

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter

August 2022 Volume 20 Number 8



*photo from Lonnie Childs*



The August Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a hybrid meeting on Monday, August 22. Doors open at 6 for socializing; the business meeting is at 6:30, and the AT presentation will be from 7:10-8:10. Our AT speaker will be Lonnie Childs, who retired from a 30-year career as a manufacturing and supply chain executive, ending with leading his own management consulting firm. He lives in Fredericksburg and pursues his interests in history, natural history, and land conservation. Lonnie is a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, and has served as the State president of NPSOT and on the Gillespie County Historical Society Board of Directors. The title of his presentation is "Agaves, Yuccas, and Related Plants of Texas." He will discuss the general characteristics of these plant families, their geographical distribution across Texas, and information about their general care. Finally, specific species which are most suitable for home landscaping use will be highlighted and explored in greater detail.

Pre-registration is required to attend the chapter meeting/AT session via Zoom. Go to [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-CsrjqpEtznjsTPvgKHlbEnNz0Wf\\_GF](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-CsrjqpEtznjsTPvgKHlbEnNz0Wf_GF). You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. You can log into Zoom at 6pm on August 22.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...Carla Stang

My note to you this month is brief. First, I'd like to thank those who responded to the short survey recently sent out via email regarding our Chapter Meetings. We had about a 50% response rate. Analysis has just begun at the time of this writing. Information will be shared at the August chapter meeting and in the September Texas Star.

I also want you to know that we've had a few unplanned changes to members on our Board of Directors. Elsa Roberts needed to step down as Immediate Past President for personal reasons and Lisa Flanagan has agreed to fulfill the remainder of the 2022 term. Jane Jamison will step into the (2022) Class Representative position for Ramon Baez, who had new commitments, and Mark Hults has agreed to fulfill the remainder of the 2022 term for the Communications Director position, which had been vacant. Thank you all, both past and present Board members, for your volunteer work. All chapters need members to fill Board positions to help keep the chapter running smoothly; it's definitely a team effort.

Lastly, I mentioned in the July chapter meeting that our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event will be held at Camp Capers on December 17, 2022. The camp has a large indoor meeting room and some wonderful grounds to explore. If you are interested in helping plan the program of events, please contact me at [president@hillcountrytmn.org](mailto:president@hillcountrytmn.org). As a teaser...Michelle Haggerty has already "saved the date" on her calendar to attend and help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary! Stay tuned for more details.

# This Month We Honor



## Initial Certification

Jack Davis, Kathy Loring

## Recertifications

Jean Bodine, Marylein Davies, Ginny DeWolf, Brenda Fest, Dan Gallagher, Chris Keating, Carol Knutson, Bridget Langdale, Myrna Langford, Travis Lindscomb, Debbie Thompson, Phillip Youngblood

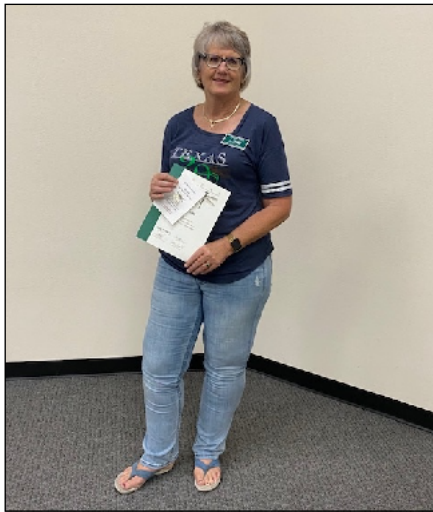
## Milestones

Amy Zesch - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly

Dot Maginot, Ron Scoggins - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly

Molly Houck - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

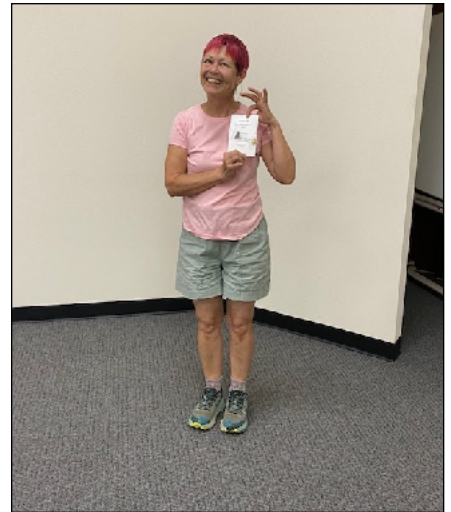
*Congratulations to members who received awards at the July meeting*



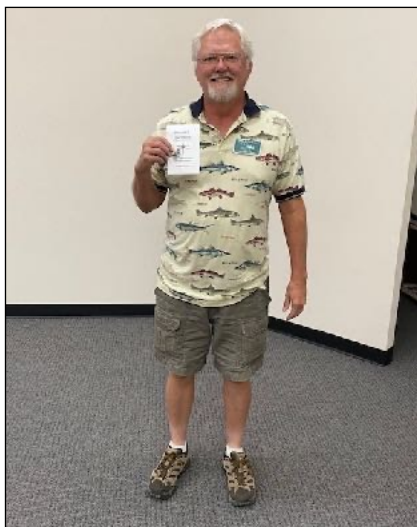
Patricia Poore



Mark Hults



Vivian Fink



Billy Guin



Laura King



Ron Childers

### **Bird Migration Workshop**

Join the Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center for a presentation on bird migration by one of our favorite guest speakers Patsy Inglet.

Texas is a major flyway for birds migrating in the Spring and Fall. Patsy will present information about why and how birds migrate, along with research findings about migration numbers and trends.

Patsy will also share information about how to get involved with Citizen Science Projects

#### **Lights Out Texas** and **BirdCast**

October 1, 2022 from 1:00 – 2:00pm

The Tatsch House  
Lady Bird Johnson Park  
Fredericksburg

Space is limited  
RSVP to Trudy Eberhardt by September 26  
[Trudyeberhardt@ymail.com](mailto:Trudyeberhardt@ymail.com)

AT22-331



Get Ready for Fall  
with

### **The Three Ms of Monarchs Workshop Milkweeds, Monitoring, and Migration**

Monday, September 19, 2022  
9:00 – 3:00  
Kerr WMA Bass Center, Hunt

Speakers will be:

Cathy Downs,  
Monarch Joint Venture Conservationist  
Deanna Pfeffer,  
TPWD Wildlife Biologist, Kerr WMA  
Gracie Waggener,  
TMN Hill Country Chapter

Come and learn what you can do to help  
the monarch butterfly population numbers.

**To attend, RSVP to Gracie at  
[gwaggener@flow-apps.com](mailto:gwaggener@flow-apps.com)**

AT22-288

## UGRA River Cleanup

Saturday, July 23, we joined forces with organizations throughout Kerr County to clean up the Guadalupe River. Our group met at Guadalupe Park which, as expected, needed a good deal of attention. The park itself looked pretty good but when we got down to the river it was a different story altogether.

Ramon Baez and Jared Briggs worked the area above the dam and fell in love with the big lake at the same time. Below the dam there was lots of debris caught in the trees and brush. Mark Loring cleared a lot of the debris but ran out of time and trash bags. There is still more work needed in that area. Further downriver must have been party central in the not-too-distant past as there were a lot of beer cans and party kinds of trash. Karolyn Andrews, Manos Kaloudis, and Phil Youngblood filled up half the bed of my pickup with trash bags from that one area. Carla Stang and Trudy Florence hiked further downriver and found, among many things, a volleyball! Meanwhile, Trudy Eberhardt cleaned the river from her kayak which looked to me to be the coolest way to work.

If you think we just found trash, think again. We found some kinds of weird stuff, too! Karolyn found yoga mats while Manos found a small scooter and golf balls. I think he kept the golf balls. Phil found a chair. Other stuff in the haul included huge chunks of wire, clothes, an inner tube, and a volley ball. When we were all done, the 6 ½ foot bed on my pickup was full to overflowing. We did good work on this little park. I heard that some of our TMNs were working in other areas with other groups and, of course, Dot Maginot was at Flat Rock Park with her Membership booth. Texas Master Naturalists were out in force! Still, this little park will definitely need more attention again in the Fall. I will work with UGRA to set up a time for us to go back, most likely in October, and will let you all know just as soon as we have a date. For sure, there will still be plenty to do.



*Trudy Florence, Carla Stang*



*Ramon Baez*



*Karolyn Andrews, Manos Kaloudis, Ramon Baez, Phil Youngblood, Trudy Eberhardt, and Jared Briggs, holding Bronco*

From Deb Youngblood

### Fall Guadalupe Park Cleanup Info

The Summer Guadalupe River Cleanup was a great success. Yes! UGRA was impressed with how much trash we picked up. Now we have an opportunity to do it again.

The Fall Guadalupe River Cleanup will be on Sept 24, 0800-1100.

To participate, go to

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe15hLjWB-KFNnq1l\\_F82AKqK-UkftXW3phubBIPz3o0\\_ZNSw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe15hLjWB-KFNnq1l_F82AKqK-UkftXW3phubBIPz3o0_ZNSw/viewform).

Be sure to indicate you are a TMN and the location you want is Guadalupe Park. The reason for making sure you indicate these two things is that I will be picking up all supplies and equipment for everyone. Also, please drop me an email to let me know you are signed up.

Be at Guadalupe Park at 0800 for check-in. We will work until 1100. Kayaks welcome.

I will take your trash and pictures and distribute goody bags for participants. I will return all equipment and unused supplies to UGRA.

All you have to do is show up and pick up trash. It does not get any easier than this!!

AND you can still get a t-shirt if you did not get one for the Summer Cleanup. Just indicate you want one on the form and I will have it with me on Sept 24.

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. The board meets at the Riverside Nature Center at 2:30 on the Monday of the chapter's monthly meeting.



## Save the Date

September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00am

Watch [riversidenaturecenter.org](http://riversidenaturecenter.org)  
for more details!

- Awards
- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Food

**Fun for All Ages!**

830.257.4837 • [riversidenaturecenter.org](http://riversidenaturecenter.org) • 150 Francisco Lemos St. Kerrville Tx



**Every Friday 10am-12pm**  
**@ Riverside Nature Center**

Naturalist, author, and columnist, Jim Stanley and Texas Master Naturalist and native plant enthusiast, John Huckstead will be available to meet one on one to answer questions, discuss various topics, or listen to ideas about nature.

830.257.4837 • [riversidenaturecenter.org](http://riversidenaturecenter.org) • 150 Francisco Lemos St. Kerrville Tx

From Rheda Boardman

NPSOT Boerne: Archeology of the Edwards Plateau  
September 6, 2022  
6:30pm-8:30pm (Presentation to follow meeting)  
Cibolo Center for Conservation 140 City Park Road, Boerne, TX  
Presenter: Steve Stoutamire

Learn the basics of how Native Americans lived in our regions, from the type of tools and weapons they made and used to survive, to the food sources (both plant and animal). The presentation will cover the archeological periods in Texas and why each is different, and explain how evidence now strongly indicates that these ancient peoples were living in our region as far back as 20,000 years before present.

Steve is a retired petroleum geologist who earned an MS degree in Geology (1975) from Texas Tech University. During a 32-year career in the petroleum industry he held positions in both domestic and international operations. He is an active avocational archeologist and regularly works to educate the public through teaching classes and giving archeology lectures. He works with private land owners, by their invitation, to help them understand archeological sites on their property. He serves as chairman of the board of the Gault School of Archeological Research at the University of Texas, Austin and as a Texas Archeology Steward for the Texas Historical Commission.



You are invited to the **23<sup>rd</sup> Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting**- an event to gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. This year's meeting will be the weekend of **Thursday, October 20 through Sunday, October 23, 2022** with plenty of activities for all to enjoy! Join us for a long weekend of greenspace adventures in the natural hideaways of our largest urban area in Texas.

This year's Annual Meeting will be hosted in the heart of one of the most ecologically diverse urban centers in the nation. Houston is nestled in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion of Texas, inviting a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation. With a temperate climate and abundant rainfall, well-known species include the Houston toad and the whooping crane. The conference will be held at the Omni Houston, which sits on the shores of Buffalo Bayou. It creates 160 acres of greenspace in the heart of downtown Houston, re-introducing the natural world to those who call the city their home.

Registration is now open! Registration will be limited to 500 total registrants each day; thus registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registrants will be able to attend field sessions (no transportation provided, caravan or carpool-at-will this year) exploring some key nearby natural areas where TMNs work, and all technical sessions will be on site.

Full conference registration will **include all meals**: Thursday evening dinner through Sunday breakfast with ample breaks and snacks throughout.

Registrants will also receive a registration swag bag. All registrations include full access to the **Virtual Attendee Hub** conference website and app, and to Annual Meeting contests, app games, and session chat. Lodging is a separate cost and not included in the registration prices.

### Virtual Registration

The Texas Master Naturalist Program Office is currently monitoring the current COVID-19 potential impacts on this year's meeting. With lessons learned from the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meeting, we are putting potential plans into place for some form of a hybrid/virtual experience for guests who may not feel comfortable traveling to an in-person event. This may include virtual streaming of select technical sessions or streaming of just the keynote sessions and awards ceremony. More information about the virtual registration options, virtual registration cost, and sessions included will be shared in mid-August as we continue to monitor the potential need for this format of meeting attendance.

To register, go to

<https://web.cvent.com/event/a1c4ae0d-6420-4ce7-88f9-ba5fba4b6211/regProcessStep1>

The View from Rusty Bend



*Painted Bunting or Siete Colores*

After the dry spell

comes a rain—  
(sometimes I change  
myself by sliding  
things around  
in my brain)

but this rain—  
this rain  
(I gather those spaces  
before thought  
collect each one—  
like shiny stones  
in the grit of habit)

this is not a blue rain  
flecked with diamonds

this is no gray rain  
laced with fog

this rain falls—  
on the animal inside me  
my heart slow  
my breath regular  
a green rain  
a rescue rain

this rain  
sings to me—  
sings to me  
as if I were still a girl

*continued on next page*



In a drought, take your pleasures where you can. Any rain, however brief, so welcome and to be savored. At Rusty Bend, we shift our focus to the evening, to the heavens, to the reassuring moon and predictable paths of planets. We listen to night sounds on the river, where battles over water rights echo an African savannah.

Then, Andy and I take our coffee on the porch each morning, to discover more bird songs, a lifetime project. The singing starts before it is light. Eastern Wood Peewee is an early riser too as he serenades with a dawn song. This morning a Golden-cheeked Warbler stopped by for a drink. Is there a better way to start a day?

I walk the river each Sunday morning to set an intention for the coming week and its discouraging forecast: more hot and more dry. Cooper's Hawk flies above me scolding with his *kak-kak-kac-kac-kac*, then I hear bagpipes from a neighbor's ranch. Weirdly, the two sounds somehow fit my mood. I want to scold the sky "make more rain and make it now!" yet my heart yearns for anthems of moisture on the wind.

So we've got a bad case of the stewardship blues. A serious case. Hard not to feel helpless in the face of a prolonged drought. We can't stop this greying of the landscape. We can't make the river flow. We can't make the flowers bloom. We can't raise the water table. We can't protect the trees. Poor Frostweed looks like someone took a pear burner to it.

Mostly we pivot from bemoaning to curiosity. What is different with so little rain? The trees are suffering each in their own style. Some curl their leaves, some leaves droop, some are folding, some are turning yellow, some are thinning on top like old men. Hackberries seem hard hit, is it because their roots are shallow? Is this a dormancy driven by drought or a death knell?

We monitor the troughs and bird baths, top off the frog pond, capture every drop from the air conditioner. Feeder duty, sometimes twice a day. The Painted Buntings inhale the white millet so fast you can watch them bulk like the athletes they are. Their color graces every window. The bees haunt each random bloom. Still, we miss the butterflies and the big bugs. It's too hot for lizards and snakes except at night, so we watch where we step.

Sigh. We can't do much. We hand water on Thursdays. We watch and breathe. We learn by listening. We can treat the land tenderly. We can pay a sort of devout attention. We can do like they did in the 50's and wait— with a fierce patience.



*Turkey Vultures drying after a welcome rain*

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2022

*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 [Wingbeat Atlas — FlowerSong Press & Juventud Press](#).*

Comments welcome at [lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com](mailto:lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com).

T E X A S



Chapter meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month (except in December). Members and the public are welcome to attend in person or virtually. There is no cost to attend.

**In-person:** We meet in the auditorium at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) Building at 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Doors open at 6PM for socializing. Business Meeting begins at 6:30PM. Advanced Training session is 7:10-8:10PM.

**Virtual:** [Click here to register:](#)

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 2022**

- Carla Stang -- President
- Frank Garcia -- Vice President
- Alice King -- Secretary
- Ron Scoggins -- Treasurer
- Diane Gierisch -- Advanced Training Director
- David Matthews -- Class Training Director
- Jane Jamison -- 2022 Class Representative
- Mark Hults -- Communications Director
- vacant -- IT Director
- Dot Maginot -- Membership Director
- Tom Burke -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Lisa Flanagan -- Past President
- Vern Crawford -- State Representative

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

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

The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse organizations or commercial sources mentioned in our newsletter. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and editor.



*Questions about our chapter?*

Email Dot Maginot  
Membership Director  
[membership@hillcountrytmn.org](mailto:membership@hillcountrytmn.org)

