

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the

Texas Master Naturalist

Hill Country Chapter

May 2020 Volume 18 Number 5



image by Lucy Griffith



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

Everyone is feeling the effects of a virtual shutdown of our normal activities this year. Our daily lives have been put on hold for seven weeks now and some of you may have suffered severe consequences as a result.

Now that the weather has warmed, we can all take advantage of the joys of the transition from Spring to Summer. I have found a lot of enjoyment in simple things like sitting on my back porch with my morning coffee, watching the sun come up and hearing the birds singing. There's just something about nature that is so calming.

This little quote written by E.O. Wilson is so true:

"Just being surrounded by bountiful nature, rejuvenates and inspires us."

We are blessed to live in Texas where we are not living in grossly crowded conditions like in New York. Restrictions here are cautiously being loosened and at least we can all get a haircut now. Now that's something to celebrate.

The grounds at the Riverside Nature Center are now open and their Board of Directors will be meeting on May 18 to discuss opening the building to visitors again.

The plans for the 2020 training classes are in the final stages and will commence as planned in August. Alternate plans are also being discussed just in case social distancing requirements are still in place.

Please take a look at the new Texas Master Naturalist web page. The new address is <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>. While you are there check out the new project called Nature Reflections. Explore all the tabs and links to find interesting articles and the minutes and slides from various meetings between chapter presidents and state directors. Submitted videos from the project can be viewed on the TMN home page.

Thank you for your dedication to this program.

This Month We Honor



Recertifications

Rheda Boardman, Susan Clark, Lucy Griffith, Barbara Jansen,
Lars Nielsen, Elsa Roberts, John Sloan

Special Recertifications

Martha Bean, Pat Lucas

Milestones

Mildred Dworsky, Nancy Grimes, Rachel Thompson, Deborah Youngblood - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly
Chris Keating, Robert Lodowski, Sheryl Pender - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly

Barbara Lowenthal

July 31, 1940 - April 15, 2020

Barbara was an active volunteer at the Riverside Nature Center and the Pollinator Garden at Kerrville-Schreiner Park since their beginnings. For a memorial article, please go to pages 4-5 in the May RNC monthly newsletter (<https://riversidenaturecenter.org/about-rnc/monthly-newsletters/>).

Recent Hill Country Columns by Jim Stanley

4/4/20	More Less-Than Favorite Native Plants
4/11/20	Observations from Around the Yard
4/18/20	More Observations from Around the Yard
4/25/20	A Lifetime Involved with Nature

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

From Carla Stang, HCMN Membership Director

A Call for Hill Country Texas Master Naturalist Mentors

I'm writing to you all with an appeal to please consider being a mentor for a student in the 2020 TMN class. Even with the COVID 19 situation, the New Class Committee is proceeding with optimism that we will be able to hold our class (which starts in August).

Think back to your experience with your mentor....hmmm.... If you were fortunate to have had a good mentor – consider modeling that behavior by replicating the experience for a newbie. If you did not have a good mentor - and I know there are some of you who didn't - please consider correcting the balance and being a mentor so a newbie won't have the same experience you did! This is an opportunity to turn your “F” grade experience into an “A” exceptional experience for someone else.

And, there are several “what’s in it for me” aspects to being a mentor, too. As you recall when you went through the program, there are many excellent presenters on vast topics. Refresh and recharge yourself; as a mentor you can (and are encouraged to) sit in on some class presentations at UGRA; use this as an opportunity to touch base with your mentee and get to know other fledgling Master Naturalists. New students really value talking with experienced Master Naturalists. Because of a shared love for the Hill Country, our ecosystem conversations are easy. Even brief, informal conversations during breaks in class can have a lasting impact on someone who is new to our organization. Also, you might consider inviting your mentee to tag along with you when you perform some of your TMN volunteer work. It's a WIN-WIN: getting/giving help and getting/giving experience!

If you have a particular area of expertise or volunteerism and you'd like to be paired up with someone who has similar interests, or paired up with someone you know, let me know (hillcountrymembership@gmail.com) and I'll do my best to make the match happen. Lastly, as a reminder, you do get volunteer hours for your mentorship time.

Later this summer I will have a meeting of all mentors. This meeting is where you will receive the TMN textbook and student notebook that you will hand-off to your mentee, prior to start of their class. Also during this meeting we will discuss the 2020 curriculum, which will get you up to speed on this year's program.

Being a mentor is a great way to feel plugged in and help keep our membership ranks fully charged. YOU can make a positive difference as a mentor.

Thank you for all you do, and for considering this call to be a mentor!

From Sheryl Pender, 2020 Class Director

Planning Continues for the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter 2020 Class

The Class Committee is expanding upon the curriculum that focuses on science, habitat restoration, pollinator education, and conservation ethics for the new class that's scheduled to begin in mid-August.

This year we will highlight people from the chapter who are resources for students. Several members of our chapter, including members of the Board of Directors and Volunteer Project coordinators, will speak to the class during the 12 week session, so that students can get to know who we are and what we do.

Another resource for our chapter is our website. Students will learn "15 Clicks," the essential links to the website's store of reference and historical material. Kristie Denbow, Webmaster, is assisting the Class Committee in preparing this information.

This year's curriculum of approximately seventy-five hours of class instruction and field trips has expanded to address critical Texas Hill Country water issues. Topics will include the water, carbon, and nitrogen cycles, along with land management strategies that conserve water. The goal will be better understanding of current concerns about surface and groundwater as well as of how science informs our conservation practices and communal engagement.

There are several additional features: "Preserving the Health of the Guadalupe River and its Watershed"; a field trip to Texastopia Farms in Blanco, which is a three year demonstration project aimed at limiting hillside erosion and contributing to a healthy Blanco River riparian habitat; a walk-through of the UGRA Eduscape; and a culminating Roundtable, "Our Water, Our Future: Ours to Protect."

From Kristie Denbow, Webmaster

Chapter Website: New Features

New blue navigation buttons quickly and easily open to needed resources; just click the button. Don't forget to scroll down below the buttons. Plenty of important information is waiting to be read.

New charts and illustrations help explain "whys and hows" on topics ranging from projects to VMS.

Click the Learn tab for presentations, apps, podcast, books, and more. Lots of neat logos now live under "We Volunteer Here".

Travel back in time by reading more than a decade and a half of [Texas Star](#) issues.

Just about every image posted on the website since 2012 is in the new chapter gallery. I had fun gathering these "oldies, but goodies" along with current snaps.

"Forms" - we have a form for just about anything members may need.

A compilation of Chapter Facts and Chapter Annual Reports present history and data.

I created a chapter YouTube channel and Catherine Gauldin, Communications Director, has produced and posted videos about the program and volunteer projects. We also have channels for TPWD and AgriLife videos. Click the You Tube icon.

We now have a chapter iNaturalist project. Join and add your observations from our ten-county service area. Click the "iNat" icon.

I'll add more new features as they become available for our site. If you have items you would like to see, let me know.

Update: The state office has announced they will move us to a new website design in August. The chapter website will be completely re-designed with a new look, new navigation, and new features. I hope to have the new site live in mid-August.

Why I Hate Bromes

By Bromes, I mean the two species of brome grasses which infest our Hill Country area: *Bromus tectorum* (Cheat grass) and *Bromus catharticas* (Rescue grass). Both are introduced, highly invasive annual grasses. Cheat grass is Eurasian in origin, while Rescue grass hails from South America. In the essay "Cheat Takes Over" in *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold wrote about the negative effects that cheat grass was having in the 1940's on the sagebrush steppe ecosystems in the Intermountain West. The problems continue today, affecting the populations of the greater sage-grouse, deer, elk, and other native animals and contributing to increased wildfires. In our MN training classes we learned how to recognize one or both of these grasses. But my struggle with them began long before I learned their names and continues to this day.

My 100+ year old ranch house has a small strip of land between the front fence and the road. When I moved in 19 years ago, I decided that I wanted to encourage the growth of as many of our native wildflowers there as I could. Within the first year or two, I discovered that two annual grasses kept coming up profusely in the early fall so thickly that they crowded out any native forb seedlings that managed to germinate. I have tried many approaches to prevent them from forming their dense stands, from pulling each one (per Bill Neiman of Native American Seeds, "Hand pulling the entire plant with roots is effective. Keep a bag of native seeds tied to your belt and throw a pinch into each hole left by pulled cheat grass.") However, hand pulling hundreds, nay thousands, of plants growing in even a small 350 sq. ft. area is daunting, especially in the scope of taking care of the rest of a ranch. I do manage to keep the area in front of my address marker relatively free of bromes, and these pictures show the difference in the number of bluebonnet seedlings last fall versus the adjacent area where the bromes were not pulled. On the left is an area full of brome with no bluebonnet seedlings. On the right is an adjacent area with no brome, 20+ bluebonnet seedlings and Texas wintergrass (*Stipa leucotricha*). The only cultural difference between the two areas was the pulling of brome seedlings.



Both grasses achieve their success by growing in dense stands and producing copious quantities of seeds. Unlike most of our native grasses, these are cool season annuals. Their seeds sprout in huge numbers with the first fall rains, creating monocultures crowding out native cool season forbs attempting to establish themselves at the same time, e.g. bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, and pink evening primrose. Their ability to set seed any time the weather is warm enough and without regard for the height of the grass is impressive. I have seen seed set in December by young plants and in June by dying plants only 2" tall, which had been mowed.



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How they got their common names:

Cheat grass - I have heard several explanations. That western wheat farmers planted wheat, but when it came up huge amounts of *B. tectorum* also came up, and they believed that they had been cheated by being sold contaminated seed. Another story says that when cheat grass comes up in the fall, it looks like it will be a great grazing asset, but in late spring/early summer it dries up, contributes to range fires, and produces copious seeds with small awns that can cause sores in the mouths of horses and cattle grazing on them.



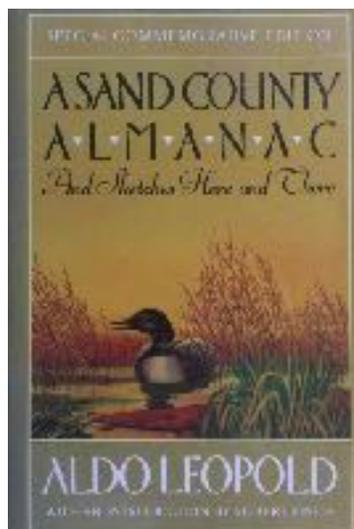
Rescue grass – Even after harsh droughts and/or severe winters, *B. catharticus* is able to sprout in large numbers and provide some fall-winter-spring forage. According to Wikipedia’s page (in Italian), the species name catharticus tells us that the plant was used to purify or purge the body; however, recent information reveals that if ingested, it is likely to damage the intestines.



What to do now?

Unfortunately, just as in Aldo’s day, there are no easy answers.

If the area can be grazed hard after the bromes come up, but before they set seed, seed production can at least be reduced without harm to livestock. Prescribed burns are useful in some situations, but timing must be carefully chosen. For areas that cannot be grazed or burned, the options are more limited. I am sad to say that I have used herbicides with some success. Glyphosate, of course, is recommended, but kills any desirable natives managing to co-exist. Ornamec® “Over the Top”, a selective grass killer, spares most forbs, but some are susceptible (e.g. pink evening primrose, Maximillian sunflower), and would kill any native grasses present and actively growing. And there is always the challenge of treating the bromes at the right time in their development cycle. For spraying, the optimal time is after the fall forbs are dormant, but before spring forbs sprout. Try working that around a full-time job! I also have a John Deere mower with dual catch bags, which I use to catch as much seed as I can. I just wish I could adjust the blade height to higher than 4 inches to leave more native forbs intact. As for me, I will continue to fight with all of the applicable tools described by Leopold – “axe, plow, cow, fire and gun” – and any others I judge to do more good than harm.



From Steve Ramirez

Casting Forward

My name is Steve Ramirez, and I am a proud member of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter.

I am also a full time outdoor and conservation author who lives and writes here in the Texas Hill Country but travels across the country and world in the quest to learn more about nature and the best of human nature.

I have been writing and publishing in nature magazines and journals for years but am pleased to share that my first book, *Casting Forward*, is being published by Lyons Press with a release date of September 1, 2020.

It is available for pre-order now via amazon.com :

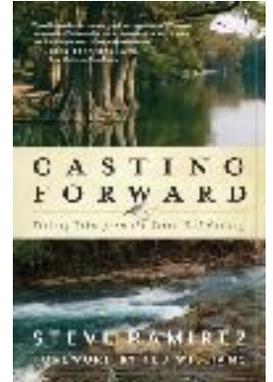
https://www.amazon.com/Casting-Forward-Fishing-Tales-Country/dp/1493051458/ref=sr_1_1?

This is a story of my daughter and my exploring every major river in the Texas Hill Country while seeking to find our new life direction.

It is also a story of the historical landscape and biological nature-scape of the Texas Hill Country that we all know and love.

If any of you choose to order the book, I will be happy to do a presentation and or singing/reading at a future meeting or event, after the pandemic is contained.

I hope you enjoy this book.



Volunteer with us!
Train to certify as a
Texas Master Naturalist

Learn how to be a good steward of the Hill Country and share your knowledge with community-based conservation efforts.
CLASS OF 2020
txma.org/hillcountry

T E X A S
Master Naturalist
HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

BECOME A GOOD CERTIFIED
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST VOLUNTEER
with the
Hill Country Chapter

1. Submit application online at txma.org/hillcountry.
2. Master Naturalist training course tuition is \$100.
3. Complete an 8-week course of instruction - weekly class plus four field trips. Most classes occur in Kerrville.
4. Volunteer 40 hours on any of our approved projects.
5. Attend 8 hours of Advanced Training.

Membership in the Class of 2020 is limited to 40 trainees

Important Dates

APRIL 1	APPLICATION OPENS
JUNE 30	APPLICATION DEADLINE
AUGUST 1	ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION
AUGUST 17	TRAINING RECEPTION
AUGUST 19	CLASSES BEGIN
NOVEMBER 3	COMMENCEMENT

The Hill Country Chapter consists of members:
Randee Edwards Gillogie
Kendall Kerr Kumble Mason
Merrill Reed Sun Sales

The View From Rusty Bend



Zone-tailed Hawk

Caesura

*Zone-tailed hawk
hiding in your plumage, dark—
soaring in a kettle of vultures,
rocking side to side,
tipping in mimicry,
only to stoop and seize
unwary lizard, a
careless vole.*

*Or perched, preening
feather by feather in
a deny dawn.
The classy curve of your golden beak,
your talons razor fine.
Fanning the striped skirt
of your tail
like a dancer on stage.*

*But today, at eye level
you hover, facing away from me,
tasting the speed of a warm westerly.
Your primaries, like fingers
harness the wind.
You are motionless,
balanced, teaching
what it means to be still.*

April sings the blues at Rusty Bend. Indigo Bunting was first to show, with his impossible hue, then big-billed Blue Grosbeak. The first bluebirds have hatched and their songs adorn our world, while Blue-gray Gnatcatchers do their speedplay in the trees. Blue-eyed grass winks at me in the dew. Then there are the blues of loss, the Canyon Wren nest on the front porch was predated, all six nestlings flung out. We assume by a territorial Carolina Wren nesting close. The babies looked like tiny fallen soldiers on a battlefield, heartrending. We were so looking forward to watching them learn to fly.

During these weeks of enforced stillness, I find I have the time to really observe. A turkey hen, drenched from a passing storm, stands in the road and cleans herself, feather by feather, stripping stem to stern. Shaking. Starting again. I take the time to watch her, 20 minutes. While my heart rate slows, her personality glows, disgusted, stomping and shaking.

Besides the kee-reer call of Red-shouldered Hawk, the wind carries the cries of lambs and kids from the neighbor's pasture. Because we are up on a cliff, we have an aerial view of them. It is hypnotic to watch the protective circle the goats make each night, white on green. It unravels at dawn like chalk dissolving on a board.

Lastly, we take the time to watch pool play at the birdbath. Summer Tanager has a big beak, so he turns on his side to slide under the water.

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White-crowned Sparrow scrapes and scuttles like a tugboat across the bottom. But Mister Golden-fronted Woodpecker, with his Jimmy Durante schnoz, makes us laugh, he shoulders under the water, right then left, schnoz held high.

These are hard times, small losses seem enlarged. I follow poet Maggie Smith's advice: "Before the news, birdsong and light. Prime your mind with them."



Canyon Wren nest, down from perch

Zone-tailed Hawk image by Ken Butler, used with permission. Poem, second image 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.

From Elsa Roberts, President

Advanced Training Annual Requirements – 2020 Updated Policy

Online-based training and webinars will accepted for all of the minimum of 8 hours of advanced training hours required for certification. Additional AT hours can be earned through distance or in person courses once shutdown lifted.

We encourage members to consider attending in person advanced trainings in the fall once travel & health restrictions lift.

We encourage chapters to host multi-chapter or regional advanced training webinars/online programs to limit stress on presenters.

We encourage the priority of those online training/webinars that are live, allow for speaker/audience interaction and allow for questions/discussion at the end.

We encourage chapters to host post-training discussion groups if speaker isn't available for questions/discussion.

We encourage limits to those advanced trainings that are pre-recorded, not live or not interactive in their online format. No "learning by YouTube."

ADVANCED TRAINING

MONDAY, MAY 18 3-4PM WEBINAR

AT20-269 YOUR iNATURALIST QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Texas Nature Trackers Biologists Tania Homayoun and Craig Hensley train hundreds of Master Naturalists and other community scientists annually about iNaturalist and the TNT programs. During this one-hour session, we will open up the floor to answer questions you have regarding aspects of iNaturalist. We'll begin with a short overview and then take your questions during this one-hour webinar. Cost: free. Go to the webinar @ <https://tpwdtexas.webex.com/tpwdtexas/j.php?MTID=m4d2281fa696b415c3306b44c403f6208>. Code to Join: 15925

MONDAY, MAY 18 10-11AM WEBINAR

AT20-268 MILKWEED ECOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION

Join Texas Nature Trackers Biologist Craig Hensley for a look at more than 50 species of milkweeds that Texas has across the state, the roles they play in our ecosystems, and how you can help us track milkweeds through iNaturalist. Please check in at 09:45 (15 minutes early). Various ways to join the webinar: Meeting number (access code): 969 557 976 Meeting password: 3j9GQMXWm39. Tap to call in from a mobile device (attendees only): Dial +1-408-418-9388. From a video system or application: Dial 969557976@tpwdtexas.webex.com . Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business: Dial 969557976.tpwdtexas@lync.webex.com. Join using a browser on a computer: <https://tpwdtexas.webex.com/tpwdtexas/j.php?MTID=m61f144de05811a8f9134c138119cb58a> .

TUESDAY, MAY 19 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT20-175 SKUNKS, COONS, OPOSSUMS, AND MORE: MANAGING MESOMAMMALS

Dr. Maureen Frank, Extension Wildlife Specialist, is the presenter. To register, call the Kerr County Extension office, 830-257-6568. Cost: \$20 for series or \$10 per class. The link to the webinar will be provided upon registration.

TUESDAY, MAY 19 8AM-5PM WEBINAR

AT20-185 PERMITTING OF ALTERNATIVE WATER FOR IRRIGATION

This one-day, eight-hour course is designed for Engineers and Licensed Irrigation Professionals who design, install, maintain and manage landscape irrigation systems utilizing reclaimed water originating from wastewater treatment facilities. This course will be conducted live, using 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, Biological and Agricultural Engineering; 979-845-5614, clswanson@tamu.edu .

TUESDAY, MAY 19 6:30-7:30 WEBINAR

AT20-187 COMPTROLLER OFFICE NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

Chelsea Jones, Senior Research Analyst, is the presenter. The Natural Resources team at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts works to encourage stakeholder involvement in species conservation and the development of science-based solutions that balance economic activity and the sustainable use of environmental resources. In this webinar, we'll cover program purpose, goals, and insights through the lens of three distinct projects, focusing on coastal, freshwater, and groundwater habitats. To register, go to <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist> .

TUESDAY, MAY 19 5-6:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-277 ULANDSCAPEIT: WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE DESIGN

This virtual class will be live on our Facebook page, AgriLife Water University. Our staff horticulturalist and water resource professionals will be online taking and answering your questions. Cost: free. This is a Facebook event; go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/161465921505602/> .

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT20-276 WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME INVASION DYNAMICS IN TEXAS**

Dr. Kristin Jonasson, Research Scientist, is the presenter. We are monitoring the invasion-front of the fungal pathogen *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd) in Texas. Our goals are to monitor the number of bats that test positive for Pd (prevalence) and how intensely they are infected (fungal load). This information will help us assess which bat species are in the greatest need of targeted conservation interventions. The data we collect from swabbing bats for Pd will inform the likely patterns of WNS in the state. Contact Information: email.comments@tpwd.texas.gov To register, go to <https://shorturl.at/qFK68>.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 8AM-5PM WEBINAR**AT20-188 MANAGING USE OF ALTERNATIVE WATER FOR IRRIGATION**

This course complements the Permitting of Alternative Water for Irrigation Course; see AT20-185, May 19. It is designed for licensed irrigators who design, install, maintain and manage landscape irrigation systems utilizing reclaimed water originating from domestic wastewater treatment facilities, and will be conducted live, using 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. Cost: \$165.00. After enrolling, you will receive instructions for participating. Contact Information: Charles Swanson, Biological and Agricultural Engineering; 979-845-5614, clswanson@tamu.edu.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 9:30-11:30AM WEBINAR**AT20-283 ECOLOGY OF HORNED LIZARDS LIVING IN SMALL TEXAS TOWNS**

Dr. Dean Williams is the presenter. His lab at Texas Christian University has been studying Texas horned lizards living in two small towns since 2013. The purpose is to gain a better understanding of how Texas horned lizards have persisted in close association with people in these towns, although they have disappeared from many other areas in Texas. Registration for this webinar is required. Register in advance of the meeting at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclcuYgrz8pGtNHRhbam0XyK3gijTFrUfcU>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 10-11:30AM WEBINAR**AT21-220 ETHNOBOTANY OF SOUTH TEXAS PLANTS**

Gary Poole, Conservation and Adult Programs Specialist, San Antonio Botanical Garden is the presenter. Learn how the plants commonly found in South Texas were used for culinary, medicinal, ceremonial and home arts purposes. Following the workshop, participants are asked to take a brief survey, which allows the Botanical Garden to get credit for your attendance and process your refund. A link and instructions will be sent to you 48 hours prior to the start of class. Fee: \$10 refundable deposit upon completion of the post-workshop survey. Contact: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__22076.blackbaudhosting.com_22076_Ethnobotany-2Dof-2Dthe-2DPlants-2Don-2Dthe-2DSouth-2DTexas-2DTrail&d=DwMFAQ&c=wPTu7pQtsv7UK9JGUif55Q&r=OqoWEs6Ajd8F8r5I_hL_xtzkUf7dqJWKhnaUqDSRs0Y&m=1MKFg7Ho9RgZ3vniOtN0pE77mgCvrB8n78LmgS8F9Bo&s=qgWEUcVUQ0MpLXR3fkl1gMGJeSgAV2Pw0sqmDMIB-CY&e=

THURSDAY, MAY 21 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT-272 MANAGING NATIVE PASTURES FOR QUAIL**

Annaliese Scoggin, TPWD biologist, is the presenter. Preregistration is required. Contact Information: Susan Himes; susan.Himes@ag.tamu.edu. After registering, instructions for joining this zoom meeting will be provided.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 7-8PM WEBINAR**AT-275 A THIRST FOR NATURE: PARKING LOT BIRDING**

Jennifer Bristol is the presenter. Contact Information: Laurie Brown; laurie@cibolo.org, 830-331-2210. Join Zoom Meeting; Meeting ID: 861 2899 6063 Password: 009874 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86128996038?pwd=aEFGSUFGOGI5TVVkrFJGR0tsQWNUQT09>.

THURSDAY, MAY 21 2-3PM WEBINAR**AT20-267 ALL ABOUT TREES: FORESTS, WATER, AND PEOPLE**

John Warner is the presenter. This free class will be live on our WebEx platform. allowing healthcare providers, certified forest therapy guides, foresters and arborists to answer your questions. Go to <https://tfs.webex.com/tfs/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2b809db1e53296189759595ec886e545> .

THURSDAY, MAY 21 6-8PM WEBINAR**AT20-286 COMPOSTING BASICS**

Participants will learn about various composting methods and how to decide which method suits your lifestyle best. Contact Information: sac-ecocentro@alamo.edu. Registration is required. To register for this repeat event, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/104689906328> . This event will be repeated on May 23. To register for the repeat event, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/104690586362> .

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 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-NFPfoLFFV01tjFfbNlts6eQ/viewform to register. You will receive additional details about participating in the webinar in a follow up email prior to the webinar.

TUESDAY, MAY 26 1-2PM WEBINAR**AT20-247 GET YOUR LAWN AND LANDSCAPE READY FOR SUMMER HEAT**

Entomologist Molly Keck and horticulturist David Rodrigues are the presenters of this weekly series on plants and bugs. Contact Information: <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/contact-us/> . To join, click on the following link at the date and time of the presentation: <https://tockify.com/gardenstylesa/detail/879/159051600000/12> .

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 10:30AM-12:00PM WEBINAR**AT20-219 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. Check-in at 10:15 AM. Click to join: <https://tpwdtexas.webex.com/webappng/sites/tpwdtexas/meeting/download/3ef244cd98d748cf8beecebf5d088cf7?siteurl=tpwdtexas&MTID=m5b857977f30262c1be9882ec9c78a40a> Meeting number (access code): 967 149 396. Meeting password: mQqKpib3J27 To join by phone: 408-418-9388 .

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 1-2PM WEBINAR**AT20-249 HEAT LOVING INSECTS**

Entomologist Molly Keck and horticulturist David Rodrigues are the presenters of this weekly series on plants and bugs. Contact Information: <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/contact-us/> . Contact Information: <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/contact-us/> . To join, click on the following link at the date and time of the presentation: <https://tockify.com/gardenstylesa/detail/879/1590602400000/13> .

THURSDAY, MAY 28 10-11:30AM WEBINAR**AT20-250 THE BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY OF NATIVE TEXAS BEES**

Dr. Jessica Beckham is the presenter. Following the workshop, participants are asked to take a brief survey. A link and instructions will be sent to you 24 hours prior to the start of class. Fee: \$10 refundable deposit upon completion of the post-workshop survey Registration is required: go to <https://tockify.com/gardenstylesa/detail/887/1590678000000> .

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 30 9AM-12PM WEBINAR
AT20-276 OAK WILT ONLINE WORKSHOP

Erin Davis, Staff Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service, is the presenter. Learn how to recognize, prevent, and treat this disease. To join the Zoom Meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84080271656?pwd=bS9JS3dDVFcxc3lyTDVwVGk0Y0Fhdz09> Meeting ID: 840 8027 1656 Password: 001996.

SATURDAY, MAY 30 9-10AM WEBINAR
AT20-270 NATURE JOURNALING - A TOOL FOR NATURALISTS

Join artist and Rolling Plains Chapter Texas Master Naturalist, Laura Gillis, to learn methods for documenting flora and fauna through journaling. You do not have to know how to draw to attend this session; all skill levels are welcome. This is a Zoom Presentation with time for questions. Participants will be encouraged to take what they learn out to practice during the day and then rejoin Laura for a "sum it up" meeting at 4:00pm. Please register by May 29 by emailing rlynnseman@gmail.com with your name and reason for attending. When you register, you will receive the event link and password. Contact Information: rlynnseman@gmail.com, 940-867-3006 .

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 5-6PM WEBINAR
AT20-278 WATER U DOING? WATER EFFICIENT SPRINKLERS

Learn how to do minor repairs along with simple irrigation tips that can make a major impact on your water waste and your water bill. This free class will be live on our Facebook page, AgriLife Water University. Our staff water resource professionals and horticulturalist will be online taking and answering your questions. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/1619256384889475/> . Contact Information: Tamaron Hunt, 972-952-9671, tamaron.hunt@ag.tamu.edu .

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 12-1:30PM 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 will 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=wxstalk> .

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 12-1PM WEBINAR
AT20-285 PLANT AND ANIMAL INTERACTIONS

Dr. Bob Lyons, Professor and Extensions Range Specialist, will discuss what grazing and browsing animals want, how range animals learn what to eat, how animal anatomy affects what animals eat, and livestock/wildlife competition. Go to <https://texasrangewebinars.tamu.edu/webinars/plant-and-animal-interactions/> .

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 5-7PM WEBINAR
AT20-279 DIY DRIP IRRIGATION

This class will be live on our AgriLife Water Facebook page. Our staff horticulturalist and water resource professionals will be online taking and answering your questions. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/261232341917326/> . Contact Information: Tamaron Hunt, 972-952- 9671, tamaron.hunt@ag.tamu.edu .

TUESDAY, JUNE 9 5-630PM WEBINAR
AT20-280 GROW NATIVE, NOT WILD

This free class will be live on our Facebook page, AgriLife Water University. Our staff water resource professionals and horticulturalist will be online taking and answering your questions. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/551964472425299> Contact Information: Tamaron Hunt, 972-952-9671, tamaron.hunt@ag.tamu.edu .

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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.

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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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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

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hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

