

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

November 2022 Volume 20 Number 11



image by Sheryl Benson Pender



The November Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a hybrid meeting on Monday, November 28. 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 speakers, Travis Linscomb, Matthew Wilkinson, and Shelby Taber, will give an overview of UGRA's role in Kerr County as well as outline some programs and strategies that are used to implement them and actions people can take to protect our waterways.

To attend the chapter meeting and/or AT via Zoom, click [HERE](#) to register. You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting, and you can log into Zoom at 6pm on November 28.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....Carla Stang

Happy fall everyone! This will be the last newsletter for 2022 and I'd like to thank Lenore Langsdorf, editor of The Texas Star newsletter, and those who have contributed consistently to publishing our chapter newsletter. Having the newsletter sent via email to a wider distribution of people than our members and having it available online helps inform and educate the public about what great things TMN, including our chapter, does.

By the time you receive this newsletter chapter members will have already received email notification of the 2023 Board of Directors Officer's slate and notification of TMN Bylaws revisions. We will be voting on both items at the November 28th chapter meeting. We have a slate of outstanding volunteers who have agreed to serve as officers on our board:

President: Jeff Schwarz, Class of 2021
Vice President: Kim Ort, Class of 2011
Treasurer: Ron Scoggins, Class of 2016
Secretary: Patti Guin, Class of 2021

If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to RSVP to attend our Chapter's 20th Anniversary Volunteer Appreciation event on December 17 at Camp Capers, which is located in Welfare on the Guadalupe River. For this special Chapter 20th Anniversary event, there is no charge for our chapter members, and you are welcome to bring a guest for \$20 fee. Details are located on the chapter website, at Annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration – December 2022 (txmn.org).

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The venue and grounds are really nice and to take advantage of that we are offering small group nature/birding walks starting at 9:30, led by several of our members. Pack your walking shoes and work up your appetite! The meeting place is at the Camp Capers Welcome Center Porch. In addition to a great lunch, there are tantalizing items that have been donated for the silent auction . . . maybe a little something for holiday giving. There will also be some interesting chapter factoids and photos to share and reminisce about. We will recognize members with volunteer service awards and milestone awards and last, but not least, Michelle Haggerty will speak to us about her perspectives of TMN longevity and the Hill Country Chapter.

Lastly, the November 28 chapter meeting is our last for the year; if you are not at the December party, we will see you in January. All my best wishes to my Master Naturalist friends for a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Diana Adams, Laurie Fondern, Randi Mellon Jehle

Special Recertification - Class of 2022

Jane Jamison, Kathy Loring, David Matthews, Kathy Webster

Recertifications

Carla Brady, Randy Fuentes, Lois Gaines, Sandra Haldeman, Tom Harrigan, Jane Jamison, Sharron Jay, Terry Lashley, Robin May, Alexis McRoberts, Carra Milikien, Linda Myers, Patricia Poore, Jeff Schwarz, Kathy Ward, Kevin Wessels

Milestones

Robin Hale, Alice King - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly
Linda Fiore - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly
Terry Lashley - 1000 hours, Gold Dragonfly

*Congratulations to Richard Adams,
who received an award at the
October chapter meeting.*



From Alice King, Hill Country Chapter Secretary

Hi Everyone! I am organizing a silent auction for our Annual Volunteer Recognition & Chapter 20th Anniversary party on December 17 at Camp Capers.

Donations don't need to be big \$\$\$.
Consider items with opening bids of \$5 - \$50

Example donations: hand-made items, baked goods, jewelry (hand-made or used), gently used items of interest to Master Naturalists like nature-themed books, scarves, etc. Please let me know (secretary@hillcountrytmn.org) if you have any questions.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at Camp Capers!
Please let me know if you plan to contribute an item so that I can have a bid sheet ready.



Several members of the Hill Country Chapter (not all of whom were present when this photo was taken) attended this year's annual meeting in Houston.
From left to right: Donna Dutton, Frank Garcia, Lenore Langsdorf, Jane Jamison, Vern Crawford, Gracie Waggener, Suanne Pyle.

BIRD WALK & TALK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
9:00 - 10:30AM
LOCATION:
FLAT ROCK PARK DOG PARK
3840 RIVERSIDE DR, KERRVILLE, TX 78028, USA

Join Paul and Deloris Sellin for a morning bird walk along the Guadalupe River Trail. You will learn life histories of our avian residents and migratory feathered friends. All ages and levels of experience are welcome.

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

From Carla Stang, Chapter President

Hi everyone,

I have a couple of announcements to pass along to you; both items are volunteer opportunities.

1. "Talk to a Naturalist". This is in cooperation with Riverside Nature Center (RNC). Jim Stanley used to have a weekly two hour time period where he was available for anyone to ask him questions about plants, nature, and hill country land management, etc. Jim is no longer doing these sessions. Becky Etzler, RNC Director, is looking for one or two TMNs who would be willing to volunteer for 1-2 hours, once a month to help people find answers to their questions. Day of week and time of day negotiable. Becky commented that there was getting to be routinely a few people who would stop by for assistance and she'd like to continue to offer this service. BTW, you don't have to know all of the answers! There are tons of resources and references to use if you don't know an answer off the top of your head...and what a great way to learn new information or bone up on something yourself. Contact Becky at (830) 257-4837 if you are interested!
2. YMCA Roberts Ranch Trail Team work is starting back up! The trail team at YMCA Roberts Ranch, outside of Comfort, is looking for volunteers to help clear and construct a newly flagged trail. Trail-work is scheduled for every Wednesday at 8:30 AM. You MUST contact Constance or Robert (see the info below) prior to going to the Ranch to work on the trail team. They will send out plans each week to the team volunteers with information about what work will be done each Wednesday.
Go to YMCA Roberts Ranch Trail Fun – Kendall (txmn.org) on our chapter website to read more about this rewarding and fun opportunity.
Contacts: Constance Weaver, email: huuzhu@yahoo.com or Robert Shock, phone: 814-386-4683.

Thanks for considering these volunteer opportunities.

Carla

From Gracie Waggener



Grab a hat or a T, cup, or a fan to show your pride in our Hill Country chapter's 20th year.

Join us to grab your gear
at the chapter meeting on November 28.

Show off your look
at the Volunteer Appreciation lunch
on December 17.

Limited edition, inventory, and time!

Guadalupe River Cleanup, Fall 2022

The Fall cleanup of the Guadalupe River at Guadalupe Park in Kerrville went well. We were a small but dedicated group of nine.



Katy Kappel, Patricia Poore and Phil Youngblood brought their kayaks but quickly learned that their trash collection efforts would have to be limited to only the deepest waters. Patricia's most fun find was a tiny liquor bottle.

Constance Weaver and I collected tiny bits of trash from the parking lot and picnic areas, mostly cigarette butts. All together we collected about a hundred pounds of trash.

Dave Faison, my son-in-law, joined us and managed to collect two trash bags of construction debris, the heaviest contribution to our trash collection. His "fun find" was a blue cap.



Ronnie Childers, Susan Parker, and Frank Garcia all collected balls!

We were delighted to see that the park had been well cleaned after the triathlon. At first, we thought we would collect nothing. One thing you can count on, though, is that people lose things, drop things and generally leave a mess. We were glad to be there to tidy things up again. The weather was wonderful and it was awesome to see friends old and new.

From Sheryl Benson Pender

When Mary Mechler requested a Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program visit through the Hill Country chapter's website, she indicated she was 'ready' to be recognized as a Pollinator Champion. She learned about the program from an active TMN member who met Mary at the 2022 Master Gardener program.

Trudy Eberhardt and I joined Mary in early November at her home in Ingram. Our PGARP visit was like walking through a backyard native plant nursery full of butterflies and bees!

After identifying over 25 native plants and recognizing that PGARP requirements were met, we began to play: Following a couple Monarchs through the gardens, taking photos of a black swallow-tail caterpillar on her fennel, then finding a second smaller one in the fennel thicket, finding a kitty beetle on a white boneset, and watching a painted lady perched atop a different one; noting a couple ambling bumblebees, followed by "oh, look — there's our native bee." And of course, watching the queens everywhere!



Trudy Eberhardt and Mary Mechler

How could you not just sit on a bench and enjoy watching the busy pollinators at work? Congratulations to Mary Mechler! And Heads Up: Mary is planning to be a member of the TMN Class of 2023.



The **Boerne Chapter** meeting on January 3 will be at the Cibolo Center for Conservation at 6:30, with a presentation by Steve Stoutamire to follow. He is an active avocational archeologist who regularly works to educate the public through teaching classes and giving lectures. His presentation is entitled "The Archeology of the Edwards Plateau." Join us to 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 **Kerrville Chapter** meeting in December will be on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 2:00 pm at Riverside Nature Center. We will have a short presentation on Carroll Abbott (Mr. Bluebonnet) and then enjoy holiday cookies and tea.

We are also having a fund raising raffle including the original watercolor of our chapter logo, donated by Nancy Huffman, the artist. This is a \$300 value. There will be several other items including a Christmas Basket of Flowers centerpiece, a \$25 gift card to Wild Birds Unlimited, a set of hand made pillows, and more items to come. We will update our website early in December with dates/times where we will sell tickets (\$1). You need not be present to win on December 13.

The January Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10 at 2:00 pm at Riverside Nature Center. Local beekeeper, Amy Thompson, will speak about ecologically responsible honey bee keeping with native plants.

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.



Presented By



WILD AT WORK

A Stewardship Series

A FREE virtual program
Thursday, December 1 at noon

The Current State of Chronic Wasting Disease in Texas

Register:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wawass-cwd/event/861364>

Featuring Mitch Lockwood
Big Game Program Director at Texas
Parks and Wildlife Department

Note: our virtual meeting room space is limited and admission is first come, first-served! Please be sure to logon promptly to secure your spot.

Questions? Contact Amanda Gobeli (720-333-6224) agobeli@texas-wildlife.org.



texasriparian.org



Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop Hickory Creek Watershed

December 6, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center
3310 Collins Rd, Denton, TX 76208

Online RSVP and Agenda: <https://tamu.estore.flywire.com/products/denton2022>

For more information, please contact Alexander Neal at 979-314-2351 or Alexander.Neal@ag.tamu.edu.

Continuing Education Units available: Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators License – 3 CEUs; Texas Water Resources Institute – 1 CEU; Certified Crop Advisor - 7 CEUs; Texas Nutrient Management Planning Specialists – 6 hours; Texas Floodplain Management Association – 7 CECs; International Society of Arboriculture - 8.25 CEUs (Certified Arborist: 2.75, Municipal Specialist: 2.75, BCMA - Science: 0.75, BCMA - Practice: 2); Texas Forestry Association – 6 hours; Society of American Foresters – 6.5 CFEs (6 Cat. 2 and 0.5 Cat. 1); Texas Board of Architectural Examiners “Acceptable for HSW credit”; and may also be used for CEUs for Professional Engineers.

The workshop will include both indoor classroom and outdoor presentations by multiple natural resource agency experts and an outdoor field portion on a creek to discover how it functions and the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning systems. **RSVP by November 29, 2022 at the link above or by contacting Neal.** A catered lunch will be available for \$15. Lunch can be paid for in advance by credit card or in cash onsite during the event. There will also be coffee, tea, crackers and cookie snacks. The workshop is being co-hosted by the City of Denton, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Riparian Association, and the Texas Water Resources Institute.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Org./Employer: _____ Lunch Options: ☐ I will have the catered lunch
☐ I will bring my own



Funding provided through a Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source Grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The View from Rusty Bend



Putting the rust in Rusty Bend

Cinnamon River

October light casts an amber spell
upon the land, gentling.
Giving respite, a signal to go deep,

go deep, to linger in stillness.
October sizzles a
rusty luminescence of cypress

that slowly works its way up,
from water to sky,
as if the river were breathing light.

Daily, an invitation from trees,
*Come see what I'm up to—
This leaf is as big as your face.*

*Did that wind last night strip
me bare? Watch this shard of gold
twirl to earth.*

Look, I put a cinnamon carpet on the river.
October nights— lie in bed and listen.
The melancholy bugle of Sandhill Cranes

swells the air as they glide above,
sounding close enough to touch.
They carol lullabies.

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October at Rusty Bend and all I want to do is dawdle. To walk on the river is to dwell in metaphor. I read that the colors of fall have resided all along in the leaves. Chlorophyll has been decommissioned and as enzymes break it down, the oranges and golds and fiery reds that have been secreted there all along, catch on fire. Pigments in hiding.

I walk slowly, feeling the contours of losses, large and small. Though the leaves seem to be blown off each tree, they actually grow off. That little socket at the end of each stem tells the tale. Set free.

In October the sun turns warm on my skin and I seek it out each morning. So do the butterflies. When the leaves drift to earth, I must double-check for wings.

So I wander, thrilling to the profusion of seeds on each stem of prairie grass, as if they are issuing some sort of challenge to the drought. *Watch this! You can't stop me!* Little Bluestem, all the gramas, Tall Dropseed, Rescue Grass, Silver Bluestem.

I remember to look up—for kettles of hawks, for Sandhill Cranes, for the scores of meteors in Orion before dawn, winking at me. Then I remember to look down, for fox has left a fragrant editorial remark on the step.

October has me so calm, prepping me for dormancy, that I take the time to follow the caterpillar, to watch for what the *parids* are fussing about, to stare at the Brown Thrasher in the bird bath, bathing with what can only be called exuberance. Soaked and streaked and olive-eyed.

The message is there, written in every tree. In order to grow, you have to let go.



Esperanza giving hope to pollinators

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 www.flowersongpress.com.

Comments welcome at 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: Links are available at 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

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
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membership@hillcountrytmn.org

