

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter

October 2020 Volume 18 Number 10



*A mountain cedar tree in the Hill Country can produce hundreds of billions of pollen cones.*



The October Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday, October 26, beginning at 6:15.

Go to [https://tpwd.webex.com/tpwd/j.php?](https://tpwd.webex.com/tpwd/j.php?MTID=m76e3b1f894219cf29363a604a25elabe)

[MTID=m76e3b1f894219cf29363a604a25elabe](https://tpwd.webex.com/tpwd/j.php?MTID=m76e3b1f894219cf29363a604a25elabe)

Dr. Daniel Katz will speak on "Pollen Trackers: A Citizen Science Project to Forecast Cedar Fever" after the meeting.

See the note on page two, below, for further information.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . Elsa Roberts

We had a good taste of Fall temperatures not too long ago and the return to the high 80's and 90's is rather hard to bear. According to the forecasted first frost date, that won't occur until around November first. In spite of the very warm weather, the signs of fall are all around us; migrating birds and butterflies, trees beginning to dress themselves in fall colors and cooler nights. The squirrels are busy burying pecans in the flower bed under my front windows. They are fun to watch as they try to secretly find just the right spot, making sure no other squirrels are watching. The growth rate of the grass in my yard has certainly slowed down. Mowing season is almost over and everyone will enjoy a nice vacation from that chore, I'm sure.

Before the next newsletter is published, we will have a time change, cooler weather (I hope), and our thoughts will begin to be focused on the approaching holiday season. How fast 2020 seems to be coming to a close.

If you missed our virtual chapter meeting on September 21, you missed an opportunity to learn what 77 members of our chapter learned about the benefits of a virtual meeting. Due to the speaker experiencing a medical emergency at the last minute, that meeting turned into a training session on how to participate in a virtual meeting. Everyone still received AT credit for attending. Our next virtual chapter meeting will be on October 26. Please plan on joining us. Watch for an email with a link to join your monthly chapter meeting by computer, tablet, or even by phone. This will be an important meeting because our Chapter Officer candidates will be announced and a survey will be sent out in November for you to cast your votes. There is plenty of space on our WebEx account to accommodate all 234 of our members. So please join us and enjoy this month's speaker, who will explain a new regional cedar pollen alert system and how you can help.

**YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!** As we move into the virtual world, we have an immediate need for an IT Director. This volunteer will be responsible for managing the technical aspects of using the WebEx and Zoom technology. By now, you will have received an email with an attached document that details the qualifications and duties that will be required. This position needs to be filled as soon as possible. If you had any thoughts that this is something you might be interested in, but have not inquired about it, please do so now. Contact the AT Director, Deb Youngblood, at [hillcountryadvancedtraining@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountryadvancedtraining@gmail.com).

## This Month We Honor



### Initial Certification

Susan Parker

### Recertifications

Carla Brady, Mack Brown, Nancye Drukker, Randy Fuertes, Bridget Langdale, Terry Lashley, Stephanie Roberts, Mimi Stidham, Kevin Wessels, Regina Wheaton

### Milestones

Laurence Doxsey, Pat Lucas - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly  
Frank Garcia, Carl Luckenbach, Deb Youngblood - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly  
Katy Kappel - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

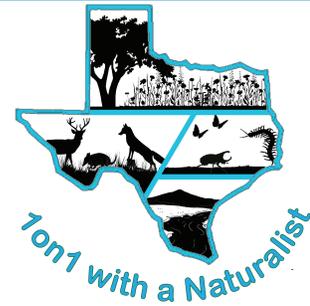
Dr. Daniel Katz, the speaker at our October 26 monthly meeting, is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on understanding allergenic pollen and reducing its impact on human health. To do so, he quantifies pollen production and flowering phenology, scales from individual plants to landscapes with remote sensing, measures and models airborne pollen concentrations over space and time, and analyzes the effects of pollen exposure on human health. His current project is modeling airborne *Juniperus ashei* pollen in Texas.

He is seeking observers to report when Ashe's juniper (aka mountain cedar, *Juniperus ashei*), trees are releasing allergenic pollen in Texas. Ashe's juniper is one of the most important causes of seasonal allergies in Texas. We don't know yet how much pollen people are exposed to in their daily lives. If we can predict airborne pollen concentrations, we can warn people about pollen hotspots in advance and help people to maximize the benefits from their allergy medication. These data will lay the foundation for a regional pollen alert system for "cedar fever."

### Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 9/5/20 Twenty Years in the Life of the "Squirrel Tree"
- 9/12/20` Some Truly Amazing Things About Mother Nature
- 9/19/20 Listening to the Experts
- 9/26/20 The Underground World of Roots

These and all other Kerrville Daily News columns can be found at [www.hillcountrynaturalist.org](http://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.

## Reminder: Lights Out Texas

Turn off all non-essential nighttime lighting on buildings and other structures from **11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.** to help migratory birds during this peak time in the migratory season.

<https://birdcast.info/science-to-action/lights-out/lights-out-texas/>

From Carla Stang, Membership Director

### Interim-Mentor Program Update

In the August newsletter I provided a glimpse of the Interim-Mentor Program that was started at that time. As a reminder, this is a program that was started out of the overwhelming desire of our Board and New Class Committee to do something to help keep prospective students engaged and motivated as they awaited the TMN Basic class. Since the 2020 TMN Basic Class was postponed, thirty-one of our chapter members volunteered as mentors and were paired with the people who had applied and been approved by our board to attend the Basic TMN Class. I'm happy to report that overall participation rates have been very good. In September, 80% of the prospective students have attended at least one or more events (training and/or field trip) that have been put on by our TMN members.

As we are heading into fall there are more offerings that are taking place in the "outdoor classrooms" across our chapter's area. For example, Ginny DeWolf and crew gave a great summary of the Monarch Larval Monitoring program at Kerrville-Schreiner State Park, Bill Lindemann has presented information and conducted bird surveys at Lady Bird Johnson Park in Fredericksburg; Constance Weaver, Bob Binney have led hikes at YMCA Roberts Ranch; Rheda Boardman, Kathy Ward, and Nancye Drukker hosted their mentees at Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area for a hike, and Bob Binney led interpretive sessions on Bat Emergence at Old Tunnel State Park. I've received a few responses from participants:

"I am enjoying my classes, mentor and students tremendously..."

"best field trip ever" (Bat Emergence)

"the Birding 101, part 2 event was great. I think we walked about 2.5 miles and spent as much time talking about plants as we did observing birds. Some of us also went after the event to the pollinator garden to observe the butterflies. All in all, it was a great morning."

Still to come in October and November, Greg Walton & Lee Haile will lead folks on hikes at Lost Maples State Natural Area; Lorri Kendrick will lead hikes at Enchanted Rock; Kim Ort will cover riparian plants at Riverside Nature Center trails; and Lee Booker and Wendi Leonard will lead folks through the various ecosystem areas at Cibolo Nature Center. I am so amazed and impressed by the dedication and love of nature our members have. Whether teaching in an indoor or outdoor classroom, you all set the standard for excellence on how to be a great Texas Master Naturalist. I thank you all very much. This couldn't be done without you!!

## **MERCHANDISE SALES and SERVICE PIN DISTRIBUTION**

10/24/20 Saturday, 9 AM – 11 AM, Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville: Pins only

9 AM – 11 AM, Cibolo Nature Center, Boerne: Pins only

10/26/20 Monday, 10 AM – 12 PM, Riverside Nature Center: Pins and Merchandise Sales

# Bird Walk & Talks

Led by Paul & Deloris Sellin  
October 17th & 24th

8:00am-9:50am

Due to popular demand, October will host two Bird Walk & Talks!

Walk one on Oct. 17th will start at the G St. Trailhead and walk along the path to the Guadalupe River.

Walk two on Oct. 24th will start at the Flat Rock Park Dog Park, 3840 Riverside Dr, Kerrville, TX 76026, USA.

You will meet in the parking lot of each location.  
Space is limited!

RSVP & face coverings required!

RSVP by email to [rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com)  
or by calling (830)257-4837



# PLANT WALK & TALK

October 16th & 23rd  
8:30am-9:30am

Join Kim Ort, Texas Master Naturalist  
on a stroll along the Guadalupe  
River Trail to explore the  
edible plant community.

Meet in front of the  
RNC Visitor Center.

Spaces are limited.  
Please RSVP @  
(830)257-4837 or  
[rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com)



10TH  
ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, OCT 24, 2020  
ALL VIRTUAL. ALL ONLINE. ALL SAFE.  
WHERE EVERYONE GETS A FRONT ROW SEAT.

A Hill Country Alliance Event



**All Virtual. All Online. All Safe.**

Celebrate living lightly, responsibly and beautifully in the Texas Hill Country.

## Art Exhibit: Return of the Birds

“Alfred Woodcock presents The Return of the Birds” is an educational exhibit showcasing thirty birds of the Texas Hill Country. This 2020 exhibit, which includes a human size bird nest, is at the Riverside Nature Center (150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville). Each quarter, new artwork of local artists is displayed to go along with this exhibit. A new installation of artwork is now ready for your viewing and art collecting. Artists are Sherry Christensen, Debra Mostue, Bridget Langdale, and Jeff Grote.

Sherry Christensen has been creating for all her life and taught art in the public school system for 35 years. Drawing, painting, and printmaking were her favorite outlets while teaching. She taught in the Houston area, and later moved to San Antonio where she took printmaking and life drawing classes from what was then the McNay Art Studios in the back of the property. While teaching, she conducted workshops and seminars in San Francisco, Kansas City, Chicago, Houston, and Austin.

Sherry’s current obsessions are time consuming 3D fiber pieces and abstract paintings. The fiber pieces are constructed with foam core in various thicknesses covered with handmade papers, yarns, and hand sewn beads to embellish them. These take months to design and put together. Her breaks from them come in the form of abstract paintings which can be completed in a much shorter period. As an award-winning artist, her work has been shown in Savannah, Georgia, Corpus Christi, and various galleries in San Antonio, and they are in private collections throughout the United States.

Debra Mostue is a watercolor artist living in Mason. Because of her sincere appreciation for wild birds, Debra hopes to capture the detail, beauty, and essence of each bird. Before moving to Mason, she lived in Spicewood. In 1998 Debra started the Mostue Insurance Agency with Farmers Insurance. Then in the year 2000 she painted a watercolor of a Mockingbird. She sent it to her insurance customers as a Christmas card. That started a tradition, and every Christmas, Debra’s customers looked forward to receiving their Christmas card featuring Debra’s latest work of art, a watercolor painting of a local Texas bird. She especially loves to paint birds that are native to Texas and to educate folks about the various species.

Debra believes that we must all let go of the fear that grounds us, dust off our feathers and—just like the birds she loves to paint—take flight because we all need to “Create Before It Is Too Late.” Her originals are not for sale, but you can purchase a print or notecards of her watercolors.

Bridget Langdale lives in Mason. She is a recognized creative and diverse artist of paintings and sculptures who works in repurposed materials and water-based paints. She also is an accomplished White Tail Deer taxidermist, for which she uses the standard shoulder mount but without a cape or skin. Her work can be seen at Murphy Creek Cellars and Keller’s Store on the Square, both of which are in Mason. And of course, in this exhibit at Riverside Nature Center. Bridget holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Texas Tech University and a Masters degree from the University of St. Thomas. Her work has been recognized with awards and commissions across the nation.

Jeff Grote Working with repurposed discarded metal parts to create a series of bird sculptures could not have been accomplished without the welding craftsmanship of Mason welder Jeff Grote. Jeff not only is a great welder but has a creative eye for suggestions to create that special effect for the final sculpture.



from left to right:  
Debra Mostue,  
Sherry Christensen,  
Bridget Langdale

## The View From Rusty Bend



Carolina Wren ready to bounce

Image by Ken Butler

### A Cure of Wrens

Once upon a shocking loss—a friend advised *watch birds*.  
What soothed the bruise of grief? Petite  
wrens, sketched in browns and grays,  
teaching me *Look down, look slow*.

Discreet, yet ever-there. Compact, yet stacked with song.  
Long-beaked, they sing each day's praises from edges.  
Bewick's with tail flick and fan, Carolina of the long eyebrow,  
the fluting puffball of Winter Wren, rufus-bellied Canyon,

with his cascading bell of sound.

All of them head-cocking, bouncing,  
perfecting deep knee bends, pivot dancing at the altar  
of secreted bugs. Wrens are my religion.

September's come to Rusty Bend and the sun has lost its bite. Six inches of rain is quite the healer. The cracks are gone, all is greened up, and seed heads hang heavy. The persimmons dropped half their leaves, then with the rain, they decided to hold on to the rest. Frostweed rises from the dead to make blossoms for migrating Monarchs. The tanagers were still around, delighting with their bold colors, until last week when they rode a norther to points south.

So after each morning's Wren TV, we look and listen for migrants. Scott's Orioles were the bird of the week early in the month. Some days warblers fill the trees with song. A Grey Catbird hung around for a week or so, delighting us with his bold color, flashing red underparts as he frequented the bird bath. Whole families of bluebirds bathe and feed together in the yard. We hope they stay year-round. The Osprey has found a mate and we hope they stay as well. After all, on the Guadalupe, sunfish are on sale all year.

Last week two Great Egrets hung out in the tallest cottonwood all day then left just before full dark. They seemed exhausted. Quite a contrast with the hordes of scissortail juveniles playing chase games near the open fields, conveying a pure joy in their flying. Their scraggly tails spin and weave the air.

For some variety, Andy and I take turns cooking for each other on date night. No tv, no devices, just a slow meal, then talking and watching the darkness come. Eventually it is full dark with only moonlight. Time to play "Guess that Shadow." Raccoon? Porcupine? Fox? Armadillo?

*continued on next page*

As autumn nears, I hear it first. The cottonwood leaves make a new sound, papery and rustling. The cypress trees get a blond rinse before their startling burnt orange begins. So, when the world is “too much with me” I try to remember to take a walk to come to my senses, so to speak. I start with noticing five things with my eyes. The differing velocities of the snout-nose butterflies as they stream past, the Zexmenia, Parralena, and Cowpen Daisies that have popped up after the rains, and the rough carpet of fall elm flowers beneath each tree. Then I listen, what four things can I hear? The catbird is meowing from the woods, the raven mutters a guttural as he flies by, the wings of a mourning dove whistle overhead, that last cicada sounds like a rattler. Now what can I smell? The blossoms of Kidneywood vanilla the air, Dutchman’s Breeches crush like lemon peel underfoot, then dense mottes of shrubby trees smell like essence of deer. What can I touch? I feel the prickle of fresh agarita leaves; then I strip crisp seeds of Side-oats Grama ready to scatter to give us grasses next year. Five, four, three, two, what do I taste? My favorite season, fall.



Rain with drama

Poem, second image, and essay  
by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2020

*Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry; her muse, a tractor named Mabel. The story of the Burro Lady of West Texas, told in poems, We Make a Tiny Herd, has just been awarded the 2020 Willa Literary 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](mailto:lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com).*

## UGRA Large Rainwater System Incentive Program

Are you planning to install a rainwater catchment system in Kerr County? Or do you want to expand your current system to collect even more rainwater? UGRA would like to help! Individuals and entities can apply now through November 30th to receive up to \$2,500 towards the cost of a new or improved rainwater catchment system. Applications will be evaluated and the winner will be announced in January.

**Visit UGRA's website for program guidelines and applications:  
[www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/rainwater-catchment](http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/rainwater-catchment)**

## ADVANCED TRAINING

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 7-8PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-528 BRINGING TEXAS NATIVE PLANTS TO TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS**

Kerry Gray-Harrison, Gardens Manager, will share some of the eighty-four-year history of Texas Discovery Gardens, discuss the existing plantings, and offer a plan for incorporating plants native to the Blackland Prairie and surrounding regions into existing gardens. She will specifically address the caretaking complexities and planting plans for the Benny J. Simpson Native Plant Collection located in Texas Discovery Gardens. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 9-10AM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-527 THE BENNY J. SIMPSON ECOPARK: A TRIBUTE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY PIONEER**

Daniel Cunningham will lead this virtual tour of the ecopark's three-acre rainwater retention pond and the adjacent swath of reclaimed Texas Blackland prairie designed and installed for aesthetic and environmental benefit by one of the state's leading environmental outreach programs. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 3-4PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-529 HISTORICAL USES OF TEXAS PLANTS**

Texas native plants have been used for life's basics: food, medicine, and shelter. But, they've also been used in a lot of surprising ways for everything from useful tools to theatre effects and pollution detectors. Carol Clark will speak on the ordinary and unusual historic uses of Texas native plants. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 6-8PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-353 RAINWATER HARVESTING: HOW TO BUILD RAIN BARRELS**

Learn the basics and benefits of rainwater harvesting for reducing the effects of stormwater on the environment. Participants will learn how to collect and utilize rainwater at home. To register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/october-20-2020-saving-from-a-rainy-day-diy-rain-barrel-class-virtual-class-only/>. The link for the class will be sent to you. Contact Information: [wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu), 972-231-5362.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 6-7PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-504 AN INTRODUCTION TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION**

Tim Milligan will cover the Wildlife Management law and requirements, the seven activity categories, plan options provided by Plateau, and resources/tips for record keeping. Time will be provided at the end to address questions about making the switch to a Wildlife Exemption from traditional Ag or Timber. This event will repeat on November 3. To register, go to [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4o0rdj1uTzG8ETQvdFVvvg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4o0rdj1uTzG8ETQvdFVvvg). Contact Information: 512-894-3479.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 7-8:45PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-479 BEGINNING BIRDWATCHING**

Glenn Olsen will cover the basics of how to get started, how to look for identification purposes, what to look for, concepts of bird family characteristics, body structure, habitat, behavior, and other key considerations. Cost: \$25.00; Optional Field Trip Fee: \$50.00, subject to class advisory, on Saturday, October 24, 8 AM - 4 PM. To register, go to <https://houstonaudubon.z2systems.com/np/clients/houstonaudubon/event.jsp?event=156&>. Contact Information: 713-932-1639, <https://houstonaudubon.org/about/contact.html>.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 7-8PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-530 CONSERVING THE RARE ASCLEPIAS PROSTRATA**

Michael Eason is the head of the Rare Plant Research and Conservation Program at San Antonio Botanical Garden and is the author of Wildflowers of Texas. He will discuss what is known and unknown about this rarely seen milkweed and the conservation efforts of the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

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

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 9-10AM WEBINAR****AT20-531 VIRTUAL TOUR OF KATHY LYLES' GARDENS**

Kathy Lyles, Native Plant Society of Texas member and former Fredericksburg chapter president, will take us on this tour and offer many tips and strategies for dealing with Texas Hill Country landscapes. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us>.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 12-1PM WEBINAR****AT20-553 BAT WINTER ROOSTS IN TEXAS**

In 2015, Texas Parks and Wildlife contracted with the Natural Resources Institute at Texas A&M to conduct a large-scale statewide survey of bat winter roosts in Texas. At the time, white-nose syndrome (WNS) was quickly spreading towards Texas. The research team conducted over 600 surveys at caves, bridges, culverts, and other roosts around the state. Dr. Melissa Meierhofer will provide some background on WNS and bats in Texas, discuss the surveys, and share some of their key findings. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2ltYtID>. Contact Information: Meredith Longoria, [meredith.longoria@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:meredith.longoria@tpwd.texas.gov).

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 7-8:30PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE****AT20-498 NIGHT HIKE AND BAT WALK**

Noah Lawrence and Bianca Garza will lead this family-friendly event. We will explore the nature center trails at dusk to see fireflies, bats, moths, owls, and other nocturnal animals, and will record bats using bat detectors. Maximum of 15 participants, who must be able to keep a moderate hiking pace. Wear closed-toed shoes and bring a flashlight. Cost: Members \$8.00, Non-members \$10.00, Children 6 and over \$5.00. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/35O4AuX>. Contact Information: Laurie Brown, [laurie@cibolo.org](mailto:laurie@cibolo.org), 830-249-4616.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 7-8PM WEBINAR****AT20-532 CARROLL ABBOTT GARDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) Kerrville Chapter created a garden at Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville that is dedicated to Carroll Abbott, NPSOT's founder. This presentation will cover a brief biography of Carroll Abbott, followed by views of the garden and the native plants represented. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 12-1PM WEBINAR****AT20-502 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION Q & A**

Tim Milligan and Avelon Powell will address your questions about making the switch from traditional Ag or Timber to a Wildlife Management valuation. You'll learn how to know if you qualify, how to get started, requirements for activities and proper record-keeping, and more. We'll be online for approximately an hour answering pre-submitted and live questions from anyone who attends. Submit your questions beforehand to [apowell@plateauwildlife.com](mailto:apowell@plateauwildlife.com), or come to the webinar with your questions ready, and get answers from a resource you can trust. This event will repeat on October 29, November 5, and November 12. [Click to register](#). Contact Information: 512-894-3479.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 1-2:30 PM WEBINAR****AT20-456 SPARROW IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

Join this Audubon workshop to learn which species have straightforward identification marks that make them easy to identify. To register, go to <https://audubonct.doubleknot.com/event/sparrow-identification-workshop/2723493>. Cost: \$10 per person. Upon registration, you will receive a link to log into the online classroom. Contact Information: Kate Pratt, [kathleen.Pratt@audubon.org](mailto:kathleen.Pratt@audubon.org), 203-405-9113.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 3-4PM WEBINAR****AT21-533 FRANKFORD CHURCH AND PRAIRIE: AN AWAKENING WITH KATHY WELLS POWER**

The presenter will be Kathy Wells Power, who has been president of the Frankford Preservation Foundation since 2014. She will present the history of Frankford from hundreds of years ago to the present, from the restoration of Frankford Church to the reawakening of the prairie after years of mowing, and will include a few bios of early settlers and the formation of the Foundation, its mission and its events. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 6-7PM WEBINAR****AT20-526 COASTAL BEND SOIL MANAGEMENT VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

The workshop consists of three 20-minute sessions, each followed by Q & A. Dr. Tony Provin: Overall cost effectiveness of evaluating your soil before planting. Dr. Katie Lewis: Is later season potassium foliar fertilizer worth the cost? Dr. Josh McGinty: Deep profile Nitrogen: Use it or Lose it. Contact Information: frank.Escobedo@ag.tamu.edu. To Join this Zoom meeting go <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7015618318?pwd=eGE3Nm5rbVFXeVBVYV1BtTVJDYWJtQT09>. Meeting ID: 701 561 8318. Passcode: soil.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 6:30-8:30PM WEBINAR****AT20-539 THE TRUTH ABOUT BATS AND COVID-19**

Rodrigo Medellín captivated audiences at last year's Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival. This year, he returns for a COVID-19 edition, with Q & A to follow. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rodrigo-medellin-on-the-truth-about-bats-and-covid-19-tickets-116040240483>. Contact Information: Rheda Boardman, rhedaboardman@yahoo.com.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 7-8PM WEBINAR****AT20-534 NATIVE GRASSLAND RESTORATION: HOW PLANTS GROW & HOW TO IMPROVE THEM**

Ricky Linex, a wildlife biologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and author of Range Plants of North Central Texas, A Land Users Guide to Their Identification, Value and Management, is the presenter. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 8AM-2PM WEBINAR****AT20-405 TPWD WILDLIFE TAX VALUATION**

Biologists will provide a general overview of the wildlife tax valuation, wildlife management plan development, and applicable management practices, followed by consultations. They will also go over how to fill out the wildlife management plan and provide examples. The website address and instructions will be sent to registered participants the week of the workshop. Contact Information: Erin Wehland, erin.wehland@tpwd.texas.gov. To register for this webinar, go to Wildlife Tax Valuation Registration page.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 9-10AM WEBINAR****AT20-535 COFFEE TIME AT THE LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER**

Andrea DeLong-Amaya, manager of the center's horticulture programs, will conduct this tour that's focused on maintenance and how these plants respond in a cultivated setting. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 6:30-8:30PM WEBINAR****AT20-541 DATE NIGHT: BEE MY HONEY**

Master beekeeper Cecile Parrish and chef extraordinaire Elizabeth Johnson will present a honey-inspired menu and honey tasting from three local farms. Also, they will assemble a meal kit that's available for purchase. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bee-my-honey-tickets-117608964579>. Contact information: Rheda Boardman, rhedaboardman@yahoo.com.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 12-1PM WEBINAR****AT20-540 GARDENING FOR MONARCHS AND OTHER POLLINATORS**

Marybeth Parson will focus on Texas-hardy native flowering plants that also provide color throughout the year. Contact Information: Rheda Boardman, rhedaboardman@yahoo.com. To register, [click here](#).

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 7-8PM WEBINAR****AT20-536 HISTORY OF OUR SOCIETY AND TOUR OF THE TWU BUTTERFLY GARDENS**

The Native Plant Society of Texas held its first meeting during Wildflower Day at Texas Women's University (TWU) in 1980, and TWU continued to play a large role in its early history. Dr. Camelia Maier, historian of the Trinity Forks Chapter and a professor and Herbarium Director at TWU, will present that history. Contact Information: <https://npsot.org/wp/vc2020/contact-us/>.

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 8-9:30PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE****AT20-515 PLANT WALK AND TALK**

Join Kim Ort, Texas Master Naturalist, on a stroll along the Guadalupe River Trail to explore the edible plant community. RSVP to reserve a spot. Space availability is limited. Call 257-4837 or email [rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 11AM-12PM WEBINAR****AT20-542 LOOK WHO'S COMING FOR DINNER!**

"Plant Lady," horticulturist, and restoration ecologist Lee Marlowe will share profiles of ten amazing native plants and their animal visitors. You'll learn how to create a year-round garden buffet for bees, butterflies, birds, and more during this virtual presentation. We are only able to support 100 viewers for this presentation. If you find you are unable to sign into the meeting, please check our new YouTube channel "NPSOT San Antonio" for a live stream of the presentation. The presentation will also be recorded and available for view on our YouTube Channel later in the week. Contact Information: Rheda Boardman, [rhedaboardman@yahoo.com](mailto:rhedaboardman@yahoo.com). To register: [click here](#).

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 1-2:30PM WEBINAR****AT20-551 AN INTRODUCTION TO ASTERACEAE**

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center horticulturist Amy Galloway will point out fall blooming asteraceae (popular among pollinators) and discuss how to care for them in your own garden or landscape. This is a virtual class with limited capacity so everyone will have opportunities to have their questions answered by the instructor. The class will not be recorded, so participants must plan to be present for the session in real time. Registrants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting prior to the event. Cost: \$25. Members receive a discount on registration. Contact Information: 512-232-0100. To register, go to <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Get-to-know-the-Asteraceae-Family>.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 7-8PM WEBINAR****AT20-558 POLLEN TRACKERS: HARNESSING CITIZEN SCIENCE TO FORECAST POLLEN FEVER**

Dr. David Katz will present his research, which focuses on understanding allergenic pollen and reducing its impact on human health. In relation to his current project, which is modeling airborne *Juniperus ashei* pollen in Texas, he is seeking observers to report when Ashe's juniper (aka mountain cedar), trees are releasing allergenic pollen. This AT will follow the Chapter Meeting which begins at 6:15.

<https://tpwd.webex.com/tpwd/j.php?MTID=m76e3b1f894219cf29363a604a25e1abe>

Meeting number: 133 586 2552. Password: uSK7FukvE53 (87573858 from phones). Contact Information: Katy Kappel, [katykappel@yahoo.com](mailto:katykappel@yahoo.com).

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 10AM-11:30AM WEBINAR****AT20-557 WANT TO DIG DEEPER WITH TXDOT ARCHEOLOGY?**

In this Roadside Chat, you will have the opportunity to learn about TxDOT's archeology program and how to voice your opinion on upcoming projects. Dr. Ben Alexander from the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State University and TxDOT archeologist Jen Anderson will discuss the training and use of cadaver dogs on archeology projects throughout the state. Hear how this innovative approach to archeological investigations has changed what we know about dogs and ancient archeological sites. Join us for an engaging presentation to learn why "A Dog's Nose Knows." To register, you must complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRJKGC5>. We will follow up with a registration link once your survey is completed. 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](mailto:mbrown-c@txdot.gov) or 512-264-1095.

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**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 12–1PM WEBINAR****AT20-518 INCLUSIVITY IN PROGRAMMING: NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Matthew L. Richardson and Elgloria Harrison will present a survey instrument designed to gather public perceptions and knowledge on natural resources and climate change. We will share the lessons we learned about effectively reaching people and how demographics of stakeholders need to be considered. You do not need to pre-register for this webinar. Space is NOT limited. Please plan to join the Webinar 15 to 30 minutes early so that you can register and successfully join the presentation interface. Approximately 30 minutes before this webinar's start time, the 'Join' button will be activated at <https://bit.ly/2Sz8u2T>. You may click it to begin the registration process. If you have not participated in one of our Adobe Connect hosted webinars before, please visit <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/faq/#firstTime> for information on how to setup Adobe Connect. Contact Information: Jennifer Ryan, [jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov).

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 12-1PM WEBINAR****AT20-505 PROPERTY TAXES IN CENTRAL TEXAS: WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?**

Mark Hefner will discuss the common types of open-space valuations—Agricultural and Timber—and how to transition to a Wildlife Exemption from either. It will cover property tax considerations for the Central Texas region, an introduction to Wildlife Management for your property, state and county guidelines and requirements, the seven Wildlife Management activity categories, and how Plateau can assist you with making the transition. Time will be provided at the end to address your questions. To register, go to [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BzgLd6XrQA2OeU4raUSzgg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BzgLd6XrQA2OeU4raUSzgg). Contact Information: 512-894-3479.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 3-4PM WEBINAR****AT20-544 BIODIVERSITY WITHOUT BORDERS: A NATURAL PATHWAY FOR COOPERATION**

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Canadian Consul General Rachel McCormick, and Mexican Consul General Dr. Ruben Minutti will kick off this two-part program. An exciting surprise announcement will follow and the program will conclude with a guided conversation by city representatives from Montreal, Guadalajara, and San Antonio, moderated by the staff lead for the international “CitiesWithNature” network (with Local Governments for Sustainability-USA). Contact Information: Rheda Boardman, [rhedaboardman@yahoo.com](mailto:rhedaboardman@yahoo.com). To register, go to: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AxPhmZScSGaAJNFZe8NvsA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AxPhmZScSGaAJNFZe8NvsA).

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 1-2:30PM WEBINAR****AT20-519 POLLINATOR HABITAT RESTORATION: PLANNING AND CONTRACTING**

In this second part of a two part series on pollinator habitat design and planning, learn what to consider in planning and contracting to help ensure the success of habitat plantings. In this webinar, planners will learn how to plan and contract pollinator habitat plantings. See the replay of Part 1 of this series (<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/inventory-and-design-opportunities-for-pollinator-habitat-on-working-lands>) to learn about habitat inventory tools and whole farm conservation planning approaches. You do not need to pre-register for this webinar. Space is NOT limited. Please plan to join the Webinar 15 to 30 minutes so that you can register and successfully join the presentation interface. Approximately 30 minutes before this webinar's start time, the 'Join' button will be activated at <https://bit.ly/2GP7ZyQ>. You may then click the join button and begin the registration process. If you have not participated in one of our Adobe Connect hosted webinars before, please visit <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/faq/#firstTime> for information on how to setup Adobe Connect. The presenters are Christine Taliga, Mace Vaughan, and Kelly Gill. Contact Information: Jennifer Ryan, [jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov).

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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 8:30AM-4PM LANDA HAUS, 360 AQUATIC CIRCLE, NEW BRAUNFELS**  
AT20-181 URBAN STREAM PROCESSES AND RESTORATION TRAINING

Information will be explained through classroom-style teaching in the morning session and hands-on activities in the field at a nearby stream in the afternoon sessions. Registration is limited to the first 40 people. **Cost is \$50** and includes all training materials, a catered lunch and a certificate of completion at the end of the course. **Registration is required by October 25, 2019.** Register online through the link below, or by email to [clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu). Lunch will be provided to participants or they may bring their own. Hip boots/waders are required. Contact Information: [clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu). To register, go to <https://twri.tamu.edu/our-work/engaging-educating/urban-riparian-stream-restoration-program/trainings/2019/october/urban-stream-processes-and-restoration-training-new-braunfels/>.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 2-3PM WEBINAR**

## AT20-520 HOW SHORT AND LONG TERM WILDLIFE RESEARCH CAN BENEFIT MANAGEMENT

Dr. Lora Smith is the presenter. You do not need to pre-register for this webinar. Space is NOT limited. Please plan to join the Webinar 15 to 30 minutes so that you can register and successfully join the presentation interface. Approximately 30 minutes before this webinar's start time, the 'Join' button will be activated @ <https://bit.ly/30JOGyd>. You may click the join button and begin the registration process.

If you have not participated in one of our Adobe Connect hosted webinars before, please visit <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/faq/#firstTime> for information on how to setup Adobe Connect.

Contact Information: Jennifer Ryan, [jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov).

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 6-7PM WEBINAR**

## AT20-502 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION Q &amp; A

This is a repeat of the program on October 22; see description above, on that date. It will be repeated also on November 5 and 12.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 6:30PM-9:30PM WEBINAR**

## AT20-543 PREMIERE OF 2020: A METAMORPHOSIS

This brief documentary uses the monarch butterfly's migration as a lens through which to view this unique moment in history and how we are adapting. The film follows the monarchs' 2020 multi-generation migration from Mexico on their journey north and back to Mexico in October. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/premiere-of-2020-a-metamorphosis-tickets-116045189285>.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 1:30-2:30PM WEBINAR**

## AT20-521 WHAT IS IN YOUR WATER?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of nearly 5,000 human-made compounds that have become a common part of our lives. Dr. Lara Smith will provide a basic understanding of PFAS. You do not need to pre-register. Space is NOT limited. Please plan to join the Webinar 15 to 30 minutes early so that you can register and join. Approximately 30 minutes before this webinar's start time, the 'Join' button will be activated at <https://bit.ly/2GK9Bdu>. You may then click that button and register. If you have not participated in our Adobe Connect hosted webinars before, please visit <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/faq/#firstTime> for information on how to set up Adobe Connect. Contact Information: Jennifer Ryan, [jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov).

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 12-1PM WEBINAR**

## AT20-504 AN INTRODUCTION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION

This repeats the Webinar presented on October 20; see the description on that date.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 12-1PM WEBINAR**

## AT20-502 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION Q &amp; A

This repeats the Oct. 22 Webinar. See the description on that date. It also will repeat on Nov. 12.

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**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 8-10AM WEBINAR****AT20-552 MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE LANDSCAPE**

Join birders from Travis Audubon and horticulturists from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on a walk focused on plants that migratory birds rely on for food and shelter. To register, go to <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Migratory-Birds-in-the-Landscape-05Nov2020>. Contact Information: 512-232-0100 or [info@wildflower.org](mailto:info@wildflower.org).

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 12-1:30PM WEBINAR****AT20-522 WOODS FOR WILDLIFE: FORESTRY FOR BIRDS AND HERBICIDES FOR HABITATS**

Aimee Tomcho and Benjy Strobe explain what bird species rely on forests, why their presence is a indicator of forest health, and how to use this information to speak with both foresters and landowners to maximize forest productivity. This webinar will also cover methods, tools, and application rates of herbicides frequently used in habitat management. You do not need to pre-register for this webinar. Space is NOT limited. Please plan to join the Webinar 15 to 30 minutes early so that you can register and join successfully. Approximately 30 minutes before the webinar's start time, the 'Join' button will be activated at <https://bit.ly/3lnxvu6>. You may then click the join button and begin the registration process. If you have not participated in one of our Zoom hosted webinars before, please visit <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/faq/#firstTime> for setup information.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR****AT20-477 THE FASCINATING NATURAL HISTORY OF PIGEONS**

Dr. Dan Brooks, curator of vertebrate zoology, explains what makes these birds interesting and important. Cost: \$18.00. This is an online event that will be conducted through Zoom. You will be sent Zoom access information 24 hours prior to the event via the email used during registration. To register, go to <http://store.hmns.org/Selection.aspx?sch=1221522>. Contact Information: 713-639-4629.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 6-7PM WEBINAR****AT20-502 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION Q & A**

This repeats the Webinar presented on Oct. 22. See the description on that date.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 7-8:30PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE****AT20-545 NIGHT HIKE AND ANIMAL TRACING**

Join expert herpetology naturalist, Jasmine Torrez, in exploring the CNC to examine the tracks and signs of our native animals of the Cibolo. Maximum participants: 15 (adults only). COST: \$15 members; \$20 non-members. To register, go to <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/animal-tracking/51946/tickets>. BRING: Closed toed shoes, flashlight, work gloves. Contact Information: Laurie Brown, [laurie@cibolo.org](mailto:laurie@cibolo.org), 830-388-7680.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 1-2:30PM HERFF FARM, BOERNE****AT20-546 FARM BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP**

Join Mike Mendez, Master Beekeeper and beekeeper for Jester King Brewery and Community First Village, for a virtual Introduction to Beekeeping class. He'll cover the basics of issues to consider if you're wanting to start beekeeping, equipment you'll need, costs, and everything you need to know about honey bees! Mike will be at the Teaching Barn on the 14th to answer questions in person and give live demonstrations. Cost: \$15 members; \$20 non-members. To register, go to <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/beekeeping/52252/tickets>. Contact Information: Maura Bobbitt, [maura@cibolo.org](mailto:maura@cibolo.org), 830-388-7681.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 9-11AM WEBINAR****AT20-357 TEXAS TREES**

Learn about tree selection and proper planting practices, as well as proper watering, pruning, common insect issues and diseases. To register, go to <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2020/november-14-2020-texas-trees-virtual/> and the link will be emailed to you. Contact Information: [wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:wateruniversity@ag.tamu.edu), 972-231-5362.

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We meet on the fourth Monday of most months (but not this month) at 6:45PM 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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*Questions about our chapter?*

Email Carla Stang

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