

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

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TPWD image



The October Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday, Oct. 25, beginning at 6:30.

Robin Doughty and Matt Turner, the authors of *Unnatural Texas? The Invasive Species Dilemma*, will be our speakers. For further information, go to page two. For the chapter meeting, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88596485278?pwd=NWV5NFcwREFDL3hiRlBnc1A3ejcrQT09>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...Elsa Roberts

Would you agree that as far as the weather of 2021 went, it has been an unusual year? February presented us with a record-setting cold spell named Uri, that not only caused many of you weeks of misery from loss of basic services, but also caused the loss of many trees, native plants, and wildlife. Just a few weeks ago, my neighborhood was noisy with the sound of chain saws as dead trees were being removed. It made me sad. I came to the Hill Country from far West Texas where trees are highly valued and when my husband and I retired, our dream was to move where there were lots of trees. Spring gifted us with rain and we had a fairly cool summer. Here in Kerrville, we never reached 100 degrees and I can't remember the last time we had a summer like that. Now we are into Fall and the normal Fall rains have not disappointed us.

Hopefully, we can look forward to a beautiful spring with abundant wildflowers once we get past winter. Will this winter surprise us too? Many of the long-range weather forecasters are predicting a colder and wetter winter than usual, but please, no more Uris.

On October 25, we will have an in-person/hybrid chapter meeting. The in-person meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall at UGRA. The doors will open at 6:15pm to allow time to socialize with each other. If you are planning to attend on-line, use the link given above on this page. Please plan to attend by either method. During this meeting, you will have the opportunity to submit nominees for the Chapter Board, as long as you have gotten their permission in advance. Fifteen days before the November meeting, members will receive, via email, the list of 2022 Board Officer nominees. The vote will be held at the November meeting, which will be held via Zoom. There will not be a meeting in December.

I hope to see many of you in the Lecture Hall at UGRA on October 25. If you are planning to travel to the TMN Annual Meeting, I wish you safe travels and wonderful experiences.

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Our Volunteer Appreciation Party at Camp Capers will be on December 4. It will be a lunch meeting, 12-3pm, and Vice President Katy Kappel is planning some fun activities. There will be a silent auction. If you can donate items, please contact Katy (katykappel@yahoo.com). I remember some of the beautiful art and crafted items that some of our members donated the last time we enjoyed this event. That was before Covid, and many of you are ready to enjoy some normal activities again, so please plan to attend.

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!

As we move into the virtual world, we have an immediate need for an IT Director. This volunteer will be responsible for managing the technical aspects of using the WebEx and Zoom technology. This position needs to be filled as soon as possible. If you had any thoughts that this is something you might be interested in, but have not inquired about it, please do so now. Contact the AT Director, Deb Youngblood, at hillcountryadvancedtraining@gmail.com.

From Katy Kappel, Vice President

In their *Unnatural Texas? The Invasive Species Dilemma*, Robin Doughty and Matt Turner (our speakers at the chapter meeting this month) investigate the problems posed by non-native plants and animals that are increasingly affecting the economic, medical, and ecological health of Texas. Their new book is both a primer and a “think piece.” Drawing upon a representative sample--from across the state and over five centuries--of approximately 20 non-native species (including mammals, birds, fish, insects, mollusks, trees, water plants, and fungi), they introduce readers to Texas’ “big hitters,” discuss a range of arguments for controlling them, and explore how culture and shifting attitudes influence their management.

This Month We Honor



Recertifications

Donna Dutton, Vivian Fink, Jim Jones, Lorri Kendrick, Nancy Kerr,
Dot Maginot, Alexis McRoberts, Scot Powell, Anne Ryan,
John Walker, Clark Williams, Amy Zesch

Milestones

Lorraine Popp, Scot Powell - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly
Larry Eskridge - 2500 hours, Polished Silver Dragonfly

From Carla Stang, Membership Director

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

The Board of Directors of the Hill Country Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists is pleased to announce our annual (except for 2020) party in recognition of all the good work that you do!

Generous donors have made it possible to provide lunch without charge for all members who attend.

Enjoy the [silent auction](#), [awards](#), and [musical entertainment](#) at a beautiful site in the Hill Country.

When: Saturday, December 4 from noon to 3 pm

Where: The Lillibridge Dining Hall at *Camp Capers*, which is three miles from Hwy. I-10 in Welfare.

The Dining Hall seats up to 275, has lots of outside doors, and social distancing will be possible. The camp occupies 188 acres on a horseshoe bend on the Guadalupe River. Camping, cabins, and lodge rooms are available if you want to spend a night or a weekend. Here is the website for further information: [Camp Capers \(dwtx.org\)](http://CampCapers.dwtx.org).

RSVP needed: Please let us know if you are coming to the Luncheon by using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4BA5A72DA0FC1-volunteer>

Guests are welcome to come: Tickets for non-member guests are \$18. A vegetarian option is available.

Please call Katy Kappel, Vice President (512-589-1498) if you have questions or would like to donate an item to the silent auction. A vegetarian option is available.

From Catherine Gauldin, Communications Director

Opportunity to Assume a Board Directorship

Dear members of the Hill Country Chapter,

I have held the Board position of Communications Director for several years and I will be stepping down at the end of this year so that someone else can have the opportunity to serve our Chapter with their time and talents. A leadership position on the Board of Directors is both a great responsibility and a privilege.

If you are interested in taking on the role of Communications Director: This will mean that you will be given the unique responsibility of finding ways to advertise the activities of our Chapter to the general membership and to the public through the use of various means of advertising. The objective of Communications is to present the many activities our Chapter is involved in so that the public can come to an understanding about what it means to be a Master Naturalist in general and a member of the Hill Country Chapter in particular.

If you are interested in assuming this creative position and in serving our Chapter on the Board of Directors, please contact me at Communications@hillcountrytmn.org I will make myself available to help you in any way that I can as you take on this challenging but very rewarding position, so that you can ultimately make the position your own and use your skills and dedicated service to the benefit of our organization.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Gauldin
Communications Director, Hill Country Chapter

From Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program Director

Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Provides Opportunities for Texans to Connect with Nature

The deadline to apply for a CO-OP grant with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is quickly approaching on November 1.

Community groups often face barriers connecting Texans to the outdoors — transportation, meals, training, outdoor gear and supplies, to name a few. CO-OP grants can help organizations break through those barriers by providing grant funding to tax-exempt organizations for programs that engage under-represented audiences in TPWD mission-oriented activities. These grants support community-based conservation and outdoor recreation activities such as archery, fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, nature education and more.

CO-OP was established by TPWD in 1996 and has awarded more than \$22 million in outdoor exploration grants over the past 25 years. Funds are derived from a dedicated portion of the state sales tax collected on sporting goods and distributed to organizations within the state of Texas through a competitive grant process each year. Grant awards range between \$5,000 — \$60,000 and can be used to support personnel, training, travel, food, park fees and program supplies.

CO-OP grant applications are available now and the deadline to submit an application is 5 p.m. CST, Nov. 1. A recorded [grant writing workshop](#) is available that discusses everything you need to know to apply for a CO-OP grant, no matter if you're a first-time grant writer or a seasoned grant pro.

For more information and to apply, please visit the [CO-OP grant webpage](#) on the TPWD website.

From Katy Kappel, Chapter Vice President

TOWN Informational Meeting

Are you a woman who enjoys hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, fishing or camping? Would you like to try archery or backpacking? Come to an information meeting about Texas OutdoorWomen's Network (TOWN) at 2pm on Saturday, November 13 at the Riverside Nature Center. We would like to start a Kerrville chapter.

TOWN is an offshoot of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program, with the goal of enabling outdoor-oriented women to meet and build friendships with women who have similar interests. The mission is to provide all women the opportunity to learn and experience outdoor activities in natural surroundings through a non-threatening and supportive environment.

Activities include, but are not limited to the following: Backpacking, Bird Watching, Camping, Day hiking, Kayaking/Canoeing, Fishing/Flyfishing, Geocaching, Horseback riding, Mountain biking, Nature crafts

Members of the Austin Chapter will talk about their experiences and answer questions. We can plan some outings and decide on what to do next!

From Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter

Registration Extended to October 24 For Our VIRTUAL NATURE VENTURE

What makes our event a “virtual” one is that it allows you to walk, run, stroll, paddle, swim or sit – on your own time, wherever you choose — a neighborhood route, a nature trail, a park, or your backyard! You choose your place and your activity. Register by October 24, 2021 to receive these Texas Master Naturalist "branded" items, a phone wallet with removable neck strap, a cold drink koozie, and a sticker. Then if you wish, share your completion pictures, wearing your Virtual Nature Venture swag, for all to see!

Your registration for the event is a fun way to help raise funds for the Texas Master Naturalist Program and the important conservation and stewardship work our program does in Texas. While raising money for these efforts, you are also investing in your own physical and mental health.

Post your photos to iNaturalist or post photos to social media and tag with #texasnatureventure
Join the VNV Facebook Group and post here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/624495215193019>
or email your photos to virtualnature2021@gmail.com
and we will post them on the website <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/virtual-nature-venture-2021>.

The registration fee for the Virtual Nature Venture is \$35

(Walk, run, stroll, paddle, swim, or sit)

REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL NATURE VENTURE

From Sandra Slater, NPSOT-Fredericksburg Communication Director

Propagating and Seed Collecting from Native Plants by Beth McMahon

On Tuesday, Oct 26 the Fredericksburg Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will be hosting an in person presentation by Beth McMahon at Gilbriar Gazebo at 208 Danos Drive, Fredericksburg. Social gathering starts at 6:30; the presentation begins at 7:00. Guests and area newcomers are always welcome. Join us to learn more about the delights of living with nature in the beautiful Texas Hill Country.

Beth McMahon is the Horticulture County Extension Agent for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service – Gillespie County, providing programming and consulting on horticultural topics such as trees and tree health (shade and fruit trees included), lawns & ornamental plantings, plant identification, gardening, plant disease and pest identification, and general horticultural crop questions.

View live on Zoom or view recording later. The links will be posted both on our Website and FaceBook Group.

Our website is [Fredericksburg Chapter](#); our FaceBook Group is [Fredericksburg Chapter - Native Plant Society of Texas](#). We invite you to like and join our FaceBook group to help us grow.

Chapter presentation videos are added each month. What did you miss ? Or do you want to review a new idea at greater depth? You will find links to past videos on topics supporting the vision of valuing Texas native plants, native habitats, and healthy ecosystems as essential to the well-being of living things and to our quality of life.

From Greg Walton, Friends of Lost Maples

Lost Maples Needs Your Help This Fall Season!

Superintendent Lisa Fitzsimmons will again have an information booth for visitors, to be situated outside the HQ building. This will run throughout October, and likely for a few weeks into November. Volunteers will be passing out maps and other literature, helping guide visitors, hiking the trails to pick up trash, assisting hikers as they need it and anything else the park needs. Lisa will have the table, chairs and materials ready to go for us. My guess is that there might be a morning shift and an afternoon shift but it is all flexible. Come whenever you can. The primary need for volunteers is on weekends, but any time would be helpful. Lisa will manage a master schedule of volunteers. If you can help, let me know when you are available and I'll put you on the schedule, or you can contact Lisa directly at lisa.fitzsimmons@tpwd.tx.gov (She is really busy this season and may not get back to you right away.) Remember that volunteers get into the park for free. See you there!



Monarch Fest 2021
October 23rd | 10 am - 1 pm

Herff Farm
33 Herff Rd., Boerne

JOIN US FOR FUN ON THE FARM!

- Native Plant Sale
- Live Monarchs
- Archery
- Seed Catapults
- Children's Butterfly and Ariel Yoga
- Marigold Picking for Día de los Muertos
- Pollinator Parade
- Storytime in the Garden
- Interactive Beekeeping Booth
- Activities for the whole family

Admission:
\$10 Families
\$5 Individuals

Your donations will create more pollinator habitats at Herff Farm



The View from Rusty Bend



Ash bath for Lady Turkey

Ephemera

Why does the brief splash of gold
on the heron's wings
at dawn—

clamor inside me for days,

eclipsing the jeweled glory of a lingering sunset, hours long?
I am held by a moments blush— that temperature drop, that flush of
moisture on morning's walk.

The tail of bobcat,

curved into a question, waving into brush.
The pop and drift of firefly,
quick smell of rain on dried grass,

that promise of green.

The way ground fog hugs tips of cypress, that hatch of tiny moths, spinning
an instant
in the fading light, spider webs that drift south

like music, foretelling autumn.

The feel of wrenfoot on my toe, that
will stay. Will stay until my last day, I know.

continued on next page

At Rusty Bend, September woke up in summer, then went to bed in autumn, ushered by a series of cool mornings. As if a saffron wash flowed from a painter's brush, the cypresses begin their annual progression to the rusty color soon to come. Subtle color shifts greet each morning. The fruit trees with their orange and scarlet emerge first, our mulberry, plum and hackberry. Tickle-tongue follows right behind with its bright yellow leaves.

Cottonwoods—the aspen of the Guadalupe—quake. Their leaves twist in the breeze, waving goodbye to summer, then change their tune from a hum to a sandpapery whisper. The whirling of the leaves on their stems is mesmerizing. The light has “that certain slant” as the sun moves south, softening the edges in every view.

The critters are busy though. Lesser Goldfinch, the last of the nesters, hide in the shadows of Live Oaks, making little goldfinches. Lover's Lane. Old White-nose, the armadillo, patrols the perimeter, his armored skirt hanging on bony hips. We wonder how old he is getting to be. His nose just gets whiter and whiter, yet he pounces with alacrity.

Each morning we enjoy Raptor TV. September specials highlight competition for real estate along the river. Two Cooper's Hawks vs two Ravens, show off in a wild chase. The next morning a new match, Red-tailed vs Red-shouldered Hawks. Osprey is not amused. On the other hand, there is an apparent friendship between a Crested Caracara and a raven at the grasshopper buffet in the neighbor's field. They feed together most every day, striding the ground in tandem, flushing the grasshoppers. Raven in his dark tux, Caracara wears black and white with his rakish hat of fanned feathers. I think of Jonathan Meiburg as he described the Caracara's affinity for teamwork in his book, *A Most Remarkable Creature*. Interspecies cooperation always calms me and gives me hope.

Lady bobcat has been hanging out in the cooler weather, not just at dusk. Her camouflage is so perfect, she vanishes when still. She reminds us that September is for finding. Find the bobcat. Find the leaf, memorize the color. Find the track in the dust. Who passed here? Listen for the song of the Field Sparrow with his tremulous piccolo. Smell the dried grass, look how it's been polished in the angled sun. Find that feeling of cool air upon your skin, learn it by heart. And yes, now taste it, that edge of autumn in the air.



Spa Day

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 been awarded the 2020 Willa Literary Award for Poetry as well as the Wrangler Award by the Cowboy Hall of Fame. A joint project of bird poems and images, with wildlife photographer Kenneth Butler, [Wingbeat Atlas](#), can be preordered from www.flowersongpress.com

Comments welcome at lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com

T E X A S



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:15 for social time.

The business meeting will begin at 6:30.

The Advanced Training speakers will start at 7:30.

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.

Board of Directors 2021

- Elsa Roberts -- President
- Katy Kappel -- Vice President
- Jeralyn Hathorn-- Secretary
- Nancy Scoggins -- Treasurer
- Deb Youngblood -- Advanced Training Director
- Catherine Gauldin -- Communications Director
- Carla Stang -- Membership Director
- Tom Burke -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Anne Ryan & Carra Millikien -- 2022 Class Directors
- Trudy Eberhardt -- 2021 Class Representative
- Lisa Flanagan -- Immediate Past President
- Vern Crawford -- State Representative



Questions about our chapter?

Email Carla Stang

Membership Director

membership@hillcountrytmn.org

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

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