

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter

September 2022 Volume 20 Number 9



*Eradicating Giant Reed*  
photo from Cheryl Hamilton



The September Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a hybrid meeting on Monday, September 26. Doors open at 6 for socializing. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 and the AT presentation will be from 7:10-8:10. Our speaker, Cheryl Hamilton, has been an Alamo Area Master Naturalist since 2007 and a member of the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas since 2009. She has presented more than 100 invasive/native plant workshops. The title of her presentation is "Invasive Plants: Stop the Spread, Spread the Word."

To attend the chapter meeting and/or AT via Zoom, pre-register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-CsrjgpEtnjsTPvgKHlbEnNz0Wf\\_GF](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-CsrjgpEtnjsTPvgKHlbEnNz0Wf_GF).

You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting, and can log into Zoom at 6pm on September 26.

From Nancy Scoggins

Hi everyone! I hope you've had a great summer and are ready for fall. Have you missed seeing your TMN friends during the last two years? Join us at UGRA on September 26 at 6pm for pre-meeting refreshments. I'm looking for a few volunteers to share your favorite appetizers and desserts! We need three people to bring sweet snacks, three to bring savory snacks, and three to bring non-alcoholic beverages. I'll also need a couple of people to help with cleanup. The chapter will supply the paper goods. Just email me at [nscogg@gmail.com](mailto:nscogg@gmail.com) if you want to bring something. At the September meeting I'll have a sign up sheet for the October and November meetings.

This is a great way to introduce or reintroduce yourself to the membership and enjoy the presentation in person. I hope to see you in September!

From Trudy Eberhardt

## **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 also will share information about how to get involved with

**Lights Out Texas** and **BirdCast** Citizen Science Projects

October 1, 2022 from 1:00 – 2:00pm

The Tatsch House, Lady Bird Johnson Park, Fredericksburg

Space is limited.

RSVP to Trudy Eberhardt ([Trudyeberhardt@ymail.com](mailto:Trudyeberhardt@ymail.com)) by September 26. (AT22-331)

# This Month We Honor

## Initial Certification

David Mathews, Kathy Webster

## Recertifications

Mackenzie Brown, David Drake, Donna Dutton, Dot Garlow, Robin Hale, Sharon Hixson,  
Mark Hults, Charleen Moore, Van Turner, Deborah Windham, Amy Zesch

## Milestones

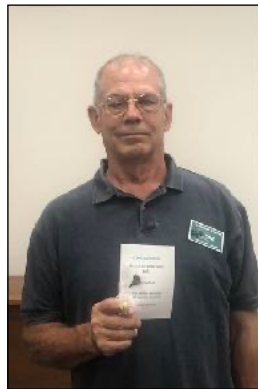
Linda Myers - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly

David Davies - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

Jane Crone - 5000 hours, Diamond Dragonfly



*Congratulations to members who received awards at the August meeting:*



Recertification: Chris Keating



Recertification: Ginny de Wolf



Certification: Jack Davis and Kathy Loring



500 hours: Ron Scoggins, Dot Maginot

From David Mathews, New Class Committee Co-director

Planning for the upcoming class is in full swing. Committee members met for the third time at the Riverside Nature Center and have been enthusiastically dividing up tasks, selecting field trip sites and presenters. The recently approved schedule will take place over a 12 week period, beginning next August and running through November. Classes, featuring field experiences and presentations, will meet Wednesday evenings in Kerrville and Saturday mornings. Our next meeting will be at RNC on September 21.



*Standing, back row:*

*David Drake, Patricia Poore, Sheryl Pender, Mark Hults, David Mathews, Lisa Flanagan, Mildred Dworsky*

*Standing, middle row:*

*Diana Adams, Karen Ozen*

*Kneeling:*

*Kathy Webster, Jane Jamison, Carra Milikien, Carla Stang*

**WELCOME**

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.

From Deb Youngblood

### Fall Guadalupe River Cleanup

We will come together on September 24 at 8:00am at the Guadalupe Park in Kerrville to clean up the park and the river banks. If you have a kayak, we need you. If you have wading boots, we need you. If you love this little park on the river, we need you. If you have leather work gloves, bring them. Got water shoes? Wear them. Tips for an extra good time: wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses

I will be picking up supplies at UGRA next week. All you need to do is sign up at [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) and show up on Sept. 24 at 8:00am at [Guadalupe Park in Kerrville](#). When you sign up, be sure to indicate you are a Texas Master Naturalist and that your preferred location is Guadalupe Park. I will bring pickers, vests, and t-shirts.

Do you have to be a TMN to participate? No. Bring your neighbors or bring your friends. Just make sure they all sign up. We will start at 8:00am and finish by 10:00am. Bring your best photogenic smile for pictures with your collected trash. We will have water and snacks to help you stay hydrated. Guarantee: you will know you did a good thing when you are done.

From Paula Harley

### Fall Raffle

Wild Birds Unlimited has donated a "Birder's Basket" to raffle off as part of the "Every Drop Counts" Water Conservation Education Day held in lieu of the fall plant sale. The basket includes a "Vanguard" set of binoculars valued at \$350, a signed copy of *Ornithotherapy*, a cool clay titmouse house, a unique tea towel, and *The Crossley ID Guide: Western Birds*. This basket is valued at \$500; proceeds benefit Riverside Nature Center, Native Plant Society (Kerrville), and Hill Country Master Naturalists.

Tickets can be purchased at Riverside Nature Center and at the September MN chapter meeting. One ticket for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Cash or check is preferred; you need not be present at the Education Day to win.



From Dot Maginot, Membership Director

### Water Conservation Education Day

Riverside Nature Center will be co-hosting an exciting event with the Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter and the Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter on October 8 from 10-2. Let's talk about our landscaping and environmental stewardship before, during, and after a drought. We will have live presentations, demonstrations, exhibitors and, of course, activities for the young naturalists too.

This event will take the place of the fall plant sale. Encouraging people to purchase and care for thirsty plants in this time of drought is just not in keeping with our joint missions.

We hope you will take advantage of this free educational opportunity at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville.



RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER  
ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER 8, 2022

# EVERY DROP COUNTS

AN EVENT TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR WATER CONSERVATION BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A DROUGHT.  
EXHIBITORS, LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS,  
FOOD AND KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Activities will include, making of seed balls, make rain sticks, and a seed stomp.  
Demonstrations will include drip irrigation, rain barrels and pocket prairies.

## Featured Presenters

10:30am

Tree Care in a Drought -Texas A&M Forest Service

11:45am

Drought Proof Texas with Pete Van Dyck

1:00pm

The State of Water in the Texas Hill Country  
Marisa Bruno, Hill Country Alliance

[WWW.RIVERSIDENATURECENTER.ORG](http://WWW.RIVERSIDENATURECENTER.ORG)



From Mary Pearl Meuth and Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program



**TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST**  
2022 ANNUAL MEETING  
**HOUSTON, TX**  
OCTOBER 20-23

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 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.

To register, go to

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



 **PLANT PARTY**

**SEPT. 28, 2022 | 10 - 11:30 AM CDT**  
**FREE webinar with great door prizes!**

# IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST...

What Exactly IS a Forest?  
 Forest Management 101  
 Managing Oak Wilt  
 All About Epiphytes!  
 Trees - Water and Drought



**To register for this virtual event: scan QR code above or visit**  
**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PPForestry>**  
 For more information:  
 Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu, Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov, Charles.Kneuper@usda.gov



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



At the October 4 meeting of the Boerne NPSOT chapter, Lonnie Childs will speak on "Agaves, Yuccas, and Related Plants of Texas." Mr. Childs will provide background on the ethno-botanical uses of Agaves and Yuccas along with some interesting historical facts about these plants and their human interactions. The meeting will be at the Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium in Boerne, from 6:30-8:30.

At the September 27 meeting of the Fredericksburg NPSOT chapter, Kim Ort will speak on "Living off the Land? Edibles and Beneficial Native Plants." The meeting will be from 6:30-8pm at 208 Danos Drive in Fredericksburg.

On October 11 at 1:30 the mayor of Kerrville, Judy Eychner, will present a city proclamation in honor of Texas Native Plant Week at the Butt-Holdsworth Library. The Kerrville chapter business meeting will follow. At 2pm, we will host a screening of "Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home."

On October 22 from 2-4pm we will partner with the the library and Riverside Nature Center for a public presentation by Sara Dykman about her book "Bicycling With Butterflies." She will tell us about her 10,201-mile bike trip from Mexico to Canada and back with the Monarch butterflies.

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

Naturalist, author, and columnist, Jim Stanley and Texas Master Naturalist and native plant enthusiast, John Hucksteadt 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.

**RSVP! LIMITED SEATING**

**RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER ASSOCIATION**

**Proud Event Sponsor:**

**2022 NEd Talk Series**  
 Tales of a Texas Hill Country & Beyond  
**Naturalist, Fly Fisherman & Marine Veteran**  
**Steve Ramirez**  
 Author of  
**Casting Forward & Casting Onward**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for a conversation with outdoor adventure author, Steve Ramirez, as he shares how his journey searching for America's native game fish led him on a path of healing & inspiration. Steve will share how the healing powers of nature helped him to survive the effects of PTSD & inspired him to help protect & preserve our wild sacred spaces.

**6pm - 7pm: NEd Talk**  
**8pm - 9pm: Author Book Signing**  
**Suggested \$5 Donation**

**Limited Seating Available - RSVP TODAY!**  
**[rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com) or 830-257-4837**

**Books Available for Purchase at RNC!**



## Pack Your Bug Out Bag!

On Aug second, I got a huge and scary surprise. As I turned off my lane onto the well traveled back road to town, I saw in the distance a huge column of smoke and cloud. My first thought was that a bomb had detonated. But I had heard no sound. I stopped my car and got out. It was huge and silent. I sent my husband a picture. "Wildfire!" he responded.

I've seen wildfires before but not like this. It was huge. The air changed. The fire sucked the air around me in great swirls that lifted dust and leaves and twigs. A huge fire like this will do that - suck air towards it. I could tell it was moving fast. We decided to pack our Bug Out Bags just in case we were told to evacuate.

Because we had not done that in advance, we really did not know what we should pack. By the time we had packed way too much, the winds changed and the wildfire was headed away from us. But I know this could happen again and the fire storm might not turn away from us next time.

After a little research, I found a couple of good lists online of the kinds of things we should pack. I have created a custom list for us so that we can be packed and out of here fairly quickly. Some of the things on the list can be packed now or put in the truck ahead of time. You can make your own custom list and, if you have children, you might want to add a section for the things you need to pack for them.

Wildfires are scary and they move fast. It is better to be ready now than to have to "hope you got everything" while in the middle of the crisis.

### Bug Out List

- Water and snacks;  
    traffic could be bad getting out
- Flashlights, extra batteries
- Portable radio
- First aid kit
- Whistle for signaling for help
- Light-weight blankets for summer;  
    heavier blankets for winter
- Maps/Google Maps
- A general purpose tool kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Cash (recommendations vary  
    from \$200 to \$1000)
- House and car keys
- Cell phones and chargers
- Laptops and power cords

#### Documents

- Passports and other forms of ID that you have
- Credit Cards
- Titles to all vehicles
- Deed to your house and/or land
- Previous statements for all creditors  
    and bank accounts
- Copies of insurance policies

#### Personal items

- Family pictures and photos
- Cameras
- Prescription medicines
- A spare set of glasses
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Special or valuable items

#### Pets

- Carrier for cat
- Crate for dog
- Pet food and water
- Litter box for cat
- Puppy pads for dog

#### Tips:

- Decide now where you will go.  
    Making the decision in the midst of a crisis  
    could lead to confusion. Mark your maps or route  
    on Google maps and share your route with your  
    spouse, friends, and family.
- Keep your gas tank at no less than half full.
- Before you leave, close all the windows  
    in your house, close all interior doors and  
    remove your curtains from your windows;  
    take them down.
- Turn off propane gas at the tank,  
    remove your propane tank from your BBQ -  
    take it with you; remove it from your property.

From Lucy Griffith

## The View from Rusty Bend



*Drought relief on the horizon?*

### Petition

Dear drought, relent. No wonder they call it breaking. We see you like an overlong guest now, in all your moods. Your dewless mornings, your dry winds that chap our cheeks, your skim milk skies. The grasses change their clothes from jade to tan to ashy gray. Our dreams smell like burnt toast. We invent new words—winterstrip, crackle-dirt, wilt-bush. You've staled the air like a thief, robbed its fresh. We miss the music of frogs, the wildstorms, the intoxicant of petrichor. We even miss pollen. Trees droop limp-leafed, like losing a friend, we watch them die. Our eyes light-worn with cloud searching, our hope is torn. We know you, drought. We know you well, now go.

*continued on next page*

This is the 100<sup>th</sup> View from Rusty Bend. I've learned so much from this monthly ritual: how to slow down, honing my noticing skills, remembering to write about the hard things as well as the wondrous, how to listen, learning to follow smells, how the amazing can hide in the ordinary, even in the dog days of August.

### Toolkit for the Dog Days

- Wake early.
- Put out a yearning for rain.
- Listen in the dark with your coffee. Who is going to bed? Fox? Bobcat? Owl?
- Look for bats, are they sipping that rare dew from your roof?
- Take a walk. If you're wearing red, be prepared for a stern interrogation by one or more hummingbirds as to whether thou art a flower.
- Tune your nose for any whiff of grassfire.
- Listen for the songs of stragglers who haven't flown south. Does that pit-ti-tuk belong to the very last Summer Tanager?
- Is that a Carolina Wren with a song that sounds like a thumb on a comb?
- Watch for what is different.
- Why is that turkey hen sitting and pecking in such a rhythm? Oh, harvester ants, one by one.
- Look for tracks in the dust. Each has a story.
- Watch for scat. More stories. Purple poop means purple fruit.
- Investigate spots of color. I saw orange balls one morning and found the surprise fruit of a horse creeper cactus.
- Look up, who's migrating south?
- Which trees have declared an early fall?
- Look for erosion. Drag dead branches over those deer paths that are getting so deep.
- Check your water sources.
- Fill the feeders.
- Take a nap.
- Read a book, a good one.
- Lie down next to a window. Imagine the sky as a movie. Study the clouds in their evanescence, are they growing or vanishing? Watch the turkey vultures share their lessons: soaring just for kicks.
- Notice the sun creeping south each day. Look for thunderheads.
- Sing a song and dance for rain.
- Did I say wake early?
- Have a star party. Meteors. Moon. Night sounds.
- Sing a song and dance for rain.
- Did I say wake early?



*Follow the color. Prickly Pear Fruit*

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

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



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 7-8PM.

Virtual: The link is available at [txmn.org/hillcountry](http://txmn.org/hillcountry).

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**

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

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

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



*Questions about our chapter?*

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