

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter

November 2020 Volume 18 Number 11



*horned lizards*

The November Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday, November 23, beginning at 6:15. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87305583297?pwd=d0FLQTIKVKlWRlgzVXJhQ3dPZmpGdz09>  
Meeting ID: 873 0558 3297 Passcode: 68927 Dial in # 1 346 248 7799 (Houston)  
One tap mobile: +13462487799,,87305583297#,,,,0#,,689278# US (Houston)

This meeting includes an Advanced Training event. Dr. James Gallagher will speak on the hows and whys of the Horned Lizard and Prairie Dog restoration project at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area.



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

This month, I would like to share news, updates, and changes that our State Directors are initiating to help our Chapters continue operations.

### FROM OUR STATE DIRECTORS:

All of the presentations at our Annual Meeting were recorded and can still be viewed and counted for AT credit if you registered for the Annual Meeting. You can still log in to the Annual Meeting and view any presentation that you would like to see again or any that you missed being able to watch during the meeting. Even though they are no longer live events, our directors declared that you can still get AT credit for viewing any of them. All sessions, except the Stream Team Riparian Evaluation presentation, will be available for viewing until April 2021.

Many of you have asked if there will be another Virtual Volunteer Fair and the answer is YES. The proposed dates are January 26, 27, 28 OR February 2, 3, 4. Confirmation of dates will be announced by the end of this month.

Beginning in January on the second Tuesday of every month, our directors will be starting TMN Tuesdays. This will be Virtual Advanced Training presented from noon to 1pm. It will be open to all Texas Master Naturalist Members across the state. They will be hosted via WebEx and they will be recorded for viewing at a later time. You are invited to send your ideas on what you would like these presentations to address. Send your ideas to Michelle Haggerty at [mmhaggerty@tamu.edu](mailto:mmhaggerty@tamu.edu) or Mary Pearl Meuth at [mpmeuth@tamu.edu](mailto:mpmeuth@tamu.edu).

You might want to check out the bookstore; there are some cool new products offered there:  
<https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/categories/1841.htm?searching=Y&sort=7&cat=1841&show=9&page=1>.

*continued on next page*

The Covid-19 Restrictions have been eased a little. We may now have in person gatherings for up to 75% of facility capacity but not to exceed 50 people. Masks are still required.

A Guidance Document for Community/Citizen Science Projects is posted on the State TMN Web Page. It is effective from November 2, 2020 thru December 31, 2021. If you are participating in any Community/Citizen Science Projects, you may want to check it out.

A new award pin will be distributed to all TMN Chapters in January. It is called the 2020 Against All Odds Pin and will be available for those with 8 hours of AT and 1 hour of Volunteer Service. Yes, that is correct; one hour of Volunteer Service. Here is a photo of the pin.



## FROM YOUR HILL COUNTRY BOARD

By the time you receive this newsletter, there will be a new IT Director on your Board of Directors and a Director for this position, Darryl Pitts, will have been appointed. He will be helping us deal with any issues we are having concerning the use of the Virtual Programming using Zoom and WebEx. The Board has just purchased a Pro Account with Zoom and our Chapter Meetings will be held using Zoom from here forward. However, WebEx will still need to be accessed for the special presentations such as TMN Tuesdays. We are aware that some of you who use Mac computers have had issues using the WebEx Application. The good news for you is that Darryl can help you with that. If you are having **chapter related** technology issues, you are invited to email a description of your issues to Darryl at [HillcountryITDirector@gmail.com](mailto:HillcountryITDirector@gmail.com) and he will work to help you resolve them. We want all of our members to be able to enjoy the virtual presentations that will be with us well into the future.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Darryl will need to train 10 of our members to learn how to use the Zoom and WebEx Applications. We will need these trainees ready to apply what they have learned by February when we plan to begin our new Training Classes, which are now in the planning stage. They will also form a Chapter Help Desk that will be able to assist our members with technical issues they may have. This is a fantastic opportunity to get professional training from a professional who is still active in the business world and beyond that **OUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!** You can contact Darryl at the email address listed above.

Be sure to read Darryl's bio, which is posted on the following page. We are very pleased to have a professional technical person on our Board to help us transition into the future that has been thrust upon us.

Nominations and elections of your Board Officers have been completed. The current officers were nominated, and they were reelected via Survey Monkey for the year 2021.

Our new Webmaster, Kim Ort, has started reformatting our Web Page. I think you will like the results when it is finished. Our goal is to have fresh and interesting content on the home page that will lead you to a lot of other interesting pictures, features, videos, and articles.

The chapter does not meet, and the newsletter does not publish, in December. The chapter will meet on January 25 and the January newsletter will be published on or about January 17. If you have items of interest to Master Naturalists for the newsletter, please send them to the Editor by January 14.

## This Month We Honor



### Initial Certification

Carol Knutson

### Special Recertification

Lorri Kendrick, Bernard Warren

### Recertifications

Richard Adams, Diana Armbrust, Lisa Center, Reggie Cox, Vern Crawford, Laurence Doxsey, Connie Fluegel, Diane Gierisch, Pamela Goolsby, Laura Grant, Robin Hale, Bob Hanson, Jim Jones, Lenore Langsdorf, Juan Leal, Travis Linscomb, Barbara Marquer, Kim Ott, Tony Plutino, Laurel Rhodes, Nancy Scoggins, Ron Scoggins, Joyce Studer, Kathy Ward

### Milestones

Connie Fluegel, Eldon Sheffer, Maura Windlinger - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly  
Constance Weaver - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly



### A Big Welcome To Our New IT Director, Darryl Pitts

I grew up in Southern California until my teen years, when I moved with my father and brother to San Angelo, where I graduated from San Angelo Central High. I lived in upstate New York where I had a pizza business for about 10 years, then sold it and came back to Texas. I attended Angelo State University as well as the University of Phoenix. I am a Microsoft certified system engineer and administrator with a specialization in security and exchange. I am married, and have four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. I became a Master Naturalist earlier this year, and am in my second year of becoming a Texas Master Beekeeper. I've taken three of the NPSOT native landscaping classes and plan to finish the other two in the spring when they become available. I'm an avid woodworker, photographer, and astrophotographer. A lot of my volunteering is at Old Tunnel State Park and in wildlife rescue; sometimes, at a release site for wildlife rescue.

From Darryl Pitts, IT Director

### A Few Ways to Join a Zoom Meeting

1. Download the app and join the meeting with the link like this <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87305583297?pwd=d0FLQTIKVKIWRlgzVXJhQ3dPZmpGdz09> which will connect you to the meeting because it's part of that link. It will open with the app but you can choose to join from your browser.
2. Follow the same link and choose not to download the app and connect using your browser (Edge, Chrome, Firefox).
3. Connect audio only by landline or cell, by dialing the number +1 346 248 7799, then entering the meeting ID and passcode when prompted. If you get a busy signal with one number use the next closest one +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) or +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago).
4. Connect audio only via your cell by either dialing the number, entering the meeting ID & passcode or open the email from your cell and use the one tap mobile which will dial meeting ID and passcode all in one string +13462487799,,87305583297#,,,,,0#,,689278#.

## Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 10/3/20 Life in Early Texas: Books to Read About Early Texas
- 10/10/20 Grass and Trees and God
- 10/17/20 Plant Succession: How Mother Nature Rearranges Her Landscape, and How We Are Involved
- 10/24/20 Animal Behavior: The More You Know, the More Amazing It Is
- 10/31/20 Cottontails and Jackrabbits: It Wouldn't Be Texas Without Them

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



From Greg Walton, Friends of Lost Maples

### Lost Maples State Natural Area

With the increasing crowds at Lost Maples this fall season, the park staff could use our help. If you are interested in volunteering at Lost Maples in the next several weeks, the staff there has plenty for us to do. They could use volunteers to help with greeting visitors, passing out maps and other educational material, gathering trash, helping hikers, patrolling the trails and other easy and useful tasks. They especially need help on weekends—Friday thru Sunday—although any help on any day would be useful. If you are interested please let me know (512-557-7211) or contact the Superintendent, Lisa Fitzsimmons, directly at [lisa.fitzsimmons@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:lisa.fitzsimmons@tpwd.texas.gov). As Master Naturalists, this is a great way for us to help the park and its staff fulfill their mission—and ours. See you there!



From Carla Stang, Membership Director

## Membership News

Hill Country members have been churning and burning...there are 24 people who recertified in October. Our year-to-date number of 2020 recertifications is up to 122. For some perspective: in 2019 we had a total of 157 recertifications and in 2018 there were 143 recertifications. So, in the year of COVID, we're doing pretty darn good. . .and the year isn't over yet! As a reminder for those still striving for their 2020 recertification, you have until Dec 31 to accomplish the volunteer and/or AT hours AND get the information entered into VMS by Jan. 3.

So what happens if you don't get all of the hours you need to recertify?? I have heard that some people thought that they lose their certification status or can no longer enter their volunteer time or AT hours into VMS. Well, let me reassure you that is NOT THE CASE. In reality, if you aren't able to get all of your 40 volunteer hours or eight AT hours completed (and entered into VMS), nothing earth shattering happens... except you will miss getting that particular year's certification pin. The volunteer hours you did accumulate will go into your "lifetime" hours and count toward Milestone Awards (250, 500, 1000, 2500, 4000, & 5000 hour increments). As with many things in our lives and society, January of the new year is a time for fresh starts. In January we all start with a zero count in our yearly volunteer and AT hour totals.

After four months of opportunities to learn about and experience some neat things about the Hill Country's ecosystem and some chapter projects, the Interim-Mentor Program is winding down its activities. The 29 folks who were our "prospective students" and their mentors had some beautiful days in fall to get outside, do some project work, and enjoy the changing seasons. I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who participated. In some ways, all of the preparations and activities that took place to support this program were "just things that we do." I know involvement and volunteering is a labor of love for most... and it is a reflection of "who we are." I'm so proud to be a part of this organization! Happily, the New Class Committee is turning the corner on finalizing plans for the Hill Country TMN Basic Course in the spring of 2021 and these prospective students all have guaranteed seats. We are all looking forward to the next phase of learning and exploring!

**Bird Walk  
& Talk**  
Led by Paul & Deloris Sellin  
November 21st  
8:00am-9:30am  
Join Paul & Deloris Sellin for a birding adventure  
around the Downtown dam!

Park under the Sidney Baker bridge in Louise  
Hayes Park. They will gather towards the front of  
the parking lot near the rivertrail path.

Space is limited!  
RSVP & face coverings required!  
RSVP to [rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com)  
or (830)257-4837

RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER PRESENTS  
**NED TALK WEBINAR:**  
**Celebrating Green**

**PRESENTED BY ELDON SHEFFER**  
Tuesday, November 17  
1pm

How lucky we are that plants evolved to  
oxygenate our planet for us!  
Have you ever wondered where plants  
come from and how they work?  
We'll learn how our green  
neighbors have adapted to their  
various environments while  
creating the air we breathe.

**Suggested \$5.00 Donation**  
Register at [riversidenaturecenter.org](http://riversidenaturecenter.org)  
or (830)257-4837

From Sheryl Pender, Class Director

## ANNOUNCING.....SPRING 2021 TMN BASIC TRAINING FOR NEW CLASS

The Hill Country chapter's spring TMN training plan is NEW: a blend of online training via Zoom and our YouTube channel, some classroom presentations, small study groups, and loads of outdoor activities that provide a laboratory for observation and learning.

Its merit is a balance of teaching ecological concepts and science with being outside in nature to see, touch, and do.

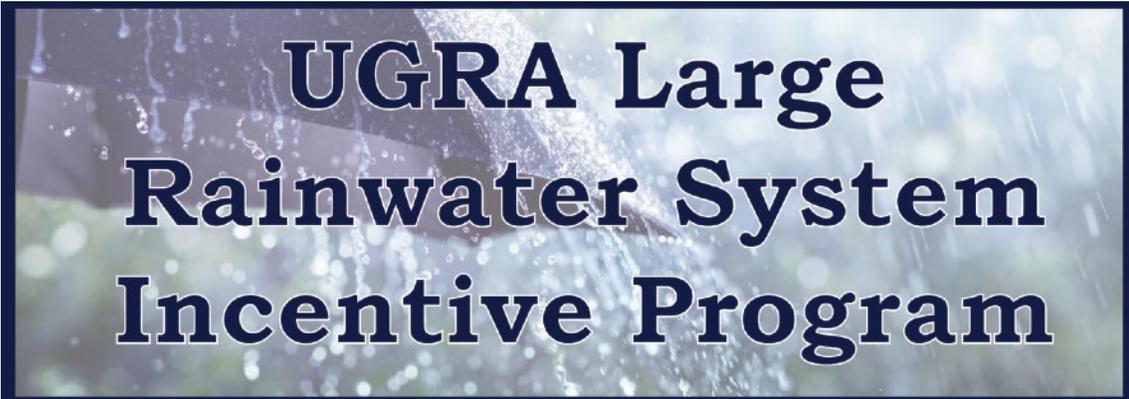
While we are super excited to be able to offer this training in 2021, we are also conscious of the social environment in which we are living. We will adhere to our COVID-19 protocols adopted in June by the Board of Directors.

The Texas Master Naturalist curriculum, supported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, will maintain our chapter's goal to educate students to gain a deeper knowledge of our Hill Country. Classes in ecology, geology, climate and weather, critical water issues, plants, animals, forests, and our precious rivers, streams, and springs will be included.

It is the 2020 Class Committee's goal to assist and support all students to become involved in our chapter's volunteer service projects and our communities' conservation efforts.

The Spring 2021 Basic Training class begins on Monday, February 22. Graduation is planned for the week of May 10. Class size is limited to 30 people.

The curriculum is for 12 weeks and includes about 20 classes; some online, a few in large classrooms or conference halls, and many outdoor field experiences. Meetings and classes will be held at various times during the week and on Saturdays, and trainees will have choices of small group activities to accommodate where they live and what is of interest to each member.



# 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)**

HILL COUNTRY MASTER NATURALISTS  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE PIN DISTRIBUTION  
DURING COVID 19 PERIOD  
Issued September – October 2020

INITIAL CERTIFICATION, 2019 Class



**Sharon Noack**



**Susan Parker**



**Lonnie Phillips**



**Lois Gaines**



**Billy Guin**



**Stephanie Roberts**

2020 ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION



**Janis Arterbury**



**Bob Binney**



**Jean Bodine**



**Lee Booker**



**Ron Childers**



**Koy Coffey**



**Ann Dietert**



**Gary Fest**



**Lois Gaines**



**Paula Harley**



**Veronica Hawk**



**Nancy Huffman**



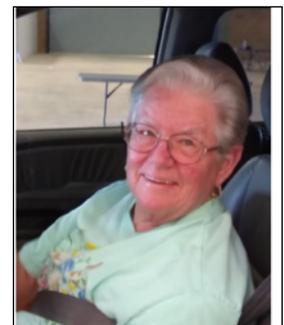
**Tyra Kane**



**Chris Keating**

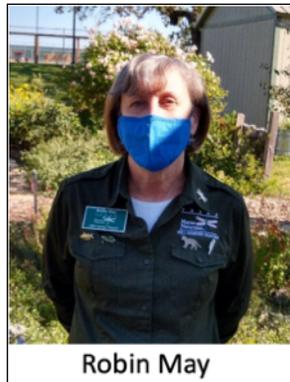


**Myra Langford**



**Susan Longacre**

2020 ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION



# MILESTONES



**Pat Lucas**

250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly



**Frank Garcia**



**Chris Keating**



**Kim Ort**



**Van Turner**

500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly



**Sheryl Pender**



**Carla Stang**

1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly



**Ric McCormick**

2500 hours, Polished Silver Dragonfly

Join us for a virtual  
**PLANT PARTY**  
**ALL ABOUT BRUSH**

**December 16, 2020**  
**10:30 am – Noon (CST)**

This **FREE, informal (and FUN!)** event will help you learn more about:

- Brush Identification Tips
- Endemic or Rare Plant Species
- Brush Sprouting Mechanisms
- Restoring Brush Diversity
- Management with Invora Herbicide

**TO REGISTER:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/27XCXN5>

For more information: [Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu),  
[Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov) or [Charles.Kneuper@usda.gov](mailto:Charles.Kneuper@usda.gov)



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

*Cibolo Nature Center & Farm Presents:*

**IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD:**  
*Homesteading Series*

*Plant Medicine +*  
*Make Yaupon Holly Tea*

**DEC 5TH**  
**1PM-2:30PM**  
**KIT PICK-UP**

Register: [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org) | (830) 249-4616 | [nature@cibolo.org](mailto:nature@cibolo.org)

*Cibolo Nature Center & Farm Presents:*

**LAND STEWARDSHIP**

*Prescribed Burn Workshop* | **DEC 5TH**  
 Ben Eldredge & Rufus Stephens

*Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop* | **JAN 9TH, 16TH, & 23RD**  
 Rufus Stephens

*Oak Witt Workshop* | **JAN 30TH**  
 Erin Davis,  
 Texas A&M Forest Service

*Prairie Restoration Workshop* | **FEB 20TH**  
 Bill Neiman, Rufus Stephens,  
 Ben Eldredge, TPWD Staff

Register: [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org) | (830) 249-4616 | [nature@cibolo.org](mailto:nature@cibolo.org)

*Winter Prairie Bird*  
*Workshop*

**DEC 10TH | 6PM-8PM**

Patsy Inglet, Bexar Audubon Society  
 Tom Inglet, Bexar Audubon Society

Register: [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org) | (830) 249-4616 | [nature@cibolo.org](mailto:nature@cibolo.org)

The View from Rusty Bend



*Moon and Swainson's Hawks*

Waiting with Emily

*I sing to use the waiting ~ Emily Dickenson*

No fingerdrum, toetap, keyjingle,  
I lean into you when waiting.  
You sang *the waiting* and so I aspire—  
waiting in line, waiting

in a room named waiting.  
My hope not so much for singing, more  
a tuning, learned from the passing of seasons.  
May my senses dilate when I wait.

I take my lessons where I can.  
Walking early, awe-gathering,  
I spy a young skunk  
with his bright stripe of white,

upending a mound of ants,  
runneling through them with abandon,  
his upright tail, a frosted tree.  
At last sated, his antics cease.

I wait. I don't sing.  
He stretches like a cat,  
flops on his back, writhes  
a zigzag for a scratch, still looking up

then stops, tranquil for minutes,  
to watch the sky go by.

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Rusty Bend in October is a celebration of angled light, as if all has been softened with gold. But this October is also a celebration of sights. We've always been a place to pause for migrating birds, and we have seen Swainson's Hawks perched in the trees before. This year however, the Rusty Bend Rest Stop was mobbed by Swainson's. They came in just before dark by the hundreds and perched on the trees near our house. In addition to their usual hoods and two-tone coloring, there were light morph, dark morph, and rufus morphs, roughly grouped by color. The next morning we got up and walked around to find them in almost every tree. Slowly, as it warmed up, they began to fly over the house, down to the neighbor's field for a snack of grasshoppers. From our own perch on the front porch, we started counting. 1226. After their snacks, they rose in three large kettles, up, up, around and off to Argentina.

Our sunset quiet times have also been graced with sights and sounds. One night Miss Bobcat saunters by, elegant in her ticked fur. Another night the sharp retorts of a buck fight on the river echo to us above. The cottonwoods have gotten so dry that their leaves sound like shuffled cards. As we sit until full dark, the Milky Way emerges, a river of stars, always a humbling sight. Then, from the west, broader and more brilliant than the diluted tracks of satellites, a sphere of silver streaks steady across the inky sky: the space station, three beating hearts within an arcing star.

The other sightings have been the butterflies, more than any previous year. We work to make Rusty Bend pollinator friendly, planting trees and bushes. The Kidneywood was an exuberant bloomer this year, complemented by the Cenizo, Aster, Cowpen Daisies, and the dependable deer-proof salvias. The American Snout fly-by lasted for more than a week and taught us daily about patterns in the wind.

Awe-gathering at Rusty Bend, fresh eyes, big smile, small self, a perfect cure for troubled times.



Grey Fox on the move

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 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).*

## ADVANCED TRAINING

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17-THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 6-8PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-568 ANGLER EDUCATION TRAINING WORKSHOP**

Adam Comer is the presenter for this free online three-day (two hours each day) workshop that is open to anyone 18 or older interested in teaching fishing skills in their communities. Registration is limited - the workshop Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants prior to the workshop. To sign up for this Zoom training, go to [https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/opp\\_details/221544](https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/opp_details/221544).

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 1-2PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-565 CELEBRATING GREEN**

Elden Sheffer will explain how our green neighbors have adapted to their various environments while creating the air we breathe. Register at <https://riversidenaturecenter.org/2020/06/24/ned-talk-webinar-registration>. Suggested donation \$5.00.

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 7-8:30PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-436 GEODES: TREASURES OF NATURE**

Walter Scarborough will explain what geodes (agates) are and how and when they were formed. Cost: \$10.00. To register for this Zoom webinar go to <https://registration.oli.ttu.edu/wconnect/ace/CourseStatus.awp?&course=20FOLAB0020>. Click on the "Enroll Yourself" button and follow the steps as they appear.

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 12-1PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-554 TEXAS KANGAROO RAT DISPERSAL AND MOVEMENT**

Joseph Veech will report on recent research on movement patterns and habit utilization by radio-collared Texas kangaroo rats. Sign up for this Wildlife Diversity webinar at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=TXPWD\\_1147](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic_id=TXPWD_1147).

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 2-4:3-PM WEBINAR**

#### **AT20-572 ALL ABOUT TREES: DESIGNING LANDSCAPES WITH TREES IN MIND**

John R. Warner, Texas A&M Forest Service; Michael Potter, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; Jordy Herrin, Texas A&M Forest Service; Allen Selmer, The Woodlands Township Environmental Services; and Connor Murnane, Texas A&M Forest Service will discuss science-based practices that demonstrate the connections between healthy trees in a natural landscape and trees not thriving due to improper selection, placement, care, and maintenance. To register for this free Webex event, copy and paste this link: <https://tfs.webex.com/tfs/onstage/g.php?MTID=e256d40173da3610ced01d393240962dd>.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 8-9AM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE**

#### **AT20-563 BIRD WALK AND TALK**

Paul and Deloris Sellin will lead this stroll along the River Trail to observe the avian inhabitants and learn about their life histories. All ages and levels of experience are welcome. Meet under the Sidney Baker bridge at Louise Hays Park. Space is limited; please RSVP to 830-257-4837 or [rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com).

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 8:30AM-2PM HILL COUNTRY YOUTH EVENT CENTER, KERRVILLE**

#### **AT20-565 KIMBLE, KERR, AND REAL COUNTIES HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Cost is \$10.00 by November 10th and \$20 thereafter. Check or cash only. To register, call Kimble County Extension Office: 325-446-2620 or Kerr County Extension Office: 830-257-6568.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 9:15-11AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN**

#### **AT20-460 TEXAS BIRDS 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. Registration is required; go to <https://bit.ly/3lzTyin>.

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.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 6:30-8:30PM WEBINAR**

AT20-472 CHAPTER MEETING: HORNED LIZARDS AND PRAIRIE DOGS OF MASON MOUNTAIN  
Dr. James Gallagher is the presenter. Please join with microphone and video muted. To join this Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87305583297>. Meeting ID: 873 0558 3297. For those attending via phone: One tap mobile +13462487799,,87305583297# US (Houston). Meeting ID: 873 0558 3297. To find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kpFst3VC0>.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 12-1PM WEBINAR**

AT20-555 SNAKE FUNGAL DISEASE IN THE BRAZOS BASIN  
David Rodriguez will present data on the prevalence and distribution of the organism responsible for causing Snake Fungal Disease (SFD) across the aquatic snake community in the Brazos River basin, with a specific emphasis on the Brazos water snake (*Nerodia harteri*). Sign up for monthly Wildlife Diversity webinars at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=TXPWD\\_1147](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic_id=TXPWD_1147).

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 6-7:30PM WEBINAR**

AT20-550 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: BACKYARD CHICKENS  
Brent Evans will explain the basics of coop and chicken run making, chicken care, egg production and how to integrate chickens into your lifestyle to provide your family food and laughs. If you are considering chickens for the first time or just looking for a few new tricks, this is the class for you. Get a chance to ask questions that have been holding you back from your dream flock! After the class, you are welcome to tour our chicken yard at the Herff Farm on Saturdays anytime between 9am to 1pm during our Farmers Market. Cost: \$5 per person. Register at <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/backyard-chickens/52765/tickets>. This is a ZOOM Workshop. You can also tour the chicken yard at Herff Farm on Saturdays from 9am-1pm.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 10-11:30AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN**

AT20-559 SUSTAINABILITY WALK  
Learn how the Botanical Garden showcases ways to conserve scarce resources. Its infrastructure, architecture and plants offer important lessons on building sustainable communities. Join specially trained docents on a walk to examine these diverse features. Face coverings required. Space is limited. Cost: Adults \$15, Children (age 3-13) \$12, Military (must show valid ID) \$13. Register at <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Sustainability-Walk-06Nov2020>.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 9AM-4PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE**

AT20-566 FIRE ECOLOGY - ELEMENTS OF A PRESCRIBED BURN  
Fire is a valuable land management tool that provides both ecological and financial benefits. When conducted properly, prescribed burning is safe and beneficial for wildlife and brush control. Experts in prescribed burning will provide you with everything you need to know to conduct a prescribed burn. This workshop is hands-on with fire equipment, allowing participants to take part in the process of creating a firebreak by using fire to prepare black lines (weather permitting). You will learn about resources and sensible burn strategies that minimize risks while helping you meet your management goals. Cost: CNC members and Hill Country Prescribed Burn Association \$50.00, Non-members \$60.00. Register at <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/fire-ecology/52359/tickets>.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 1-2:30PM HERFF FARM, BOERNE**

AT20-547 CULINARY AND MEDICINAL HERBS  
Maura Bobbitt will explain how to grow these plants in your own garden and various culinary and medicinal uses of these herbs. On December 5, visit the pop-up Herff Farm Apothecary to pick out ingredients covered in the class to make your own medicinal teas. If you cannot make the pick up time but still wish to participate in the class, email [maura@cibolo.org](mailto:maura@cibolo.org) to make other arrangements for pick up. Cost: \$15 members; \$20 nonmembers. Register at <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/culinary-and-medicinal-herbs/52041/tickets>. Maximum participants: 10.

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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 10AM-12PM WEBINAR**

AT20-570 RIPARIAN & STREAM ECOSYSTEM ONLINE TRAINING - SAN ANTONIO WATERSHEDS  
This two-part online workshop will feature a virtual training on the nature and function of stream and riparian zones and their benefits, to be viewed at the participants' leisure before the December 8 virtual meeting. The December 8 meeting will include a discussion with course instructors and watershed coordinators. This virtual training will be made available to registrants two weeks prior to the virtual meeting on December 8. This will allow participants to listen to the course at their own schedule. After finishing the course, join us on December 8 from 10-noon to hear about local watershed activities and engage in a discussion with the course instructors. RSVP is required by December 1 on the online form at <https://bit.ly/3lfAVPU> or by email to [clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu).

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 2-4PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE****AT20-569 NATURE JOURNALING**

Nancy Huffman will present nature journaling basics, starting in the classroom and moving into the gardens of RNC. Bring a sketchbook and a pencil and/or pen. Reservations are required; there are only nine available spots. Register in advance at SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/MjUSVAQ>.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 6-8PM WEBINAR****AT20-548 WINTER PRAIRIE BIRD WORKSHOP**

Tom and Patsy Inglet will present the techniques they use to identify winter prairie birds by sight and in flight. All workshop attendees will receive a link to the recording of the program and some relevant references. This is a Zoom workshop. Register at <https://www.cibolo.org/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/winter-prairie-bird-workshop/52042/tickets>.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15-THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 6-8PM WEBINAR****AT20-568 ANGLER EDUCATION TRAINING WORKSHOP**

Keira Quam is the presenter for this free online three-day (two hours each day) workshop that is open to anyone 18 or older interested in teaching fishing skills in their communities. Registration is limited - the workshop Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants prior to the workshop. To sign up for this Zoom training, go to [https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/opp\\_details/221544](https://tpwd.samaritan.com/custom/1353/opp_details/221544).

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 12-1PM WEBINAR****AT20-556 STATUS OF NELSON'S POCKET MOUSE IN SOUTH TEXAS**

Dr. Jessica Light will present the results of a study by TAMU that attempted to detect *Chaetodipus nelsoni* (Nelson's pocket mouse) in the Southern Texas Plains and Edwards Plateau ecoregions of Texas. Sign up for monthly Wildlife Diversity webinars at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=TXPWD\\_1147](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic_id=TXPWD_1147).

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 10:30AM-12PM WEBINAR****AT20-571 ALL ABOUT BRUSH**

Dr. Megan K. Clayton will discuss brush ID tips, endemic or rare plant species, brush sprouting mechanisms, restoring brush diversity, and management with Invora herbicide. Door prizes will be given away! Join this free webinar by registering at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/27XCXN5>. You will receive the link the day before the online meeting.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 9:15-11AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN****AT20-460 TEXAS BIRDS 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 behind the Admissions kiosk. Fee: Included with membership or general admission. Adults, \$15; Children, \$12; Military, \$13. Registration is required; register at <https://bit.ly/2G7a4WB>. WaterSaver Rewards Eligible. Bird Walks are scheduled every third Saturday, except during the summer months.

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T E X A S



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months (but not this month) at 6:45 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:15 for our social half-hour.

Everyone is welcome.

Texas Master Naturalist mission:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

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The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please email them to:  
Lenore Langsdorf, Editor  
[LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Membership Director  
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