear screech owl calls and the pauraque just before bed.

So spring at Rusty Bend wallops us with metaphor. While the world is roiling with drama and worry, nature is all about the moment. She reminds us to live each day as if it is our first and our last, stitching new life onto loss.



Bobcat 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.

ADVANCED TRAINING

MONDAY, APRIL 20 10:15AM-12:15PM WEBINAR

AT20-206 IDENTIFYING WARBLERS FROM TREETOP TO FOREST FLOOR

Craig Hensley will present the basics of warbler identification. You'll learn useful tips on separating various species based on field marks, behavior, and habitat. Approved for Master Naturalist Advanced Training.

To join: <https://tpwdtexas.webex.com/webappng/sites/tpwdtexas/meeting/download/748fd0f6a03b40d1ba629515abe58f14?siteurl=tpwdtexas&MTID=ma834bccfa3d583a5407cc6db8d23b261>
Meeting number (access code) 962 117 775 . Password: 7xPVr85nyvZ . To join by phone: 408-418-9388 .

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 12PM-1PM WEBINAR

AT20-174 BLACKBIRDS, COWBIRDS, HOUSE SPARROWS, & MORE: MANAGING NUISANCE BIRDS

Dr. Maureen Frank, Extension Wildlife Specialist, is the presenter. Call the Kerr County Extension office to register at 830-257-6568; a link to the webinar will be provided upon registration.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 6:30-8:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-205 CLIMATE CHANGE & INVERTEBRATES

Laurie Brown, Director of Programs at Cibolo Nature Center, is the presenter. She will examine the implications for entire ecosystems, including the amazing bird species these invertebrates support, and look at ways we can make a difference for butterflies and other insects. Join Zoom meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/141516009?status=success> . Meeting ID: 141 516 009; no password is needed. To join by phone: 345/248-7799.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 2-3PM WEBINAR

AT20-180 RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Steve Huddleston, Senior Horticulturalist for the Forth Worth Botanic Garden, is the presenter. <https://zoom.us/j/532446451?pwd=SGkxS2dZdzVsdHdCOXQ3EhyQXRxdz09> ; Meeting ID: 532 466 451 . Password: 086604 . One tap mobile: Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/532446451?pwd=SGkxS2dZdzVsdHdCOXQ3EhyQXRxdz09> .

MONDAY, APRIL 27 7:15-8:15PM WEBINAR

AT20-207 MORNING CHORUS

You are invited to learn which backyard birds are singing their territory songs with Texas Nature Trackers Biologist Craig Hensley. Join Craig from his backyard as he identifies the songs of the neighborhood songsters so you'll know who's out and about in your area. Approved for Master Naturalist Advanced Training. Sign-in Begins at 7:00am. Meeting number (access code): 964 040 121 Password: AMpihqr8F87
To join by phone: 408-418-9388. Go to <https://tpwdtexas.webex.com/webappng/sites/tpwdtexas/meeting/download/86b5ba652661449d8f88758961e469f3?siteurl=tpwdtexas&MTID=mab058b3350520baad1146542647ee1b5> .

MONDAY, APRIL 27 10:30AM-11:45PM WEBINAR

AT20-208 BUTTERFLIES AND NATIVE PLANTS: MAKING CONNECTIONS

Join Texas Nature Trackers Biologist Craig Hensley for a presentation focusing on using native plants to attract our scale-winged wonders. You'll learn basic butterfly identification as well as to which plants they are attracted. We'll use the last 15 minutes to visit Craig's yard to see what is out and about. Approved for Master Naturalist Advanced Training. To join: <https://tpwdtexas.webex.com/webappng/sites/tpwdtexas/meeting/download/3ef244cd98d748cf8beecebf5d088cf7?siteurl=tpwdtexas&MTID=m5b857977f30262c1be9882ec9c78a40a> . Meeting number (access code): 967 149 396 . Password: mQqKpib3J27 . To join by phone: 408-418-9388 .

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT20-082 MONARCH CONSERVATION RESEARCH REPORTS FROM THE FIELD, APRIL 4

Gail Morris, Southwest Monarch Study, is the presenter. To Register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecvtuSzSbJKZWtmZQn7PIKA76C4h5yvllnTCZx0FPXw39r1A/viewform>. You will receive details about participating in the webinar in a follow up email prior to the webinar.

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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 12-1:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-084 NOAA'S WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER

Greg Gallina, meteorologist, is the presenter. This talk (part 1) will quickly overview WPC's position and role within the national weather enterprise, but then take a deeper look into the center's expertise in precipitation forecasting, focusing on products and uses coming into convective (thunderstorm season). There will be a second talk later in the summer. To register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3449085917392199170>.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 8AM-5PM WEBINAR

AT20-186 EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM DESIGN

This course reviews important concepts and methods for the efficient design of landscape irrigation systems. Students will learn about software for evaluating the efficiency of irrigation system designs, and optimizing the head spacing of sprinklers. This course will use ZOOM in the same format as typical classroom instruction. Students will be required to be present for the entire course and participate in worksheets and polls to receive CEU credit for the training. Each student will be required to sign into the course on their own device (no shared enrollment). Cost: \$165.00 After enrolling in this course, you will receive instructions for participation via Zoom. Contact Information: Charles Swanson, 979-845-5614, clswanson@tamu.edu. Technical Support: 979-845-2604, agrilliferegister@tamu.edu.

FRIDAY, MAY 1 10-11AM WEBINAR

AT20-198 CAPTURING AND SHARING ECOSYSTEMS USING SMARTPHONE APPS

Jaime González, the presenter, will focus on using smartphones and 360-degree cameras to capture and share nature with students at schools and hospitals. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. To register, go to https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/uJQvce6pqDwroJ1tlpw5JvSLRc2d5XHzlQfbclid=IwAR0JukeF0pntV2Dkgm40Tq5oT1hypp_0dzT_QUw1hUSgjeu_mxRtxXYWFv4.

TUESDAY, MAY 26 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT20-083 MONARCH CONSERVATION - RESEARCH REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

This month we hear from Dr Sonia Altizer with Project Monarch Health, Dr. Ania Majewska at Emory University, and Ayse Tenger-Trolander with Dr. Marcus Kronski from the University of Chicago. Dr. Karen Oberhauser will moderate questions for each of our presenters as we learn about their recent research in monarch biology, ecology, and conservation. Go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdB3X4MBv6Dufx-l-TuJP_UG-NFPfolLFFV01tjFfbNlts6eQ/viewform to register. You will receive additional details about participating in the webinar in a follow up email prior to the webinar.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 12-1:3-PM WEBINAR

AT20-170 AN ENLIGHTENING CHAT ABOUT LIGHTNING

Chris Vegasky will be the presenter. This talk explores how lightning develops and how lightning detection systems work. We also look at data generated by lightning detection systems and how meteorologists and other scientists use those data. A discussion of lightning safety concludes the talk. For further information, go to <https://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=wxtalk>.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11 9-10AM WEBINAR

AT20-017 TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT YARD TREE

Jason Gordon and Holly Campbell are the presenters. For further information, go to <http://www.climatewebinars.net/webinars/tips-for-choosing-the-right-yard-tree/>.

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 usually 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. In accordance with scientific advice and government requirements, we are not meeting this month.

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
- Jeralyn Hathorn-- Secretary
- Nancy Scoggins -- Treasurer
- Deb Youngblood -- Advanced Training Director
- Catherine Gauldin -- Communications Director
- Carla Stang -- Membership Director
- Tom Burke -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Sheryl Pender -- 2020 Class Director
- Frank Garcia -- 2019 Class Representative
- Lisa Flanagan-- 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

Questions about our chapter?
Email Carla Stang
Membership Director
hillcountrymembership@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.

