

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

Volume 18 Number 6 June 2020



Sunset - image by Lucy Griffith



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

THE INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT.

While this has been a very challenging year so far, it is good to know that most of our outdoor project coordinators and volunteers have adjusted to the mitigation requirements and are busy at work again. This is proof of the resourcefulness and dedication that our members have. If you are in danger of not achieving the required VMS hours for certification, or would like another opportunity to get outside. here are a few things to consider.

UGRA – Take a look at the Major Initiatives tab on their webpage (ugra.org). All information about getting involved in these projects is located on UGRA web page, and on page six in this newsletter.

The RIVER CLEAN UP is scheduled for July 25. Please consider signing up to participate in this worthy project. As trained volunteers through the Texas Master Naturalist program, with a deep respect for the health of the Hill Country, we should be the first to sign up. You can even form a team with your chapter friends to work together. See more detailed information farther in the body of this newsletter.

The VOLUNTEER SUMMER STUDY started on June 1 and runs thru August. According to Tara Bushnoe, Natural Resources Coordinator, there were a few locations along the Guadalupe and throughout the watershed that are not yet assigned for sampling this year. You can also ask about a location on your property or near your home to see if that is an appropriate location for you to sample.

MENTORS NEEDED – The planning for the 2020 training class is in the final stages. Please consider volunteering to mentor a new trainee and help her or him become established as a productive volunteer in our chapter. Our Class Director, Sheryl Pender, is optimistic that she will be able to conduct a normal training class even if some Covid-19 mitigation restrictions are still in place. Additional information about becoming a mentor is included in the Membership Director's article in this newsletter.

WEBMASTER NEEDED – We were sad to learn that our webmaster of many years, Kristie Denbow, will be retiring in August. THIS IS A CRITICAL NEED. Please see additional information on the next page.

Summer has defiantly arrived. I am sure no one was sorry to see May end with her severe storms. Many of our members suffered major damage to their properties and are still in the process of cleaning up debris and removing downed trees. In spite of the hot and dry weather of summer, we can all be thankful that we live in the Hill Country where we can appreciate the joys of nature and are not confined to the concrete jungle of a large city. As for myself, I am truly thankful for that.

The Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter needs a new webmaster for our chapter website.



The state Texas Master Naturalist program has adopted a new website template. The Hill Country Chapter website will transition to the new design, which is simplified in appearance, during the week of July 19. AgriLife is offering instructional webinars to teach how to redesign the site during the scheduled two week transition, along with additional IT support.

After having served as webmaster since 2012, Kristie Denbow is stepping down and there is now an opportunity for another member of the Hill Country Chapter who has an understanding of how the chapter functions and how the state program operates to step in to take her place. Whoever commits to the website will have time to become familiar with the current website content and therefore be ready to learn how to redesign the site upon taking over. Kristie has designed a website that has been used as a model and has created innovations for our site that have been adopted by others. It is important that we continue the high standards she has established.

Please consider this opportunity to use your design skills to help your chapter. If you're interested, please send your name and contact information as soon as possible—but definitely prior to July 12—to Kristie Denbow at hillcountrywebmaster@gmail.com.

Recent Hill County Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 5/2/20 The Do's and Don'ts for an Inviting Backyard Wildlife Habitat.
- 5/9/20 Which Native Animals Could Cause You the Most Harm?
- 5/16/20 Eighty Years After the Dust Bowl. Have We Learned Enough?
- 5/23/20 Grass—John James Ingalls
- 5/30/20 You'll Miss them When They are Gone.

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

This Month We Honor

Recertifications

Pam Bird, Joe Braly, David Davies, Marylein Davies, Ginny DeWolf, Mildred Dworsky,
Larry Eskridge, Eileen Gotke, Katy Kappel, Claire Mitchell, Clark Williams

Milestones

Constance Weaver—500+ hours - Brushed Silver Dragonfly

Eileen Gotke - 2500+ hours - Polished Silver Dragonfly

Bob Binney, Jane Crone - 4000+ hours, Presidential Volunteer Service Award

Diane McMahon - 5000+ hours, Diamond Dragonfly

From Carla Stang, Membership Director

Membership Information

We have finally been able to begin some modified TMN outreach table efforts! This year we have a two-pronged goal with the tables. We are recruiting students for the fall class AND distributing Volunteer Service Hour Pins. Locations are in Kerrville, Bandera, Boerne, and Hunt. You are encouraged to come to one of the TMN table sites to pick up your pin! Look for the TMN signage, the green TMN tablecloth, and smiling TMN volunteers!

Friday, June 12 10A – 1 P Plant Haus 2
Saturday, June 13 10A – 2P Boyle's Hardware Store (Bandera)
Sunday, June 14 10:30A – 2P Bridget's Basket (Hunt)
Wednesday, June 17 10A – 1P Riverside Nature Center
Saturday, June 20 9A – 1P Herff Farms (Boerne)
Monday, June 22 10A – 1P Riverside Nature Center
Friday, June 26 10A – 2P Boyle's Hardware Store (Bandera)
Saturday, June 27 9A – 1P Herff Farms (Boerne)
Sunday, Jun 28 10:30A – 2P Bridget's Basket (Hunt)
Friday, July 3 10A – 1P Riverside Nature Center
Thursday, July 9 10A – 1P Riverside Nature Center

JULY 13 HCMN CLASS APPLICATION DEADLINE

Saturday, July 25 UGRA River Clean Up 9A – 1P See the article in this newsletter for details.

I would also like to share some interesting 2020 membership facts. This has obviously been an exceptionally challenging year on a number of fronts, but many of our Hill Country Chapter members are finding ways to continue to learn and volunteer. In the first five months of 2020, our chapter has had 72 people recertify. There are 12 people who volunteered 250 hours, seven people who volunteered 500 hours, five people who volunteered 1000 hours, two people who volunteered 4000 hours, and one person who volunteered 5000 hours. This is just fantastic!! KUDOS to all!

As of the end of May, 69% of the 2019 HCMN class has achieved their Initial Certification and of those who certified, 71% achieved their Special (a.k.a. "double") Certification. I'd like to challenge those from this class who have yet to certify to try to get 'er done in the remaining seven months of 2020!

From Catherine Gauldin, Communications Director

Building the Class of 2020: Spreading the Word

The Board of the Hill Country Chapter decided last month to extend the application deadline for the new class of 2020 to July 13. Since that time area businesses have been slowly opening up after the restrictions placed on us because of COVID-19, and various members as well as several people I had already contacted back in March have been out in their communities within our ten county area, delivering rack cards that give the public all the information they will need to submit an application from our website.

I still have many cards, so if any member of the chapter would like cards to hand out, please contact me at CGauldin@outlook.com and I will send you some. You can also pick up some of the cards I have left at Riverside Nature Center. They are in one of the bins on the outside of the main building, to the left of the entrance door. There is also an ample supply of cards in the display rack at Riverside.

I'd like to remind the membership of the Hill Country Chapter to please continue to share the link to the website with your friends and tell them about your positive experiences as a Texas Master Naturalist. Our membership continues to be the greatest asset we have, and your experiences are the best avenue of expressing both what the Texas Master Naturalist program is and how it benefits the State of Texas. Remember the deadline for applications is July 13, 2020.

From Sheryl Pender, 2020 Class Director

Class of 2020 Preview

Plans in place. Engines revving. Excitement in the air.
2020 Class Committee working behind the scenes, during a pandemic.
Class Notebook coming together with most speakers' handouts submitted.
Traditional field trips and a new Advanced Training field experience in Blanco organized.



The TMN mandated topics as well as our Chapter's required topics are lined up once again for a sensational certification training.

New topics are added: Bees as Pollinators, by Elaine McMurray, who founded Texas Beekeepers Association. Preserving the Health of the Guadalupe River, by Tara Bushnoe, Natural Resources Coordinator at UGRA, and Citizen Science, by Craig Hensley, TPWD biologist.

New presenters will cover "ologies" and core certification topics: Mike McGinnis (Biologist, Medical Mycologist, Mineralogist) for Geology, Ronald Green (hydrogeologist) for Hydrology, Erin Davis (forest biologist) on Forest Habitats and Stewardship, Chris Maxwell-Gaines (water collection engineer) on Rainwater Harvesting Practices, Cindy Luongo Cassidy (International Dark Skies) on the Ecology of Darkness, a team of chapter leaders and officers on How the Chapter Works, and Steve Nelle (NCRC) for our Commencement address.

Our Water, Our Future, Ours to Protect is this year's culminating roundtable examining critical water issues in the Hill Country and how area citizens mobilized communities, maneuvered through the regulators and planners, and mitigated threats to watersheds in Hondo Canyon (Margo Denke, MD), Wimberly Valley (David Baker, Jacob's Well land steward), and Honey Creek Natural Area (Annalisa Peace, Director of Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance). Moderated by Daniel Oppenheimer (Land Resource Manager at Hill Country Alliance), the audience will hear their stories of threats to their watershed, how they organized to engage concerned citizens, what strategies worked, and where their efforts have led. Students will have an ample Q/A period following the presentations.

The 2020 Class Committee's excitement is tempered by the times in which we live. Contingency plans based on current Texas A&M Agri-Life Re-Opening Guidance (5.20.20) as well as the Governor's Re-Opening Health Protocols (6.3.20) are being discussed, and decisions are being made to create physically and emotionally safe classroom and field experiences.

Occupancy in our classroom and field venues will be restricted to students, Class Committee members with specific duties, and speakers. At this time there will be no walk-in TMN guests. We continue to communicate with our venue operators about their restrictions and capacity limitations. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

From Catherine Gauldin, Communications Director

The Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Award Presented to Cathy Downs

Representatives from The Major James Kerr Chapter, NSDAR were pleased to present the DAR Conservation Award to Cathy Downs at Riverside Nature Center on June 5, 2020 in recognition for her work in the conservation of Monarch butterflies. Cathy was born and raised in New England on a farm in rural Maine and after a thirty-five year career in which she owned and operated her own retail business making chocolates, she moved with her husband Scott to Comfort, where their ten acre property is managed for wildlife. She says her inspiration and passion for wildlife conservation came from her father, who had a career in Forest Management, and from her mother, whose farming skills and interest in sustainable agriculture practices have kept the family farm in balance up until this day. Her memories of growing up are of spending time outdoors learning about natural processes, balance, and ecosystems. Many of the family's vacations were spent camping, fishing, hiking, and hunting in the New England lake and forest regions.



Elsa Roberts and Cathy Downs at the award ceremony

Cathy Downs strives to share her love of nature and conservation of wildlife habitat with as many adults, children, and school programs as she can. With an emphasis on Monarch habitat and conservation, Cathy has provided over 65,000 children and 35,000 adults with nature science presentations or school labs, although she says she “stopped counting” when she got to 100,000. She is motivated by the fact that her joy in childhood was blessed by the impressions her parents made upon her in reference to the natural world. Retired now from state-wide education, she hopes to continue sharing her information locally, assuring a future of joy in nature for adults and generations of children to come in the Hill Country.

Cathy has been a Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter volunteer since 2005. Fellow members of the Hill Country Chapter who were in attendance at the DAR presentation were Gracie Waggener, Elsa Roberts, and Catherine Gauldin. Catherine Gauldin is a member of the Major James Kerr Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; other DAR representatives at the meeting were Roberta Himebrook, Jan Warren, and Diane Naylor. Cathy has served on the Board of the Hill Country Chapter as Curriculum Director, New Class Director for the Class of 2006 and the Class of 2010, and Treasurer, as well as being a member of the Class Planning Committee.

Her other volunteer activities include:

- Volunteer Project Coordinator for the Kerrville Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden

- Docent at Canyon Lake Gorge

- Volunteer for the Texas Wildlife Association

- Nature Box educator

- Certified trainer for the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project

- Outreach and Educational Regional Representative for Monarch Joint Venture

- Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist for the University of Kansas

- Chair of the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Committee for the Native Plant Society of Texas

She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Conservation Legacy Program.

Cathy has received these awards:

- 2011 – Texas Wildlife Association Volunteer of the Year

- 2013 – President's Call to Service Award

- 2013 - Texas Master Naturalist 5000+ service hours award pin

- 2014 – Native Plant Society of Texas President's Award

- 2016 – Cibolo Nature Center and Herff Farm Stewardship Award

- 2018 – National Wildlife Federation Monarch Heroes Award

- 2020 – DAR Conservation Award: The Major James Kerr Chapter, NSDAR was pleased to present the DAR Conservation Award to Cathy Downs for her dedicated work towards the conservation of the natural resources of the Texas Hill Country and for her expertise in the conservation of the Monarch butterfly.



The start of the Guadalupe River. The South Fork (left) and the North Fork (right) come together in Hunt.

UGRA Annual River Cleanup

Each summer, UGRA hosts a River Clean Up to remove trash from the Guadalupe River and remind us that keeping our river clean is a year-round responsibility. We plan to hold the 17th Annual River Clean Up on July 25 and will implement a modified format to comply with recommendations for public gatherings at the time of the event. The River Clean Up will be staged at Flat Rock Park in Kerrville and participants will work throughout Kerr County to remove trash from swimming holes, water crossings, drainage ditches, creek beds, and roadways. When volunteers return to Flat Rock Park with their trash, they will stop their vehicle at several stations spaced throughout the park to drop off trash, return supplies, and pick up snacks, drinks, prizes, and t-shirts. Even with this modified format, we still plan to reward our hardworking volunteers, so make sure you register today because the first 300 registered volunteers will receive a free 2020 River Clean Up t-shirt designed by a local student artist. Last year, the River Clean Up was a great success, thanks to many generous sponsors and the 526 participants who collected over 10,695 pounds of trash. Visit www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up for more information and to register.

UGRA Volunteer Summer Study Program

Volunteers collect water samples on a weekly basis from a site either on the Guadalupe River or one of its tributaries in Kerr County. Samples are brought in to UGRA for bacteria analysis (Monday – Friday 8 am - 5 pm). I can set up an option to have contactless, curbside drop off of samples if requested. The program runs from the first week of June through the end of August (June 1 – August 31). Volunteers submit samples no more than once a week, and you can choose how many weeks you would like to participate. UGRA will summarize the findings and present the results to the volunteers during a reception in the fall. Please see <http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/volunteer-summer-study> for more information. Normally, I would invite you to come into UGRA to register, receive sample containers, discuss tips for collecting water samples, and decide on a location for you to sample. However, we all know that this is not a normal year! Although I will miss seeing you, I think we will be able to get these steps accomplished through a video tutorial and follow up phone or video chats to answer questions. If you are interested in participating, please complete this registration form: <https://forms.gle/yJZWhQBTJyz6nuFK9>. I will follow up with an email that includes a link to the video tutorial and additional instructions.

RNC Presents:



NEd Talk Webinar

Presented by
Daniel Oppenheimer,
Hill Country Alliance

June 16th 1pm-2pm

Join us for a discussion on the environmental impacts of free ranging Axis deer.

Please register at riversidenaturecenter.org or call (830)257-4837.

This is a free webinar but donations always welcome!

Wednesday Workday Volunteers Needed

Every Wednesday morning a group of intrepid workers with a passion for plants & a love of the outdoors, meets at Riverside Nature Center to help maintain some of RNC's gardens.

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, you are welcome to join this group as we experience the beauty of our Hill Country home.

This is a wonderful way for you to get some fresh air outdoors while our gardens provide plenty of availability for proper social distancing.

Volunteer hours are counted by both Riverside Nature Center & Texas Master Naturalists.

For further information, please contact: Lycia Jetton at l.kerrville@gmail.com



From Cliff Kaplan, Hill Country Alliance Night Skies Program Manager

Forming a Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky

At the HCA Night Sky Team Meeting at the Riverside Nature Center in December (a region-wide meeting of night sky advocates), there was considerable discussion of "Friends of the Night Sky" groups. Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky formed in 2018 and their Hays County counterpart formed in 2019. These groups are valuable in raising the profile of night sky preservation and for attracting new volunteers in help while creating a structure that can carry on when current advocates need to take a step back.

So far this year, HCA has helped support the formation of additional Friends groups in Bandera, Kendall, and Comal Counties. From the conversations we had back in December, and more recent conversations I have had with Becky Etzler, my sense is that there might be interest among Kerr County residents to form a Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky. The group would be able to draw on progress made, assets created, and lessons learned by the other friends groups (especially the Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky, who have been around the longest), as well as the support of HCA, while it pursues any number of objectives for preserving Kerr County Night Skies. There are a lot of opportunities for progress here.

If you are interested in a preliminary conversation about a possible Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky group, please contact me (cliff@hillcountryalliance.org or 512-387-3097) for information on joining our first meeting on Wednesday, June 17, at 11am. The meeting will be over phone and video. I look forward to meeting with you and am excited to see what we can achieve together for the preservation of Kerr County's night skies!

From Lucy Griffith

The View from Rusty Bend



Mexican Bush Sage *Salvia leucantha*

Ode to Sage

*Through each season, the gray green down
of your leaves softens our view.*

*Your crush of herb, wild and impudent
seasons a bath, garnishes a glass.*

But it's the showy thrust of velvet spikes

*in spring—purred in white and lavender
that draws visitors like a busy market.*

Nectar searchers hover-sip and buzz.

Hummer, moth, butterfly, bee,

each with specific strategy.

A sacred hum from dawn to dusk.

Honeyed bounty folded within.

Your thicket trembles, pocketed with sparrows.

Sustenance, shelter, color flash,

tip to root, dear sage, you purr—

a consecration of spring.

continued on next page

May is a time of birthing and parenthood at Rusty Bend. A pair of foxes comes to the pond. He stands guard while she sips, her belly swollen with kits. I encounter a young armadillo on my run, still pink and soft and clueless, full size ears flopping as he roots in the grass.

Above ground, mockingbird has a nest by our front gate and Andy sees her ride the gate as it opens, flap, flap, wobble, determined to hold on to the gate as well as a worm for her babies. There's a male mocker in every tree top nearby, their chorus raucous and competitive. When Cooper's Hawk flies through, the mute button is pushed and all falls to a sudden quiet. Cooper's has been busy. We are dismayed to find a scattering of Pauraque feathers and miss his nightly whistle songs. Chuck Will's Widow goes unanswered.

Each morning we have a rousing game of "Name That Juvenile." Young titmice have no black crest. Young cardinals have black beaks and look like they were in a bar fight. Baby Bewick's Wrens are clean and slick. Juvenile House Finches follow Mom around in a game of chase, squeaking loudly for food with a feed-me-flutter. In contrast, baby Rufous-crowned Sparrows attend to feeding lessons in orderly military rows. Baby Chickadees in their tiny tuxedos learn to pry out mealy worms from the block. A fuzzy Ladder-backed Woodpecker murmurs tiny squeaks as he devours bark butter. When another bird flies too near, he flattens like a soldier under fire.

We have learned to pay attention to all behavior changes. One morning the cottontail rabbit, usually hypnotically mellow as he munches forbs, takes off racing FAST around the house and up the hill. We watch. Keep watching. Then, out from the bushes pops a large Red Fox. Ha! Most of our foxes are Grey, but this one, with his white-tipped tail, looked like a caricature of disappointment.

These days I take time each evening to quiet my spirit by watching the sun set, the darkness come, the peaceful rise of fireflies. One evening I hear a ruckus, which suggests the foraging of an armadillo, but it's weirdly rhythmical. I get up to investigate and sure enough it is an armadillo—but she isn't looking for grubs and doodle bugs. She's gathering sticks and leaves and turning them into a large roll held with her chin, tucked under her front legs. Then she walks backwards on her back legs, right, then left, over and over until she's backed herself into the bushes. Years ago Andy saw four identical pink armadillos come out of a den in the same copse. She repeats this process past dark. Decorating the nursery, so to speak. We nickname her Dozer.



Texas Rat Snake loves temps in the 80s

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

A note for all members reporting AT webinars on VMS: When reporting AT hours for webinars from the Select an Opportunity pull down menu, you must select AT: Hill Country Chapter Webinars for all webinars and then list AT #, Class Title as posted, and Presenter.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT20-3000 AXIS DEER CONTROL

Daniel Oppenheimer, Landowner Outreach and Development Manger, Hill Country Alliance will discuss the regional impacts of free-ranging Axis deer. To register, go to <https://riversidenaturecenter.org> or 830-257-4837. This is a free event; donations are always welcome.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 5-7PM WEBINAR

AT20-282 RAINWATER HARVESTING - VIRTUAL CLASS

This program covers design, construction, maintenance, and benefits of a large rainwater collection system. Participants will learn how to calculate rainwater capture and detailed design of an above ground collection system for your home, ranch, or business's outdoor water needs. Free. This 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. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/570679130494084/>.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 6-8PM WEBINAR

AT20-306 SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Learn valuable techniques to develop landscapes that are made to last and function sustainably with local ecosystems. To register, go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-landscapes-by-eco-centro-tickets-106563921558fbclid=IwAR0i0VJmdC4En_7GASy9XWiiNWMLRuHW8U_To7fOsxmfrqfYduPJb5ciMI4.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-252 URBAN WATER CYCLE AND CITY OF WACO WATER DROP TOUR

Melissa L. Mullins and Nora Schell are the presenters. Many people are familiar with the water cycle, but far fewer are familiar with the "Urban Water Cycle". The human population globally and within Texas is urbanizing, and our streams and rivers are often significantly influenced by return flows of water from cities, and by stormwater runoff from urban areas. To register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3140106656252126988>.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 12-1:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-316 OUT WEST: WESTERN MONARCH CONSERVATION EFFORTS (WMCP)

Our June webinar speakers will cover an overview of the WMCP, the current status for the Western Monarch population and federal listing decision, an update on the federal Monarch Conservation Database, and opportunities to manage rights-of-way as Monarch habitat. To register, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrMLp7E9IfRCCbbqNvPUx0oNEWLZY4_oKGG3DwFn4VU42DHQ/viewform.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 12:30-1PM WEBINAR

AT20-295 BRINGING OUR FOOD WASTE BACK TO EARTH: FIVE EASY STEPS TO COMPOSTING

Back to Earth Compost Crew Founder Colleen Falicki will lay out five simple steps for composting from home. She will also explain other options for households that do not have the yard or garden space to compost on their own. To register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7615886354243/WN_a80c6jyaQR2afyad1dCnYw.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 5-6PM WEBINAR

AT20-302 WEED'EM AND REAP: WEEDS AND WATERING - VIRTUAL CLASS

Learn the best approach to managing weeds effectively without the over use of chemicals and your time so you can reap the rewards of a green environment. Our staff horticulturalist and water resource professionals will be online taking and answering your questions. Contact 972-231-5362; wateruniversity@tamu.edu.

The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow listing all AT events in each issue.
Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT.



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months—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
- 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:

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The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse organizations or commercial sources mentioned in our newsletter. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and editor.

Questions about our chapter?

Email Carla Stang

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