

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter
July 2020 Volume 18 Number 7



Queens love Gregg's Mist - image by Vern Crawford



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

So much has happened since our last newsletter, it is hard to know where to begin.

We were all dismayed when our 2020 Fall Training Class had to be postponed into 2021. The last mandates issued by our state directors and Governor Abbott's office, restricting us to ten people or less in a group, quashed any hopes of holding the training class this year.

The last two weeks have been so disappointing for Sheryl Pender, New Class Director; for her Class Committee members; and for Carla Stang, Membership Director, who have all worked so hard since January constructing an exciting curriculum, planning field trips, and recruiting applicants from all around the area. The Hill Country Chapter's annual training class is known throughout all of the chapters in Texas for setting the high bar of excellence for training volunteers and this new class will be no exception.

However, all is not lost. The classes have not been canceled but postponed until 2021; see the details on page two of this newsletter. An intensive mentoring program is being implemented to retain the thirty-one applicants who went through the admission process and were officially accepted by your Board of Directors. Carla has done an excellent job in creating ways to involve and retain these applicants until the new class can proceed; see the details on page four of this newsletter.

A survey has been sent out to all members asking you to become a mentor to one of these prospective trainees. Please consider doing this. Your time spent mentoring a person you are paired with will not only be VMS hours for you but will be helping a new trainee to start getting acclimated to what it's like being a Hill Country Master Naturalist member.

About the time you receive this newsletter, the webpage will be transitioning onto the state webpage and will be reformatted at the same time. As many of you know, our webmaster for eight years, Kristie Denbow, will be retiring about the same time. Our new webmaster is Kim Ort and she is already working with Kristie, getting ready for the big change. Welcome Kim! We are so pleased to have you on board. Please review Kristie's notice on page five in this newsletter for further information.

continued on next page

In closing, I want to commend all the project coordinators, who have been able to keep their projects going in spite of the many obstacles they have encountered. Nancy Huffman, coordinator of the Wildscape project, has written about the work they are doing in the UGRA Eduscape gardens; see page six of this newsletter. I would like to encourage all of you who are project coordinators to do the same and perhaps, add a picture or two of your team working on your project. These are the kinds of stories our members like to read about. There are probably many working projects that our members don't know exist, so here is an opportunity to showcase yours. A big thank you to all our volunteers who have used their creativity and ingenuity to keep their projects moving forward in spite of any hindrances that have occurred. You are valuable and appreciated.

From Sheryl Pender, 2020 Class Director

This Is How We* Do It: Merging 2020 and 2021

*2020 Class Committee

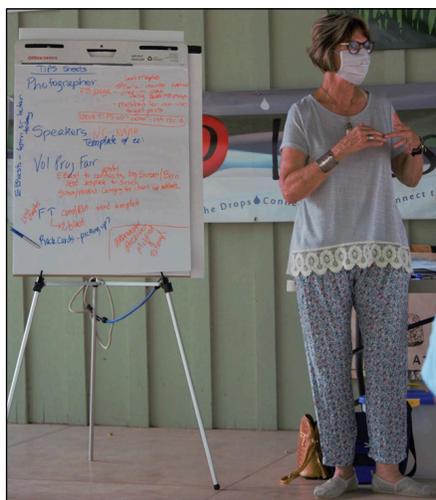
The "day after" the chapter Board of Directors decided to postpone the annual TMN fall training program, the 2020 Class Committee and Class Director Sheryl Pender held a "futures" meeting.

The results:

1. Reviewed seven months of strategic planning and coordinating the "best TMN certification training ever" - our product is intact and ready to go....next year.
2. Checklist to complete 2020 work
 - 35 speakers
 - 24 volunteer project booths for the Volunteer Fair
 - 5 field trip sites
 - 4 classroom/activities facilities
 - 6 AT offers contacted to cancel within 4 days of the postponement decision
3. Found our Future: 2021
 - our 75 hour curriculum goes forward into 2021
 - interim plan to engage/involve student applicants with mentors until the class starts
 - keep an eye on COVID-19 restrictions and sponsoring partners' directives
 - interim TMN Hill Country Chapter Facebook page for students, mentors, and Class Committee
 - survey our speakers about presentation preferences in 2021
 - AND regular communication/meetings of 2020 Class Committee

YOU KNOW WHAT? We did all that with masks and outdoor social distancing!

CARRY ON..STAY CALM..YOU ROCK.....2020 CLASS COMMITTEE. . .Thank You.



This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Sharon Noack

Recertification

Janis Arterbury, Ron Childers, Cathy Downs, Paula Harley, Kay Harter, Veronica Hawk, Nancy Huffman, Chris Keating, Myrna Langford, Pat Lucas, Ric McCormick, Nina Wagner

Special Recertification, Class of 2019

Billy Guin

Milestones

Janis Arterbury - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly

Ric McCormick - 2500 hours, Polished Silver Dragonfly

Tom Harrigan, - 4000 hours, US Presidential Volunteer Service Award

Recent Hill County Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 6/6/20 Some of the Most Common Flowers of the Hill Country.
- 6/13/20 Leaves—Simple, Complex, Essential to Life
- 6/20/20 Nature May Be the Best Medicine for These Trying Times
- 6/27/20 Where Did Our Native Plants and Animals Come From?

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

From Deb Youngblood, Advanced Training Director

Help Wanted: We need a computer literate Texas Master Naturalist to assist in finding, approving, and posting training events. Familiarity with Google mail, calendar, and spreadsheets is desired but not required. Training is available. Must have a computer and internet access. Interested? Call or email me at 210-268-8187 or deytech@gmail.com .

From Carla Stang, Membership Director

Interim - Mentor Program

In light of the extent to which current requirements for safety during this pandemic are apt to limit practices which have enabled members of our training classes to form the new relationships and enduring friendships that are foundational for our chapter's mission, the HCMN Board of Directors has voted to postpone the 2020 TMN Class until 2021.

There were 31 prospective students who filled out applications, and we'd like to try a way of beginning to build those relationships, starting with those prospective students and mentors during the period between now and when we can again hold class. I am asking Hill Country Master Naturalists to consider helping make this happen. Currently, we do not have enough mentors for those prospective students, which is why I'm sending this appeal to members who are readers of our newsletter. If you want to be a mentor in this unique year, and haven't already contacted me about being a mentor, please email me at hillcountrymembership@gmail.com. A survey will be sent out to the prospective students and mentors to determine participation interest and preferences of volunteer project activities. This information will help with pairing folks up.

While adhering to local COVID 19 guidelines, mentors can invite their mentees along on some TMN volunteering activities in which they are involved. Expansion and contraction of TMN volunteer project availability is likely as COVID situations fluctuate...and that's OK. We volunteer when and where we can and adapt to the current situation. And/or mentors can invite their mentees to attend or dial in to AT and other educational opportunities.

The TMN volunteers who are mentors will use the VMS codes appropriate for the volunteer projects they are working on and/or AT hours for classes they complete; this is no change for them. The mentees will NOT have VMS accounts. However, I do want to record mentees' activity information (volunteering and/or AT). That information should be sent to hillcountrymembership@gmail.com.

In mid-July, a separate email will be sent to all prospective students and mentors with a survey via "Survey Monkey." This is a free, simple to use survey tool I've used a lot in the past. I will make the pairings after survey responses. I will also hold multiple separate meetings (< 10 people) with mentors to review TMN safety guidelines (COVID, etc.), "rules of engagement," and to answer any questions. Mentors will receive more info on this later. Mentors will then contact their prospective mentees. **NOTE:** You may need to look in your junk/spam folder to find the emailed survey.

Ongoing communication and personal connection with mentors can help to bridge the gap and disappointment the prospective students undoubtedly will feel, especially when we still aren't able to have chapter meetings to invite them to. Taking these extra steps may help to keep prospective students engaged and positive about the 2021 class.

Thank you in advance for thinking outside the box in these unique times and being part of the solution. Unique situations call for unique solutions!

From Kristie Denbow, Webmaster

New Webmaster and Website

Texas A&M AgriLife hosts Texas Master Naturalist chapters' websites. AgriLife has chosen a new design template and is updating all the chapter sites. This will change the look and navigation of our site.

Our current chapter website will transition to the new template beginning the week of 20 July. This process is scheduled by AgriLife to occur over two weeks. It will take the webmaster a great deal of time and hard work to redesign our site. Please be patient with disruptions during this time.

We will have another change to go along with our new website – a new webmaster. It has been my privilege to serve as your webmaster for the past eight years. Now is the time to offer that opportunity to another member. Kim Ort will usher in her tenure as chapter webmaster starting 20 July. I know you will show her all the support and cooperation that I always received.

I have worked with many fine officers and directors through the years, and with a dynamic membership who has morphed and grown and helped me to develop and improve our content to make our site useful and convenient. Thank you for using our website. It has been my pleasure to provide this service for you and for our chapter.

Dates to remember:

20 July to 1 August – website in transition and re-design.

1 August to 15 August – Please allow the webmaster time to tweak and finish pages.

From Katy Kappel, Vice President

Love of Nature in the Time of Covid

The good news? Nature doesn't care if humans get a novel virus. The trees, river, birds, butterflies and bugs are doing just fine. It helps me to remember this when I feel inconvenienced by quarantine, masks, and endless hand washing. We are Master Naturalists because we like to work and learn about our environment. But now, we are not allowed to volunteer at many of our favorite project sites. Still, there is lots to do.

Volunteer opportunities are at the pollinator gardens at Kerrville Schreiner Park, UGRA, and the new Resurrection Garden at Zion Lutheran Church. I am busy keeping some water on the baby trees and other plants which have been in the ground less than a year. This is crucial as temperatures climb above 100 degrees.

Weekly, my husband and I are taking river samples by kayak for the UGRA e.coli study. They may still need some sites assigned, if you want to work at the river or creeks. You can do that from the shore. At the end of the summer, you will be invited to a "reveal" of what's up with our river.

While the traditional river cleanup day has been cancelled, you can register for assignments to be completed on your own schedule. The official announcement from UGRA will be out soon.

Riverside Nature Center is presenting some group educational events outside on Thursday nights. Assistance is needed. Guides are needed at the front desk to greet visitors and answer questions. The Visitor Center is open 10 am to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday.

Visit our newly redesigned website to learn about other opportunities and lots of Advance Training Sessions. Contact me (katykappel@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



From Nancy Huffman, Eduscape Coordinator

UGRA Eduscape Wildflower Garden

We are working outside in the fresh air every week during the spring/summer/fall months. We work for a couple of hours, at most, early in the morning to beat the heat. Schedule may be adjusted according to needs.

This is a very important project because it pays for our use of the UGRA meeting space that we use for our monthly meetings and training classes. Please consider joining our team even if you can't commit to every week. This garden has the potential to be a showcase to educate the public on native gardening for our region and reflect well on our group.

The garden has been hard work so far. Originally it was a patch of thick Bermuda grass, and now is really starting to show our efforts. Future plans include adding more mulch and a stone pathway meandering throughout. We are currently identifying plants with markers and adding plants that we find are resistant to the resident deer population. We will continue to add some creative touches as it progresses, and will always need maintenance!

Please contact me (Nancy Huffman, collettehuff@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or are ready to join us. The project is currently on the calendar for Wednesday mornings, 8-10 am.



1 on 1 with a Naturalist

Every Friday 10am-12pm
@ Riverside Nature Center

Jim Stanley, naturalist, author, and columnist will be available to meet one-on-one to answer questions, discuss various topics, or listen to ideas about nature.

During this current health crisis, we ask you to be mindful of those around you by practicing safe distancing & wearing a mask when possible.

From Becky Etzler, Director, Riverside Nature Center

Birds of the Texas Hill Country Art Exhibit

An art exhibition by two well-known Texas artists, Bridget Langdale and Julian Teal, opened on July first at the Riverside Nature Center.

Julian Teal is an award-winning Graphic Designer and Artist from Splendora, Texas. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Houston and was an Instructor at the Art Institute of Houston for over 10 years. He was a Founding Member of the Watercolor Art Society – Houston (WASH) and has artwork in national and international collections. He designed the Logo for the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center and the graphics for Return of The Birds exhibit at the Riverside Nature Center.

Bridget Langdale lives in Mason. She is a recognized creative and diverse artist working in acrylic and latex paints and repurposed materials. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Texas Tech University. Her work has been recognized with awards and commissions across the nation. Sharing her love of art with others is an additional inspiration for her. She has taught in the public-school system, served as a juror in Texas VASE events and teaches corporate team building, adult, and youth workshops.



In addition to the exhibit, check out the human size bird nest on the grounds.



Amid COVID-19, this interactive two-day workshop will be hosted online (via Zoom) on July 21 (12-5pm), and July 23 (12-6pm), with plenty of breaks and time for Q & A. The registration page indicates the first day of the workshop (July 21); however, once you fill out the registration form and cover the fee, you are registered to attend both days (July 21 and 23) of the workshop.

As part of the National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Stewards Certification Program, the Federation, in collaboration with the Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio River Authority, and Texas Master Naturalists Galveston Bay Area Chapter, is offering the Monarch Stewards' third level of training, *Gardening for Monarchs & Other Wildlife with Native Plants in Texas*.

To bring back the monarchs and help protect all pollinators and other wildlife we need to create native gardens in our urban and suburban spaces. Through this workshop, participants will learn to design, install, and maintain their own monarch-friendly native gardens—that also benefit many kinds of wildlife—choosing the proper native plants for their ecotype, site, and weather conditions. Workshop participants will also learn to use their new native gardens as an environmental educational tool.

Registration Fee includes:

- One copy of the second edition of the book: *Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife* by David Mizejewski, National Wildlife Federation's Naturalist
- Access to digital resources on native gardening
- Copy (in notes format) of most of this workshop presentations.

Please note that this is an 11-hour training course, divided on two days, with breaks between presentations and individual exercises.

Previous to the workshop, a test run session will be available to help you get familiar with the Zoom platform, and to ensure you are able to connect and stay connected on the days of the workshop.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-for-monarchs-other-wildlife-with-native-plants-in-texas-registration-106146992512>

From Brittany Chesser, Aquatic Vegetation Management Program Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Aquatic Vegetation Photo Request

Even though I have only been in Texas for a year, I have found TMN Volunteers are always eager to help – this is why I am reaching out!

Due to Covid-19, I have found myself putting together or updating digital education materials but lacking in high quality, diverse aquatic vegetation photos highlighting key characteristics (which I usually accumulate from site visits). So I am asking for your help to beef up the aquatic plant photo collection a bit.

I am looking for high quality photos including pictures of (identifiable) plants in the water, plants out of the water against a light background, up close visuals of key characteristics including leaf arrangement, seed/fruitlet bodies, flowers, etc. I have attached examples and can supply a specific list of plants and characteristics that I am in search of, but any/all aquatic plants (floating, submerged, emergent) or algae are welcome. I know taking these photos may seem like a small task but they will be extremely useful in terms of educating the public.

Photos should be submitted through Google Forms, which can be accessed through this link: <https://forms.gle/2ZPpfWFzLRhE732g8> .

This form will prompt you to enter your name, TMN chapter, plant name (guesses welcome), and location (county). Please keep in mind that submitting photos through this link means you agree with the use of these photos in educational materials including but not limited to: online courses, programs, social media, <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/> , and publications (And, of course, I will be using as many photos as I can in my talk for the 2020 Annual Meeting).

Remember to keep it fun! And feel free to reach out (brittany.chesser@tamu.edu) if you have questions. THANK YOU!

Aquatic Vegetation Photo Collection

These are some example photos but keep in mind that most were taken quickly out in the field and can always be improved with the addition of a ruler or white background.

Large population in water column



Leaf arrangement





FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

RX FIRE TOOLBOX TO COMBAT IDENTIFIED SOCIAL BARRIERS

JOINT FIRE SCIENCES PROGRAM

JOIN US FOR A FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP JULY 27, 2020 FROM 9 AM - 12:30 PM CST

Research from Dr. Urs Kreuter's lab will be presented summarizing results from the JFSP project "Fighting Wildfire with Prescribed Burning in the Southern Great Plains: Social and Regulatory Barriers and Facilitators"



ONLINE WORKSHOP
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

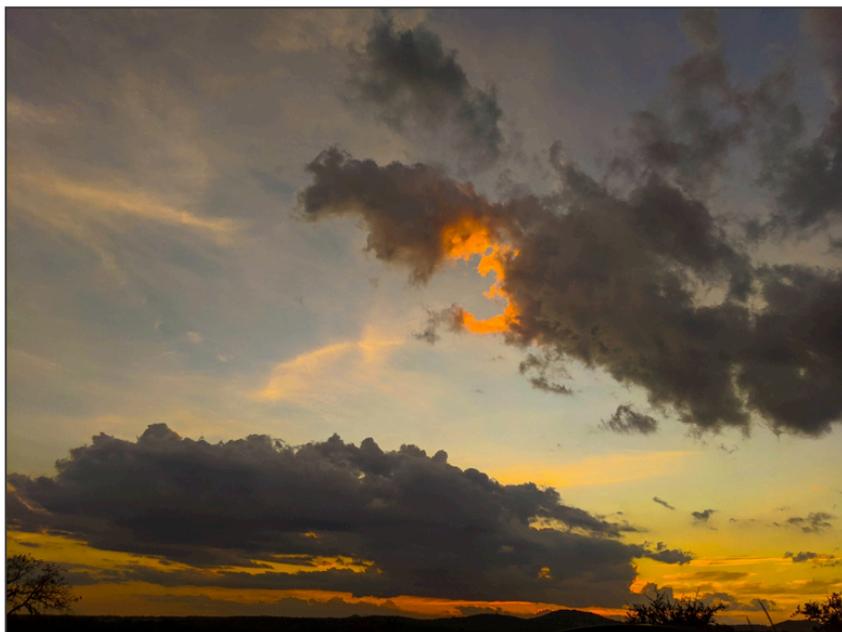
JULY • 27 • 2020
Rx Fire Stakeholders

Q & A
12:00 - 12:30 PM

FOR MORE INFO: MORGAN.TREADWELL@AG.TAMU.EDU
PRE-REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://AGRILIFE.ORG/WESTTEXASRANGELANDS/](https://agrilife.org/westtexasrangelands/)

The View from Rusty Bend

Coachwhip at the Pond



Sunset # 3

*Chickadees toot alarm. All birds disappear.
Like a locomotive off a mountain,
in two shades of caliche,
she slides over rocks to the edge.
Lingers, eyes hooded, ringed in gold,
to taste the air with a black Y of tongue.
At last she sinks to drink,
her bellows pumping as she syphons.
Swallow, pause, swallow.
Sated, she rises, gliding her
banded length through the water,
khaki/tan/khaki/tan/khaki/tan,
like train cars, as foot after wet foot of her
slips by and into the brush.*

It's June at Rusty Bend and I am missing my father. He was a steward of the land before it was popular, with a battered copy of *A Sand County Almanac* in one pocket, pruning shears in the other, and a bag of prairie grass seeds ready for a rain. What I would give for one last walk with him. I imagine starting with a cup of coffee, black for him, mine with cream, at the log cabin we built together when I was a teen. We would stand on the porch and look down at the Guadalupe. Perhaps the neighbor's goats would still be sleeping in a perfect wide circle of white. I'd point out the Scissortail Flycatcher landing on the back of a marauding raven. Then we might walk down to the river to check out the new stand of Switchgrass on the bank, sit for a while and listen to the rapids and the *pit-it-tuk* call of his favorite bird, the Summer Tanager. He'd remark that the river and its comings and goings surely are a tonic in troubled times.

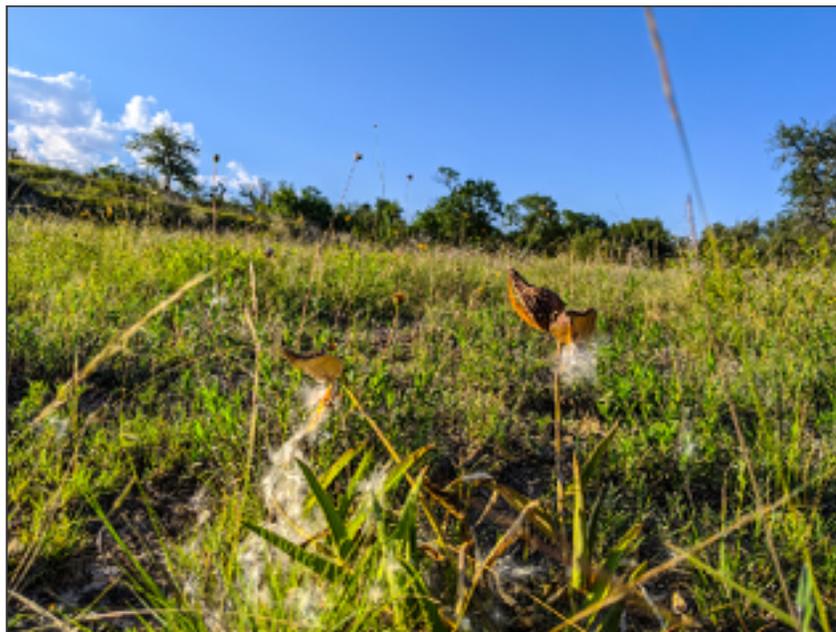
After river time, I'd take him around the old field that was pure goat-nibbled caliche when he bought the ranch decades ago. With persistent application of mowing, dragging and seed, midlevel grasses now sway in the wind. Four bluebird boxes house new generations. Their songs sweeten the air, as they whistle at each other with a *turalee*. The cenizo and salvia he planted are blooming. He'd like it that the white blossoms of wild petunia (*ruellia*) are named for a nun in San Antonio.

We might see bobcat leap into the brush. The fire ants are under control and the harvester ants have put out the welcome mat for the return of the Horned Lizard. He will love hearing about repopulation efforts for horny toads in neighboring counties.

Then I'd take him to show how we are managing areas of erosion. The little dams to "slow the flow" will tickle him. He'd point out all the tracks around the intermittent ponds. I'll bring my loppers and terminate a few regrowth cedars. He always believed in doing something like pruning or weeding "while you're resting." As we walk around, the Painted Bunting will sing his characteristic song from the tops of Live Oaks, then flush in a blaze of color.

As the day winds down, we retire in the barn for a tasty beverage. He will sip a bottle of pale beer while I savor a chardonnay. With a quiet patience, we will watch outside for what comes to the pond. Maybe the coachwhip will slide in, show off her elegant patterned length, join us for a drink.

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Antelope Horn Milkweed ready to spread

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.

PLANT WALK & TALK

July 31st & August 1st
8:30am-9:30am

Kim Ort, Texas Master Naturalist
will be your guide along the river
trail to discover riparian plants &
explore their importance
and uses.

Meet in front of the
RNC Visitor Center.

Please RSVP by 7/30 @ (830)257-4837
or rnc.kerrville@gmail.com



RNC Presents:

NEd Talk/Webinar
July 21st
1pm-2pm

**"What Birds Tell
Us About Our
Environment"**

Presented by Kevin Wessels,
Assistant Director of Stewardship,
H.E. Butts Foundation



Learn how the observation of birds will
increase your environmental awareness.

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

**This is a free webinar but
donations always welcome!**

ADVANCED TRAINING

TUESDAY, JULY 21 12-5PM WEBINAR

AT20-330 GARDENING FOR MONARCH & OTHER WILDLIFE IN TEXAS

This interactive two-day workshop will be hosted online (via Zoom) on July 21 (12pm-5pm), and July 23 (12pm-6pm), with plenty of breaks and time for Q & A. Registration page indicates the first day of the workshop (July 21); however, once you fill out the registration form and cover the fee, you are registered to attend both days of the workshop, July 21 and 23. Please note that this is an 11-hour training course, divided on two days, with breaks between presentations and individual exercises. Register for this Zoom presentation at <https://bit.ly/36wTB7j>. Previous to the workshop, a test run session will be available to help you get familiar with the Zoom platform, and to ensure you are able to connect and stay connected.

TUESDAY, JULY 21 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT20-371 WHAT BIRDS ARE TELLING US ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Kevin Wessels, Assistant Director of Stewardship at the H.E. Butt Foundation, is the presenter. He will discuss how changes in our environment are reflected in the behaviors of our local birds. Register online at RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com or call 830-257-4837. Once registered you will receive a confirmation email with the meeting details.

TUESDAY, JULY 21 3-5PM WEBINAR

AT20-334 COMPOSTING BASICS

Participants will learn about various composting methods that can be done at home and how to decide which method will be best for their situation. Contact Information for this free event: 210-486-0417 or sac-ecowater@alamo.edu. This event repeats on

8/15, 10:00am-12pm; Register, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109709600368>

8/18, 6-8pm; Register, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109421919908>

8/20, 6-8pm; Register, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109458152280>.

TUESDAY, JULY 21 6-8PM WEBINAR

AT20-382 TOP 100 PLANTS OF NORTH TEXAS

Contact Information: 972-231-5362 or wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu To register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/july-21-2020-top-100-plants-of-north-texas-virtual-1/>.

THURSDAY, JULY 23 3-5:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-332 RAINWATER HARVESTING

Jess Mayes is the presenter. To register for this free event, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/104769971806>. This event repeats on 7/25, 10am-12:30pm; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/108483302478>. Contact Information: 210-486-0417 or sac-ecocentro@alamo.edu.

THURSDAY, JULY 23 6-8PM WEBINAR

AT20-383 BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES: GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

To register for this free event, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/july-23-2020-birds-bees-and-butterflies-gardening-for-wildlife-virtual/>. The link will be sent to your email address. Contact Information: 972-231-5362 or wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu.

TUESDAY, JULY 28 6-8PM WEBINAR

AT20-376 LANDSCAPE CPR

Whether you're dealing with pests and disease, issues with too little sunlight, or problematic soils that are keeping your plants brown and crispy, this class will get to the root of your horticultural headaches and help you learn the skills to bring new life to your garden. To register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/july-28-2020-landscape-cpr-virtual/>. Contact Information:

<http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/contactus/>.

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.

TUESDAY, JULY 28 1-2PM WEBINAR**AT20-211 RESEARCH REPORTS FROM THE FIELD, JULY 28**

Join us for research updates from monarch programs and scientists. This month we focus on habitat with presentations from Laura Lukens and Kyle Kasten from the Monarch Joint Venture, and Dr. John Pleasants from Iowa state on their research and work on monarch habitat in the US. You will receive additional details about participating in the webinar on the confirmation page after registering. This series is a collaborative effort between the Monarch Joint Venture and the National Conservation Training Center. We look forward to your participation! You will receive additional details after registering; go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-rGXvj4ORd4dSyY-XOUMP9r3RK8CpKmGtC1OGFlieY_SwfA/viewform .

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT20-391 FERAL HOG WORKSHOP**

Nick Dornak, Director of Watershed Services, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and Josh Helcel, Project Coordinator TAMU – Natural Resources Institute are the presenters. To submit your questions ahead of the webinar and be sure they get answered by the experts, send your email to feralhog@txstate.edu with the subject line “Hays Co. Webinar.” To register and RSVP for this webinar, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hays-county-feral-hog-webinar-registration-113170423784> . Contact information: <http://www.feralhogtaskforce.com/contact-us.html> .

FRIDAY, JULY 31 8:30-9:30AM WEBINAR**AT20-378 PLANT WALK AND TALK**

Join Kim Ort on an exploratory walk along the Guadalupe River Trail. Learn about the cultural and environmental significance of the trees and shrubs that grow along the river banks (riparian area). This event will repeat on 8/1, 8:30-9:30am. Meet in front of the visitor center at Riverside Nature Center. Limited space, please RSVP by 7/30 to 257-4837 or rnc.kerrville@gmail.com. Donations are welcomed!

FRIDAY, JULY 31 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT20-387 OWLS OF CENTRAL TEXAS**

Tania Homayoun, Texas Parks and Wildlife, will shine the light on these amazing raptors. Dr. Homayoun will present for 20-25 minutes and there will be time for Q & A. The webinar is limited to 100 participants so register soon at <https://signup.com/go/AkubQGk>. Closer to the event, you'll receive an email with instructions for logging on. Contact information: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/contact> .

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 6-8PM WEBINAR**AT20-306 SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES**

Learn techniques to develop landscapes that are made to function sustainably with local ecosystems. To register for this free event, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-landscapes-by-eco-centro-tickets-109420822626?aff=erelexpmlt> . This event will repeat on 8/6, 10am-12pm; to register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109421109484> .

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 6-8PM WEBINAR**AT20-374 DIY DRIP IRRIGATION**

To register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/august-4-2020-diy-drip-irrigation-virtual/> . Contact information: <http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/contactus/08/06/2020,10:00a-12:00p>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT20-388 WILDFIRE PREPARATION, EFFECTS, AND RECOVERY**

Dr. Tim Steffens, Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, will discuss how to safeguard your home and how to respond appropriately to wildfire. Go to <https://texasrangewebinars.tamu.edu/webinars/wildfire-preparation-effects-and-recovery/> to join the webinar.

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Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 1-5PM WEBINAR**AT20-392 HEALTHY LAWNS, HEALTHY WATERS WORKSHOP**

Learn about the design and installation of residential rainwater harvesting systems and appropriate turf and landscape species based on local conditions. Attendees can submit a free soil test by picking up and then dropping off their soil sample bag and information sheet at the AgriLife Extension offices in Blanco County, 101 E. Cypress, Ste. 109, Johnson City or Hays County, 200 Stillwater Road, Wimberley prior to or by one week after the meeting. To register for this free workshop, go to <https://hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2020/august-6-cypress-creek-watershed-blanco-and-hays-counties/> . Contact information: 979-845-2761, hlhw@tamu.edu .

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 6-8PM WEBINAR**AT20-384 GROW NATIVE, NOT WILD!**

Learn how to cultivate key strategies from natural systems to control your landscape while still enjoying the dynamic, natural beauty of native plantings. To register for this free webinar, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/august-6-2020-grow-native-not-wild-virtual/> . The link will then be sent to you. Contact information: 972-231-5362, wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu .

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 4-5PM WEBINAR**AT20-390 TEXAS CHILDREN IN NATURE**

Learn how to utilize the green-spaces and outdoor classrooms on your campuses for outdoor learning. The virtual workshop will feature breakout rooms and work with various experts in the field of outdoors learning. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/texas-children-in-nature-teacher-workshop-tickets-112001990970> . Contact information: scoles@texaschildreninnature.org sandra.williams2@tpwd.texas.gov . This event repeats on 8/13, 4-5pm.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 WEBINAR**AT20-334 COMPOSTING BASICS**

Participants will learn about various composting methods that can be done at home and how to decide which method will be best for their situation. Contact information for this free event: 210-486-0417 or sac-ecowater@alamo.edu . This event repeats on 8/15, 10am-12pm; To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109709600368> . 8/18, 6-8pm; To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109421919908> . 8/20, 6-8pm; To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109458152280> .

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 12-1:30PM WEBINAR**AT20-318 OUT WEST: WESTERN MONARCH CONSERVATION EFFORTS - OVERWINTERING**

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's Western Monarch Working Group is pleased to join Monarch Joint Venture to present our three-part summer webinar series that will address national policy updates, current research, and monitoring work that affect the western population of monarch butterflies. To register, go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfx1-bjKOjlbSPYzfWF3NFcSIK3UyWh066UilFjBDoOdStDlG/viewform> . Contact Information: <https://monarchjointventure.org/about-us/contact-us> .

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 6-8PM WEBINAR**AT20-382 TOP 100 PLANTS OF NORTH TEXAS**

Contact Information: 972-231-5362 or wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu To register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/july-21-2020-top-100-plants-of-north-texas-virtual-1/> . Contact information: 972-231-5362; wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu .

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 6-8PM WEBINAR**AT20-380 PLANT COMBOS AND COMPANIONS**

Learn how to improve your garden design skills. To register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/september-1-2020-plant-combos-companions-virtual/> . Contact information: 972-231-5362.

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T E X A S



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

Questions about our chapter?

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