

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

January 2021 Volume 18 Number 1



image by Lucy Griffith



The January Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday, January 25, beginning at 6:15.

There will be an Advanced Training event after the meeting. Dr. Christopher Keating will speak on the impact of heat—the “silent killer”—on public health and the advantages of using web-bulb globe temperature (WGBT) as compared with the heat index.

<https://tinyurl.com/yy5eu7te>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

Happy New Year 2021

Your entire Board of Directors and Officers held their virtual annual planning meeting on January 9. Our emphasis was focused on how to assist our members to continue to meet our mission objectives, which are imbedded in the Texas Master Naturalist Mission Statement. So, to emphasize those objectives, here is our mission statement with the objectives emphasized.

THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST MISSION STATEMENT

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 for the State of Texas.

Mission critical objectives:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers – Our New Class Training will begin on February 22 in order to develop a new group of well-informed volunteers.

To provide education – Our organization has ongoing opportunities for continuing education with ATs and through our projects that involve education opportunities not just for those involved but for the public as well.

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To provide outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our communities – This objective is reached by projects such as the PGARP and LMAP projects and volunteers who work in various State Park programs and maintenance, as well as projects that entail the gathering of data in the field to assist others' scientific research.

The 2021 Board Planning session was focused on you, our members. There was a lot of creative thinking on what we could do to help you fulfill your mission and recertification requirements in spite of the uncertainty of what 2021 may bring.

Be sure to check out the information in Project Director Tom Burke's list of projects you can participate in on an individual basis. That list is given below, on this page. These projects should allow you to fulfill your required volunteer hours even if the Covid-19 restrictions should be increased. Our AT Director, Deb Youngblood, is doing an outstanding job of locating virtual programs that qualify as ATs. In addition, the live ATs presented at our chapter meetings and those that our State Directors are presenting on TMN Tuesdays, will allow you to easily fulfill your AT certification requirements.

Other ideas that are evolving into a path to help our chapter members navigate the uncertainty of 2021 are being finalized and will be shared with you in next month's newsletter.

As President, I am asking that you begin to take the initiative to keep up with the current information that is available on our chapter webpage as well on the state webpage. All Covid-19 information will be posted on both webpages and the next update is due on January 21.

Get accustomed to using the newsletter and the two webpages to keep up with information and for scheduling of chapter events. Some of you may not know that there are three calendars on our webpage now. Kim Ort, our outgoing webmaster and Mackenzie Brown, our new incoming webmaster have our new webpage in good shape and in addition to the webpages, our Communications Director, Catherine Gaudin, manages our Facebook page and our YouTube channel. There is a lot of information there too.

Beginning in February, I will no longer be sending new information by email blast to the entire membership except in a case of extreme emergency. Information will be kept up to date on all of the platforms mentioned above, but critical information concerning chapter operations and opportunities will be promptly posted on our webpage. So, in some cases, the webpage info could change almost daily.

I do wish all of you a very Happy New Year and hope that 2021 will be kinder and gentler to all of us.

from Thomas Burke, Volunteer Service Projects Director

Volunteer Service Opportunities

Looking for a safe and approved way to obtain volunteer service hours during the COVID pandemic? Consider these solo project options: Chapter administration, board and committee work, assigned tasks and duties (HC-00-A). Attend chapter business meeting online, approved for 30 min (HC-00-A). Write an article for chapter newsletter, website, or local paper (HC-00-B-PO). Join CoCoRaHS and report rain totals and weather conditions (CC-05-F). Beautify your neighborhood through roadside and riparian clean-up (CC-06-A). Engage in citizen science activity like pollen trackers, bird counts, or native tree seed collection.

Even in COVID red zone counties, you may volunteer for garden maintenance projects (there are over 15) as long as they occur outdoors, involve less than 30 people, and you practice mask/ social distancing. Find something you like and get outside!

This Month We Honor

AWARDS BASED ON HOURS THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Initial Certification: Sue Burns

Special Recertification: Sharon Noack, Lonnie Phillips, John Shaver

Recertifications:

Dennis Akkola, Martha Bean, Penny Bryant, Teresa Coleman, Becky Etzler, Brenda Fest, Lisa Flanagan, Robin Graham, Tim Graham, Don Gray, Nancy Grimes, Scot Powell

Milestone Awards:

500 Hours: Robert Shock

1000 Hours: Joe Braly



AWARDS BASED ON HOURS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

Recertifications:

Catherine Gauldin, Jeralyn Hathorn, Sandra Haldeman, Becky Leal, Lynda Nollkamper, Lorraine Popp, Glenn Randow, Greg Walton, Bob Wiedenfeld, Sherrill Wilson

Milestone Awards:

500 Hours: Pamela Bird, Mark Richardson

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

12/5/20	Beauty, and Nature. In the Eye of the Beholder?
12/12/20	Nature Up Close---Observing Little Things of Wonder
12/19/20	Exotic Ungulates in the Hill Country
12/26/20	The Odyssey of Atom X
11/7/20	Winter is Coming
11/14/20	Soil: Too Valuable to be Called Dirt
11/21/20	Invasive Plants to Avoid in the Hill Country
11/28/20	In Defense of Cows

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

From Sheryl Pender, Class Director

A Redesign: 2021 Basic Training for new Texas Master Naturalists

The Hill Country chapter is making history.

A national pandemic has recalibrated how our social networks operate, how we look after the health of our communities and each other, and how we engage. It has propelled us to a new future of TMN Basic Training design, format, and structure.

Here are a few tidbits from the 2021 Training Curriculum:

We have reorganized our outdoor training by creating small groups trekking to over a dozen natural areas in our region.

We have online Zoom classes presented by some highly sought lecturers in the fields of ecology, citizen science, wildlife biology, Texas water resources, botany, and volunteerism.

We have Tech Topic seminars scheduled to help students get set up with the links and apps in order to be proficient in using computers to "plug in." And we have IT HelpDesk volunteers.

We have a series of study groups which offer time to discuss the themes, trends, content, and inquiries that this immersion-in-nature curriculum arouses.

We have only four events which will include all students together in a large indoor space.

Each student will create her or his own personal field trip later in the course.

And, much more.

From Catherine Gauldin, Communications Director

New Modes of Communication During the Pandemic

The COVID-19 restrictions that have been placed on us have made communication within the Hill Country Chapter somewhat more difficult. We have had to reinvent our way of doing things to accommodate the fact that we have not been able to gather for some time as a large group of Texas Master Naturalists. Our Chapter Meetings have moved to an online platform and we have had to rely much more on online resources such as Webinars and email communication between the smaller groups that are still out in the field, doing the work that Texas Master Naturalists love to do. It has taken a lot of time and effort on the part of the Board and many other people to put this new social media infrastructure into place so that our chapter can have the assurance that we are still a viable group dedicated to the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

Facebook Live

Because we have not been able to get together as a larger group, it has been my concern that members have the opportunity to be able to see, in virtual format if necessary, the work that others are doing. You may be aware that I have done two Facebook Live Feeds so far. The first broadcast of about 15 minutes was from the Apache Tree Distribution that took place on November 18, 2020 and the second took place for a few minutes at another Tree GiveAway, when trees were donated to our chapter by Medina Garden Nursery. I intend to use this platform a lot more, as it gives members the chance to see things happen in real time. I will place notices on the Facebook page as opportunities present themselves, especially to demonstrate to the membership what goes on behind the scenes as planners work to organize the activities we all strive to participate in to earn the hours we need each year to re-certify as Texas Master Naturalists. If any activity leaders are interested in having me come to their worksites to do a live feed, I would be more than happy to do so. Please contact me at communications@hillcountrytmn.org.

The Hill Country Chapter on Facebook

If you are not already aware of the fact that our Chapter has an official facebook page, please check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/TMNHillCountryChapter> or you can simply type in Hill Country Chapter Facebook and access the page that way. The page is not a closed group and anyone can post whatever they like; in other words, you do not have to “join” the group. Visitor posts go to what is called the “Community Page.” If you want to, you can post pictures of what you are currently working on and communicate with other members of the chapter that way as well as with members of other chapters around the state. We currently have 1323 follows on the page, but we need you to make it a resource that is more interactive and personal. As with any public forum, there have to be some ground rules, though. Please, if you post pictures, post only of members of the Hill Country Chapter doing Master Naturalist activities and do not publish any pictures of children.

The Hill Country Chapter on YouTube

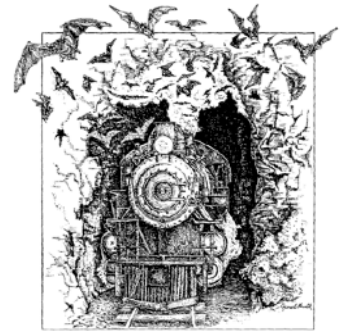
The fact that we use Zoom for our chapter meetings enables me to download the video and audio files directly from the Zoom account and archive the meetings on the Hill Country Chapter YouTube Channel. In doing that, we will have a permanent recording of what went on in the meeting in video format and anyone can view the chapter meetings from that platform, in case they were not able to attend the meeting. There will be more information about the YouTube channel next month, but the channel can be found at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRVDseVOlvKL9URsa17dAhg> or simply by typing “Hill Country Chapter YouTube” into your browser. There are nine videos on the channel to date, including the November 23 Chapter Meeting.

It is my pleasure to serve the Hill Country Chapter as your Communications and Social Media Director. All of the board members have new email addresses; mine is communications@hillcountrytmn.org. Drop me a line if you have suggestions as our chapter moves into the realm of social media and online communication.

From Nyta Brown, Old Tunnel State Park Superintendent

Old Tunnel Volunteers Needed

Old Tunnel State Park is looking for a few new volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email the Park Superintendent, Nyta Brown at nyta.brown@tpwd.texas.gov. She will follow up with you regarding the volunteer training process.



Volunteer Opportunities

Upper Viewing Area

- 🦇 Host – Greet visitors and direct them to sales table, interpretive table or upper seating area
- 🦇 Interpretive Table Host – Talk to visitors about display items and answer questions about bats, etc.
- 🦇 Gate “Keeper” (on Thursday-Sunday Evenings) – Stand at gate and only allow visitors who have a paid receipt down to the lower viewing area

Lower Viewing Area

- 🦇 Presenter – Give 30 minute to 1 hour presentation on bats and the history of the tunnel

Maintenance

- 🦇 Trash pickup – Trails, Parking lots and down both sides of Old #9 Hwy and Alamo Springs Road adjacent to OT property
- 🦇 Maintenance Workdays - Trail repair, weed trimming, brush clearing, etc.

Community Interaction

- 🦇 Lead special group tours on Monday through Wednesday evenings
- 🦇 Assist with giving bat presentations at local schools throughout the year

Research

- 🦇 Assist with data collection and checklists on plants, birds, mammals, and insects
- 🦇 Help with any bat related research performed at Old Tunnel

Incentive Program

- 🦇 Volunteer award program based on cumulative hours
- 🦇 Volunteer appreciation trips – at least three a year to various bat sites and natural areas around Texas

The View from Rusty Bend



Lady Guadalupe winterbare

Auguries

Beyond sight and song of birds, watch for whispers—
the branch-bounce, as if waving goodbye, after
takeoff of cardinal. Plucked by a recent shrike,
the twang of barbed wire, wavelets at the birdbath, or
a splashdance painted on river's edge.
Behind the purposeful flight of raven,
(for he knows what he knows) blooms a slipstream.
Feel the shirr of hummingbird wings
along your cheek. Know that the waking song
of Canyon Wren sings in your head
long into morning. A goldfinch slides down the
grass stem to secure a seed then flicks it back to sky.
Mind the tremble in the grass after a cast net of sparrows
settles, sinking out of sight.
Years later, still will you feel
the soft scratch of wrenfoot on shin.

In the depth of winter at Rusty Bend, the cypresses on the river have disrobed. The banks of the Guadalupe are felted with leaves and needles as if they absorbed the soul-soothing drift of leaf to earth. Repetition is no failure but an invitation to attend. What is the same highlights what is not the same. So we watch and revel in the joys of dormancy.

Some days prodigious fogs erase the hills, and only the valley remains. Other wet mornings, ground-huggers mimic an ocean below us, ringed with bare branches. That bareness heralds the great reveal. We see hidden barns, black lambs, and white ones that are almost transparent. There's a knot of upturned pecan, felled by the wind and of course the raptors are suddenly exposed. They shine like stoplights in the stark branches, then lift and fly away, their primaries mirroring the sun.

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During hunting season, when we hear shots, I watch for ravens. Sure enough two row by, muttering to each other, or maybe at me and my impudent “becaw.” They land nearby and seem to discuss the situation with their delicious glottals. After fifteen minutes or so, I swear they look at each other, then nod as if to say “that’s enough waiting” and head directly to the source of the shot. After field dressing, a gut pile buffet awaits.

This season invites a change of focus, a leafless expansion of view that sharpens the gaze. Up close, at the birdbath, we enjoy whatever migrants a north wind might bring in. Hermit Thrush, Spotted Towhee and our beloved White-crowned Sparrows, the peacemaker of the bird kingdom. They get along with all and sundry.

If I look closely when the wind from the north is light and airy, I will see fine lines of spider web drifting south. Another repetition, another gift. Then I pull back to overview, look—wintersun smolders like a flame in a cupped hand.



A guest from parts West, lovely Pyrrhuloxia

Poem, images, and essay by Lucy Griffith
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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.

From Katy Kappel

Texas Water Specialist Training

Are you concerned about threats to the future of water in our area and our world? With the new year comes a new opportunity to be certified as a Texas Waters Specialist. The first of 8 monthly webinars is Thursday, January 21 @ 6:30-7:30 PM CT - Shark and Fish Larvae Impacted by Microplastics, with Elise Pullen, TPWD VISTA, and Jenna Karr, University of Hawaii.

The entire series is listed on the TPWD website, and you can register online. The textbook is also online, or you can request a print copy.

Each year, recertification requires 10 hours of volunteer hours in water-related programs. I participate in the summer *e.coli* studies done by the UGRA, and the river cleanup counts as well.

For more information, or to register, go to [Texas Waters Specialist — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#).

ADVANCED TRAINING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT21-030 BLUEBIRDING BASICS

The symbol of the bluebird is found in many cultures and dates back thousands of years. This talk explores the life history of this famous bird and what we can do to help arrest its decline. To register, go to <https://riversidenaturecenter.org/>, call 257-4837, or email rnc.kerrville@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 4:30-5:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-093 HOW TO SELECT BINOCULARS & FIELD GUIDES:

The Gulf Coast is home to so much feathered beauty! Join Kristine Rivers of Birding for Fun for the second of an eight part series on the wonderful world of birding. No charge; to register, go to <https://rosenberg-library.org/events/library-events/#adult-events>. Contact Information: 409-763-8854.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 6-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-013 POND STOCKING

Todd Sink will discuss common pond species that may be used in pond stocking, basic genetics for stocking largemouth bass, and advantages and disadvantages of hybrid species commonly available for pond stocking. Cost:\$35.00. To register, go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/registerForEvent/3291>. Contact Information: agriliferegister@tamu.edu.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 6-7:15 PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-047 SCHOOLYARD HABITATS: RESTORING NATIVE HABITS ONE SCHOOLYARD AT A TIME

Jillian Bell will discuss how Audubon Connecticut's Schoolyard Habitat Program is inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders. No charge; to register, go to <https://learning.ndal.org/courses/jan-19-2021-schoolyard-habitats>. Part of NDAL series for home gardeners and educators, sponsored with Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Series information at https://ndal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021_NDAL-Winter-Home-Gardener-Programs-Brochure_final-2.pdf NDAL contact Information: 520-518-0430, info@ndal.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 6-7PM WEBINAR

AT21-088 PROPERTY TAX OPTIONS FOR TEXAS LANDOWNERS

Learn about your property tax options and how a Wildlife Management valuation, more commonly referred to as "Wildlife Exemption," can simplify owning land in Texas. This webinar will discuss the common types of open-space valuations (Agricultural and Timber) and how to transition to a Wildlife Exemption. No Charge; to register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iYefRXr9SbWjrWq8_S50gQ.

Contact Information: <https://plateauwildlife.com/contact/>. This event repeats on 02/11, 02/16, 03/02, 03/09.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 8:30AM-5PM WEBINAR

AT21-012 LANDSCAPE WATER BUDGETING

Charles Swanson is the presenter. Cost: \$165. To register, go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/registerForEvent/3188>. Contact Information: agriliferegister@tamu.edu.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-002 STATUS OF TEXAS POCKET GOPHERS

Michaela Hasley will discuss the population and conservation status of Texas pocket gophers as is studied through population genomic tools. Sign up for monthly Wildlife Diversity webinars at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic_id=TXPWD_1147. Contact Information: Meredith Longoria, meredith.longoria@tpwd.texas.gov.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 10AM-11:30PM WORKSHOP AT SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT21-041 WATERSAVER WALKING WORKSHOP

Explore the Botanical Garden's WaterSaver Gardens with a Master Naturalist. Face coverings required. Space is limited. Free to members or with paid admission, but registration is required. Meet at 10:00am behind the Admission kiosk. To register, go to <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Water-Saver-Walks-Thursdays--w-Registration-21Jan2021>. Contact information: 210-536-1400, info@sabot.org.

The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow listing all details for every AT event.

Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT events and details.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 6-7PM WEBINAR**AT21-087 CONVERTING TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION**

This webinar will provide a basic understanding of the Wildlife Management property tax valuation, more commonly referred to as a "Wildlife Exemption"; the Wildlife Management law and requirements, how to qualify and how it works, examples of the seven wildlife activity categories, resources/tips for success, and how Plateau can assist to make the transition easy and stress free. Time will be provided at the end to address questions about making the switch to a Wildlife Exemption from traditional Ag or Timber. Go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iXvCfmP1TLi6gxjUBv99Wg to register. Contact Information: <https://plateauwildlife.com/contact/>. This event repeats on Jan. 26, Feb. 4, 9, 18, and March 4.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR**AT21-077 SHARK AND FISH LARVAE IMPACTED BY MICROPLASTICS**

Jenna Karr will report on her research at the Center for Marine Debris Research (CMDR) on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. She will discuss a brief timeline of plastic in the marine environment and focus on a subset of her research in which she investigated the accumulation of plastics in waters surrounding Oahu and how it impacted larval fish communities. Elise Pullen will expand on the effects of plastic on marine life by highlighting her research with Atlantic Sharpnose Sharks in South Carolina. She will further examine the process of biomagnification and explore the impacts on ecological communities. No charge. To register, go to: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3895787812536587791>. Contact Information: melissa.Alderson@tpwd.texas.gov.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 10AM-3PM WEBINAR**AT21-004 WILD WORKSHOP**

Professional development for anyone who works with children. Project WILD invites you to explore and share the fascinating world of wildlife and ecosystems using fun, hands-on educational activities. You will experience engaging TEKS-aligned activities while networking with other educators. Workshop participants receive The Project WILD Curriculum book and Texas-specific resources. Anyone who works with children, including teachers, homeschoolers, informal educators, day care providers, and scout leaders is welcome. Online workshop plus two hours independent field work is required. (Upon completion of the independent work, pick up your books at McKinney Falls State Park.) Cost: \$35 Preregistration required. No refunds unless cancelled by TPWD. Registration fee is for WILD training. WILD materials are distributed only with requisite hours of training. Attendance and participation in the entire workshop are required to receive any of the materials, regardless of fee payment. Register for this training at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehc498btf8cfd252&llr=t7fgmrfab>. Presenter/ Contact Information: Kiki Corry 512-389-4369 kiki.corry@tpwd.texas.gov.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 10AM-12PM WEBINAR**AT21-065 TCIN TEACHER WORKSHOP - USING THE OUTDOOR SPACES ON YOUR CAMPUS - PT 2**

With COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing, schools are looking for creative ways to address the needs of their students in the upcoming school year. Join experts in the field as they discuss the tips and tricks of taking your class outdoors. Also addressed will be best practices for outdoor lessons and how various subjects can be transitioned into outdoors learning. The workshop will feature breakout rooms and working with various experts in the field of outdoors learning. CPE credit will be offered. No charge. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tcin-teacher-workshop-using-the-outdoor-spaces-on-your-campus-pt-2-tickets-127494155451>. Contact Information: Sarah Coles scoles@texaschildrennature.org or Sandra Williams sandra.williams2@tpwd.texas.gov.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25 10AM-3PM WEBINAR**AT21-094 UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIELD GUIDE**

Kristine Rivers of Birding for Fun will be the presenter. No charge. To register, go to <https://rosenberg-library.org/events/library-events/#adult-events>. Contact Information: 409-763-8854

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MONDAY, JANUARY 25 6:15- 8:15PM WEBINAR AND HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETING

AT21-029 HEAT AND THE WGBT

Dr. Christopher Keating will discuss the dangers of heat for people and livestock in Texas and the advantages of using the wet-bulb globe temperature (WGBT) as compared to the heat index. Nicknamed "the silent killer," the impact of heat on public health is frequently underrated because it fails to make the big headlines that accompany other forms of weather-related disasters. Join the Zoom Chapter Meeting and AT at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88596485278?pwd=NWV5NFcwREFDL3hiR1BncIA3ejcrQT09>.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 12-3:30PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-005 RESEARCH ON LANDSCAPE

Ecologist Stephen Handel and landscape designer Larry Weaner will present detailed case studies that apply research data to landscapes. Cost: \$78. Register at <https://learning.ndal.org/courses/jan-26-2021-research>. Part of NDAL series for professionals. Series information at https://ndal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021_NDAL-Winter-Prof-Programs-Brochure_final.pdf. NDAL Information: 520-518-0430, info@ndal.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT21-017 MONARCH CONSERVATION: EVALUATION OF CANOPY STRUCTURE

Dr. Stu Weiss will present his methods for assessing overwintering habitats, using hemispherical photography and LiDAR to quantify wind and sun exposure within forest canopies. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y66cwu2c>. Contact Information: education@monarchjointventure.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-051 BIRDS OF PREY: SOME BIOLOGY, SOME ECOLOGY, AND MAYBE A FEW ID TIPS

Matt Reidy, a wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, will give us an overview of birds of prey. This webinar is held in conjunction with the Bexar Audubon Society meeting. No charge. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84626313053?pwd=b1RyczRQbnFuOG9hVVY4UFcyOGhPQT09> to join the meeting. Registration is not required. Contact Information: <https://bexaraudubon.org/meetings-events/>.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 10-11:30AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT21-042 THE ETHNOBOTANY OF NATIVE PLANTS WALKING WORKSHOP

This seasonally changing tour will explore the three Texas Native Trails, exploring the diverse relationships people have, with plants. This class is also on Feb 25 and March 25. Masks are required. Free to Botanical Garden members or with paid admission, but registration is required. Cost: Military (must show valid ID) \$13. Children (age 3-13) \$12, Adults \$15. Meet at 10:00am behind the Admission kiosk. Register at <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/The-Ethnobotany-of-Native-Plants-Walking-Workshop-28Jan2021>.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 6-7PM WEBINAR

AT21-092 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION Q&A

This webinar 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, or come to the webinar with your questions. Cost: no charge. To register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RfVnMgi2S_eiQwh-bQEKiA.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 12-1:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-089 A REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS OCCURRING IN 2020

Greg Carbin will present an overview of hazardous weather episodes impacting life and property within the United States during 2020 (and the top 10 events in the past decade ending in 2019). The presentation will include descriptions of significant and deadly weather events of the past year. Along with the meteorological set-up for each event, an impact summary will also be provided. No cost. Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sgTt5GqQStW9aqGrbTzlew. Contact Information: angela.margrave@noaa.gov.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 9:00AM-12:00PM WORKSHOP

AT21-006 OAK WILT WORKSHOP

Erin Davis, Staff Forester with Texas A&M Forest Service, will present an explanation of oak wilt and how to recognize, prevent, treat, and anything else you might need to know about this disease. Cost: Members \$25, Non-members \$35. Register at <https://cibolo.org/calendar/oak-wilt-workshop>. Registration is limited to 15 people. Event Location: 140 City Park Road Boerne. Contact Information: Laurie Brown, laurie@cibolo.org, 830-388-7680.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 4:30-5:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-095 USING YOUR FIELD GUIDE

Join Kristine Rivers of Birding for Fun for part four of an eight part series. Cost: No charge. Register at <https://rosenberg-library.org/events/library-events/#adult-events>. Contact Information: 409-763-8854

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 6-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-015 WILL MY AQUATIC VEGETATION RETURN?

Brittany Chesser will discuss how certain species of aquatic plants are able to persist during the colder months and what types of aquatic vegetation you may be battling again this year. In order to help you get ready for the spring, we will cover potential prevention methods, discussing their feasibility including money, labor, and timing. Cost: \$35.00. Register at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/registerForEvent/3294>. Contact Information: agriliferegister@tamu.edu

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 11:00AM-12:30PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-049 NAVIGATING RACE & INCLUSIVITY IN COMMUNITY GARDENS

Well-meaning people have been organizing since the dawn of the local food movement to create vibrant, urban garden spaces in an effort to build and support their communities. How can we ensure that our work as community organizers and gardeners is doing more help than harm? How can we avoid actions (often unconscious) that can potentially turn an inclusive space into an unwelcoming one, and explore what we can do to create a beautifully diverse garden community? No charge. To register, go to <https://learning.ndal.org/courses/feb-2-2021-community-gardens>. Part of NDAL series for home gardeners and educators. Series information at https://ndal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021_NDAL-Winter-Home-Gardener-Programs-Brochure_final-2.pdf. NDAL contact Information: 520-518-0430, info@ndal.org.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 2-3:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-100 AXIS DEER IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

During this free webinar, participants will learn about Axis Deer biology, ecology, and impacts that free-range populations are having on the Texas Hill Country. No charge. No registration required. To join this webinar, go to <https://zoom.us/j/93754658053>. Those needing to participate by phone on February 2nd, call 1-346-248-7799 and then dial the Meeting ID: 937 5465 8053. Contact Information: gillespie-tx@tamu.edu.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 2-3PM WEBINAR

AT21-059 TCIN 2020 SUMMIT SESSION: CONNECTING TO NATURE THROUGH ART & WRITING

We will explore sketching and writing as a powerful observation tool that gives everyone the means to better connect with the flora and fauna. Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program will provide curriculum ideas that help to engage visitors in the natural and cultural history of their own communities. These activities are cross curricular and can be adapted for one day trips or year long projects. You will create your own journal of ideas to take back to your facility and use. Handouts will include a yearlong sketching class outline, nature journal prompts, writing prompts, and example field journal pages for your use. No charge but suggested Donation is \$20. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tcin-2020-summit-session-connecting-to-nature-through-art-writing-tickets-116959445851>. Contact Information: Sarah Coles scoles@texaschildreninnature.org or Sandra Williams sandra.williams2@tpwd.texas.gov.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 12-1:00PM WEBINAR

AT21-087 CONVERTING TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION

See description on January 21.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 10-11:30AM WALK AT SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT21-037 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. Masks are required to participate in this program. Space is limited. Meet at 10 am behind the Admission kiosk.. Cost: Adults \$15; Children (3-13) \$12; Military (Must show valid ID) \$13. Register at <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Sustainability-Walk-05Feb2021>. Contact Information: 512-536-1400; info@sabot.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 1-3PM WEBINAR

AT21-043 THE SCIENCE OF POLLINATION- VIRTUAL – NEW!

Dr. Alice LeDuc will walk you through the science of pollination and the adaptations plants have made to find their perfect match. In this two-part series, you'll also learn techniques for finding the best plants to attract pollinators to your garden. This virtual series will be held via Zoom in two sessions; second session will be February 13, 1-3 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required. Participants will receive an email with the link for the Zoom meeting prior to the event. Make sure you have Zoom installed and set up to participate. Cost is \$40 per person. Members receive a discount on registration. Register at <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Pollinator-Plants>. Contact Information: 512-232-0100, info@wildflower.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 7AM-4PM WEBINAR

AT21-001 CONFERENCE ON HEIRS' PROPERTY AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

This virtual conference will bring together experts in heirs' property, including forest landowners experiencing it firsthand. We will share ideas and perspectives, provide updates on legal developments, and present results from two integrated research and outreach initiatives. The main focus is on African American forest landowners located in the southeastern states but we will also discuss heirs' property issues nationwide. You do not need to pre-register for this webinar. Approximately 30 minutes before start time, the 'Join' button will be activated at <https://bit.ly/3iKWwOs>. Once the 'Join' button is available, you may click the join button and begin the registration process. Please allow 15 to 30 minutes so that you can register and successfully join the presentation interface. Contact Information: Puneet Dwivedi (puneetd@uga.edu, 706-542-2406); John Schelhas (USDA Forest Service, john.schelhas@usda.gov, 706-559-4260); Marc Thomas (Fort Valley State University, Thomasm@fvsu.edu, 478- 825-6112).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 4:30-5:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-096 LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! UNDERSTANDING HABITAT

Join Kristine Rivers of Birding for Fun for part five of an eight part series on the wonderful world of birding! We'll be learning about location and habitats. No charge. Register at <https://rosenberg-library.org/events/library-events/#adult-events>. Contact Information: 409-763-8854.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 6-8PM WEBINAR

AT21-070 INTRIGUING COASTAL PLANTS OF TEXAS – DISTANCE LEARNING

Texas has 370 coastline miles, covering 14 counties. Numerous vegetation types such as barrier islands with dunes, mud and salt flats, coastal marshes and prairies, and river deltas can all be found within our borders. Join Michael Eason as he covers some of the intriguing common and rare plants found along our coast, as well as seed dispersal, pollination biology, and the biogeography of these plants. Participants will be asked to take a brief survey allowing the Botanical Garden to get credit from SAWS; participants will receive their refund and any WaterSaver Rewards Points. Cost: \$10 deposit refundable upon completion of the post-workshop survey. Register by Monday, February 8 at 6 pm. at . A weblink and instructions will be sent after registration closes. If you do not receive the email, contact conservationcoordinator@sabot.org.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 SYMPOSIUM**AT21-069 URBAN RIPARIAN SYMPOSIUM: DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE**

The Urban Riparian Symposium provides an opportunity for natural resource professionals to share ideas, discuss management and policy issues, lessons learned in urban riparian and stream planning, assessment, design, construction, and evaluation. The symposium will be held virtually and will include presentations, panel discussions, virtual socials. Keynote speakers, panels, and concurrent sessions will take place in the mornings Wednesday - Friday. Wednesday afternoon will include virtual workshops and Thursday evening will include the virtual Poster Session and Reception. Virtual networking sessions will also occur throughout the Symposium. Early/Student registration is \$75 before January 17th. Late registration from January 17th - February 5th will be for \$90. Included with your conference registration is a complimentary, one year membership to the Texas Riparian Association. Refunds will be available prior to February 1st less a \$15 processing fee. There will be no refunds for cancellations after February 1st, but substitutions are allowed, providing that notification is sent to Clare Escamilla clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu in advance. Register at https://secure.touchnet.com/C21490_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=14334. Contact Information: Clare Escamilla, 210-277-0292 ext 205, clare.entwistle@ag.tamu.edu

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 10:00AM – 11:30AM WEBINAR**AT21-052 CITY NATURE CHALLENGE: USING INATURALIST FOR SCIENCE AND LEARNING**

Join us for a presentation on how iNaturalist and the City Nature Challenge contribute to conservation, and how you can participate and contribute. You'll be introduced to iNaturalist, our Texas Nature Trackers program, and the ins and outs of the CNC. Be sure to create an iNat account on your computer first, then download the app to your phone so you can practice. Presenter: Craig Hensley. No cost. Registration link will be available closer to the presentation date at <https://bexaraudubon.org/meetings-events/>. Contact Information: bexaraudubonsociety@bexaraudubon.org

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 6:00-8:00PM WEBINAR**AT21-109 BACKYARD CHICKEN BASICS**

Join co-founder Brent Evans on our virtual journey on how to keep backyard chickens. Learn 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 the questions that have been holding you back from your dream flock. After the class, you are welcome to come tour our chicken yard at the Herff Farm on Saturdays anytime between 9 am to 1 pm during our Farmers Market. All workshop attendees will receive a link to the recording of the program and some relevant references. Cost: \$5 (recommended donation). Register at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E347453&id=39>. Contact Information: Laurie Brown laurie@cibolo.org. 830-388-7680

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 12:00PM – 3:30PM NADL WEBINAR**AT21-075 NURSERY TO DESIGN: NATIVE PLANT PURCHASING AND SITE LAYOUT**

The ecology-based landscape movement is slowly changing the way plants are being grown, procured and planted. This includes alterations in species, propagation technique, size, packaging, site layout, and the expanded use of seed. In these presentations a nursery grower, seed producer, and landscape contractor will illustrate what designers and planters need to know about new developments in how to handle plants and seeds before and after arriving at a project site. Cost for this session: \$78. To register, go to <https://learning.ndal.org/courses/feb-12-2021-nursery-to-field>. Part of NDAL series for professionals, Series information at https://ndal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021_NDAL-Winter-Prof-Programs-Brochure_final.pdf. NDAL contact Information: 520-518-0430, info@ndal.org. sent after registration closes. If you do not receive the email, contact conservationcoordinator@sabot.org. 210-536-1400.

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T E X A S



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months (but not during this pandemic) 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

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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hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

