



# Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter NEWSLETTER

**January/February/March 2017**

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## Bluebonnets!!!



## Introducing the 2017 LMN President

Glenna and I moved from Missouri City, Texas to New Braunfels two and a half years ago. We signed up a little late for the first Lindheimer Master Naturalist class that fall. The class started a month after we moved in 2014. We graduated in October 2015.

My undergraduate degree is a double major of Biology and Chemistry from Angelo State University. Then I went to medical school at UT Houston. I have always had a love of biology, nature and the environment. I was a Boy Scout leader for many years with my three sons. I tried to instill a love of the outdoors and nature in my sons and the other scouts.

I have enjoyed being a member of the Lindheimer Master Naturalist chapter these two years and learning about the Hill Country environment, plants, animals and water. This is a little different from the Gulf Coast. There are so many wonderful Master Naturalist volunteer and educational opportunities to try in our area. I have enjoyed learning about the variety of habitats in Comal County through these varied activities.

One of my first Presidential activities was to continue the clean-up of the Chapter Operating Handbook that was started last year. I would like to work on updating the reading list and reference document that is posted on the LMN website. I believe it might be of interest to the members to give a short report and a list of references from the programs that our members attend around the County. This could be in the newsletter or by separate email.

It will be a great Naturalist year.

-Joel Dunnington

# Christmas Bird Count: A Citizen Science Project for 117 Years

Coco Brennan, Lindheimer Master Naturalists

Hunting has always been an activity that provided food for the table, tradition and outdoor enjoyment for thousands of hunters across the U.S. For nearly 150 years after the founding of this country there were no bag limits, no licenses and no species were spared.

This unlimited hunting led to the demise of many species, such as the passenger pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*). Passenger pigeons flew in such numbers when the self-taught naturalist and artist, John James Audubon, first started studying birds full time in 1820, that they blackened the sky and the sound of their wings was like thunder. By the mid-1890's the passenger pigeon's population had declined to the dozens and then finally went extinct in 1914 when the last known pigeon, called Martha, died in the Cincinnati Zoo. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, birds' feathers, and sometimes birds themselves, were popular as decoration on clothing. By 1910, the great egret population was reduced by 95% by market hunters satisfying the desire for egret plumes to put on ladies' hats.

In 1886, explorer, anthropologist, naturalist and hunter George Bird Grinnell was the editor of a popular magazine featuring hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities in the U. S. called "Forest and Stream." He was appalled by the indiscriminant slaughter and waste caused by the unlimited hunting. Grinnell formed a society dedicated to the conservation and preservation of birds and named it after John James Audubon: The Audubon Society of New York, forerunner of the National Audubon Society.



By 1900, it had become a tradition on Christmas Day to go hunting for winter birds; contesting to bag as many birds as possible. Dr. Frank Chapman, an Audubon Society member and creator of the magazine which would become "Audubon" magazine, founded the first Christmas Bird Count as an alternative to the hunt. One hundred and seventeen years later, the Count is the oldest and largest citizen science project in the U. S.

Today, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) period begins on December 14<sup>th</sup> and runs through January 5<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for joining a count. Each count area is described by a 15-mile circle. As an example, the New Braunfels Count circle's center is at the County Courthouse. Most count circles are split into sections and those sections are covered by teams of volunteer birders who follow assigned routes and count all the birds observed in their area. Counts are held on the specified date, regardless of the weather. Rare birds are documented and reported separately so they can be verified. All the teams report their findings to a compiler, who checks and verifies the bird lists before sending them to a regional coordinator and through them to the National Audubon Society.

Christmas Bird Counts are held all over North America. The data collected from CBC's is used to assess the health of the bird population and to help guide conservation efforts. Access to the data and more information about how the data is used can be found on Audubon's website: <http://www.audubon.org/history-christmas-bird-count>. The most recent CBC's counted 31,158,392 birds in 1273 counts, according to National Audubon, but data are still coming in. A list of 114 CBC's in Texas, and the contact details, is on Houston Audubon's web page: <http://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/christmas-bird-counts.html>. There are 24 CBC's in Central Texas, including our own New Braunfels Count. Birders of all expertise are welcome; all you need is a pair of binoculars and the desire to see birds.

# Volunteer Opportunities

Be sure to check out the on-line  
**Out & About Calendar**  
for opportunities to earn volunteer &  
advanced training hours.



**FOLK FEST**  
2017

**APRIL 8**  
10 AM - 6 PM

**APRIL 9**  
11 AM - 5 PM

**ADULTS \$5**  
**CHILDREN \$2**

**A CELEBRATION OF EARLY TEXANS**

- \* LIVING HISTORY
- \* 19TH CENTURY GAMES
- \* PIONEER COOKING
- \* INTERACTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
- \* HAYRIDES
- \* FOOD AND CRAFT BEER

**BENEFITING**  
**THE MUSEUM OF TEXAS HANDMADE FURNITURE**  
1370 CHURCH HILL DRIVE  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX. 78130  
TEXASHANDMADEFURNITURE.ORG

The poster features a green star logo at the top, a collage of photos showing people in historical costumes and activities, and a red background.

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

- Rachel Carson  
Silent Spring



## SAVE THE DATE! EARTH DAY

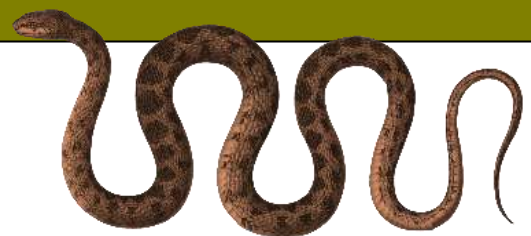
**APRIL 22, 2017 10am-2pm at TPML**  
The N2Nature Class is now planning Earth Day.  
If any members want to assist, please contact  
[m.hammack1972@gmail.com](mailto:m.hammack1972@gmail.com).  
Earn volunteer hours!

### Earth Day 2017's Campaign: Environmental & Climate Literacy

“Education is the foundation for progress. We need to build a global citizenry fluent in the concepts of climate change and aware of its unprecedented threat to our planet.

“We need to empower everyone with the knowledge to inspire action in defense of environmental protection.

“Environmental and climate literacy is the engine not only for creating green voters and advancing environmental and climate laws and policies but also for accelerating green technologies and jobs.”



## 2017 CHAPTER MEETINGS



- 1/19
- 2/16
- 3/16
- 4/20
- 5/18
- 6/15
- 7/20
- 8/17
- 9/21
- 10/19 – Graduation
- 11/16
- 12/TBA – Holiday Party

# C H A P T E R N E W S

**WOW!**  
**2016 Volunteer Hours**  
 Active Members – 133  
 Volunteer Hours – 19,153  
 Advanced Training Hours – 2,180  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Total Hours Since 2000**  
 Volunteer – 125,587  
 Advanced Training – 13,934

*Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.*

### SERVICE PINS

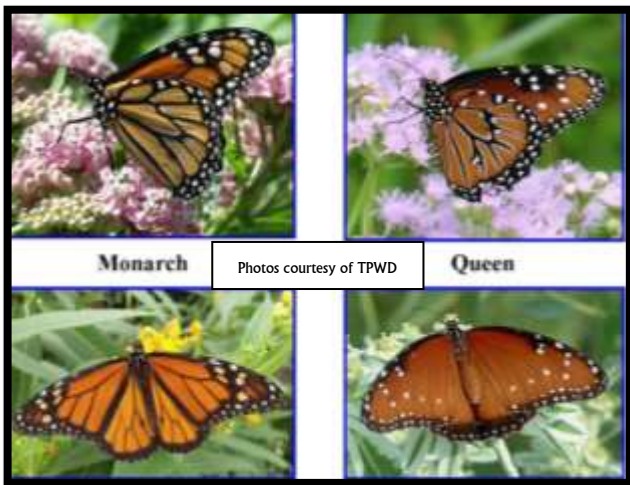
#### JANUARY

- 2017 Recertification (Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle): Susan Bogle, John Davis, Joel Dunnington, James Jameson & Mary Ann Richey
- 500 HOURS: James Jameson

#### FEBRUARY

- 2017 Recertification (Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle): Ron Butts, Julie Crouch, Mary Mathey, Lois Rici, Brian Trock and Art Williams.
- 500 HOURS: Tom Mathey

## Park Ranger Craig Hensley Speaks at LMN January 2017 Meeting



Park Ranger and Interpreter, **Craig Hensley**, provided an informative program on the Guadalupe River State Park’s Butterfly Surveys at the first meeting in 2017 of Lindheimer Master Naturalists. Craig is a valued advisor as well as frequent speaker and leader with LMN Chapter activities. Hailing originally from Michigan, he has been a naturalist for more than 30 years.

He explained that the regularly conducted surveys of types and numbers of butterflies at Guadalupe River State Park are unique in Texas and GRSP is the only park currently conducting surveys of this kind. The surveys began in 2012 and over the years more than 40 volunteers have participated. To date 94 species have been counted. The data from the surveys is maintained in spreadsheets indicating seasons, months, dates and numbers of each species and

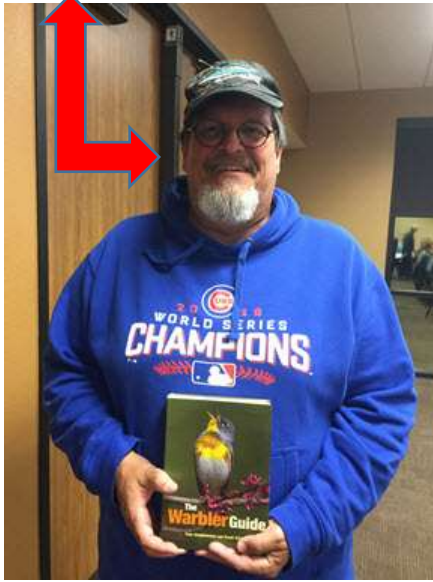
type of butterfly counted. The surveys not only provide information on butterflies themselves for the State, they can indicate possible changes that may be taking place in the environment affecting butterflies, as well as other wildlife.

Hensley said that Fall 2016 was “an amazing Fall for butterflies!” with the top six butterflies counted being the Monarch, Clouded Sulfur, Common Mestra, Queen, American Snout and Orange Sulfur. Some rare butterflies were also catalogued, including the Tailed Orange, Mexican Yellow, Mimosa Yellow Tropical Leafwing, Zebra Longwing, Sickle Winged Skipper, Long Tailed Skipper, White Patched Skipper, Angled Sulpher and the Coyote Cloudy Wing. **Thank you very much, Craig!**

# Spring Warblers Topic of LMN February 2017 Meeting

Endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler (TPWD)  
Black & White Warbler (oriolebirding.com)

Following up his January talk on Hill Country butterflies, **Park Ranger and Interpreter Craig Hensley** treated the LMN group of about 65 members



to a thorough (and thoroughly enjoyable) discussion of the small, colorful Spring Warblers. Many spring warblers are transients in the Hill Country, but the Northern Parula, Black-&-White, Golden-cheeked, Louisiana waterthrush, Yellow-throated, and the Yellow-breasted Chat are considered nesting species. Forty six species regularly occur in Texas, with another eight species discovered but considered vagrants - more than any other state. There is no overlap between breeding and wintering areas.



Because warblers are small, and present for such a short time, it can be difficult to



accurately identify them. Craig explained how to do so using eye rings, eye arcs, color and color distribution, caps, tail feathers, head marks, stripe patterns, songs, back color, rumps (“butter butt”) and more. We also learned that warblers are mostly insectivorous, but will eat fruits and nectar. They have various eating behaviors: Bark gleaning, leaf turning, leaf gleaning, flycatching or “sallying”, slow & methodical, and intensive. After the lecture, we had a short “test” identifying warblers as Craig flashed them up on the screen. It was a great primer for spring warbler watching. **Thank you very much again, Craig!**

## LMN March Meeting: Ferdinand Lindheimer & Botany in Texas 1830-1850



**Susan James**, LMN member, gave a fascinating talk about the “Father of Texas Botany” - Ferdinand Lindheimer (1801 – 1879). To give context to Lindheimer’s life, Susan described the period of time in which he grew up – the Romantic Period (1800 – 1850) when there was emphasis on art, poetry and music. Lindheimer, born in 1801 in Frankfurt, Germany, spent his early years in study of languages at universities in Wiesbaden, Jena, and Bonn, immersed in the idea that man could achieve perfection.

Lindheimer migrated to the US as a result of some unpopular political activities. He settled initially in Illinois, then joined a German group in Vera Cruz, Mexico, where he began his fascination with botany. In 1836 he came to Texas and joined the Texas army during the Revolution. He stayed in Texas because it was too “cold in Illinois” and began collecting plants for two botanists, George Englemann of Missouri Botanic Gardens and Asa Gray of Harvard University. For nine years he traveled with his dogs and a cart throughout the Texas coast and hill country areas in search of plants, which he dried and pressed and sent to the two botanists.

In 1844, he assisted Prince Karl of Solms-Braunfels in locating an area for a German settlement (which became New Braunfels) and was given property on the Comal River. His home & garden are a National Historical Site.

From the Handbook of Texas Online: “Lindheimer is credited with the discovery of several hundred plant species, among them a milkweed, a loco weed, a mimosa, a prickly pear, and a rock daisy. In addition his name is used to designate forty-eight species and subspecies of plants.” Susan called these plants Lindheimer’s “scientific children.” **Thank you very much, Susan!**

# CHAPTER INFO



Board Meetings  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 6pm  
AgriLife

## LMN HOSPITALITY



Our chapter meetings are made even more enjoyable by the great food members bring us.  
Many thanks from all of us to:

Joyce Doyle, Head of Hospitality Subcommittee

### January & February

Dottie Green  
Joel & Glenna Dunnington  
Ellen Anderson  
Marie Miller  
Sherry Reel  
Sara Riggs  
Brian & Cheryl Trock  
Debbie Subte  
Val Lefebvre  
Mary Mathey  
Beth Jameson

### March

Dottie Green  
Carol Wilson  
Brian & Cheryl Trock  
Pat Kitchen  
Marilyn McFarland

## 2017 Chapter Officers

### President

Joel Dunnington

### Vice President

Art Williams

### Secretary

Kim Wright

### Treasurer

Rich Nielsen

### Past President/TMN State Rep

Jim Teeling



## Committees

### Education

Sara Riggs

Debbie Kyrouac

### Membership

& Records

Cheryl Trock

[TexasTrock@gmail.com](mailto:TexasTrock@gmail.com)

### Projects

& Opportunities

Jeanie Springer

### Communication

Marie Miller

[LindheimerMN@gmail.com](mailto:LindheimerMN@gmail.com)

## Communication Subcommittees

- Website – Marie Miller
- Out and About - Sara Riggs  
[LMNOutandAbout@gmail.com](mailto:LMNOutandAbout@gmail.com)
- Publicity - Karen Lillard
- Newsletter - Carmen Horn
- Photography - Bill Suddith
- Social Media - Jennifer Hendren
- Historian - Marilyn J McFarland

## Chapter Advisors

Troy Luepke  
Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Service

Craig Hensley  
Texas Parks & Wildlife,  
Guadalupe River State Park

Florence Oxley  
Austin Community College



Newsletter Staff  
Editor – Carmen Horn  
Assistant – MJ McFarland

# MASTER NATURALISTS-in-TRAINING

## N2Nature – LMN Class of 2017

By Sara Riggs, Education



“N2 Nature”, the Lindheimer Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist Class of 2017, began in October of 2016 with an orientation meeting. Since then, class members have really gotten “N2 LMN” in a big way! The class is made up of more than 20 social and energetic individuals with varied and impressive backgrounds. Some folks are working and some are retired. We are lucky to have people with scientific and technical backgrounds as well as teachers and former teachers.

They have already braved a field trip to the Canyon Lake Dam and Hydroelectric Facility, cheerfully enduring below freezing temperatures and, what felt like to this attendee - gale force winds.

In November, the class enjoyed a presentation on Ecological Concepts and in December, members learned about Archeology. The January presentation was on the very timely topic of Water Resources. In addition to three classes, members have been able to participate in two field trips to date. Another presentation and field trip are slated for February.

The Earth Day celebration, to be held on April 22 at Tye Preston Memorial Library at Canyon Lake, is being coordinated by this talented group with Class President, Michael Hammack at the helm. Michael and his classmates have already made a short presentation at the January chapter meeting. They have invited suggestions and help from all chapter members and are taking the suggestions they have received very seriously.

Below is a list of members of the N2 Nature Class along with their Earth Day Committee duties. **Email Mike Hammack if you have questions or information and/or would like to volunteer to help.** If you would like to contact other committee members or chairpersons, Class Coordinators, Debbie Kyrouac (dkyrouac@aol.com) or Sara Riggs (Riggs\_571@msn.com) can also get you additional contact information.

### N2Nature Class Earth Day

Project Coordinator	Mike Hammack *
Committee:	Betty Keese *
	Ron Stoeck
	Nancy Hammack
Exhibitor Relations	Wendy Mathews *
	Don Mathews
	Holly McCoy
	Midge Baugh
Volunteer Coordinator	Peggy Haley *
	Cyndi DeWitt
	Amber Garcia
Advertising and Promotion	Jane Finneran *
	Joe Finneran *
	Steve Jones
Site Planning and Lay-Out	Marilyn Garrison *
	Billie Conway
	Salty Brady
	Brenda Stoeck
	Gretchen Ferrell
	Harry Ferrell

Email Mike Hammack at [m.hammack1972@gmail.com](mailto:m.hammack1972@gmail.com)

When you see our N2 Nature folks at chapter meetings or other events, (they'll be the ones with paper name tags in plastic carriers) be sure to say **“Hello and welcome!”**



### N2Nature TRAINING CLASSES

6pm – 9pm  
AgriLife Classroom

11/1/2016	Ecological Concepts
12/6/2016	Archeology
1/3/2017	Water Resources
2/7/2017	Geology
3/7/2017	Ichthyology
4/11/2017	Ornithology
5/2/2017	Weather/Climate
5/16/2017	Botany/Taxonomy
7/11/2017	Entomology @ St Andrew's
8/1/2017	Management
9/9/2017@ 1pm	Mammology
10/3/2017	Herpetology

## CALL to Members of the LINDHEIMER CHAPTER

The 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting will be held October 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 in Corpus Christi. Let's showcase our creative side and compete in the Photo, Video & Art Contests! All entries should be completed by September 21<sup>st</sup> in order to present to the membership at the chapter meeting. Even if you can't go to the state meeting, your entry will still be submitted.

**The Lindheimer Master Naturalist Chapter is so full of talented and creative people – please share your talent & creativity with us!**

Information: The Video, Photo & Art contests at the Annual Meeting have many categories. Entries must be submitted by the opening day of the Annual Meeting. The entries must be labeled with the owners name, chapter, cell phone number, category and title of the work. All entries must be the original work of & submitted by a Master Naturalist volunteer. There are also poster presentations (more info to come).

### VIDEO CONTEST

Videos which highlight experience as a

- 1) Trainee
- 2) Master Naturalist
- 3) Chapter Project

### PHOTO CONTEST

Photos must be Texas-specific (i.e. taken in Texas).

Entries are limited to one per category per individual.

Photographs should be 8×10 & mounted on a stiff backing for display purposes.

The photos must be un-matted, unframed and have no digital enhancements.

Categories:

- 1) Plants
- 2) Wildlife
- 3) Scenic
- 4) Master Naturalist(s) at work/play

### ART CONTEST

Art categories:

- 1) drawings & paintings
- 2) sculpture & carvings
- 3) sewing & stitchery
- 4) Scrapbooks
- 5) Chapter Newsletters
- 6) Chapter Brochures

POSTER PRESENTATIONS More information to come on this.

Judging may be done by: (1) by a panel of judges where available and (2) popular vote of the attendees. Awards may be given for both judging types. Ballots for the popular vote are found in your registration welcome packet upon Annual Meeting check-in. Winners will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on Sunday morning. If there are less than five entries in a given photo or art category, a placement ribbon may not be awarded.

- Do you have some photos of plants, wildlife, scenery or LMN members? Why not enter them in the contest? You can enter one photo per category = 4 photos!
- Do you draw, paint, carve or sculpt? What about sewing or embroidery?
- Would you like to work on the scrapbook, newsletter or help develop a brochure?
- **Let's show Texas Master Naturalists the creativity & talent of the Lindheimer Chapter!**

Contact: Marilyn McFarland  
[mcfarland1953@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcfarland1953@sbcglobal.net)  
210-317-1332