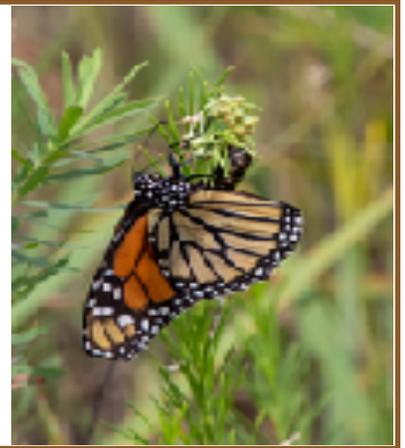


The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

September 2020 Volume 18 Number 9



*Monarch ovipositing on whorled milkweed - image by Amy Chamberlin
reprinted by permission from MLMP Updates, September 2020*



The September Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday, September 21, beginning at 6:15.

Go to <https://tpwd.webex.com/tpwd/j.php?MTID=mcc92fe307729d8beaa2d28ee7593ff22>.

There will be an Advanced Training event after the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

Fall makes me happy and I bet it makes you happy too. These cool mornings are invigorating and the recent rain has been most welcome. It is fascinating to watch how a decent rain transforms the landscape from the dry, seemingly dead vegetation, to a vibrant green again. The recent surprise cold front that brought record low temperatures with it makes me wonder when our first frost might be this year.

You recently received an email from me announcing our third chapter meeting of the year on September 21. This will be a virtual meeting but will be following the normal format. While everyone would prefer having meetings that would actually allow us to shake hands and carry on face to face conversations with our TMN friends, this is the only option we have and it's time to move on. Will we ever get back to normal? Who knows?

You probably will have received an email with the link to join the meeting by the time this newsletter is published. No great knowledge is needed to attend this meeting and once you are in, Deb Youngblood, our AT Director, will be there to explain how to use the chat feature to submit questions and comments—so don't be timid. You won't want to miss the program and finding out what has been going on up at Mason Mountain.

There will also be updated information concerning the upcoming plant sale. You'll be surprised how creative our members are to devise ways to carry on our normal activities while conforming to all the pandemic mitigation efforts. Due to scheduling conflicts on our WebEx account, we were unable to have our meeting on the fourth Monday this month, but that issue has been resolved. Beginning next month our meetings will be held on the fourth Monday as usual.

continued on next page

October is the month when the nominating committee will present the candidates for the chapter officers. The officers are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All of your current officers have agreed to serve for one more year, if reelected, but chapter members may submit additional names of any candidates they choose for any position, as long as they have agreed in advance for their names to be submitted. Any additional names for nomination should be sent to Lisa Flanagan, terlinguagirl@gmail.com, by October 25th. The actual voting will be done in November by Survey Monkey.

Our AT Director has found a record number of webinars both recorded and live and they are posted on our chapter calendar and listed in this newsletter. Please check the calendar often.

Registration is still open for the Virtual Annual TMN meeting. If you haven't taken a look at what is being offered, I highly recommend that you do. It is simply amazing and just think; you don't need a hotel room, don't need to travel, and can attend in your pj's if you want. So, what's your excuse?

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Lonnie Phillips

Recertifications

Lee Booker, Tom Burke, Richard Coleman, Ann Dietert, Gary Fest, Vivian Fink, Lois Gaines, Sharron Jay, Susan Longacre, Carl Luckenbach, Robin May, Martha Miesch, Charleen Moore, Mark Richardson, Mary Thomas, Maura Windinger

Milestones

Kim Ort - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly

Sheryl Pender - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 8/1/20 Habitat — It is Where We all Live
- 8/8/20 Two of Our Most Common Mammals
- 8/15/20 Does it Matter How Rural Property is Managed?
- 8/22/20 Two Common but Unusual Mammals
- 8/29/20 Plants Less Likely to be Eaten by Deer

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



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 Sheryl Pender, New Class Director

2021 Basic Training Class At This Point In Time

POINT IN TIME: SEPTEMBER 16, 2020: New Class Committee met at Agri-Life Extension Office in Kerrville. Twelve members and two advisors began strategically planning HOW-WHEN-WHERE our NEXT new class would begin.

The short report is: we do not know exactly HOW-WHEN-WHERE.

Producing a new class basic training program (three months, 75 hours of instruction and field trips, 35 speakers, and 12 venues) is a BIG undertaking.

The long report is that we discussed many tough questions like

1. Is the chapter as a whole worried about what will happen to our basic training curriculum?
2. Can we produce our curriculum “as is” in the current social environment?
3. Can we envision changes in the 2020 curriculum to accommodate the current environmental and social restrictions?
4. Which comes first: do we ‘pick a date’ and start, OR do we evaluate our curriculum for modifications and changes we could make?
5. Is the Hill Country chapter strong enough to go forward with a modified/changed basic training curriculum?

The majority of the Committee said

1. YES
2. NO
3. YES
4. Pick a Date: NO. Evaluate Curriculum: YES
5. YES.

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, we are faced with ambiguous and changing social mandates for people’s health and safety (number of people allowed in a group, masks, social distancing).

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, we are committed to producing an engaging and student-TMN member- involved program rich in its depth of education and full of outdoor experiences (human interaction is essential in our curriculum).

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, we are reliant upon and use virtual meetings, online webinars, and the State TMN Program, and we have free use of the WebEx platform for meeting and teaching.

The Class Committee proceeded to look at the Chapter’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and risks.

What we discovered is that we have an amazingly talented and knowledgeable chapter, which—like many others in our State—is inhibited by the cancellation of many projects and activities we love.

We miss our TMN friendships and social involvement with like-minded individuals.

We must overcome our fears of change.

We maintain our commitment to offering TMN trainees-students the outstanding learning opportunities we experienced in our 2019 training class.

We have to get prepared for 2021 (as we did from January to March 2020: complete curriculum in place before the effects of the pandemic. That detailed training plan gave us months of time to alter and adjust as our social world got more restrictive).

That is how we are looking forward AT THIS POINT IN TIME. Next meeting: October 21, 2020.

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Frank Garcia, Sheryl Pender, Robert Shock, Constance Weaver, and Mildred Dworsky—Ready to Work



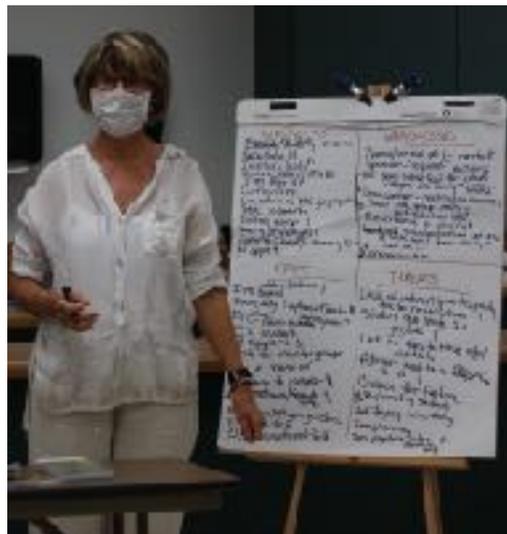
Deliberating



Planning: Sharon Noack, Elsa Roberts



Working together: Billy Guin, Ron Childers, Janis Arterbury



Strategic Planner Sheryl Pender (give me a flip chart, not a Power Point!)

Riverside Nature Center,
Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter,
& Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter
invite you to...

Fall Native Plant Sale MEMBERS ONLY

If you are not yet a member of Riverside Nature Center or
Native Plant Society of Texas now is the perfect time to join or renew!
Membership details can be found at: riversidenaturecenter.org or npsot.org.

Members of Riverside Nature Center,
Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter,
& the Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter
are invited to participate in the sale.

Plants will be pre-ordered
through the Riverside Nature Center website:
riversidenaturecenter.org

Orders will be ready for drive-thru pick up & payment:
(cash or check only) at the Youth Event Center Show Barn

All proceeds will mutually benefit RNC, NPSOT, HCMN.

Members will receive an email
notice with further details.

For more information,
to view a list of available plants,
dates, or to place an order visit
riversidenaturecenter.org



830-257-9837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org
1207 San Jacinto Street, Kerrville, Texas 78028

From Carla Stang, Membership Director, Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter

Good news! Although it will work differently than usual, there will be a native plant sale this fall for Hill Country Master Naturalists, members of Kerrville Native Plant Society, and members of Riverside Nature Center.

For this sale **all plants will be ordered in advance** for curbside pickup at the Youth Event Center Show Barn in Kerrville on Wednesday October 7. Here is some preliminary information based on the current plan. Watch for further updates in your email.

The plant availability list for the sale will be published September 26 on the Riverside Nature Center website.

Orders will be placed via the Riverside Nature Center website. The window of time to place an order will be very short.

You must be a member of Hill Country Master Naturalists, Kerrville Native Plant Society, or Riverside Nature Center to place an order.

Plant pickup will be at the Youth Event Center Show Barn on Wednesday October 7.

No Credit Cards. You must bring cash (exact change) or a check.

There will be no "shopping" at this sale; just pickup of previously ordered plants.



The Native Plant Society of Kerrville is working on a program to be able to share information and education with our members and the public until we can once again meet at the Riverside Nature Center. For full access to information about gardening with native plants in our area please go to NPSOT.org/Kerrville and fill in the "contact us" information. Annual membership is only \$45. and will also allow you to participate in the Fall 2020 Native Plant Sale.

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote conservation, research and utilization of native plants in Texas through education, outreach and example.

From Sharon Hixson, Riverside Nature Center

Fall Plant Sale Planning is in Full Swing!

We all are experiencing changes to our routines. The Hill Country Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Chapter is not immune. We are determined not to cancel this highly anticipated event so, we have reformatted the sale. This is how it will work.

1. This **MEMBERS ONLY** sale will be available to members of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter, Riverside Nature Center, and Native Plant Society of Texas Kerrville Chapter.
1. **Pre-order** your plants **online**, starting September 26, on the Riverside Nature Center website. The deadline for orders will be September 29.
1. Orders will be ready for **drive-thru pick up and payment** (cash or check only) at the Hill Country Youth Event Center Show Barn on October 7. Pick up times can be requested and will be assigned. If you can get your groceries curbside, why not native plants?

A list of the plants that we expect to be available in the sale is available for browsing at <https://riversidenaturecenter.org/>. Start thinking now about what plants you might want to buy. Although all of the plants offered are well-adapted to our area, a few are not Texas natives; the plant origin is noted in the description for each plant.

A specific plant list will be made available at ordering time, as well as the size of containers and prices for your selections. Once the availability list is published, it will be important that you turn in your order quickly. The turn-around time is very short.

All sales will be tax free for added value! All proceeds will mutually benefit Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter, Riverside Nature Center and Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter

Please watch your inbox for further details.

From Rachel Thompson

Native Plant Pollinator Garden at the Boerne Convention and Visitors Center

After two years of work to establish a demonstration garden, members of the Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program, a project of The Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter and area NPSOT chapters, finally saw their efforts come to fruition in early April. Boerne members Rheda Boardman, Gary Fest, Veronica Hawk, Terry Lashley, Lorraine Popp, and Rachel Thompson began planting the garden at the Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau at 282 North Main Street in Boerne on April 7.

In the spring of 2018, the PGARP program was begun by a group of Kerrville Master Naturalist/NPSOT members. They had planted a pollinator garden at the Kerr County Courthouse, and the seed was planted for Boerne to have a similar garden in a visible location downtown. A group from Boerne and Kerrville met with a Boerne city official to ask about a possible location that same spring. In the fall of 2018, the Convention and Visitors Center, which was to be completed the next spring, was mentioned as a possibility. A proposal for the project was submitted to the city in January, 2019. At the same time an application was made for a grant from "Bring Back the Monarchs" to partially fund the project. The proposal was accepted, the grant was awarded, and the plan was to plant the garden in the spring. The site was not ready, so planting was delayed until the fall. Once again, work that was to be done by outside contractors on street and sidewalk improvements was not completed and planting was delayed.

The grant required that planting be completed by October 31. Fortunately, an extension was granted until the spring. The work on a wall bordering the planting bed was still not completed by March 1, but the decision was made to prep the bed and let the group proceed around mid March. Then the shut down due to Covid 19 began and the planting was once again delayed. Finally, after promising to follow strict social distancing, we were able to begin planting the garden. Terry Lashley, Lorraine Popp, and Rachel Thompson have been caring for the garden on an almost daily basis until the plants become established. Torrential rains in early June, followed by record breaking temperatures in July and August, have presented challenges. Members of the garden committee will continue maintenance of the garden on a weekly basis. Plant labels, a hummingbird feeder, a source of water, and nesting areas for native bees will all be added.

Many of the plants for the garden were donated by Boerne NPSOT members. Those offering plants were Rheda Boardman, Edward Brogan, Cynthia Brown, Gary Fest, Marvin Hatter, Veronica Hawk, Terry Lashley, Crystal McElhenney, Edward Noack, Lorraine Popp, Nancy Scoggins, Sue Wiedenfeld, and Suzanne Young. The information sign holder was fabricated and donated by Rocky Marshall of Frontier Gear. Cecilia Fuentes and Terry Lashley have created informational signs. Paul Barwick of the City of Boerne and the staff of the Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau have supported and encouraged this project.

Although it will take time for the garden to mature, there have already been some butterfly and bee visitors! We hope that human visitors to Boerne will learn about our beautiful and unique native plants, and that they, along with our local residents, will be encouraged to create their own pollinator gardens.



Informational sign kiosk



Gary Fest planting, April 8



Lorraine Popp planting, April 8



Despite the heat, plants are growing

From Deborah Youngblood, Advanced Training Director

Guadalupe River Cleanup

This pandemic has been hard on all of us, but for Master Naturalists who love being outside working together, this has been especially difficult. It has been isolating. So, when I read the email from UGRA indicating they had “re-imagined” the Guadalupe River Cleanup 2020 so that we could come together, work outside with friends, and maintain social distance at the same time, I knew we had to do it.

We started with just a few people, but advertised it and invited others. We had 13 people show up to work. We all wore our masks but worked in teams to clean up the Guadalupe Park in Kerrville, from the street all the way down to the banks of the Guadalupe River. Of course, we all bragged about how much or how unusual our trash was. I think Frank Garcia probably had the most variety. Phil Youngblood, our kayaker, had the wettest. I had the most cigarette butts, or maybe Martha Bean did. Robert Shock had the most little round roofing thingies. Constance Weaver found a Pipeline Swallowtail caterpillar and Martha got to enter it on iNaturalist. We had three new Master Naturalists-in-training, Trudy Eberhardt, Paul Cassel, and Trudy Florence, who probably thought we were all a little nuts, but worthy company. We liked them, too! Ron Childers was the best helper. Katy Kappel collected rather large amounts of gross junk. Lorri Kendrick did NOT really climb the fence, and Janis Arterbury employed her wicked sense of humor throughout the event to keep us laughing. We all picked up way too many tiny pieces of blue plastic.

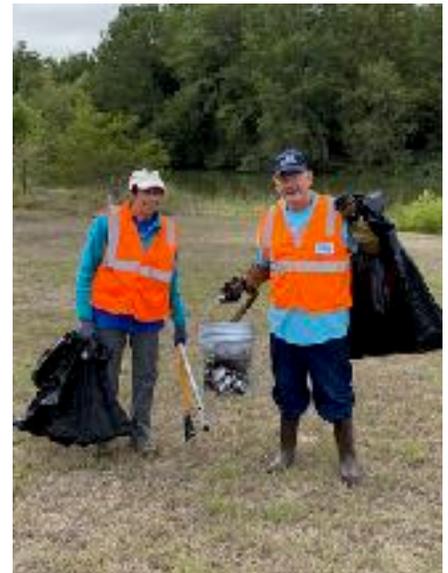
Despite wearing masks and maintaining social distance, it was wonderful to visit and work with friends of like mind. It was especially good to laugh and do good. In short, the Guadalupe River Cleanup 2020 was a lot more fun than I anticipated. Sure, we had a good time, but we also picked up a lot of trash, approximately 200 pounds of trash and debris. And we got bragging rights about the trash we picked up. The t-shirt was kind of cool, too!



Robert



Phil



Katy and Ron

From Gracie Waggener

CHAPTER MERCHANDISE / TMN PIN DISTRIBUTION DAYS

Another month has come and gone, and we are still in a shut down. But I am finding ways to get around that.

I have Merchandise Days planned for several places around the area, plus a bonus: I am teaming up with Carla, who has lots of Re-Certification and Milestone pins to distribute. Carla will be sending out an email with dates and locations, so come see us, pick up your pins, and maybe a hat, bag or bandana. Or just stop by and say "Hi"!



Something new to tempt you - a tote that converts into a back pack, perfect for field days!

HCMN MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

T-shirt – Sizes S to 5XL \$20.00 Galapagos Blue Natural Heliconia Pink

Ladies V-Neck T – Sizes S to 3XL \$20.00 Heathered Orchid Sapphire

Men's / Ladies Denim Shirt – Sizes S to 6XL \$34.00

Men's / Ladies Columbia – Sizes S to 2XL, Ladies sizes S to XL \$58.00
Long Sleeve or Short Sleeve

Fleece Pullover – Sizes S to 3XL, Ladies XXS to 3XL \$60.00
Sand or Charcoal Aqua or Powder Pink – Ladies only

Windbreaker – Sizes S to 6XL With Hood or Without Hood, Green \$30.00

ALL PRICES INCLUDE THE COST OF LOGO AND STATE SALES TAXES

PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR STYLE AND SIZE CAREFULLY

ALL ORDERS ARE CUSTOM ORDERS



Photo, Art & Media Contest

Hosted by the Cradle of Texas Chapter

VIRTUAL CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

OVERVIEW

- **Eligibility** – All Texas Master Naturalists and Chapters may submit entries.
- **Entry Period** – All entries must be submitted between Tuesday, September 1st, 12:00 AM and Wednesday, September 30th, 11:59 PM CST.
- **Categories** – There are three Contest categories: Photo, Art, and Media. Photo and Art are for TMNs to enter, and Media is for Chapters to enter. Master Naturalists may submit one (1) entry per member subcategory, and chapters may submit one (1) entry per chapter subcategory. Table 1 summarizes the contest categories.

There is one (1) new, member photo subcategory in 2020:

Photo – Digitally Enhanced Nature Photos

Not available in 2020 due to judging difficulties brought about by the *virtual* nature of the meeting are:

Art – ‘Carvings and Sculptures’, and ‘Sewing and Stitchery’

Media – ‘Scrapbooks’

We sincerely regret this inconvenience, but these categories will return when face-to-face meetings resume.

- **Entry Submissions and Forms** – All contest entries for all categories will be uploaded using the State Texas Master Naturalist website <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>. All member entries must be submitted as JPEG or PNG files, and all chapter entries must be submitted as PDF files (With the possible exception of Newsletters. See the detailed Newsletter description for more information.). The upload process includes filling out an entry form that lists all entries per member or per chapter. Each entrant needs to complete only one entry form.
- **Review and Posting** – Contest host committee members will review all entries and forms to check for errors and completeness, and make any needed adjustments (e.g. reassignment to a new category). The reviewed entries will then be posted for voting to the State Annual Meeting App by state TMN personnel.
- **Judging and Awards** – Contest awards for first, second and third place in each subcategory will be decided by all attendees registered for the meeting and using the State Annual Meeting App to vote for their Photo, Art, and Media favorites. Voting begins at the opening of the 2020 Annual Meeting on October 14th and ends at 6:00 PM CST on October 16th. Winners will be announced on Saturday, October 17th, at the annual meeting awards ceremony between 3:00 and 5:00 PM CST.

For details of the Annual Meeting Virtual Contest Categories, Rules, and Regulations, go to https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#label/*HCMN%2FNL/WhctKJVzdNqZxKJHDZPQFbqxfPrZVxTqkDXKXwhwXSjZLHxCfQcCLCMPdGXkkcdcMpSmHfG?compose=new&projector=1&messagePartId=0.1

The View from Rusty Bend



Hammer on the anvil

Song for First Light

*Death can be beautiful. Note
the splendid litter from a*

*tender tumble of peonies.
The way a thunderstorm dies,*

*folding toward itself in slow motion
like a dancer gliding to the floor.*

*The passing of an ancient matriarch,
a kindness of hands upon her.*

*The death of darkness
that makes a morning, that too is*

a gorgeous death, and daily.

*Warm-handed with coffee—
I harbor in sooted softness,*

*bare feet buoyed
on the windowsill, waiting*

*for stars to wink
and sink away,*

*for night to sail west.
In its wake, the slow bloom*

*of dawn, wearing her subtleties.
The cock crows,*

first light in his throat.

August at Rusty Bend, and it feels as if the landscape just came out of a 400-degree oven. The trees by the road are frosted as powdered wigs. All the rains have hopscotched around us and left us parched. The fruit trees and Cedar Elms have skipped to an early dormancy. Our treasured hawthorns with their fragrant spring blossoms look like they won't make it. Even some hardy hackberries have given up the ghost and turned brown.

So we tune our gaze to little dramas everywhere. The ravens entertain us with each morning's dash to the Grasshopper Buffet in the neighbor's field. They land and then hop around comically to nab those crunchy bits of protein. One morning I find a large Coral Snake draping half the road, his red and yellow and black stripes jewel-like in the sun. A good reminder. I can hear my mother's voice, *Watch for snakes!*

continued on next page

The departure of Painted Buntings to their molting spot in Mexico was fascinating to observe. With the new caged millet feeder, we could watch them dawn to dusk. In late July, all but one male disappeared one night when the wind was from the north, spinning around a tropical storm. Then Lone Male left a few days later. We watched and waited as females and juveniles continued to pig out at the feeder. You could actually see them bulking up for the journey. Two weeks later most of them vanished one night, again with northerly winds. Finally, 22 days after the males left, they all were gone. We miss them and console ourselves with Summer Tanagers and their pit-ti-tuk calls from the river.

Morning dramas include wake-up songs from the Canyon Wrens, then the clickety-click of their feet as they “run the canyon” of our porch roof gutter, collecting bugs. In the evenings, after each sunset du jour, we watch for bats from the Old Tunnel to refresh themselves with a drink at the river before their nightly travels. I think of them as wheeling black confetti against a dusky sky. Once it is dark, the battles for real estate on the river begin with a soundtrack of screams, screeches, and barks. What was that? All the creeks and water holes are dry so everything thirsty “gathers at the river” with accompanying sound effects.

The air conditioner at the barn drips as it does its work. We sit and watch through the glass door, bird book to hand. What will we see at each afternoon’s communal bathing? Field Sparrow? Scott’s Oriole? The lovely yellow-green of Lady Tanager? We hear a ruckus and here comes a miniature rhinoceros, dipped in wet mud, head to tip of tail. Armadillo found his spa.

Rusty Bend never disappoints. We manage to find wonder, even in the Dog Days.



Ole White Nose

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 Willa Award for Poetry as well as the Wrangler Award by the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists. Comments welcome at lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com



Cost: \$25. To Register:

<http://AgriLifeRegister.tamu.edu/BexarCounty>

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER HERE!

\$25

Master Volunteer Advanced Entomology Training



4 Part, Online Zoom Series covering the favorite topics of the week long advanced Ento training that was unfortunately cancelled this year due to COVID. Interactive with presenters and for Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. A package will be mailed to you with a book and materials. Presentations will be recorded for later viewing!

6-7:30pm

October 6 - Ento 101 & How to ID Common Insect Orders

October 7 - Native Pollinators & Pollinator Gardening

October 13 - Veggie Pest Management

October 14 - Landscape and Ornamental Pest Management



Hosted by Molly Keck, Wildlife Brewer & Eriq Valdez

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Riverside Nature Center Presents:

NEd Talk Webinar: Invasive Species Impacts on Texas Waters

Presented by Dr. Chris Distel

Sept. 22nd

1pm

Examine the diverse & complicated effects that invasive species can have on native ecosystems, in particular: armored catfish & chinaberry trees.

Register at riversidenaturecenter.org
or (830)257-4837.

Suggested \$5.00 donation.



Streamside Landowner Webinar

Understanding and Managing
Riparian Areas

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Webinar via Zoom

This webinar is the third installment in a series designed to share practices and skills with streamside landowners to help you enhance and protect your property and the river. However, since we are having a virtual meeting, we invite anyone interested in learning more about riparian area management to join. Attendance at Part I or II is not a prerequisite to attend the webinar - everyone is welcome!

Topics will include:

- Review of riparian function, stewardship, and management
- Update and lessons learned from riparian plantings at YMCA Roberts Ranch
- Learn about planting techniques, establishing grow zones, and other stewardship practices
- Discuss your questions, challenges, and successes

Register today by clicking [HERE](#) or calling UGRA at (830) 896-5445.

Brought to you by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, Hill Country Alliance, Plateau Land & Wildlife Management, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

ADVANCED TRAINING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 6:15-8:30PM WEBINAR AND HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETING

AT20-472 HORNED LIZARDS & PRAIRIE DOGS OF MASON MOUNTAIN WMA

The September Hill Country Chapter Meeting and Awards Presentation will be followed by this Advanced Training. James Gallagher, PhD, Natural Resource Specialist at Mason Mountain WMA, is the presenter. Go to <https://tpwd.webex.com/tpwd/j.php?MTID=mcc92fe307729d8beaa2d28ee7593ff22>. Contact Information: Katy Kappel, katykappel@yahoo.com.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 2-3:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-438 THE WORLD'S BEST ARCHIVE OF NATURE WRITERS

Bryan Giemza, PhD. will provide an overview of the unique Sowell Family Collection, which contains the papers of some of the country's most prominent writers on the natural world. Cost: \$10. Contact Information: 830-990-4948 or alice.boyd@ttu.edu. To enroll in this Zoom webinar, go to <https://registration.oli.ttu.edu/wconnect/ace/CourseStatus.awp?&course=20FOLLU0007>. Click the "Enroll Yourself" button and follow the steps as they are presented.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 10AM-12PM WEBINAR

AT20-462 INTRIGUING PLANTS OF THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT IN TEXAS

Michael Eason, Director of Plant Conservation & Research, San Antonio Botanical Garden, will discuss the different ecoregions of this area and then focus on the pollination biology, seed dispersal, ethnobotany, and wildscape value of its most intriguing plants. Participants will be asked to take a brief survey, which allows the Botanical Garden to get credit from San Antonio Water System, process your refund, and get Water Saver Rewards points if any are available for the class. A weblink and instructions will be sent to you 24 hours prior to the start of class. Contact conservationcoordinator@sabot.org if you don't receive the link. A computer and internet connection are required. Fee: \$10 deposit, refundable upon completion of the post-workshop survey. Contact Information: +1-210-536-1400 or info@sabot.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT20-213 LAWNS TO LEGUMES: POLICY IN PLACE TO HELP POLLINATORS

This new program in Minnesota, the first of its kind in the US and supported by state legislation, offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides, and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns. The program also includes a public education campaign to raise awareness for pollinator habitat projects and will establish demonstration neighborhoods that showcase best practices. To register, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPWvwtWo3zkr1P2-dfh1mzKCfYcMc45_JcoKGMq7LpAW3kw/viewform. Contact Information: info@monarchjointventure.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT20-467 INVASIVE SPECIES IMPACTS ON TEXAS WATERS

Chris Distel, PhD, will discuss the diverse and complicated effects that invasive species can have on native ecosystems, using case studies of two species: armored catfish and chinaberry trees. Experiments at Schreiner University have found surprising effects of these two species on natives, which raises new questions. To register, go to riversidenaturecenter.org or 830-257-4837. You will receive the Zoom link via email.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 5-6PM WEBINAR

AT20-468 BIRDS AND NATIVE PLANTS

Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home" and "Nature's Best Hope," is the presenter. Contact Information: 305-371-6399 or flconservation@audubon.org.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 6:25-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-446 NATURAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN BADGERS

Dr. Pamela R. Owen, Associate Director of the Texas Memorial Museum, will explore what discoveries have been made about this remarkable mammal, focusing on its biology, ecology, and fossil record. Contact Information: bexaraudubonsociety@bexaraudubon.org. No registration is required. Go to <https://bexaraudubon.org/meetings-events/> and click "HERE." This will take you to the Zoom presentation.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 10-11:30AM WEBINAR**AT20-458 THE EMERALD ASH BORER AND THE ASH APOCALYPSE**

Allen Smith, Texas Forest Service Entomologist, will discuss the biology, ecology, and timetable for arrival in our area as well as treatments available for ash trees, the effectiveness and cost of those treatments, what the state and city are doing to address this, and how you can strategically prepare and protect your landscape. Participants will be asked to take a brief survey, which allows the Botanical Garden to get credit from San Antonio Water System, process your refund, and get WaterSaver Rewards points if any are available for the class. A weblink and instructions will be sent to you 24 hours prior to the start of class. Contact conservationcoordinator@sabot.org if you don't receive this information. A computer and internet connection required. Sponsored by San Antonio Water System. Fee: \$10 deposit refundable upon completion of the post-workshop survey. Contact Information: +1-210-536-1400 or info@sabot.org .

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 10-11:30AM WEBINAR**AT20-465 DISCOVERING TRACES OF THE CADDO IN NORTHWEST TEXAS**

In the small town of Frankston, the construction plans for a road project uncovered a 500 year old Caddo village that had been forgotten. Join us to learn about how TxDOT Archeology "re-discovered" the lost archeological site by digging into archival records. TxDOT's excavations also uncovered unique artifacts that date the Caddo's interaction with European explorers further back in time than what was previously documented. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/34ULv9S>. (The Register button is at the bottom of the page) Contact information: Mikayla Brown, mbrown-c@txdot.gov or 512 or 264-1095.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 1-2PM WEBINAR**AT20-454 HELP BIRDS ON THEIR JOURNEYS**

Join Audubon for this informative webinar and find out which birds are stopping in your yard or local park and how to turn your yard or park into a migratory bird oasis. The right plants provide important food for birds. Plus, taking simple actions, such as turning off lights at night and making your windows bird-friendly, can reduce hazards. Free; Donations appreciated; go to bentoftheriver.audubon.org/support-our-work Contact information: Kate Pratt, kathleen.Pratt@audubon.org or 203-405-9113/ To register, go to <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sbEynMiwLUK3p4WdG-yll7SfIOE7bIBMjTg1YuZSQYJUN0dZR1UxT0ZCUEQ4NUtQOVc3TzJLQ09HSS4u> . Upon registration, you will receive a link to log into the online classroom.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 9AM-2PM WEBINAR**AT20-431 NATIVE PLANT GARDENING: MAINTENANCE**

Maintaining a native garden requires knowledge of plant physiology, gardening tools, watering guidelines and other best practices. The Native Plant Gardening Series prepares students to transform their yards and gardens into efficient and beautiful landscapes. Take the six classes individually or enroll in the entire series and save. This is one of our most popular offerings and the series will sell out. Cost: Individual classes: \$30 or whole series: \$162. Members receive a discount on all classes. Registrants will receive an email with the link for the Zoom meeting prior to the event. Contact Information: 512-232-0100.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 10AM-12PM WEBINAR**AT20-463 NATIVE MILKWEEDS AND THEIR PROPAGATION**

Cleve Powell will discuss the characteristics, ecology, and propagation techniques of milkweeds native to Central Texas. Participants will be asked to take a brief survey, which allows the Botanical Garden to get credit from San Antonio Water System, process your refund, and get WaterSaver Rewards points if any are available for the class. A weblink and instructions will be sent to you 24 hours prior to the start of class. If you don't receive these instructions, contact conservationcoordinator@sabot.org. A computer and internet connection required. Fee: \$10 deposit refundable upon completion of the post-workshop survey Contact Information: +1-210-536-1400 or info@sabot.org .

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 9AM-3:30PM WEBINAR**AT20-414 NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRDS, SAN ANTONIO**

Lee Marlowe & Fred Loxsom will discuss the importance of birds and how to create landscapes for them. The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) offers a Completion certificate for attending the whole class. You must attend all sessions on both September 26 (9am-2pm) and October 3 (9am-11am). Attendance is taken at the beginning and end of each session. Registration is required. Cancellation fees exist. Fee: \$37, NPSOT members; \$52, non-members. Contact Information: Registration: Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Class specific: Joan Miller, Host Chapter Manager, millersmyle@earthlink.net or 703-477-6993.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 9AM-3:30PM WEBINAR**AT20-413 NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRDS, AUSTIN**

Jane Tillman & Terri Siegenthaler will discuss the importance of birds and how to create landscapes for them. The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) offers a Completion certificate for attending the whole class. You must attend all sessions on both September 26 (9am-2pm) and October 3 (9-11am). Attendance is taken at the beginning and end of each session. Registration is required. Cancellation fees exist. Fee: \$37, NPSOT members; \$52, non-members. Contact Information: Registration: Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Class specific: Jane Tillman, tillman@utexas.edu or 512-771-1577.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 1-4PM WEBINAR**AT20-432 NATIVE PLANT GARDENING SERIES: INTEGRATED PLANT MANAGEMENT**

Identify common beneficial and harmful insects in your garden landscape. This class also covers pest management, treatment, and safety practices. The Native Plant Gardening Series prepares students to transform their yards and gardens into efficient and beautiful landscapes. Take the six classes individually or enroll in the entire series and save. This is one of our most popular offerings and the series will sell out. Cost: Individual classes: \$30 or whole series: \$162. Members receive a discount on all classes. Registrants will receive an email with the link for the Zoom meeting prior to the event. Contact Information: 512-232-0100.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR**AT20-474 SOIL HEALTH/SOIL BIOLOGY**

Randy Johnson will discuss foundation organisms such as bacteria, protozoa, nematodes, soil mites, fungi, and earthworms. Register in advance for this meeting; you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting. Contact Information: prairierose.npsot@gmail.com or 254-300-8661.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 10AM-2PM WEBINAR**AT20-441 STREAMSIDE LANDOWNER WORKSHOP, PART 3**

Daniel Oppenheimer, Steve Nelle, and Ryan McGillicuddy will briefly review Part 1 and Part 2 of the series, view an update on the success of the February 2020 plantings at YMCA Roberts Ranch through photos and video, discuss establishing grow zones and targeted access points, and hear from you about your challenges and successes. To register for this free webinar go to <https://forms.gle/1Ao4LT7BByW7LBHD7> or call UGRA at 830-896-5445.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 9:30-10:30AM WEBINAR**AT20-019 TREE PRUNING**

Jason Gordon and Holly Campbell will discuss when, why, and how to prune, assessment, proper cuts, developing good branching habits, looking for defects, correcting problems and how much to prune. Correct pruning can determine whether a tree lives 10 years or 100 years. Developing a strong structure while the trees are young will help reduce injury and problems that can occur with the trees as they grow older. Plan to join the Webinar approximately 30 minutes before this webinar's start time when the 'Join' button will be activated. Go to <http://www.climatewebinars.net/webinars/georgia-forestry-bmps-part-2/?sr=wp~upcoming>.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 1-2:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-440 UGRA EduScape Talk and Tour: Soil Management—Improving Infiltration

Dr. Becky Bowling will discuss how soils with good infiltration can utilize and store plant available water and reduce water runoff. At the conclusion you are invited to enjoy a virtual tour of the property surrounding the UGRA building, which has been aptly named the EduScape: a landscape with a purpose. (<http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/eduscape>). Please register online at riversidenaturecenter.org or call 830-257-4837. Once registered you will receive an email with the meeting details. Contact Information: Becky Etzler, 830-257-4837 or director@riversidenaturecenter.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 7-8:45PM WEBINAR

AT20-478 HAWK MIGRATION IN TEXAS

Glenn Olson will discuss hawk topography, where to look to identify a hawk, and other keys to identification. In the slide presentation, we will see examples of these concepts and also compare and contrast some commonly seen hawks, falcons, and kites. This class is open to everyone but beginners may find this class more meaningful if they have taken Beginning Birdwatching and Fundamentals of Birdwatching, although that is not required. Cost: \$25.00. Optional Field Trip, Saturday, October 3, 8 AM - 4 PM, subject to class advisory; Fee: \$50.00. To register, go to <https://houstonaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/houstonaudubon/eventRegistration.jsp?event=151>. Contact Information: 713-932-1639 or <https://houstonaudubon.org/about/contact.html>.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 6-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-455 HAWK IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Join Audubon for a three-part online workshop that will explore the world of hawks, eagles, and falcons that migrate through the Northeast in the fall. Identifying hawks at a distance can bring new challenges to birding—but you'll be spotting these amazing creates in no time, as we learn about, practice, and apply new skills during the peak of fall migration. The three sessions will take place every Wednesday from September 30 thru October 14. Week 1 (September 30): The How, When, What, and Where of Hawk Watching. Week 2 (October 7): Eagles and Buteos. Week 3 (October 14): Accipiters, Falcons, and Other Big Birds. Admission: \$20 per person for the entire series. Register at <https://audubonct.doubleknot.com/event/hawk-identification-workshop/2723431>. Upon registration, you will receive a link to the online classroom. Contact Information: Kate Pratt, 203-405-9113 or kathleen.Pratt@audubon.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 8:45AM-2:45PM WEBINAR AND IN-PERSON

AT20-404 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, LEVEL 1 (OCT. 3 & OCT. 5)

Theresa Butler, Brenda Fest, Gary Fest, Veronica Hawk, Terry Lashley, Ed Noack and Kathy Ward are the presenters. The Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) is a four level certification program developed by the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) that teaches the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes.

Level 1: Introduction to Native Landscapes

- Learn the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes.
- Understand the differences between sustainable and conventional development.
- Discover your Texas ecoregion, vegetation, and soil.
- Become familiar with 45 recommended native Texas plants and five plants to avoid.

Online & In-Person Class: This class has sessions on two separate days that must be completed in order move on to other NLCP levels: Saturday, October 3rd (8:45 am - 2:45 pm) - online Zoom presentations, and Monday, October 5th - a two hour in-person plant walk at Cibolo Nature Center (by appointment between 9 am and 4 pm). **ONLY SIGN UP FOR THIS CLASS IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ATTEND THE IN-PERSON PLANT WALK.** Only groups of five will be allowed in the vicinity at any one time. You must wear a mask. Social distancing will be practiced. Hand sanitizer will be available. If you are unwilling to attend an in-person plant walk, please consider: 1) taking the "all virtual" class at a central Texas location, or 2) taking the class in Boerne once the threat of coronavirus is over. To register, go to <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/>. Fee \$37. Contact Information: Registration: Meg Inglis, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Class specific: Veronica Hawk, veronica-hawk@gmail.com or 830-516-9823. To Register, go to <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT20-490 TEXAS FENCE LAW

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet will present an overview of Texas fence law and highlight how the law applies to common issues such as livestock versus auto collisions on the road, stray livestock, neighbor fencing disputes, and more. To attend this free webinar, go to <https://texasrangewebinars.tamu.edu/webinars/fence-law/>. Contact Information: Pete Flores, pflores@ag.tamu.edu.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 9-11AM WEBINAR

AT20-413 NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRDS. AUSTIN [SECOND SESSION]

Jane Tillman & Terri Siegenthaler will discuss the importance of birds and how to create landscapes for them. The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) offers a Completion certificate for attending the whole class. You must attend all sessions on both September 26 (9am-2pm) and October 3 (9-11am). Attendance is taken at the beginning and end of each session. Registration is required. Cancellation fees exist. Fee: \$37, NPSOT members; \$52, non-members. Contact Information: Registration: Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Class specific: Jane Tillman, tillman@utexas.edu or 512-771-1577.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 2-3:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-437 OUR VANISHING NIGHT: HOW LIGHT POLLUTION IMPACTS HEALTH

Kristin Rodgers will discuss how the growing use of artificial light is overpowering natural darkness, disrupting natural patterns, shifting the balance of our environment, and bringing changes to life on earth. Cost: \$10.00. To register for this Zoom webinar go to <https://registration.oli.ttu.edu/wconnect/ace/CourseStatus.awp?&course=20FOLHL0003>. Click on the "Enroll Yourself" button and follow the steps as they appear. Contact Information: 830 990-4948 or alice.boyd@ttu.edu.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6; WED., OCT. 7; TUES., OCT. 13, WED., OCT. 14 6-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT20-473 MASTER VOLUNTEER ADVANCED ENTOMOLOGY ONLINE TRAINING

Molly Keck, Wizzie Brown, and Erfan Vafaie are the presenters. In lieu of our regular, multi-day Advanced Entomology Training, we offer this online version, covering the favorite topics according to previous attendees of the class. October 6: Ento 101 & Identifying Common Insect Orders; October 7: Native Pollinator & Butterfly Identification & Gardening; October 13: Veggie Pest Management; October 14: Landscape & Ornamental Pest Management. All webinars will be interactive; you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters. Cost: \$25.00. You will receive by mail training materials, handouts, and a native pollinator book. To register for this four part class, go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3176>. Contact Information: Molly Keck, 210-631-0400 or mekeck@ag.tamu.edu.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 6-7PM WEBINAR

AT20-442 BUTTERFLY GARDENING

Learn tips to create butterfly habitat in your landscape by introducing a water source and feeders, as well as how to select the right plants as host species for caterpillars. We'll also talk about our favorite native and adapted flowers that provide long lasting blooms as nectar sources. Free; to register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/october-6-2020-butterfly-gardening-virtual/>. Contact Information: wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu, 972-231-5362.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 6-8PM WEBINAR

AT20-359 GROW NATIVE, NOT WILD

Gardening with native plants doesn't mean giving up your yard to the weeds! To register for this free webinar, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/october-8-2020-grow-native-not-wild-virtual/>. The link will be mailed to you. Contact Information: 972- 231-5362, wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR
AT20-447 SAVING BIRDS ONE BUILDING AT A TIME

Lindsay Jacks, Director of Lights Out, Baltimore, will discuss how migratory birds and bats are affected by light pollution and glass collisions, how to create a collision monitoring program, what species have been rescued, and how YOU can protect birds and bats at your own home. To register for this Zoom presentation, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArcOuvqDwsE9Mob64v5wxnhrR-sz8z4MO2>. Contact Information: bexaraudubonsociety@bexaraudubon.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 10AM-12PM WEBINAR
AT20-464 EDIBLE NATIVE PLANTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

Eric Knight will discuss foraging skills and how to ID native plants that are safe for your plate, such as prickly pear and Texas persimmon. Fee: \$25 per person. Members of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center receive discounts on registration. To register, go to <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Native-Edible-Plants-11Oct2020>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 10-1130AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN
AT20-461 WATER SAVER WALK

Explore the Botanical Garden's WaterSaver Gardens with a Master Naturalist. Learn the characteristics of different drought tolerant landscapes, including Cottage, Hill Country, Manicure Xeriscape, and Spanish style. Face coverings required. Space is limited. Fee: Included with membership or general admission. Registration required. WaterSaver Rewards Eligible. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2QHpuCU>. This event will repeat on November 19 and December 17 (to register, go to <https://bit.ly/3bhRBSP>) and on December 17 (to register, go to <https://bit.ly/2G5FEec>).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 9AM-4PM WEBINAR
AT20-415 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM LEVEL 1, FREDERICKSBURG

Mary Frushour & Kathy Saucier will focus on the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes, differences between sustainable and conventional development, the Texas ecoregion, vegetation, and soil, 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape, and five plants to avoid. Registration is required. Fee: \$37. Cancellation fees exist. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email. Please check your "junk mail" if you do not receive it. Two days prior to the class, you will receive the Zoom class link along with log-in instructions and associated class materials links. To register: Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512- 589-1316 Local Contact: Paula Stone, gilbriar@me.com or 210-393-7351.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 9-11AM WEBINAR
AT20-360 COMPOSTING

Learn how to make high quality compost at home using materials most folks throw away. This class focuses on the most effective composting methods, practical techniques, and problem solving tips. To register for this free webinar, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/october-17-2020-composting-virtual/>. Contact Information: wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu or 972-231-5362.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 9:15-11AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN
AT20-460 TEXAS BIRD WALKING WORKSHOP

Learn about resident and migrant birds in the San Antonio Botanical Garden, their characteristics, and their requirements for food, nesting, and protection. Face coverings required. Space is limited. Meet at 9:15 am behind the Admissions kiosk. Fee: Included with membership or general admission. Adults=\$15; Children=\$12; Military=\$13. WaterSaver Rewards Eligible. Registration is required; to register, go to <https://bit.ly/3IFxblr>. Bird Walks are scheduled every third Saturday, except during the summer months. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3IFxblr>.



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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