

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

February 2021 Volume 19 Number 2



image by Lucy Griffith



The February Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday, February 22, beginning at 6:30.

Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88596485278?pwd=NWV5NFcwREFDL3hiR1BnclA3ejcrQT09>

Rufus Stevens will speak on "The Ecological Impacts of Overabundant White-tailed Deer and Exotics" for the Advanced Training session immediately following the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elsa Roberts

THE ANNUAL SPRING TEASE

It seems as soon as Christmas is over my thoughts turn to Spring; February and March offer us a few days that tease us with Spring weather only to snap us back into the reality that Winter is still with us. If the weather forecast is correct, by the time you receive this newsletter, we will be back in the deep freeze again, but that has not stopped me from making decisions about what new plants will be going into my pollinator and vegetable gardens. So, hurry up Spring. I'm anxious to get started.

2021 TRAINING CLASS

The 2021 Training Class will be starting on February 22 and the new trainees' bios and pictures are published in this newsletter. It is unfortunate that we won't have the traditional opportunities to meet them personally but you will have the opportunity to meet them virtually at our Chapter Meeting on February 22 and as they begin to involve themselves in volunteer projects, you may have the pleasure of meeting them on a one-to-one basis as they move through the training.

VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETINGS

Speaking of our virtual Chapter Meeting, you will receive an email with a link to join the Chapter Meeting each month. To receive AT credit for the meeting, you must log into the meeting via that link which allows you to participate in the required question and answer period with the presenter. We are live streaming our Chapter Meetings to our Facebook page and you can watch them there, but that option does not allow you to receive credit for the AT. So please join us by Zoom, using your computer, tablet, or phone, and invite your neighbors and friends to join us on Facebook. This month we will have a special guest, Nyta Brown from Old Tunnel State Park. She has some volunteer opportunities to offer to our members.

continued on next page

OUR WEBSITE

Our Website is the place for you to get information about our Chapter activities that you need to know. The Zoom link to our monthly Chapter Meetings, which will allow you to log in live, can be found there. Announcements of opportunities you will want to take advantage of also will be found there, as well as updates on the latest guidelines for conducting and participating in chapter projects. Please go exploring on our Chapter website, which has been updated and reformatted to make it easy to find news you can use. Also, use the convenient links to our Facebook page and our YouTube Channel that are located on the right side of the banner. These take you directly to our official media sites. You will enjoy the postings there.

TMN TUESDAYS

If you missed this month's TMN Tuesday AT with Doug Tallamy, you missed a real treat. These sessions are scheduled for every month, except October, throughout 2021. Preregistration is required to receive the link that will allow you to log into these presentations and they are all eligible for AT credit. You will find a link to the registration form on our website. There were over 1700 people registered for this month's presentation and the last count I had of actual attendees was over 1300. Hope you were one of the 1700 who registered and attended. If not, there is always next month. The recording of Doug Tallamy's TMN Tuesday presentation is posted on the State Website. I encourage you to take the time to view it there: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#february>.

APPEAL FOR MICROSOFT 365 ASSISTANT

You all have recently received an appeal from our IT Director for a backup administrator volunteer for our chapter's 365 account. Many of you have come into our chapter from the business world and have experience using the Microsoft office tools. Our board members and chapter support volunteers are in the process of learning how to use these new tools and will profit by the advantage of learning how to work smarter not harder.

The pandemic has made it necessary to learn new strategies to help us keep all of the processes working that help our chapter to keep operating at an optimal level. As we have been forced to move into the virtual world to continue board and committee meetings, the monthly chapter meetings, the state initiated programs, and now our 2021 Training Class, it has been up to our IT Director, Darryl Pitts, to help us get to this point. However, another person is needed to help with the 365 account while Darryl is working on the virtual needs of our meetings and the upcoming Class Training sessions. If you are able to help us please contact him at: itdirector@hillcountrytmn.org and volunteer today.

ONE LAST THING

Your chapter board meeting is held every month at 1:30pm on the Thursday before the monthly chapter meeting. These meetings are open to all our members as well as the public. If you have a desire to observe or speak at these meetings please notify the IT director, itdirector@hillcountrytmn.org, of your desire to attend any specific board meeting. He will put you on the notification email list that will include a Zoom link that will let you into the meeting.

Rufus Stevens will discuss "The Ecological Impacts of Overabundant White-tailed Deer and Exotics" at our monthly chapter meeting, which will begin at 6:30 on February 22.

When native White-tailed deer occur in excessive numbers, they can alter their own habitat and that of many other wildlife species. When this is combined with high numbers of exotics such as Axis, Fallow Deer, Blackbuck, and others, the impacts are widespread: They influence most of the local plant communities and ecosystems. Understanding these impacts is the first step for land managers and Master Naturalists in moderating this slow-motion ecological train wreck.

Rufus is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, an educator, and coauthor with Jan Wrede of the book *Attracting Birds in the Texas Hill Country: A Guide to Land Stewardship*, recently published by TAMU Press.. He has worked as a wildlife biologist for 34 years, including 23 years with TPWD, and is one of the founders of the Texas Master Naturalist program. In recognition for this accomplishment he was a corecipient of the Wildlife Management Institute's award for Innovation.

(Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88596485278?pwd=NWV5NFcwREFDL3hiR1BncIA3ejcrQT09>).

This Month We Honor



Recertifications

Bob Binney, Tom Collins

Milestones

Molly Houck, Wendi Leonard - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly

Elsa Roberts, 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

1/2/21	The Teachings and Philosophy of Aldo Leopold
1/9/21	A LIFE ON OUR PLANET, By David Attenborough
1/16/21	Changes in the Condition of the Earth During One Man's Lifetime
1/23/21	Climate Change Explained
1/30/21	Less Well-Known Aspects of Climate Change

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

From Nancy Scoggins, Chapter Treasurer

Greetings from your chapter treasurer! Your chapter is currently in very good financial shape. We kept our expenses under budget in 2020 and anticipate staying on budget for both income and expenses in 2021.

We rely on donations and fundraisers to maintain our finances, and so we are very grateful to those of you who have donated to the chapter. If you would like to donate to the chapter's general fund, or to any specific project, just email me at treasurer@hillcountrytmn.org.

I can email you a Square invoice to use for your donation or you can mail me a check. If you ever have any questions about chapter finances, don't hesitate to contact me.



TMN CLASS OF 2021 HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Class Director: Sheryl Pender



Jana Baxter (Jana)

I live in Fair Oaks Ranch, Bexar County. I grew up in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, graduated from Baylor University, and taught school (Spanish and English) for nearly 20 years in Waco, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. My husband J.K. and I have two children: Our daughter Kendall graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois and works in San Antonio. Our son Will is a freshman at Baylor University. We also own property near San Saba where we enjoy spending time. Currently I help lead and teach a women's Bible study in Boerne through Bible Study Fellowship.



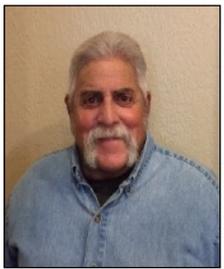
Patrick Conley

I live in Fair Oaks Ranch, Kendall County. I was born and raised in Akron, Ohio as the youngest of 12 children, but got to Texas as soon as I could! After 21 years in the US Army, I retired as a Master Sergeant; I'm a Vietnam Veteran. I also retired from USPS. I'm the father of two girls and grandfather of two boys and two girls. Darcy Baird is an art teacher at Boerne High School with one girl (12) and one boy (10). Denise Stanton is an at-home mom with one boy (15) and one girl (13); she's also a substitute school nurse for Boerne ISD. She and I are taking the class together. I enjoy woodworking, construction projects, and working on the property.



Trudy J. Eberhardt (I could be called Trues to differentiate me from the other Trudy)

I live in Kerrville. I am a retired accountant/finance person with over 40 years of experience as a Controller, Director of Finance, and CFO at various manufacturing companies and a non-profit serving the disabled community. My real passions are art (woodcarving and watercolors) and gardening, which I have "fit in" all my life. I am married to Paul Cassel; we moved here from Albuquerque a little over a year ago. I enjoy riding my own motorcycle; in my late 50s, I swam around Key West three years in a row.



John Fiore

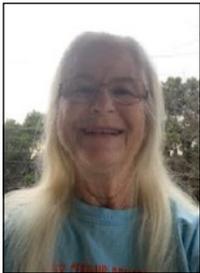
I live in Kerrville. I grew up in Arizona. Upon graduating, I spent fourteen years serving in the US Army. I worked for ten years as a cowboy and owned and operated riding stables in Colorado and Arizona. I was part owner of and operated a retail nursery while getting my education degree from Midwestern University in Wichita Falls.. I then spent twenty years with the US Air Force working in military intelligence. Upon retiring, my wife and I moved from West Texas to the Hill Country and now own a home and land on Tierra Linda Ranch, which is a very beautiful place to live; my goal is to leave my land and the ranch better for my being here. I have always been an outdoorsman who appreciates our nation's woods, mountains, lakes and streams.

Linda Fiore



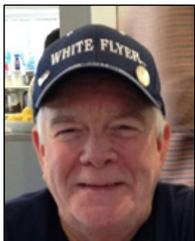
I live in Kerrville. I grew up in Arkansas, attended the University of Central Arkansas, earned an Associate of Applied Sciences degree and worked as a PTA in the therapy industry in various settings. I moved to Texas with my job and continued working in the therapy industry for the next ten years. Then I made a career change to sales; was based in San Angelo, but traveled around Texas working in sales for the next twenty years. After John retired, I worked for three more years and retired. We relocated to Kerrville to be near our children and grandchildren who are living here and we found a place on Tierra Linda Ranch that we absolutely love. It's a wonderful working ranch with cows, black buck, turkey, deer, and mouflon sheep. There are two lakes and several streams meandering through the ranch. The Hill Country has a different climate, vegetation and terrain from West Texas to which we were accustomed. I love learning about the plants, flowers and trees, as well as learning more about the varied terrain here in the Hill Country.

Trudy Florence Trudy (Lynn)



I live in Kerrville. I moved from Michigan to California when I was 12, and I married Harry Florence in 1965 when I was 19. I was his third wife. He was paying child support on six kids. Mom and dad said yes. I really loved him, and we were married for 46 years. We had two children; Elizabeth in 1968, and Joseph in 1970. Harry retired after 32 years in the USMC, and we moved to Leakey in 1982. I worked odd jobs all over town and earned an Associate's degree at Uvalde. I volunteered at the Frio Canyon EMS for nine years. Harry managed the Frio Pecan Farm. Liz and Joe graduated from Leakey High School. Liz followed her heart to Napa, California and is involved in the wine business. Joe joined the Army and took two tours to Iraq. Harry was ill from increasing dementia and I was his primary care giver. He wanted to move back to California to see his daughters there, so we did. He died in 2011. Joe moved in with me and wanted us to move back to Texas. After upgrading the old house and putting it on the market, it sold in three weeks. God is so good.

Dan Gallagher



I live in Kerrville, and was born and raised in Dallas. I earned BS and MS degrees in biology, with a focus on natural history studies, from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, and grew to love the vastness and ecological diversity of the Trans Pecos. After graduation I worked as a medical technician and earned my doctoral degree at TAMU in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, with emphasis in vertebrate systematics. I went on to teach biology at Howard Payne University for five years. and then had my most productive years as a research scientist, studying bovine genomics in the TAMU Departments of Veterinary Pathology and Animal Science. My interests transitioned from natural history to genomic studies, and the molecular cytogenetic skills resulted in jobs outside academia, including time at Pfizer Inc. in Connecticut. On leaving Pfizer, I volunteered as a committee member, vice president, and president of the 500+ member Bradford Sportsmen's Club. Also, I briefly served on the Board of Directors of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Ft. Davis. I enjoy shooting, especially, clay and wing shooting, and have joined three clubs since moving to Kerrville in June, 2020.

Dorothy (Dot) Garlow



I live in Bandera. We transplanted here from Louisiana in 2014 and have experienced culture shock in a way....went from lush, green, well-watered, and frequently flooded, to a lot of dry and rocky ground. I used to be able to throw a plant in the ground and then stand back while it took over. Not here, for sure. I earned a BA degree from LSU, with a major in anthropology and minor in photography. I love the history of places, and want to learn about flora, fauna, culture, and history of the Hill Country. Also, I love to read, and enjoy learning new things and photography; I find people fascinating. I've spent time living in other countries and traveling: China for two years, where I taught in a university (English and anthropology), Singapore for four years, and Cambodia for nine months just prior to moving to Bandera. I also visited many other countries, mostly in Asia. I have only passed through airports in Europe but would love to visit some time. I love nature and meeting people.



Gerry Gentry

I live in Kerrville. I grew up on a farm in northern Colorado, attended public schools in Loveland, Colorado, and then studied at Casper College, Colorado State University and Strayer University, majoring in music and earning a degree in Business Management. I worked on the staff of the U.S. Senate for 20 years. I play the French horn and love the outdoors.

Patrick George



I live in Kerrville. I earned a BA degree in philosophy from TCU, a M.Div. in pastoral theology, and a MA in religious education. I served as an Episcopal priest for about ten years in the Fort Worth/Dallas area. Then I served for a few years in Catholic churches as a pastoral assistant in Wichita Falls and Fort Worth. I worked in disaster relief with the American Red Cross, and for about ten years as a Volunteer Coordinator and Contract Specialist with the Texas Youth Commission. I was also Internal Management Administrator for a youth vocational school in the national forests in East Texas. I later returned to ministry in the Apostolic Orthodox Church of India where I was consecrated a Bishop, and am now retired. I have one son and two daughters, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. My interest in the TMN stems from childhood, the years of living in national forests, my new interest in nature study, in birding, and my philosophy of conservation of God's creation.

Patti Guin



I live in Fredericksburg. My husband, Billy, and I moved here from Shreveport, Louisiana in 2018. Prior to retirement, I worked as a paralegal for three distinguished judges on the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Louisiana Supreme Court, and US Federal District Court. I also served as Director of the Shreveport Attorney Bar Association for seven years. My husband is an attorney and graduate of the 2019 Master Naturalist class. We are both nature lovers. In addition to maintaining the 20 acres we own north of Fredericksburg, we have volunteered our time on projects at Cross Mountain and the Lady Bird Johnson Nature Park. We're also members of NPSOT.

Alice King



I live in Hunt. I am married, have two grown children, and have been a lawyer for about 30 years. My son is a researcher at the Lunar & Planetary Labs at the University of Arizona. My daughter is getting a Masters in English Literature at UT Austin. My practice is focused on technology transactions: software, cloud services licenses, and agreements. I am also interested in librarianship and information studies. I have an MSIS in Information Studies from UT Austin. My husband and I have had our place in Hunt for about five years, but moved here full time in March. He is a forensic engineer and has re-located his business to Hunt. I want to learn more about the Hill Country flora, fauna and geology. I feel very lucky to live here and want to be a good steward of my small property and also contribute to the care of the area. I hope to see all the cool outdoor places, meet people who care about the area, and contribute. I like outdoor work and working with small groups.

Christa Lovett



I live in Kerrville. I'm a born Texan with a love for our state and resources. I have a degree in Interior Design and Elementary Education, and worked in design for five years and education for 15 years. Then I went on to managing our real estate properties. I hope to gain knowledge of Hill Country best practices in managing our ranch. Hopefully, we can be mindful of the best for our natural environment. I enjoy hunting, golf, pickleball, hiking, and studying nature—especially trees. I'm currently consulting for Sawyer Tree Services in Medina and Kerrville.

Dot Maginot



I live in Kerrville. I am originally from Olympia, Washington but moved away many years ago. My family is still there; when I visit, I enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest. I earned a BBA from the University of Houston. My husband and I met in Houston, shortly after I graduated. We have one son who lives in Naperville, Illinois. When he was about a year old, we moved north to Grand Rapids, Michigan and then, for the next 24 years, we lived in the Chicago suburbs. In June 2019, we chose Kerrville for retiring because we love the slow pace and abundance of wildlife! I enjoy nature, volunteering, and meeting new people. My current passion is photography of birds, mammals, scenery, people, and just about everything else.

Carra Milikien



I live in Boerne, and have lived in central Texas for my whole life. I grew up in San Antonio, went to school at UIW, and just recently moved out to the Hill Country. At UIW I studied education. I was a certified special education teacher and left the classroom about 14 years ago, but have never stopped teaching. Since I left the classroom I ran a swim school and taught swimming to students of all ages. For the last seven years I have homeschooled my three children - ages 12, 15, and 17. We love hiking and exploring in nature. I'm hoping to have an opportunity to continue educating others as my time educating my children is winding down.

Linda Miller



I live in San Antonio, and was a Wisconsin girl who lived and enjoyed nature in North Carolina, Vermont and now, for 16 years, San Antonio. I earned a BA degree in Human Services from UNC and an MA in Criminology from Union Institute/University-Vermont College, in Vermont. As an airline reservationist and flight attendant, I traveled extensively, seeing the world through the lenses of diverse peoples, and later interned/worked with Dale Women's Correctional Facility in Vermont, supporting prison reform. Perhaps the most valuable experience has been caring for the people I love, my aging family, over the last 16 years—including my wonderful husband, who is a true medical warrior of 36 years. This leads me to the importance of nature to me, whether it's kissing a baby gray whale at San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja, Mexico, experiencing the deep respect for nature of the Haida Gwaii culture, or hiking locally at Joshua Springs accompanied by a tarantula. The wonder of oneness with nature—body, mind and spirit—provides renewal and a sense of wholeness.

Anne Ryan



I moved with my husband (Daniel Gallagher) to Kerrville from Pawcatuck, Connecticut this past June—during the pandemic, no less. He is a native Texan but I was born in the Bronx and lived in New Jersey, New York, and California before meeting him as a graduate student at TAMU. I trained as a veterinarian at Cornell University and practiced briefly before returning to school as a graduate student in veterinary pathology at the University of California-Davis and as a Senior Resident back at Cornell. I then moved to a well-funded cattle genomics lab at the TAMU vet school to earn my PhD. Dan and I shared an office, published a lot of papers, and traveled to scientific meetings in the US and abroad. I worked in the pharmaceutical industry (Genentech and Pfizer) for almost 30 years as a pathologist and toxicologist, evaluating the safety of novel therapies prior to human safety and efficacy testing. I retired as the global head of Investigative toxicology at Pfizer last November; we put the house on the market and moved to Kerrville. We were supposed to be in the Class of 2020 and did most of the field trips and some on-line AT activities in the modified program. I also volunteered at the KSP pollinator garden in the Fall. I think the program is a great way to learn about the fauna and flora of the Hill Country (perhaps also a little bit of geology?) and meet people with similar interests. I am also a handweaver; we moved three looms and a lot of fiber from Connecticut, and I am interested in networking with fellow fiber enthusiasts in the Hill Country.



Nellwyn Sadler

I live in Kerr County and am a born and raised Texan who grew up on the Southside of San Antonio. My husband and I moved to Kerrville in 1979. My children are four legged; currently, I have two kitties, George and Lily. My career was in accounting and in April 2020, I retired from the company where I kept the books for 41 years. In January 2020 I moved 18 minutes out of town and have been enjoying the space, land, wildlife, and pitching rocks. I am active in church and enjoy traveling, camping, hiking, and kayaking.



Vicki Schmidt

I live in Boerne. I was born and raised in Dalhart and ((finally) graduated with a BSBA in accounting in Albuquerque. I retired from PNM (Public Service Co of NM) in 1998 after 30+ years. I was active in outdoor activities there as well as motorcycle riding. I moved to Boerne in 1998 and have been enjoying Cibolo Nature Center and other outdoor areas.



Jeff Schwarz

I live in Boerne and am a sixth generation Boerne resident, as my father's family moved to the area in 1855 from Germany. After graduating from high school in Boerne, I earned a Chemical Engineering degree from TAMU, and then moved to Alaska to start a 37-year oil and gas career that took Dawn, my wife of 37 years, and me to Midland, Houston, Lafayette, Denver, and our last seven years in San Antonio. We have two sons, 24 and 26. I've always enjoyed the outdoors; working in the yard, hunting, fishing, and hiking.

Frederick W. Snyder "Fritz"



I live in Fredericksburg. I grew up in Corpus Christi and graduated from Richard King High School in 1971; then attended Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and the University of Texas, Austin. After college I took a job in the oilfield in 1975. Four years later I started my own mudlogging company, Geological Services, Inc. I grew the business through good times and bad, and eventually sold it to a major oilfield company in 2011. I retired in 2015 after a 36-year career. I have been married to Rebecca S. Snyder (also enrolled in the course) for 26 years. We have no children but Rebecca does have a son living in Gulf Shores, Alabama. After living on the Texas gulf coast almost all my life, I am an avid saltwater fisherman and average golfer. I have owned 20 plus acres in the Fredericksburg area for over 25 years, recently read Jim Stanley's *Hill Country Landowner's Guide*, and so feel that becoming a Master Naturalist would help me become a better steward of my land.

Rebecca Spurlock Snyder. I am called Rebecca or Rb.



I live in Fredericksburg. My husband, Fritz Snyder, is also in this class. We have been married for almost 30 years, and moved to Fredericksburg from Houston in 2020. My in-laws lived here in the early 90's and we have spent lots of time here over the years. I was a Human Resources Manager for a Norwegian shipping and tank terminal company when I retired, and now work part-time as a bookkeeper for a builder in Fredericksburg. We have three dogs, one cat, two mini-donkeys, and we raise honey bees. I am also a Master Gardener, and hope that we can make some new friends here – we left lots of them in Houston!



Lucy Spade

I live in Boerne. I grew up in El Paso and enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Human Resource Specialist at the age of 20. I was stationed in Germany, Korea, North Carolina, Louisiana, Virginia (twice), Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Texas (twice). After 20 years of service, I retired in 2005 and then stayed at home to be a full-time mom while completing my Master's degree in Business Management. I have been married for 27 years and have two daughters, ages 16 and 18. Currently I'm working from home as a scheduler for a dog walking company in Virginia. I have always been an outdoors person: hiking, camping, fishing, wildlife photography, and kayaking.

Denise Stanton



I live in Fair Oaks Ranch, Kendall County. I have earned a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, an M.Ed. Learning Resources, an AAS in Nursing, and have worked as a Middle School and High School special education teacher (math and language arts), School Librarian, Cardiac Nurse, Allergy Nurse, and School Nurse Substitute. Currently, I am an at-home mom with two children: a son named Jack who is 15 and a daughter named Madeleine who is 13. Maddie was diagnosed with a very high risk form of leukemia on 7/4/14 and needed a bone marrow transplant for her best chance of survival. Her brother wasn't a match, but thankfully there was a perfect match in the "Be the Match" bone marrow registry. Her BMT was on 11/8/14 and she is doing wonderfully now. Childhood cancer awareness and stem cell donor awareness are very important to me. I also love to cook and bake, and just recently started baking bread; sourdough as well as commercial yeast bread. I love science and love the Hill Country.

Louisa Stone



I live in Boerne. I was born and raised in Texas, but I have also lived in Minnesota and Tennessee. For 35 years I was an educator: teacher, principal, and high school counselor. My husband and I retired in 2015 and 2016, and we have traveled to many countries on birding tours and cultural tours: Greece, Spain, Germany, Czech Republic, England, Scotland, Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, and Egypt, to name a few. We also travel in the United States in our beloved Airstream which we lovingly call "The Snuggery." We have two sons, a beautiful daughter-in-law, a lovely girlfriend-in-law, and three delightful grandchildren. Birding became a passion of mine in about 1986 after seeing a rose breasted grosbeak while living in Duluth, Minnesota. Birding has opened up a whole new world for me that led my husband and me to travel to see many beautiful birds and meet interesting people.



Andrea Tritico Temple

I live in Fredericksburg. I earned a BBA in Marketing at Loyola University, New Orleans, and worked as a pastry chef in New Orleans, Los Angeles, and Houston, as well as in medical billing in North Carolina. I want to learn about the flora of this part of Texas and am interested in reseeding about 15 acres in grasses. I'm passionate about native plants and learning more about the Hill Country terrain and native animals. My mother was a gardener and I inherited my gardening passion from her.

Debbie Thompson



I live in Kerrville, am originally from Baytown on the Gulf Coast, and my career years were in Spring. My husband and I moved to Kerrville after retirement in 2016 and have spent most of our time remodeling our home and restoring the land back to native habitat. My career was in the oil and gas industry and my last project was promoting a facility that would capture the kinetic energy of the Gulf Stream and provide power to coastal communities. Our only daughter is a math teacher at Wimberley High School and we have one dinosaur-crazy 3 year old grandson. Since moving to Kerrville, I've enjoyed projects with UGRA, Riverside Nature Center and the newly formed Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky. I feel so privileged that retirement has afforded me the time to learn and experience the natural beauty of Texas and hope everyone will embrace the need to include our beautiful night sky in preservation efforts.

Phil Youngblood



I live in Fredericksburg, have been married to Deb for nearly 30 years, and am a great-grandfather! I earned a PhD in Education, MS in Information Systems, and BS in Chemistry. I'm a retired professor; also retired from the Navy, and was a research biochemist. I became intrigued with this course when my wife went through the program in Fall 2019 and I joined her in trail building, riparian area repair, and tree planting. Then she put me to work on our property! I have loved the outdoors ever since my parents said, "Go outside and play!" and I learned Lantana as my first plant name. I hiked and camped when I was younger and enjoy being at the plant's level when I garden. Growing things gives me a sense of accomplishment.

Note: Amy Slater, who's transferring into our chapter, will be auditing the class.



From Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Register Your 2021 Birding Classic Team Today!

Registration is now open for the 25th Annual Birding Classic! The event may look a little different, and there may be more virtual gatherings than in-person outings, but we hope that there is something for everyone in this pandemic-friendly version of the Birding Classic. In particular, the new expanded Big Sit! with its 50-foot diameter circle might be a great way to get your chapter together at a social distance, wearing masks to keep everyone safe. There are also new categories for teams with members spread throughout a region (or the state) where you each bird your local patch and meet up virtually to share your lists into a single team list for the day. More details on those changes and more below.

So, gather your friends, family, and fellow Master Naturalists to join your team for the Great Texas Birding Classic!

Registration deadline: April 1, 2021
Tournament Dates: April 15 – May 15, 2021 (your choice of day).
Register today: www.birdingclassic.org

Novice birders, expert listers and everyone in between are welcome! There are many categories to choose from based on your birding ability and region of the state. There are half day or full day tournaments and categories with team members scattered across the state or region as well as categories for teams of people who have been quarantining together. There's something for everyone!

Find all tournament details online now:

- What categories are available this year?

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/tournament-categories-1>

- How do you register your team?

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/rules-and-registration>

- Tournament rules and entry fees:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/rules-and-registration/rules-and-regulations>

and

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/rules-and-registration/registration-fees>

Participants receive t-shirts with the official 2021 artwork of a Belted Kingfisher, by Christina Baal. Registration fees and sponsorship dollars go toward Conservation Grants for birding, nature tourism, and habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout Texas. Select winning teams will help choose which projects are funded. The more teams that register, the more funds we can award! Even if your chapter decides to pass on registering a team this year, maybe you have a project that fits the conservation grant criteria to submit for funding consideration. Visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/prizes> for more details.

If you have any questions about the event or any of these rule and category modifications due to the pandemic, feel free to reach out to me directly! (512-389-4500)

Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining (TRAM) invited to contribute to House Interim Committee's Study on Aggregate Production Operations

As aggregate production operations (APOs) expand across Texas with minimal regulation, concerns from communities are rising. Unlike other states, Texas does not have comprehensive regulations that apply to APOs, nor does Texas require the use of industry Best Management Practices (BMPs). As a result, APO companies in Texas frequently operate amidst residential neighborhoods, next to schools, and in, along, and above sensitive streams, rivers, and aquifers.

To tackle these issues, the House Interim Study Committee on Aggregate Production Operations (HIC-APO) chaired by State Rep. Terry Wilson (District 20) was formed. The committee held three days of open testimony, hearing from state agencies, subject matter experts, industry representatives, and Texas residents in order to address community impacts of the aggregate industry. TRAM's Science and Tech Committee members testified as expert witnesses on numerous issues regarding the rapidly expanding aggregate industry in Texas.

The HIC-APO study focuses on key issues, including air quality, water quality, disruption of groundwater, sedimentation & flooding, commercial vehicle traffic, blasting, noise & light pollution, reclamation, property line distance limitations, economic impacts, and municipal ordinances.

"Texas needs aggregate production operations, but we also need common-sense regulation," said Milann Guckian, a retired refinery operations technician in New Braunfels, Tx. "We are encouraged by the HIC-APO study. TRAM, its member organizations, and Texas communities appreciate the time, effort, research, patience, and due diligence that Representative Wilson, the other legislative committee members, and their staffs dedicated to this collaborative enterprise."

HIC-APO has released its final report and will present its recommendations to the 87th Texas Legislature. All seven legislative committee members, Terry Wilson (R), Armando Martinez (D), Alma Allen (D), J.M. Lozano (R), Andrew Murr (R), Jared Patterson (R), and Erin Zweiner (D), signed the report making it a truly bipartisan endeavor. The two APO industry representatives that had the privilege of being members of the HIC-APO declined to sign the final report. Fermin Ortiz, a Llano county businessman and rancher, states "Unfortunately the APO industry representatives appear to not have taken the process seriously. It appears they are still not wanting to address the issues that Texans want dealt with."

Find the final report here: [HIC APO Committee Report Final \(texas.gov\)](#).

Stay informed by visiting www.TRAMTexas.org and following our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.

Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining (TRAM) is a statewide coalition of member groups seeking to work with lawmakers, state agencies, and good-faith industry operators to create state standards for best management practices in the rapidly expanding Aggregate Production Operation (APO) industry and adopt those standards into law. Our goal is to create a healthier, safer, and more desirable community for Texans as well as a more efficient APO industry that is aligned with the concerns of the communities in which they operate.

Reprinted from Hill Country Alliance newsletter, [Neighbor to Neighbor](#), February 8, 2021

The View from Rusty Bend



Rare snowfall at Rusty Bend

Trumpeter Swan

Well past leaf-fall, I trace
a meander of winter's riverscape, rimmed by hills
draped in altar cloth of fog.

Hello young swan. As your mother nested
on a floating lodge, she warmed the idea
of you, folded in your shell,

with a tidy black wrap of her webbed feet.
Now you dabble in the shallows,
dipping in a study of silvers and greys. She hears you,

the *ko-hob*, the French Horn of your longing.
You gather yourself — gallop
a hundred yards of black water, clamoring for flight.

You stretch into an elegant-necked
pitcher of pewter, more light than light.
What do your wings know?

continued on next page

Rusty Bend in the time of long shadows is a study in sepia. Against this neutral backdrop we spot flocks of migrants. Hundreds of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings carol from the bare branches of cypress and pecans on the river. Large groups of female cowbirds, too, though they are most unwelcome. Two Bald Eagles cruise by as if they own the Guadalupe. They encounter two ravens with a batch of venison in their clutches and dive at them until the eagles snatch it midair. Why hunt when you can steal? Who needs grizzlies and salmon?

The smaller birds are crazy for the Bark Butter Suet we put out. By placing the feeder close to the window, we can observe some secretive birds more closely. Tiny Ruby-crowned Kinglet comes in, looking like a child's drawing of a bird, complete with pencil-line legs. We have nicknamed her Orphan Annie, her eye rings are so bold.

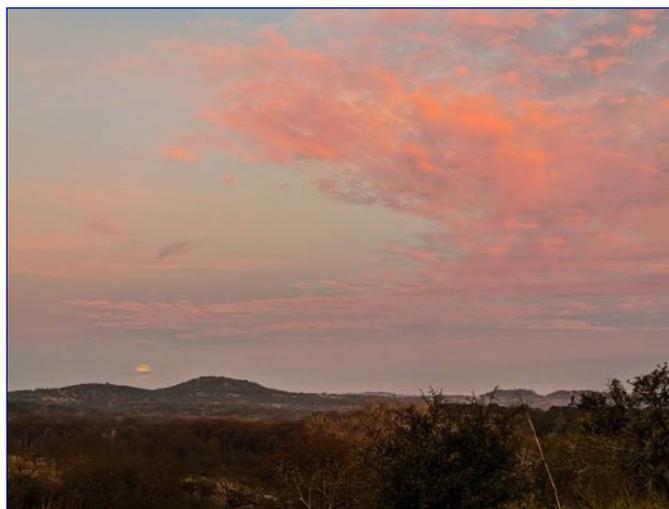
The snowfall was a welcome surprise. Big fat flakes. A double bonanza for farmers. Much needed moisture and the old truism that an inch of snow is worth a ton of fertilizer. The landscape etched and edged in new ways, we hate to see it go.

My eyes search for patches of color. Our ubiquitous cardinals are a welcome sight hanging in the trees like red lamps, their colors both bold and subtle. The sight of the neighbor's oat field draws me like a magnet. They say that the color of spring green induces alpha waves in the human brain. For our caveman biology, green must have meant an end to hunger. My stomach rumbles for spring.

The weather is good though for maintenance chores. Tying staves on a sagging fence line becomes curiously satisfying. Repetitive work, but the right tools, winter sun on my neck, a morning with a purpose somehow fits the bill. As I murder regrowth cedar acre by acre, I hear my father's voice encourage me with a little lecture on the pleasures of stewardship. I know, Daddy, I know.

I know this land gives us so much. Beauty and birds and bobcats, the song of the Canyon Wren, catfish swaying in deep limestone grooves in the river, hundreds of wildflowers, the vanilla smell of agarita on the wind. We strive for reciprocity, sowing prairie grasses, quieting erosion, adding new water sources. Still, the equation is uneven.

Until spring decides to show her face, I'll be in the pasture, searching for the end of each stretched shadow.



Moonset in a painterly sky

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2021

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.

ADVANCED TRAINING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 11AM-2:3-PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-090 FIRE AND THE LANDSCAPE

Eric Knapp and Margo Robbins are the presenters. Part of a live webinar series. See and register for the entire series on NDAL's website, <https://ndal.org/2020/12/09/registration-open-ndal-january-march-virtual-programs/>.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-177 TREE BIOLOGY

Brad Hammel is the presenter. This is part of a series of programs that will run throughout the spring. Cost: no charge. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-biology-with-bradley-hamel-central-texas-regional-urban-forester-tickets-137969180533>. Contact Information: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/austin-nature-science-center-staff#overlay-context=page/austin-nature-science-center-staff>.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 3:30-4:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-175 TEXAS SCIENCE FESTIVAL

The presentations will occur from February 16 through March 25, No charge. To register, go to <https://cvent.utexas.edu/TexasScienceFest>. Contact Information: <https://cvent.utexas.edu/wQQZva>.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 6-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-048 WILL MY AQUATIC VEGETATION RETURN?

Presenter: Brittany Chesser. Cost: \$35.00. To register, go to <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/registerForEvent/3294>. You will not receive instructions to access the webinar until payment is received. To prevent a delay, it is recommended you pay by credit card. Upon completion of registration and payment, you will receive an email from agriferegister@tamu.edu. Scroll to the end of the Registration Confirmation for the instructions on how to access the webinar. Contact Information: brittany.chesser@tamu.edu.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 6-7PM WEBINAR

AT21-088 PROPERTY TAX OPTIONS FOR TEXAS LANDOWNERS

No Charge. Contact Information: <https://plateauwildlife.com/contact/>. To register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_U5PyLDp2Qbyt2A6CxfaKsA.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 8:30AM-5PM WEBINAR

AT21-014 SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS

Charles Swanson is the presenter. Cost: \$165.00. To register, go to <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/registerForEvent/3189>. Contact Information: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Conference Services, (P) 979-845-2604; (F) 979-862-4511 agriferegister@tamu.edu.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 12-1:15PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-091 BIRD-FRIENDLY HOME LANDSCAPES

Presenter: Jillian Bell. This is part of a live webinar series. See and register for the entire series on NDAL's website (<https://ndal.org/2020/12/09/registration-open-ndal-january-march-virtual-programs/>). Cost: \$28 per person. To register, go to <https://www.wildflower.org/event/ndal-bird-friendly-home>. Contact Information: Sara Weaner, sweaner@ndal.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 12-1:15PM WEBINAR

AT21-003 ON THE TRAIL FOR TEXAS SCREWSTEM

More information on this one coming soon...Sign up to receive notification of upcoming webinars at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXPWD/subscriber/new?topic_id=TXPWD_1147. Contact Information: Meredith Longoria, meredith.longoria@tpwd.texas.gov

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 1:30-2:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-168 CREATE YOUR OWN STUNNING STAR TRAILS – ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

Presenter: Mary McIntyre. Contact Information: <https://www.hillcountryalliance.org/contactus/>. No charge. To register, go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/create-your-own-stunning-star-trails-astrophotography-with-mary-mcintyre-tickets-132764737905?aff=erelpanelorg&keep_tld=1.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 2:00-3PM WEBINAR

AT21-126 NATURE JOURNAL EDUCATOR'S FORUM: NGSS

Presenter: John Muir Laws. To join this Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83649514052>. Meeting ID: 836 4951 4052. Passcode: 008828 No charge. Contact Information: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/contact/>, 415-310-7592, johnmuirlaws@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 6-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-115 COASTAL SHOREBIRDS: WORLD TRAVELERS, WINTER TEXANS

Presenter: Patsy Inglet. Cost: \$5. To register, go to <https://act.audubon.org/a/coastal-shorebirds-world-travelers-winter-texans>. Contact Information: <http://mitchelllake.audubon.org/about/contact-us>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17-27 6-6:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-137 BUFFALO SOLDIER HERITAGE & OUTREACH PROGRAM

02/17 Stewards of Yosemite: The First Black Park Rangers (AT=.5h)

02/18 A Modern Trailblazer: Thru-Hiker Robert Taylor and Backpacking 101 (AT=.5h)

02/19 The Legacy of the CCC in Texas State Parks Pt. II (AT=.5h)

02/20* Medal of Honor LIVE from Brazos Bend State Park (AT=.5h)

02/25 The Legend of Juneteenth at Galveston Island State Park (AT=.5h)

02/26 A State Park is Born: A Tour of the CCC at Huntsville State Park

02/27 Black History Trivia Challenge! (AT=.5h)

02/27* Courage Has No Color: Black Firefighters & the Big Burn. LIVE from Tyler State Park (AT=.5h)

*(These programs are 1-1:30PM.) To join these programs, go to <https://www.facebook.com/TexasBuffaloSoldierProgram/>. Cost: no charge. Registration is not required. Contact Information: 512-389-8569, buffalosoldiers@tpwd.texas.gov.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 10-11:30AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT21-072 GUIDED WATER SAVER WALKING WORKSHOP

Face coverings required. Space is limited. Cost: \$15; members, \$13.50. To register (required), go to <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Water-Saver-Walks-Thursdays--w-Registration-18Feb2021>. Contact Information: 210-536-1400, info@sabot.org.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-087 CONVERTING TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION

Presented by specialists at Plateau Land & Wildlife. No charge. To register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BfL5e7rqQl2y6OjGz-i-BA. Contact Information: <https://plateauwildlife.com/contact/>.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 2-3PM WORKSHOP

AT21-123 THE NATURE JOURNAL WORKSHOP

John Muir Laws is the presenter for weekly live nature Journaling workshops. Suggested donation, \$20.00. To join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76439906428?pwd=Sk1qNjA1dTNmY0Zlb200OTZmTndVdz09>. Meeting ID: 764 3990 6428. Passcode: 187351. Contact Information: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/contact/>, 415-310-7592. This workshop will also be given on March 4 and March 11.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 4:30-5:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-122 HERBALS "GRETE" AND SMALL: COMMODYING BOTANY IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND
 Presenter: Sarah Neville. No Charge. This program will be live-streamed on the Ransom Center Facebook page and YouTube channel. No registration necessary. To connect on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/harryransomcenter>; To connect on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ransomcenter>; To connect on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ransomcenter>. Contact Information: webmail@hrc.utexas.edu, 512-471-8944.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-078 MONOFILAMENT RECOVERY AND RECYCLING PROGRAM (MRRP) & NURDLE PATROL
 Presenter: John O'Connell. No charge. To register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7498423422851718159>

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 8AM-2PM WEBINAR

AT21-058 WILDLIFE TAX VALUATION
 Presenter: Erin Wehland. We'll email, the week of the workshop, with the link to view the workshop and instructions on how to log in. To register, go to <https://tpwd.texas.gov/forms/wildlife/wildlife-tax-valuation-workshop-registration>. No charge. Contact Information: Erin Wehland erin.wehland@tpwd.texas.gov.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 8AM-4PM WEBINAR

AT21-134 TAS 2021 CERAMICS ACADEMY: STORIES FOUND IN POTTERY
 Presenters are Chirs Lintz, Marybeth Tomka, and Becky Shelton. Cost: \$100.00. To register, go to <https://www.txarch.org/academy01>. Please note: Academy registration is full but there is a waitlist. Any vacancies will be filled from the waitlist: <https://tasoffice.wufoo.com/forms/k19xis091j8jh9r/>.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 9AM-2PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE

AT21-007 PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORKSHOP
 Presenters: Bill Niemann, Rufus Stephens, and Ben Eldredge. Cost: Members \$30, Non-members \$40. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3p9sgkn>. Contact Information: Laurie Brown, laurie@cibolo.org, 830-331-2210.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 9AM-12PM WEBINAR

AT21-053 SPANISH FOR BIRDERS
 Presenter: Dr. Christy Esmahan. Cost: \$25.00. Purchase your ticket at <https://bexar-audubon-society.ticketleap.com/spanish-for-birders/>. To register, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qdOqrqT8jGtb4oV8WigLyxLGIX3i75pRR>. Contact information: bexaraudubonsociety@bexaraudubon.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 4:30-5:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-098 SPRING MIGRATIONS
 Presenter: Kristine Rivers of Birding for Fun. No charge. Contact Information: 409-763 – 885. To register, go to <https://rosenberg-library.org/events/library-events/#adult-events>.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 6:30-8:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-140 THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF OVERABUNDANT WHITE-TAILED DEER AND EXOTICS
 Rufus Stephens is the presenter at this chapter monthly meeting. No charge. To join this Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88596485278?pwd=NWV5NFcwREFDL3hiR1BnclA3ejcrQT09>. Meeting ID: 885 9648 5278. Passcode: 540530.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 1-2 PM WEBINAR

AT21-018 MONARCH CONSERVATION WEBINAR: THE BEAUTY AND RESILIENCE OF PRAIRIES
 Presenter: Chris Helzer. To register, go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuzqs8itGvv5PGhHR5kB1RmI0Z88w0nXwmTkbUgNH7-wYfbQ/viewform>. Contact Information: <https://monarchjointventure.org/about-us/contact-us>.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AND 25 6-8PM WEBINAR

AT21-141 LADY LANDOWNER ONLINE SERIES

To register, go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/registerForEvent/3320>. To immediately receive the instructions to access the online series, please pay via credit card. Cost: \$15. Instructions to access the online series will not be emailed until payment is received. Upon completion of registration and payment, you will receive an email from agriliferegister@tamu.edu. That email will contain two pdf attachments: a Receipt and Registration Confirmation. Scroll to the end of the Registration Confirmation for the instructions on how to access the online series.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 10-10:30AM WEBINAR

AT21-130 PLANT PARTY TRAINING: TALKING ECOLOGY

Presenters: Jason Hohlt, Tim Siegmund, Tony Falk, and John Nielsen-Gammons. No charge. Contact Information: Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu, Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov, Charles.Kneuper@usda.gov.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-054 WILDSCAPING: CREATING HABITAT IN OUR CITIES

Presenter: Judit Green. No charge. To join the Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84225273047?pwd=bjQyNTZGUTFoVFJPeEhTbVcvZE5nZz09>. Meeting ID: 842 2527 3047, Passcode: 152302.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 10-11:30AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT21-033 THE ETHNOBOTANY OF NATIVE PLANTS WALKING WORKSHOP

Presenter: Maeve Bassett. Masks are required. Walk is free for Botanical Garden members or with paid admission, but registration is required. Cost: Military (Must show valid ID) \$13.00, Children (age 3-13) \$12.00, Adults \$15.00. Meet at 10:00am behind the Admission kiosk. To register, go to <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Ethnobotany-Walking-Workshop-on-the-Texas-Native-Trails-25Feb2021>. Contact information: 210-536-1400, info@sabot.org.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 2-3PM WEBINAR

AT21-123 NATURE JOURNAL WORKSHOP

John Muir Laws is the presenter for weekly live nature Journaling workshops. Suggested donation, \$20.00. To join the Zoom Meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76439906428?pwd=Sk1qNjA1dTNmY0ZlZm00OTZmTndVdz09>. Meeting ID: 764 3990 6428. Passcode: 187351. Contact Information: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/contact/>, 415-310-7592.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 8:30-9:30AM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT21-119 PLANT WALK & TALK

Presenter: Kim Ort. Discussion will focus on invasive and non native plants. To register, go to <https://riversidenaturecenter.org/> or call 830-257-4837. Limited space available. Please be prepared to wear a face covering if physical distancing is not practical. The walk repeats on 2/27/2021. Contact information: Becky Etzler, director@riversidenaturecenter.org, 830-257-4837.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 11:30AM-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-143 VULNERABILITY OF URBAN FORESTS IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Presenter: Dr. Wendy Gordon. No charge. To join the Zoom meeting, go to <https://zoom.us/j/91640935695?pwd=dVJsUWV3RDlPbWkrTnIPTG10ZytRZz09>. Meeting ID: 916 4093 5695, Passcode: FOSANA2021. Contact Information: bexaraudubonsociety@bexaraudubon.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-169 WILD NEIGHBORS SPEAKER SERIES: ARMADILLOS; ICE AGE TO ICON

Presenter: Pamela Owen. No charge. Space is limited; to register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/reg.../WN_DdSM5mBMQQ2vBW6gwJTEXg. Contact Information: johanna.arendt@traviscountytx.gov, 512-854-1688.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 8:30-9:30AM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT21-119 PLANT WALK & TALK: REPEAT OF FRIDAY WALK

Presenter: Kim Ort. Discussion will focus on invasive and non-native plants. To register, go to <https://riversidenaturecenter.org/> or call 830-257-4837. Limited space available. Please be prepared to wear a face covering if physical distancing is not practical. Contact information: Becky Etzler, director@riversidenaturecenter.org, 830-257-4837

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 9-11AM WEBINAR

AT21-155 EDIBLE NATIVE PLANTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM

Presenter: Eric Knight. Space is limited and registration is required. Participants will receive an email with the link for the Zoom meeting prior to the event. Cost: \$25 per person. To register, go to <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Foraging-for-Native-Edibles-27Feb2021>. Contact Information: 512-232-0177 education@wildflower.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 1:00 – 3:00PM WEBINAR

AT21-044 THE SCIENCE OF NATIVE PLANT DYES

Presenter: Dr. Alice Le Duc. Space is limited and registration is required. Participants will receive an email with the link for the Zoom meeting prior to the event. Cost: \$25 per person. Register at <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Color-with-Native-Plants>. Contact Information: 512-232-0100 info@wildflower.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 1:00 – 3:00PM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT21-133 INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE PLANTING WORKSHOP

Presenter: Maeve Bassett. Face coverings required. Space is limited. Cost: \$30 (\$27 member) includes one native plant. Registration deadline is Friday, February 26 at 1 p.m. Register at <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Introduction-to-Native-Planting-Workshop>. A web link and instructions will be sent to you 24 hours prior to the start of class. If you do not receive these instructions please contact mbasset@sabot.org. Contact Information: 210-536-1400 info@sabot.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 3:30-4:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-066 TEXAS INSPIRED CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

Teacher Workshop.1 CPE credit will be offered. No charge. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/texas-inspired-curriculum-workshop-tickets-127496033067>. Contact Information: Sandra Williams sandra.williams2@tpwd.texas.gov.

MONDAY, MARCH 1 4:30 – 5:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-099 IT'S TIME FOR A MAKEOVER! UNDERSTANDING PLUMAGE VARIATIONS

Presenter: Kristine Rivers. No charge. To register, go to <https://rosenberg-library.org/events/library-events/#adult-events>. Contact Information: (409) 763 – 8854

MONDAY, MARCH 1 6:00 – 8:00PM WEBINAR

AT21-144 COMPOSTING BASICS

No charge To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/composting-basics-by-eco-centro-tickets-137668687751?aff=> . Contact Information: sac-ecocentro@alamo.edu 210-486-0417

TUESDAY, MARCH 2 11:00-12PM WEBINAR

AT21-159 GET TO KNOW YOUR BACKYARD BIRDS: NEST AND EGG ID

Presenters: Robyn Bailey, Holly Grant. Register at https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UnDjLkQZRGyW5V5_-XE5yA. Contact Information: 800-843-BIRD (2473), 607-254-2473 cornellbirds@cornell.edu

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TUESDAY, MARCH 2 12- 1:00 PM WEBINAR

AT21-088 PROPERTY TAX OPTIONS FOR TEXAS LANDOWNERS

No Charge. Contact Information: <https://plateauwildlife.com/contact/>. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9gtDg4eTSZekD-YFtoB-Q

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3 2:00-3PM WEBINAR

AT21-127 NATURE JOURNAL EDUCATOR'S FORUM: MINDSET

Presenter: John Muir Laws. To join this Zoom Meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83649514052>. Meeting ID: 83649514052. Passcode: 008828 No charge. No registration required. Contact Information: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/contact/>, 415-310-7592, johnmuirlaws@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-087 CONVERTING TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXEMPTION

Cost: no charge. Register @: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ib7t8GrnTLi5t19t5LSo3w. Contact Information: <https://plateauwildlife.com/contact/>

THURSDAY, MARCH 4 2-3 PM WEBINAR

AT21-123 NATURE JOURNAL WORKSHOP

John Muir Laws is the presenter for weekly live nature Journaling workshops. Suggested donation, \$20.00. To join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76439906428?pwd=Sk1qNjA1dTNmY0ZlZlZmTndVdz09>. Meeting ID: 764 3990 6428. Passcode: 187351. Contact Information: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/contact/>, 415-310-7592. This webinar will repeat on March 11.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5 10-11:30AM SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

AT21-037 SUSTAINABILITY WALK

Masks are required to participate in this program. Space is limited. Cost: Adults \$15; Children (3-13) \$12; Military (Must show valid ID) \$13; Register at <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Sustainability-Walk-05Mar2021> Contact Information: 512-536-1400 info@sabot.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 5 12-3:30PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-103 NATIVE GREEN ROOFS

Presenters: Ethan Dropkin & Laura Hansplant. This is part of a live webinar series. See and register for the entire series on NDAL's website (<https://ndal.org/2020/12/09/registration-open-ndal-january-march-virtual-programs/>). Cost: \$78. Register @ <https://ndal.org/professional-practitioners-events/individual-sessions/>. Contact Information: Sara Weaner sweaner@ndal.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 8-9:30 AM WEBINAR

AT21-170 HOW AND WHY TO KEEP A BIRDER'S FIELD JOURNAL

A 2-part class in partnership with Audubon — Day 2 is March 13. Presenter: John Muir Laws, Fiona Gillogly. Cost: Please consider donation. Register at <https://act.audubon.org/a/nature-journaling-and-birding-john-muir-laws>. Contact Information: johnmuirlaws@gmail.com 415-310-7592.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 9 -11AM WEBINAR

AT21-120 GARDENING FOR NEWCOMERS

Space is limited and registration is required. Cost: \$35. Register at <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Gardening-for-Newcomers-06Mar2021>. Contact Information: 512-232-0100.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 8:45AM-4:00PM WEBINAR

AT21-149 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM LEVEL 3

Presenters: Mary Frushour, Lonnie Childs, and Paula Stone. To register, go to <https://npsot3.123signup.com/event/registration/kxmjifjsessionid=413AD692C6B8AE3D7E0784EB22825754>. You should receive a confirmation email upon registration. For further assistance, contact the NLCP Coordinator, Meg Inglis, nlcp@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Cost: General \$65. Local Contact: Paula Stone, gilbriar@me.com, 210-393-7351.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 6 10:00AM - 12:00PM FARMERS MARKET AT CIBOLO NATURE CENTER

AT21-110 INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

Presenter: Mike Mendez. Cost: \$20 Members; \$25 Non-members To register, go to <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E347453&id=42> Contact Information: Laurie Brown laurie@cibolo.org, 830-388-7680.

MONDAY, MARCH 8 10-11AM WEBINAR

AT21-172 COMPOSTING - GREEN THUMB GARDENING SERIES

Co-hosted by AgriLife Extension, Harris County Master Gardeners and Houston Community College. For required registration, go to hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops. Contact Information: 713-718-5350.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9 8:30AM - 5PM WEBINAR

AT21-010 EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM DESIGN

Presenter: Charles Swanson. Cost: \$165.00 Register for this class at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/registerForEvent/3190>. Contact: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Conference Services (P) 979-845-2604 (F) 979-862-4511 agriliferegister@tamu.edu.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-178 THE LITTLE GUY: DOING YOUR PART FOR CONSERVATION

Presenter: Francisco Llauger. No charge. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-little-guy-doing-your-part-for-conservation-with-francisco-llauger-tickets-140123145099?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>. Contact Information: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/austin-nature-science-center-staff#overlay-context=page/austin-nature-science-center-staff>.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9 1:30 - 2:00PM WEBINAR

AT21-154 HOW TO ID THE DNC'S (DARN YELLOW COMPOSITES)

Marilyn Knight is the presenter at this NPSOT Chapter meeting. No charge or registration. Contact Information: Nancy Huffman collettehuff@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9 6-7PM WEBINAR

AT21-088 PROPERTY TAX OPTIONS FOR TEXAS LANDOWNERS

No charge. Contact Information: <https://plateauwildlife.com/contact/>. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v0vus2vvT_CUvsNp_vcgaw.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9 6:30 - 7:30PM WEBINAR

AT21-079 HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS

Presenter: Brent Bellinger. No charge. To register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8785311623210059279>. Contact: Melissa.Alderson@tpwd.texas.gov.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10 12-3:30PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-104 PLANTING AND MANAGING ECOLOGY-BASED LANDSCAPES

Instructors: Rebecca Kagle & Andrew Korzon. This is part of the live webinar series. See and register for the entire series on NDAL's website (<https://ndal.org/2020/12/09/registration-open-ndal-january-march-virtual-programs/>). Cost: \$78. To register, go to <https://ndal.org/professional-practitioners-events/individual-sessions/>. Contact Information: Sara Weaner sweaner@ndal.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT21-121 WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GARDENS?

This is part of a 12-week series. Space is limited and registration is required. Cost for series: \$162 (discounted) Register for the series at <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Whats-Happening-in-the-Gardens>. Cost for individual classes, \$15 per person. Register for March 11 class at <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Whats-Happening-in-the-Gardens-11Mar2021>. Contact Information: 512-232-0100.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11 2 – 3PM WEBINAR

AT21-123 THE NATURE JOURNAL WORKSHOP

John Muir Laws is the presenter for weekly live nature Journaling workshops. Suggested donation, \$20.00. To join the Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76439906428?pwd=Sk1qNjA1dTNmY0Zlb200OTZmTndVdz09>. Meeting ID: 764 3990 6428. Passcode: 187351. Contact Information: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/contact/>, 415-310-7592.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 8AM – SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 4PM; ONLINE AND AT STATE HISTORIC SITE

AT21-135 2021 TAS ARCHEOLOGY 101 ACADEMY

Presenters: Jon Lohse, Sarah Chesney. Blended academy with virtual classroom instruction and fieldwork at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. Cost: \$100.00. Register at <https://www.txarch.org/academy02>. Registration deadline is February 27. Contact Information: tasoffice@txarch.org, 512-245-1696.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 8:45AM – 4PM WEBINAR

AT21-152 NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRDS, SAN ANTONIO

Presenters: Lee Marlowe, Sarah Galvin. Companion Class to the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP). You will receive a confirmation email upon registration. For further assistance, contact the NLCP Coordinator, Meg Inglis, nlcp@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Cost: General \$65; NPSOT Member \$50. To register, go to <https://npsot3.123signup.com/event/registration/kxzkyjsessionid=5287D899ACB8740F7E51B963DD7CA69C>. Contact Information or registration, Meg Inglis, nlcp@npsot.org or 512-589-1316; Contact for Class Information: Joan Miller, millersmyle@earthlink.net, 703-477-6993.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 11AM – 12:15PM WEBINAR

AT21-171 RESTORING NATIVE PRAIRIES - BRINGING BACK THE "BS"

Presenter: Jim Willis. Cost: \$7.00. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-restoring-native-prairies-bringing-back-the-bs-tickets-136494040349>. Contact Information: 512-476-9805 srcr@nwf.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 15 12–1:30PM NDAL WEBINAR

AT21-033 "PRAIRIE-SIDE" CHATS

This is part of the live webinar series. See and register for the entire series on NDAL's website. "Prairie-side" Chats is a four-part series. Cost: \$38 per individual session. Register at <https://ndal.org/professional-practitioners-events/prairie-side-chats/>. Contact Information: 512-232-0100 or info@wildflower.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 15 4-5PM WEBINAR

AT21-153 NATURE JOURNAL CLUB: DRAWING CURLING LEAVES AND PETALS

Presenter: Nancy Huffman. Cost: no charge. Registration not required. Contact Information: collettehuff@yahoo.com.

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The Bandera Canyons Alliance has begun a newsletter to share information on the application of Young Life's request for a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit for their camp near Vanderpool. At issue is the discharge of treated wastewater into the Sabinal River, which runs through the Lost Maples State Natural Area. Merry Langlinais, President of the Bandera Canyonlands Alliance, has announced that an information session is planned for Saturday, February 27 from 10 am – 2 pm at the Utopia Senior Center. Attendees are asked to wear masks and practice social distancing.

For further information: banderacanyonlandsalliance@earthlink.net.

T E X A S



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

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