

Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter Newsletter

April/May/June 2017



Falling Rock Pond
Canyon Lake, Texas
NJ McFarland

President's Message



This has been an excellent spring with multiple outreach activities. The Folk Fest had almost **700 visitors**, Earth Day had around **250 visitors** and the Agrilife Open House had about **170 visitors**. Wein & Saengerfest had even more visitors to the LMN table. From these outreach activities we educated many and we already have 28 people who are interested in taking the next LMN class in October. The LMN volunteers have been active staffing these outreach opportunities and many other activities around Comal County.

A trail building seminar was followed by building a new trail in Sattler behind the Chamber of Commerce and refurbishing the trails around the Tye Preston Memorial Library.



The class and I had a wonderful trip to Bamberger Ranch on an overcast, foggy day that reminded me of the Smoky Mountains. We even got to talk to Mr. Bamberger. If you have not been to the ranch, you should.

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Everyone should mark the date October 20-22 in Corpus Christi for the Texas Master Naturalist State Convention. **-Joel**

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." -- John Muir



Lindheimer Chapter Meetings

April 20, 2017: Headwaters at the Comal *Nancy Pappas*



Nancy Pappas

Headwaters at the Comal, an ecological restoration project initiated by New Braunfels Utilities was the subject of the April 20th presentation by Ms. Nancy Pappas, Headwaters Managing Director. Ms. Pappas explained that the redevelopment will restore 16 acres of the NBU Klingemann Warehouse property at the headwaters of the Comal Springs to its natural environment. The vision for the Center is to create an area that establishes a relationship between the community and the environment by demonstrating the regeneration and protection of water and ecological resources. The landscape design of

this property, located on the corner of Klingmann St. & Lakeview Blvd., will include the restoration of the Comal Springs headwaters and the transformation of 85% the area from

asphalt into immersive native landscape. Plant groupings will evoke regional topographies. Berms and bioswales will filter and clean storm water before returning it to the creek. The vision includes adding public amenities such as a central courtyard, event lawn, display gardens, walking trails, outdoor classrooms, natural spring overlooks, wastewater treatment wetlands, composting facilities and more. Ms. Pappas explained that the project will be completed in three phases to continue through Fiscal Year 2021 with the first phase already being funded by NBU. The lifetime project cost will be \$22.9 million reimbursable by grants and donations. Thank you, Nancy!

“On the 18th, I crossed the Guadalupe at the ford of the great military road from Nacogdoches to San Antonio. The river is locked in by rocky cliffs and rushes wildly over rocks and boulders. Right here is the beginning of the land which I brought into the Verein’s possession. Comal Creek runs through it. On the right bank of this Creek there is rich prairie land with open terrain with continues toward a dominant elevation. On the left bank of Comal Creek there is well forested bottom land which extends to the cedar, oak, and elm covered cliffs which here already have considerable height. Beyond this there is a high ridge with summits here and there similar to our Black Forest.” --Prince Carl Solms-Braunfels, 6th report, 66; Dykes-Hoffmann, Judith “On the Edge of the Balcones Escarpment: the Urban and Cultural Development of New Braunfels and San Marcos, Texas 1845-1880.” PhD Dissertation. The University of Texas at Austin, 2003

May 18, 2017: Development Trends in Comal County *Judge Sherman Krause & Engineer Tom Hornseth*



Judge Sherman Krause

Approximately 60 members attended the May chapter meeting to learn about trends in residential and business development, and their impact on Comal County. Comal County Judge Sherman Krause began the presentation with county population statistics. The group learned that the 1960 census showed about 20,000 folks. By 2016, that number had increased to about 135,000. Today, Comal County is the sixth fastest growing county in the US. Two other Texas counties, Hays and Kendall - which border Comal, are also in the top ten. The population trend over the last 57 years has changed from mostly rural to mostly urban/suburban, with increasing presence of business and manufacturing. Tom Hornseth,

county engineer, discussed the impact of population on land development over time. It was an illuminating discussion, provoking many questions. Thank you, Judge Krause, and Tom Hornseth!



County Engineer Tom Hornseth

June 15, 2017: The Unforeseen Impact of Meddling with Nature



Mark de Kiewiet, Master Beekeeper

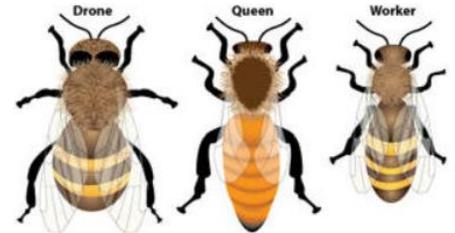
Owner, African Queen Apiary AfricanQueenApiary@att.net

Although there are 4,000 species of bee native to North America, the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) is a non-native, brought by European settlers sailing to the New World in the early 1600s. The European Honey Bee (EHB) upon arriving, promptly absconded and proliferated. Although the EHB was an invasive species, its introduction to North America is one of the very few successful examples of humans manipulating nature. Attempting to “improve” nature usually has an unintended, unanticipated and often detrimental impact.



Mark de Kiewiet

Mark de Kiewiet, Master Beekeeper, provided about 55 members gathered at the AgriLife building a fascinating, fact-filled presentation on honeybees, including examples of “meddling” with nature that has put these important little marvels in danger. He began his talk with some basic facts about the European honeybee, their class based society, the roles of queen, worker and drone bees; life cycles & span; the phenomenon of swarming; bee bread (a superfood that alone could sustain a human), mating practices (bees mate in flight in “drone congregation areas” & the drone dies immediately after mating), diseases & pests (varroa mites, beetles), and colony collapse disease (CCD).



Mr. de Kiewiet discussed one of the ongoing controversies in bee keeping: the size of the foundation (sheet of wax or plastic coated with wax with the hexagons stamped on it as a guide to manipulate bees to build the cell sizes desired by the beekeeper). The honeybee, when left to its own resources, builds a honeycomb with cells about 4.9 mm wide. Over time, beekeepers, attempting to improve on nature, increased the size to 5.4 mm to create larger bees that would make more honey. But strangely, production did not increase as expected. The consequences for the bee: 1) the trachea mite can fit in the trachea of the larger bee (but not the small

How to Behave Around Bees

- ✓ No swatting – declares war.
- ✓ No sudden movements.
- ✓ No strong scents.
- ✓ No loose hair.
- ✓ No dark clothing.
- ✓ No banging, vibration.
- ✓ No panting (moist CO₂).

cell bee); and 2) the varroa mite can fit in the larger cell with the pupa. Both types of mites threaten the survival of a hive. By returning to the small cell foundation (4.9 mm), the trachea mite is eliminated, and the varroa mite is more easily controlled.

Another pressing problem is the use of pesticides & fungicides which bees bring back to the hive along with nectar from contaminated blooms. As the levels increase, the bees die. This is thought to be one factor (among others) for CCD.

Small hive beetles are currently one of the big problems in Texas.

The information on how human meddling affects the welfare of bees was quite sobering, as bees are responsible for pollinating about one third of our crops. Mr. de Kiewiet’s talk stimulated many questions by the LMN members, especially about what to do to encourage a healthy bee population (no pesticides, provide bee-friendly plants, relocate, don’t destroy swarms/hives). We left knowing that although there was much we didn’t know, we were more prepared to be advocates for bees (and to avoid bee stings)! Thank you, Mark de Kiewiet!

Example of Meddling:

The African Bee

In 1956, scientists imported southern African bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata* Lepelletier) to Brazil to breed a honeybee better adapted to South American tropics. Some bees escaped in 1957 & bred with local bees. They steadily advanced north at 200 miles/year, arriving in the US in 1990. While their venom is no more potent than the EHB, the AHB will defend their hives more aggressively, in greater numbers & pursue for longer distances.



LMN Chapter Re-Certifications and Volunteer Hours Awards

Congratulations to the members who have re-certified for 2017!

They were presented with the 2017 re-certification pin, the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle.



MARCH 2017

Recertifications

Ellen Anderson, Don Berquist, Edith Berquist, Rich Bradley, Pete Bryant, Caroline Carpenter, Patricia Gonser, Dottie Green, Jennifer Hendren, Debra Kyrouac, Valerie Lefebvre, Dan Madden, Lisa Marler, Thomas Mathey, Marilyn McFarland, Sara Riggs, Jeanie Springer, Darlene Varga (not everyone is pictured).

Milestones

1,000 Hours: Patricia Gonser

250 Hours: Carol Ingham, Laird Ingham, Susan James

APRIL 2017

Recertifications

Marlin Brendsel, Marietta Diehl, Jim Doyle, Joyce Doyle, Henry Hahn, Carmen Horn, Jane Miller, Cathy Oberkamp, Bill Sewell, Carol Wilson, Kim Wright (not everyone is pictured)

Milestones

1,000 Hours: Ellen Anderson

250 Hours: Glenna Dunnington



MAY 2017

Recertifications

Judy Brupbacher, Earl Dittman, Glenna Dunnington, Don Epps, Ed Finger, Don Fletcher, Pat Fletcher, Laird Ingham, James Teeling, Cheryl Trock, Teresa Turko (not everyone is pictured)

Milestones

1,000 Hours: John Davis, Janet Hahn

500 Hours: Dottie Green, Bill Sewell, James Teeling

250 Hours: Cathy Oberkamp, Marilyn McFarland

Our Volunteers in Action: Taking the TMN Message to the Public

April 6, 2017 – Folk Fest

An important aspect of the Texas Master Naturalist mission is education on conservation and preservation of our natural resources. Lindheimer Chapter Certified Texas Master Naturalists attend festivals, educational events, projects and presentations.

Folk Fest is an annual celebration of early Texans held at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels. The LMN display was very popular with the crowd! Thank you to our volunteers!

Left to right: President Joel Dunnington, Past President Jim Teeling, and Sara Riggs, Education and Out & About.



Left: Sara Riggs & Jim Teeling. The LMN display was very well attended by the crowd at the Folk Fest.

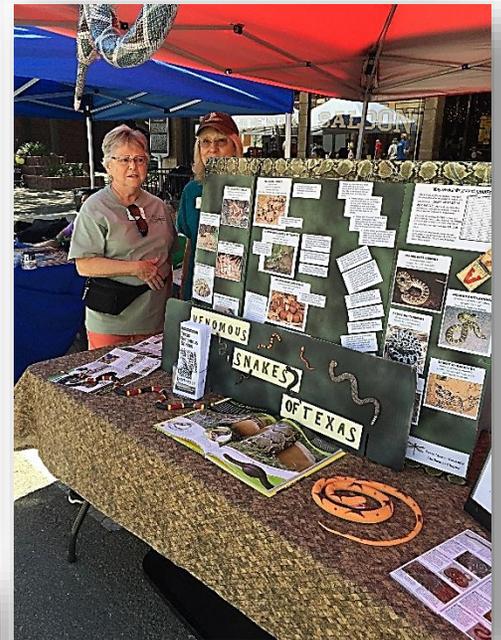


Right: Joe Finneran, N2Nature class member, talks dinosaurs & fossils to an interested group.

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT’S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.”
-MARGARET MEAD

May 6, 2017– Wein and Saengerfest

On May 6th, Lindheimer Chapter Certified Master Naturalists members Rich Nielson (event coordinator), Evelyn Nielson, Judy Brupbacher, Barry Brupbacher, Pat Gonser, Jane Finneran, Joe Finneran, and Marilyn McFarland provided the public with information on wildlife, geology and venomous snakes. The LMN members were kept very busy throughout the day answering questions. Many thanks to the volunteers who did such a great job representing LMN Chapter (and to Rich for securing a great location for the group AND arranging for the “rock star” parking).



May 10, 2017- Building a Rain Garden *Rich Bradley*



A very interested crowd of sixteen people attended a Lunch and Learn session at the Tye Preston Memorial Library to learn how to build a Rain Garden. As explained by Rich Bradley, a certified Texas Master Naturalist and Texas Master Gardener, a rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with native plants and grasses, positioned near a runoff source like a downspout or driveway to capture rainwater runoff and stop the water from reaching the sewer system. Even more important, by installing a rain garden, clean rainwater is preserved, creating habitat and preventing local flooding and water pollution. There are ten steps in

building a rain garden: 1) find a location; 2) measure the drainage area; 3)

create a design; 4) choose plants appropriate for the three layers of a rain garden (base, sides and exterior/perimeter); 5) determine layout; 6) dig; 7) prepare the soil; 8) plant the flowers & grasses; 9) mulch; 10) water and arrange downspouts. Rich highlighted some of the best plants to use for a rain garden with a slideshow. Each attendee received a handout with the ten steps plus lists of plants appropriate for each layer. There were many questions. Currently Rich is part of a group who are building a rain garden at Texas AgriLife on SH 46. After this Lunch & Learn, there may be a few more rain gardens in the Hill Country! Thank you, Rich!

February - May, 2017: LMN Volunteers Make Trail at GBRA-ELC



From February through May, Lindheimer volunteers completed an extension of a trail at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Environmental Learning Center. Sponsored by Cinde Thomas-Jiminez, GBRA's Environmental Education Supervisor, the trail-building began in February with the cleaning of slash from the area. Then a trail was cleared and lined with stone, followed by the placing of a bench along the trail. Trail builders included Jim

Jameson, Art Williams, Brian Trock, Ron Butts, Gloria Glass, Al Seeger and Dan Madden. The trail is aptly named, "Lindheimer Lair". (Thanks to Ron Butts for sending info & Dan Madden for pics!)



Top left: A beautiful, serene nature trail. Bottom left: Bench made by the volunteers. Right: Jim Jameson, Art Williams, Brian Trock, Ron Butts, Gloria Glass, Al Seeger & Dan Madden (who is behind the camera) at the Lindheimer Lair.

N2Nature Class & EARTH DAY 2017: A Great Success!

by Sara Riggs, Education Coordinator

N2Nature, Lindheimer Master Naturalist Class of 2017, has chalked up another Master Naturalist experience with the completion of their class project, the 2017 Earth Day Celebration at Tye Preston Memorial Library. In partnership with TPML, the class did all of the oversight, planning and preparation for the event as well as all of the coordination on the day of the event. From the early stages of planning exhibit placement, to the publicity, to the recruitment of exhibitors and volunteers, to the pounding in of stakes for placing of signs, to manning exhibits, to preparing and bringing of snacks for volunteers, and much, much more, the Master Naturalists-in-Training class



Above: Cheryl Trock & Brian Trock, Certified Texas Master Naturalists, staff the TMN Lindheimer Chapter table.

members were an efficient and effective team. This year's Earth Day was held April 22 from 10am to 2pm and chapter and community participation was excellent. Despite the cold, blustery weather, there were 176 visitors who signed in at two welcome stations. Visitors included **106 adults and 70 children!** Since some visitors may have stayed in the library children's craft area (planned and staffed by Betty Keese) there were probably more visitors than were tallied. In addition, 38 LMN members signed in Saturday as volunteers for all or part of the day. According to exhibitor-relations committee chairman, Wendy Mathews, there were 30 exhibitors. Under the leadership of class president and Earth Day project chairman, Mike Hammack, things went off mostly according to plan. Though at first it looked as though Mother Nature was not all that delighted with the event honoring her earth based on the weather she sent that day, the site planning and lay-out committee, with chairman Marilyn Garrison, changed gears as the cold winds came in. They managed to move exhibits around to adjust for the weather.

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Above: Betty Keese, N2Nature class, helps a child with an activity in the Children's Craft Area.

In addition to earlier posting and publicity, LMN member Darlene Varga posted an Earth Day notice on the “Next Door” neighbor website and the response below was received the next day: **“Went and took 4 of our grandchildren (ages 7-10). Enjoyed it tremendously. Thanks for posting this and a huge thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible. GREAT job.”**



Above: Friends of TPML President Val Lefebvre and member Mary Gottshalk provided information on conservation & library resources, as well as interactive activities such as Sprout Houses and owl bookmarks.

Mike Hammack says he attributes the success of the event to the initiative and competence of the various committee chairpersons. Even after the event site was clean and empty, he was continuing work on the project by writing notes to those involved and by drafting an Earth Day 2017 Lessons Learned report before he headed to Minnesota to see a new grandson!

LMN education coordinators, Debbie Kyroutac and Sara Riggs agreed that the event was a resounding success. “Our chapter can be proud of the outstanding event put on by the class with the help of Tye Preston staff,” said Debbie. **“Thanks to everyone for the hard work.”**

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
	Peggy Haley *
Volunteer Coordinator	Cyndi DeWitt
	Amber Garcia
	Jane Finneran *
Advertising and Promotion	Joe Finneran *
	Steve Jones
	Marilyn Garrison *
Site Planning and Lay-Out	Billie Conway
	Salty Brady
	Brenda Stoeck
	Gretchen Ferrell
	Harry Ferrell

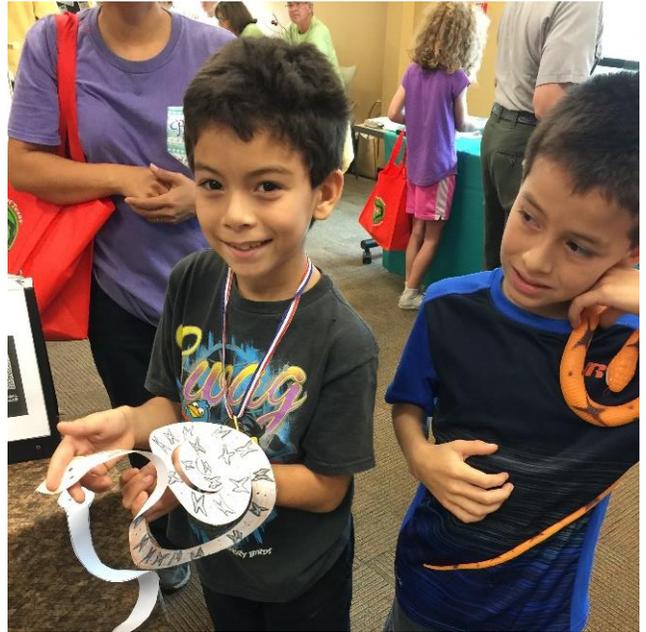


Above: Harry and Gretchen Ferrell, N2Nature class members, take time to look at the exhibits before opening. Behind them is the Monarch Butterfly Exhibit, very popular with the public, which had examples of milkweed and caterpillars.

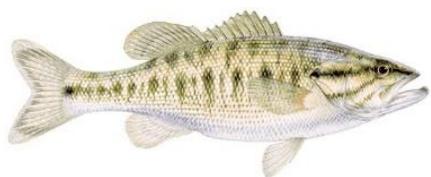


The LMN Venomous Snakes of Texas Exhibit had information on rattlesnakes, cottonmouths, copperheads and coral snakes, snake safety, how to snake proof your property, and the environmental impact of snakes. 

Below: Two young attendees had fun completing the spiral snake activity & playing with the plastic snakes!



Left: One young man was very interested in the Skulls, Skins and Scat Exhibit staffed by Pat Gonser, but wasn't quite sure about getting closer, especially to the skunk. He decided to keep his distance and just look!



Right: Bass Casting with Brenda Stoeck was a very popular & fun event for the children (and the adults) attending Earth Day, even though it was quite windy and cool.





Left: Ron Stoeck, N2Nature class, was designated "official taster" of the snacks brought for the volunteers. In between bites, he officially pronounced them "YUMMY!" (that's the rumor). Thanks to the volunteers who brought the treats (and to Ron for lending his expertise). 😊

Right: Ben Pfeiffer, Certified Texas Master Naturalist-Lindheimer Chapter, provided information on one of our favorite bugs...FIREFLIES!!!



Left: The main exhibit area remained busy the entire day. Volunteers stayed hard at work the entire time, answering questions, explaining displays, and helping the attendees complete the fun & educational activities.

Right: Bat Conservation International provided lots of information on what bats do for us humans – for one, they eat lots of mosquitoes! WE LOVE BATS!





N2Nature Class Field Trip: Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve

Article and Pictures by Carmen Horn

In 1969 J. David Bamberger bought the “worst 3000 acres of ranchland in the Texas Hill Country” with the intention of restoring it back to functional health. Over several years, he acquired more land that had become barren of topsoil, was overgrown with Ashe Juniper and unfit for grazing. During the next 45 years, Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve, located in Blanco County, has become one of the largest habitat restoration projects in the state.



On May 22, members of the LMN N2Nature Class were escorted through the Ranch/Preserve witnessed

Pristine lakes, rivers and streams support preservation of water resources.

by Steve Fulton, Ranch Manager, and firsthand the model of habitat restoration, land stewardship and preservation of water resources. Sponsors Sara Riggs and Debbie Kyrouac arranged for the trip and participated along with other LMN members as space would allow.



Jared Holmes, biologist, explains the usefulness of Ashe Juniper – in moderation.

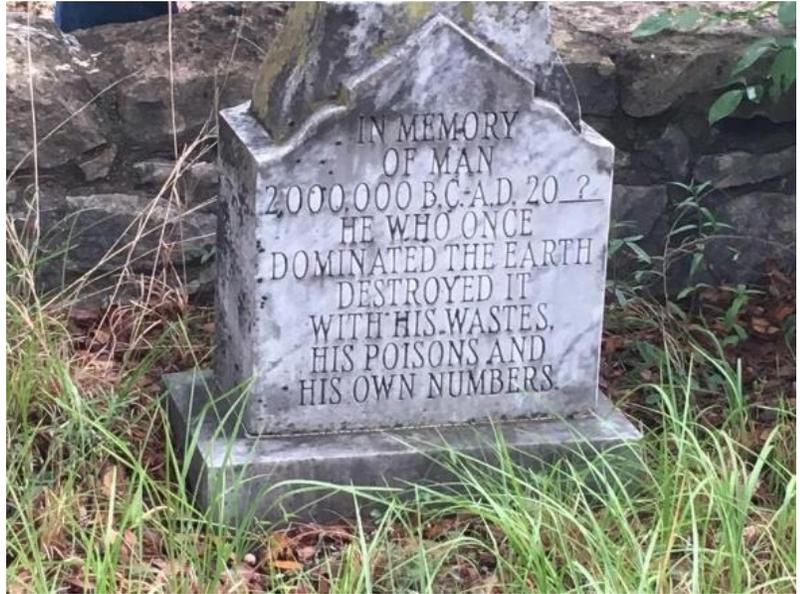
The story of the Ranch and Mr. Bamberger are quite remarkable. From the purchase of the land, to the selective removal of the Ashe Juniper and the replanting of native grasses, long absent springs are now constantly flowing. The major spring produces an average of 3 gallons per minute and furnishes all the water used by the ranch, including housing for the ranch employees and agricultural usage. Overflow from the spring and other, smaller springs, produce the headwaters of Miller Creek, which flows into the Pedernales River, which then flows into the Colorado River, the surface supply for the City of Austin. There is

significant biodiversity on the Ranch with many different varieties of flora and fauna flourishing. When an area is primarily a cedar brake, it is only one type of habitat: forest. When some of the timber is cleared and grasses are added the habitat range is expanded to greater diversity; forest,

grassland, riparian and “edge” habitat. With bird populations being a good indicator of diversity, a 45-year-old survey showed 50 species of birds; current studies indicate up to 213 species on the Preserve! The primary mission of the Ranch is to **“teach ethical land stewardship – by example and outreach”**. The Preserve offers seminars for landowners and serves as a research lab for botanists, zoologists and other scientists, as well as serving as a hands-on classroom for school children. Public tours and workshops attract birdwatchers, photographers, native plant and animal enthusiasts. One of Mr. Bamberger’s goals for the Ranch is: **“To inspire visitors with a vision of harmony with the land. Given the chance, Nature can heal itself. Nature can heal us.”**



The Preserve fosters thousands of varieties of plant and animal life.



A powerful warning on the “Headstone to the Memory of Man” at Bamberger Ranch if we fail to protect our Earth & its resources.



N2Nature Class enjoys a hike on the Ranch.



Headwaters of Millers Creek Spring flowing into the Pedernales River.

Chapter Information



Meetings – 3rd Thursday
6:00 Social, 6:30 Meeting
Tye Preston Memorial Library

LMN HOSPITALITY

Our chapter meetings are made even more enjoyable by great food.

Many thanks to
Joyce Doyle, Hospitality Head,
& LMN members for their
delicious contributions.

April

Ellen Anderson
Al Steger,
Debbie Kerouac,
Nancy Hammack, &
Darlene Varga



May

Gloria Glass
Ron Butts,
Brian Trock,
Jane Schnell,
Laird Ingham, Carol Ingham,
Art Williams



June

Jennifer Hendren,
Marilyn McFarland
Debbie Kerouac
Bill Suddith
Sherry Reel
Sara Riggs



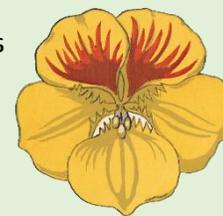
Earn one VH (and our heartfelt thanks)
by bringing refreshments!
Sign up at the next meeting!

Upcoming Meetings

July 20: Groundwater Conservation District - Jensie Madden
August 17: Climate Change - Michael Huston
September 21: Oak Wilt - Robert Edmundson

2017 Chapter Officers

President Joel Dunnington
Vice President Art Williams
Secretary Kim Wright
Treasurer Rich Nielsen
Past President
&**TMN Rep** Jim Teeling



Committees

Outreach

Darlene Varga

Education

Sara Riggs

Debbie Kyrouac

Membership & Records

Cheryl Trock

Projects & Opportunities

Jeanie Springer

Communication

Marie Miller

Hospitality

Joyce Doyle



Communication Subcommittees

- Website – Marie Miller
- Out & About – Sara Riggs
- Social Media – Jennifer Hendren
- Newsletter – Carmen Horn
- Photography – Bill Suddith
- Publicity – Karen Lillard
- Historian – Marilyn McFarland

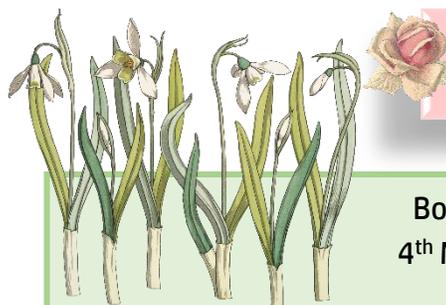


Chapter Advisors

Craig Hensley
Texas Parks & Wildlife
Guadalupe River State Park

Florence Oxley
Austin Community College

Troy Luepke
Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service



Newsletter Staff
Editor – Carmen Horn
Assistant – MJ McFarland

Board Meetings
4th Monday, 6pm
AgriLife



Did you know that there are seventy (yes, **70!**) projects in which you can participate as an LMN and receive advanced training or volunteer hours or both? Go to the LMN website and check it out. The list contains

explanations of each project and the point of contact. Who knows? You may find another project! Thank you, Jeanie Springer, for maintaining this list!

Go to the “Out & About” calendar on the website to see all the opportunities available on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Thank you, Sara Riggs, for this great resource!

Another opportunity for LMN volunteers: The TMN State Meeting Contests!



These great photos are by Nancy Hammack, N2Nature class member, for submission to the TMN State Meeting Photo Contest in October. Clockwise: Prairie Nymphs, Rain Lilies and Spiny Lizard. Thank you, Nancy!



CALL to Members of the LINDHEIMER CHAPTER

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

- Judging may be done by either: (1) by a panel of judges (where available) and (2) popular vote of the attendees or (3) both. Awards may be given for both judging types. 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.
- Information: The entries must be labeled with the owner's 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.

VIDEO CONTEST

Videos which highlight experience as a 1) Trainee; 2) Master Naturalist; or 3) Chapter Project.

PHOTO CONTEST

Photos must be 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.

Photo Categories:

- 1) Plants (no wildlife in them)
- 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



*Photo by Sara Riggs – Scenic Category
Thank you, Sara!*

Email your photos to Marilyn McFarland at mcfarland1953@sbcglobal.net or call 210-317-1332