

Photo by Darlene Varga

**President's Quarterly Update: "Education - Ours and the Future" by Rich Nielson**



A **BIG THANK YOU**, Lindheimer Naturalists, for all you do for the Lindheimer Chapter and Texas Master Naturalist! You all deserve a pat on the back.

A quick financial update: We spent \$313.41 more than we took in. We had income of \$4,466.49 (\$4,430 from class). Expenses were \$4,779.90 (\$2,280.28 for class) and \$2,499.62 for chapter. The largest single expense of \$785.34 was for the storage unit for the trunks. The 2019 budget has \$3,535 budgeted for "Initial Education Expense."

Education is the theme for 2019. The Education Committee met on January 22. In attendance were Coco Brennan, Pete Bryant, Joe Finneran, Mike Hammack, Rich Nielson, Scott Ofsdahl, Sara Riggs, and Arthur Williams. The discussion involved Master Naturalist Education. The major outcome is to **expand the Education Committee** and, in the process, increase board membership. **Plan: Scott Ofsdahl** is chair of the Education Committee. Education Sub-Committees will be: **Initial Education** (new class) currently Co-Chaired by Mike Hammack and Joe Finneran; **Continuing Education**, which should include an outreach representative in addition to the Vice President. We are actively seeking a Chair for this subcommittee. And there will be a **Youth Education Sub-committee** which will initially be responsible for exploring what it will take to set up a Junior Master Naturalist (JMN) program for Comal County. We are actively seeking a chair for this subcommittee also.

Our plans are: Organize committee to work on research; query state to see if any other chapters have a JMN program; ask Good Water chapter for advice as they have a JMN program; develop criteria for awarding the JMN pin; find a home school group that might want to partner with us to start program; research TEKS, state requirements, to insure what is developed can be implemented in NBISD and CISD; contact UIL, science curriculum,

**2018  
Lindheimer Chapter**

**Hours of Service: 19,944.5**  
**Re-Certifications: 98**  
**Milestone Pins:**  
 250 hours – 8  
 500 hours – 9  
 1000 hours - 9  
 2500 hours – 5

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regarding rollout to schools; and contact school districts, science departments, for introducing into schools. If you are interested in chairing the Continuing Education or Youth Education Sub-committees please contact me.

Our Speakers Bureau has existed informally for some time but is not well utilized. Arthur Williams has been lining up speakers to talk at Tye Preston Library over a number of years. We need to formalize the process and support the Speakers Bureau. We are developing a list of members who are subject matter experts (SME) to talk on various topics. The 2019 budget includes \$1,500 for continuing education to train speakers. We are willing to reimburse members for obtaining continuing education classes in exchange for a commitment to be a speaker. Classes could be from Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Wildlife Association, AgriLife or an appropriate organization.

We want to expand our Program of Assistance to Landowners (PAL) to include homeowners. Since the program started in 2018 there have only been two requests from homeowners. The majority have been from landowners with acreage and how to better manage the resources, although the original intent of PAL was to assist homeowners. The Level 1 Native Plant Society of Texas was one way for members to become more familiar with native plants and how to use them to reduce water usage and attract more of the native wildlife. We also work with the local utilities to find out about their rebate programs to benefit those homeowners that want to reduce their utility bills and conserve resources.

**Again, thank you for your tremendous volunteerism and dedication. You made a difference!**

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**Have you visited our Website?**

[www.txmn.org/lindheimer/](http://www.txmn.org/lindheimer/) Lots of good stuff on our website! Please visit frequently!

OR...

**Go see our Facebook Page!**

There is a lot of chapter information posted on Facebook – meetings, activities, educational links and also the activities of other groups which may interest you. We highlight activities, photos and stories taken by our members.

Come see us! And “like” us!



# GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK HAS A NEW PARK INTERPRETER!

by Sara Riggs



In  
the  
Spotlight

Holly Platz, new Guadalupe River State Park Interpreter, has arrived and has hit the ground running! Many of us have met Holly in our various activities in the park and have found her to be

both very knowledgeable and extremely approachable.

Holly was born and grew up in Eugene, OR, so it is not surprising that, even as a child, she developed a love for the outdoors while living in beautiful, lush, green western Oregon. Encouraged by her Mother, Holly, who was home-schooled, developed a passion for birding while still a teenager. That passion is alive and well still, and undoubtedly will shape some of the future GRSP activities.

Holly earned her BS in Environmental Science at Oregon State University. With a passion for the outdoors and a thirst for adventure, she took the opportunity to work at various seasonal wildlife and nature positions while in college. She says she got to sample nature from Maine to Colorado. After college, Holly decided to head for some place different. With all she saw in Colorado, Maine and points in between, she says that she still found something different when she started her career with Texas Parks and Wildlife in Laredo in 2012. Holly worked at



Park Interpreter Holly Platz restocks the river.

Lake Casa Blanca State Park there. Favorably impressed with Texas, after two and half years in Laredo, Holly was not ready to leave the state but wanted to be somewhere more central. She says she loves San Antonio and so when a position in South Llano River State Park came up, she went for it to be closer to the city.

It was during her university travels and jobs that Holly discovered the joy she finds in sharing nature with others. Her enthusiasm comes through when you listen to her talk about wildlife. Holly also has many outdoor and other skills that make her perfect for this position. She is an instructor in archery and in angler education, a Project Wild and Growing Up WILD trainer, a Wildland Firefighter, and a certified Interpretive Guide (see her on the SLRSP website video). In addition, Holly is fluent in Spanish. **No wonder she was chosen for this position over 228 other applicants!**



Holly Platz, Park Interpreter, with son Carl (what a cutie!) who is almost 1 year old!

declares she is “loving this super special park and is overwhelmed by the support of the dedicated group of volunteers working here.” Even before she arrived, a volunteer helped her by re-organizing her office space. Former Lindheimer MN, Lisa Marler worked on cleaning and rearranging things in Holly’s new office to make her feel welcome and make her

transition as easy as possible. Since then, volunteers have been there at nearly every turn. A large group of TMN members from more than one chapter attended a field trip meeting on January 31. Holly feels the support is wonderful and states that she is truly appreciative.

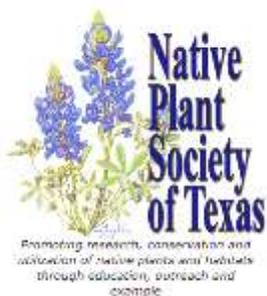
Holly claims she loves Texas and has adopted the state. With a husband, Will, (a wildlife biologist and thoroughly involved Dad), and a son who are both Texans, that seems reasonable. Son Carl, not even a year old yet, is already being introduced to nature. Holly seems to have given much thought to her dual roles as Mother and Park Interpreter and has a plan for achieving work-life balance. Holly credits her supervisor Barrett Durst for helping with this by giving her days off/hours which work for her and also for the Park.

Welcome, Holly and family!



welcome, Holly!  
We're so glad you're here!

# Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) - Lindheimer Chapter by Judy Brupbacher



Do you hate mowing every week? Are you concerned about the amount of water you use to keep your plantings alive? Do you enjoy living in the Hill Country with all its beauty, flora, and fauna? Do you want to know more about native plants? Do you want to know more about how to help yourself and your neighbors to become conscious conservationists of our beautiful area?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, then you are a candidate to become involved in the Native Plant Society of Texas or NPSOT. The Lindheimer Chapter of NPSOT meets every third Tuesday of the month at GVTC at 6:30 (unless otherwise noted).  
[npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/](https://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/).

“The mission of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example. We want all Texans to value native plants, native habitats and healthy ecosystems as essential to the well-being of living things and to our quality of life. Our vision is a future where native habitats are managed as critically beneficial natural assets, and where residential and commercial developments employ sustainable designs that preserve and promote native habitats.” <https://npsot.org>

## NPSOT Classes

### Level 1 Introduction to Native Landscapes

- Appreciate the benefits of including and preserving native plants in landscapes and building wildlife habitat.
- Distinguish between sustainable and conventional development.
- Identify your local Texas ecoregion, including soil type.

### Level 2 Landscape Design with Native Plants

- Learn to create landscape designs incorporating native plants.
- Recognize important considerations for creating a design.
- Outline steps in the design process; practice creating a native landscape design.

### Level 3 Installation and Maintenance of Native Landscapes

- Recognize the differences between native and non-native landscapes.
- Become familiar with how to install the different types of native plants into a landscape, including: plant choice, purchase, placement, spacing; soil choice; bed and soil preparation; planting seeds and plants; mulching.
- Understand maintenance requirements and techniques. Create maintenance schedules for different types of native plants.

## Why Native Plants?

- Native plants are drought tolerant, naturally conserving precious water resources.
- Native plants provide habitat and food for birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife
- Native plants don't need special pampering or fertilizing
- Natives are natural to their eco-system
- Natives help us maintain biological diversity.

Additionally, as written on the LMN website regarding the PALS program, “perhaps you want to make your land more welcoming to wildlife or put in a pollinator garden. The Lindheimer Master Naturalists can help you with these concerns and many others. A Master Naturalist will come to your property and walk it with you, identifying plants, making recommendations to improve the soil, and generally providing friendly guidance to help you meet the goals you have for your land.” <https://txmn.org/lindheimer/program-to-assist-landowners/>

The following information will be helpful to you in deciding which NPSOT classes you would like to take: If you are already a PALS representative, then working with NPSOT and native plants is an excellent resource for you. Do these two programs sound compatible to you? Of course, they do! NPSOT and LMN have been working on some of the same goals for years. So, let's put our heads, hands, and hearts together to make our area a better place to live. Please come to a NPSOT meeting, join, and become a volunteer to promote our native plants. You may join online or at a meeting.  
<https://npsot.org>

On May 4 2019 and October 5, 2019, NPSOT will be offering a training class (see flyer on next page): Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) Level 1 to help you become certified in using native plants in landscapes.

There are four levels, but everyone must take Level 1 to go to another level. After Level 1 there is no specific order in which to take the other levels. If you are working on your landscape, a PALS member, or just want to improve your knowledge of native plants your expertise will be enriched by this class.

If you are interested in either May or Oct., please see the NLCP website for further information and to register. [nlcp@npsot.org](mailto:nlcp@npsot.org) Classes fill quickly so don't wait, register now. You may also call Judy Brupbacher 210-380-7447 or email her [judybrupbacher@hotmail.com](mailto:judybrupbacher@hotmail.com) for further information. Additional courses are under development and will be announced as they are ready.

Note that all classes:

- Are presented over the course of a day,
- Include a slide presentation of about 45 plants good for the region and 5 plants to avoid
- Include a plant walk to see plants in their natural setting or include live samples or cuttings when a walk is not appropriate.
- Focus on the ecoregion(s) in which they are taught.

Please consider adding to your skills and knowledge and join us at NPSOT for some interesting classes, speakers, and volunteer work. I look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

Remember, you may count your hours in NPSOT for VH or AT credit! AT credit is given for the NLCP classes and for attending monthly meetings if the speaker/topic is relevant to LMN (most of them are). All hours on committees, gardening work, growing plants, etc. count for VH credit.

In addition to Lindheimer Chapter, there is a **new chapter in Comal County: New Braunfels Chapter**. In Hays County is the Hill Country Chapter (Wimberley); Kendall County: Boerne Chapter; and in Guadalupe County, the Guadalupe Co. Chapter. For more information on NPSOT and their chapters, go to <https://npsot.org>.



## NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

### Level 1

### Introduction to Native Landscapes

hosted by the

Native Plant Society of Texas, Lindheimer Chapter

This day-long class will include two classroom sessions and an outdoor plant identification walk.

- Learn the value of including and preserving natives in landscapes
- Discover the differences between conventional and sustainable (with natives) landscaping
- Understand your Texas vegetation region and soils
- Learn 45 native Texas plants for your landscape and 5 plants to avoid
- TX Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA): 6 CEUs
- TX Master Naturalist or Master Gardeners: 7 hrs. advanced training

**When:** Saturday, May 4, 2019 – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Where:** Tye Preston Memorial Library  
16311 S. Access Rd., Canyon Lake, TX 78133

**Cost:** \$45 – Snacks/drinks provided. Lunch not included - bring your own

Check out class descriptions, class schedules, or register online at <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp>

For more information contact Meg Inglis at [nlcp@npsot.org](mailto:nlcp@npsot.org) or 512.589.1316

Level 1 is a prerequisite for Levels 2, 3, 4. Levels 2-4 may be taken in any order.

# Things That Sting in Texas: The Puss Caterpillar

by Marilyn J. McFarland, MS, RN

The puss caterpillar (aka “asp”) larvae of the Southern Flannel Moth (*Megalopyge opercularis*), looks basically like a tiny, fuzzy furball about an inch long. What you can’t see under the fuzzy fur are the hollow spines connected to venom sacs, which are easily detached when coming into contact with them. They are a defense mechanism for an otherwise vulnerable insect. The chemical makeup of puss caterpillar venom is unknown, but the puss caterpillar is considered one of the most venomous caterpillars in the US.



Puss caterpillars live in trees and shrubs (holly, oak, elm). They produce two generations annually, in spring and fall, so stings are more likely at those times. Check out the two photos. There are a number of other stinging caterpillars, so you and yours should have a rule – **NEVER pick up ANY caterpillar with bare hands.**



Okay, you picked one up...and you got stung. You feel **IMMEDIATE** pain (depending upon how much venom you received), usually intense & throbbing, sometimes burning. Pain may radiate up, last for several hours or days, or cause redness, swelling and blisters. If you are particularly susceptible, you may experience headache, nausea, and/or vomiting. If you have an allergic reaction, you may experience respiratory difficulty (like with a bee sting) and require medical attention. Remember that not everyone will have all the symptoms, nor will they react the same.

I was lucky and didn’t get a huge dose of venom, but it still hurt. Did you know that they can fall out of trees onto you if you’re in the wrong place at the wrong time? Well, *now* I do.

## Sting First Aid

1. Stay calm! Stop screaming if you can, although a very dramatic response may reinforce to those around you not to pick up caterpillars!
2. Assess your symptoms. If you are having breathing difficulties, call 9-1-1. If you aren’t having breathing difficulties, but want qualified medical advice on how to treat your exact symptoms, call Texas Poison Center Network at 1-800-222-1222.
3. Get some tape (sticky cellophane is best, but use what you’ve got) and “roll” the stung part onto the tape to remove as many spines as possible. There will be more than you imagine, so repeat a couple of times, using a clean piece of tape each time.
4. After the tape, place the stung part under cold running water, then wash thoroughly with soap.
5. The next step is to stop the pain. You can use the same remedy that you use to treat ant/bee/wasp stings (not known if it will work) such as wet meat tenderizer or baking soda applied to the sting; or use OTC remedies such as hydrocortisone cream, diphenhydramine spray, lidocaine + antibiotic cream or calamine lotion. Because they don’t know the make-up of the venom, it will be trial & error. You may want to keep the sting site covered for a day or two if it is blistered.
6. Monitor the sting for delayed symptoms, such as swelling, increased pain, redness. Contact your physician as appropriate, and remember that children may be more affected by the sting than an adult. Be aware the symptoms may be delayed for both adults & children.

PHOTOS from the TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL STATE MEETING,  
OCTOBER 26 – 28, 2018  
Georgetown, Texas



Clockwise from top:

1. Opening Day;
2. Attending a lecture;
3. Photo contest display;
4. Snake handling class;
5. Group of LMN members attending the meeting.

Lindheimer Chapter Photo Contest Winners at the 20<sup>th</sup> State Meeting – Congratulations!!!



Brian Trock – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Bird Category

“The Circle of Life”



Glenna Dunnington – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Wildlife Category

“The Grey Fox”



Darlene Varga – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Bird Category

“Cooper’s Hawk”



# Monthly Chapter Meetings

October 17, 2018

Mud Daubers Graduation! Congratulations! Well Done! Welcome!



**The Mud Daubers Class: Our Chapter's Newest Master Naturalists!**

**Front Row, L>R:** Kristen Martinez, Teresa St. John, Tanya Marroquin, Robin Hagan & Cari Fowler. **Back Row, L>R:** Jack Olivier, Margaret Olivier, Al Vaughan, Craig Dillon, Patrick Hagan, Allison Sciaraffa, Hugo MonDragon, Linda MonDragon, Scott Ofsdahl, Katherine Ofsdahl, Carol Dillingham, Mike Dillingham, Gigi Vaughn & Dick Scarbrock

> Mud Daubers Class President Kristen Martinez presents educators **Debbie Kyrouac** and **Mike Hammack** with thank you gifts from the class. The class expressed their great satisfaction with the learning process (and their happiness that they had graduated!).

This class is the last for Debbie, who will transition to the Outreach Committee. Mike and Joe Finneran are the educators for the new class "The Rock Stars."



**November 15, 2018**

**“The Mysterious Inhabitants of Caves & Aquifers in the Texas Hill Country”**

**Dr. Benjamin Hutchins**

**Invertebrate Biologist**

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**

Who knew there were so many different animals lurking in the hidden recesses of caves and aquifers? Or that there were 6,600 known caves in Texas? Well, now we do! Members and guests were entertained by Dr. Benjamin Hutchins, who informed us of an amazing and mostly unseen world of largely unpronounceable and weird looking invertebrates. Dr. Hutchins, himself a frequent cave dweller, described habitats, rare & endangered species, aquatic & terrestrial species, and stressed the need for conservation and research, as there are most likely undiscovered species which are still to be given even longer & more unpronounceable names.

We learned that one of the keystone species is a cave cricket that leaves the cave at night, then returns to deposit “cricket guano” - an extremely important ingredient in the food chain.

What is most amazing are the evolutionary adaptations that allow these animals to live in a most unusual environment. Many thanks to Dr. Hutchins for introducing us to a world few of us knew was beneath our feet!



**December 13, 2018**  
**Chapter Elections**



**Lindheimer Chapter**  
**2019 Elected Officers**

(L to R) Robin Hagan, Treasurer;  
Martha Bersch, Secretary;  
Jim Doyle, Vice President;  
and Rich Nielson, President.

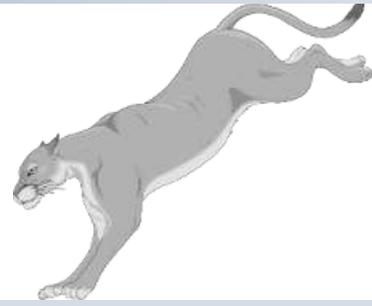
**Congratulations and**  
**Thank You for Serving!**

# December Meeting Photos!





# Recertifications & Volunteer Hour Milestones Thank You, Volunteers!



**September 2018**  
**Recertifications – Ocelot Pin**  
 Holly Emrie, Irene Newhall  
**Mud Daubers, Double Certification**  
 Martha Bersch, Katherine Olfsdahl,  
 Cheryl Walthour  
**Milestone Hours**  
 250 Hours: Mike Hammack  
 2,500 Hours: Sara Riggs



**October 2018**  
**Recertifications – Ocelot Pin**  
 Salty Brady  
 Melissa Skasik  
**Mud Daubers Certification**  
 Lori Largen  
 Alfred Vaughn  
**Volunteer Hour Milestones**  
 1,000 Hours – Laird Ingham



## November 2018

### Recertifications – Ocelot Pin

Glenna Dunnington, Kory Foster, Henry Hahn,  
Janet Hahn, Don Mathews, Holly McCoy,  
Ben Pfeiffer, Brenda Stoeck

**Mud Daubers Double Certification** – Jacques Oliver

**Mud Daubers Certification** – Ricky Corbell, Carol  
Dillingham, Teresa St. John

### Volunteer Hour Milestones

**500 Hours** - Jim Doyle, Beth Jameson,  
Evelyn Nielson

**1,000 Hours** – Mary Ann Richey

**2,500 Hours** – Don Bergquist



# Lindheimer Chapter Texas Waters Specialists Certification 2018



Left to right: Jim Doyle, Martha Bersch, John Davis, Joyce Doyle, Don Epps, Jane Finneran, Joe Finneran, Jensie Madden. Bottom: Craig Dillon. Not pictured: Dan Madden, Carmen Horn



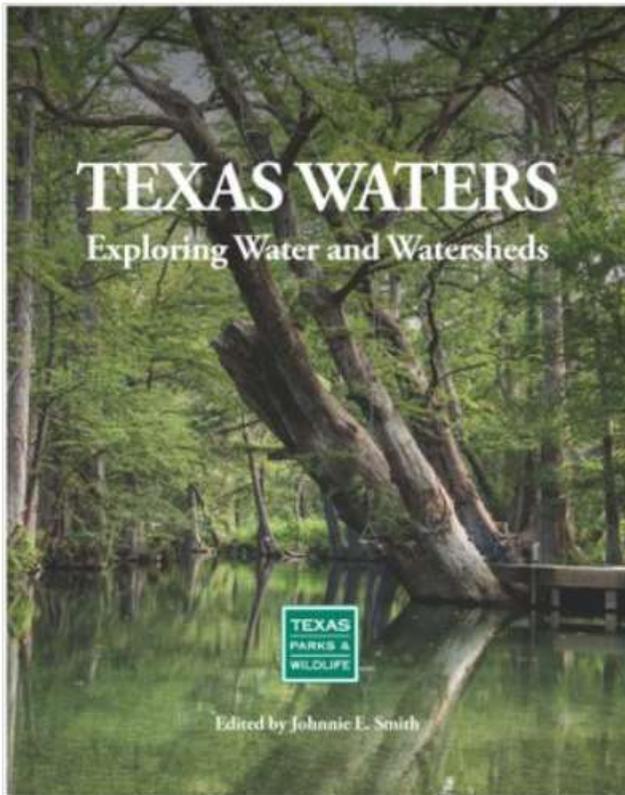
## What is the "Texas Waters Specialists" program?

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the sponsor of the program, states: "Through this program, we want to develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats within their communities for the state of Texas."

**Program Requirements:** Accumulate at least 8 hours of Advanced Training utilizing the Texas Waters curriculum.

## Annual Renewal Requirements

Participate in at least 10 hours of volunteer services in the area of water and watersheds. This is as part of your 40 hours for Master Naturalist annual re-certification.



Coming in 2019!  
Lindheimer Chapter will offer classes on the Texas Waters Specialist Curriculum that will provide the training hours required for certification.  
Dates coming soon!  
For questions, contact Marilyn McFarland  
[mcfarland1953@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcfarland1953@sbcglobal.net)

# Rock Stars Journal 2018 – 2019

## Lindheimer Chapter Master Naturalist-in-Training Class Activities

“The Rock Stars”: Debbie Armijo, Roma Arp, Dick Bigelow, Tom Blagg, Lynn Boyd, Isabel Campos, Pat Carnes, Sara Cogar, John Corkill, Shirley Corkill, Debra Eanes, Haley Faver, Peggy Fodness, Ashley Galloway, Gail Groves, Erin Harrison, Wyatt Kunde, Eileen Lenz, Luis Luftop, Amber Lujan, Aleta Meyer, Julia Morgan, Rhonda Neel, Colette Nies, Patricia Porterfield, Valerie Posladek, Mike Roberts, Valorie Robertson, Jack Sullivan, and Teresa Tyler.

### Honey Creek Field Trip

by Erin Harrison, Rock Stars Reporter/Photographer

On a chilly November 10th day, the newest class of the Lindheimer Master Naturalists, the Rock Stars, had our first field trip. We went to beautiful Honey Creek State Natural Area, inside the Guadalupe River State Park. Our guides, Mackenzie Brown and Charleen Moore, also Master Naturalists, took us on a two-mile hike down to the creek. We were taught the history of the Rust House that is part of the Honey Creek hike. We learned of the small rock walls that kept cattle from wandering too far. There were different types of large rocks everywhere; smooth told of one age and multiple holes in the rocks told of a different age. We learned the various plant communities living in the area, along with the multiple levels that we ventured down into.

Rock Stars hiked down to two different parts of the creek. The first was extremely wet and muddy. A few slips happened, but thankfully, no injuries. The second part of the creek that we went to was much friendlier to hikers. The beauty was astounding. The water was a deep turquoise that is indescribable. Through the clear water, we could even see the state fish of Texas. The Guadalupe Bass. On our hike back up, we walked through what Mackenzie calls the Bluebonnet Trail. I'll definitely be taking my family back to that Honey Creek hike in the spring just to see the bluebonnets in bloom.

Once at the top, Mackenzie and Charleen showed us their projects with natural dyes from area native plants. Mackenzie also made an ink from oak galls. It was a grand adventure with lots of fun and knowledge. I know all my classmates that went had a really wonderful time. We're ready for our next field trip! Adventure awaits!

### Rock Stars Attend December Meeting by Erin Harrison

What's a Christmas Party without Rock Stars? Quite a few of the Rock Stars, the newest class of Lindheimer Master Naturalists, attended the LMN Christmas Party at the Ty Preston Memorial Library, and we're glad we did. We had so much fun! Most of us sat together because we knew each other and finding a familiar face is definitely a comfort. But we're getting to know the rest of the Lindheimer chapter members one at a time. It was a packed house with live music by two members of the Percolators. A band that plays often in Gruene, Texas. The food was plentiful and amazing with lots of wonderful homemade dishes to make your mouth water just looking at



it. The dessert table was heavenly! Lots of new friends were made while we mingled at the party. The party came to an end with the fun gift exchange game and everyone singing Silent Night. The gifts were all very appropriate for those of us who are nature lovers. And what Master Naturalist doesn't love nature? That's easy...none! Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season!

**MEET SOME OF "The ROCK STARS"**  
By Erin Harrison, Class Reporter & Photographer



**Rock Star: Dick Bigelow, Comal County**

Occupation: Retired from project management, business systems analyst, master scheduler.

**What caught your attention and decision to join the Texas Master Naturalists?** I want to have a better understanding of how to encourage our local natural ecosystem.

**What hobbies or other projects do you do?** Work on my property, NPSOT/NPSOT projects, CCCA, reading, computer games, land conservation.



**Rock Star: Tom Blagg, New Braunfels**

Occupation: Retired Park Planner and Registered Landscaper;  
Architect for City of Richardson Parks and Recreation Department

**What caught my attention to become a Master Naturalist** - I have had an interest in natural sciences since my early participation in scouting and continuing to my college BS degree and career in Park Administration.

**Projects or other hobbies that I Do** - I am currently serving on City of New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Board and am beginning the training to become a Texas Master Gardener.

**Master Naturalist activities I am drawn to** - Fisher Park Nature Center, hiking trails, the Gorge, archeology.



**Rock Star: Isabel Campos, New Braunfels**

Occupation: Registered Nurse, Administrator of a Family Practice group.

**Why TMN?** I saw an article in the Herald Zeitung and I immediately applied. I enjoy nature and I am lucky to have a large yard bordering a wild area that is protected. I have lots of wildlife, native plants, geological features and archeological artifacts that are interesting to my family. I think that this is a group of people who are kindred spirits and I look forward to getting to know them all.

**Hobbies:** I am a stone sculptor. I work with limestone, alabaster, soapstone. I love gardening and am interested in birding. I paint in watercolors and acrylics when time permits. My whole family enjoys cooking and we have a very large extended family here in New Braunfels.

I am a volunteer with The Headwaters. I am interested in water quality and conservation.

**Rock Star: Sara Cogar, Spring Branch**

Occupation: Stay at home for now, but trained as a biologist.

**What caught your attention and decision to join the Texas Master Naturalists?** I learned about it while I was in school, and decided it would be a great thing to do for fun and for volunteer opportunities.

**What hobbies or other projects do you do?** I have my hands in all kinds of stuff. I love sewing and crafting. I also love photography, birding, herping (finding reptiles and amphibians), hiking, and kayaking.

**Are there any Master Naturalist volunteer areas around the county that you're specially drawn to?** I really love what the Cibolo Nature Center does as far as citizen science projects, but I have yet to go out there since the drive is so far. I also love participating in iNaturalist projects.

**Anything else you'd like your fellow Master Naturalists to know about you?** I worked with TPWD as an intern wildlife biologist. I taught zoology lab in college for a few semesters. While I was in school, I had the amazing opportunity to do research in Bastrop on mammal communities, and we documented the first southern flying squirrel for the county! I also was part of a research project pertaining to bats and wind energy up in the panhandle on Pantex property. I have had some amazing opportunities helping out with various other research projects :)



**Rock Star: Ashley Galloway, Bulverde**

Occupation: Stay at home mom



**What caught your attention and decision to join the Texas Master Naturalists?** - I was looking for something to do outside the home as a hobby that interested me. I originally was looking at going back to school and found the Wildlife Biologist program at Texas State. With 5 children, 4 under 5, this was not something that was realistic for this time. When I found the Texas Master Naturalists, I realized I could still volunteer and learn about the things that interested me in a way that works for my current circumstances.

**What hobbies or other projects do you do?** Hobbies include hiking and reading. I'm also a new rescue volunteer for Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation.

**Are there any Master Naturalist volunteer areas around the county that you're specially drawn to?** I have been enjoying my time working on the Guadalupe River South trail. I am interested in the butterfly garden, the Gorge, and also volunteering at the discovery center at GRSP.

**Anything else you'd like your fellow Master Naturalists to know about you?** I also am really into herpetology, so anything that gets me hands on with those sweet critters is right up my alley.

**Rock Star: Erin Harrison, Canyon Lake**

Occupation: Photographer and Clinical Herbalist

**What caught your attention and decision to join the Texas Master Naturalists?** I first learned of the Master Naturalists when I was in the Master Gardener program, but I wasn't sure exactly what a Master Naturalist was. I knew there was a lot of cross over between the two organizations. I kept paying attention. I attended events that the Master Naturalists were at and started asking questions. I attended my first monthly meeting before I ever applied and I liked what I saw and heard. When I signed into that meeting, the person at the table asked if I was a student. I said "no, but I will be." ;-). He said, "how do you know you will be?" I replied, "because I won't stop interfering until I'm accepted. ha-ha!" I was accepted at first try and I absolutely love it. I've always been a nature girl at heart. As a Native Texan, I love ALL things natural about my home state. I think I'm in this for life!

**What hobbies or other projects do you do?** Definitely photography. I'm also a fiber artist. Meaning, I spin all my own yarns from animal fibers. With those, I weave and bind them into functional items to wear or admire. I'm also an artist with soft pastels and watercolors. I share that art at various art galleries around Canyon Lake via the Canyon Lake Art Guild. I'm definitely a gardener. I grow all the food and herbs that I can on my three acres. I'm also a historical reenactor in



the SCA ([sca.org](http://sca.org)). My persona is a 9th century Norse woman. And during the hot summer months, I'm a 1st century Roman woman. I love ancient history. I also travel a lot to ancient Mayan sites down in the Yucatan and Central America each year. Photography is great down there.

**Are there any Master Naturalist volunteer areas around the county that you're specially drawn to?**

As a Comal Master Gardener, I've already spent a lot of time in the various gardens around the county, like the Butterfly Garden at the Tye Preston Memorial Library. I've been walking on the nature trail at the bottom of the Canyon Lake Dam for many years before I even knew it was maintained by the Master Naturalists. And surprisingly, I've yet to explore the Gorge. Because these are literally in my neighborhood, I'll definitely be working on the Gorge site and the Nature Trail to help keep my Canyon Lake home beautiful. What I've been working on so far is being my class's photographer and newly joining the LMN newsletter! I'm SUPER excited about that.

**Anything else you'd like your fellow Master Naturalists to know about you?** - I'm a Comal Master Gardener, class of 2015. I served as the newsletter photographer on the latter half of 2017 up until I started LMN class. I'm also the Comal Master Gardener chairperson for Folk Fest. So my fellow Master Naturalists will see me there, just not at the LMN booth. I'm also a Lindheimer NPSOT member and have all three levels of my Texas Native Landscaping certifications. I really fell in love with native plants when I moved here 6 years ago from Houston. (I also had to relearn how to garden in rocks and cactus ha-ha!).



**Rock Star & Class Prez: Aleta Meyer, New Braunfels**  
Occupation: Registered Nurse

**What caught your attention and decision to join the Texas Master Naturalists?** I am a Comal Master Gardener and know several people from this group who are also Master Naturalists. After encouragement from friends, I applied and was accepted. Native plant gardening, being mindful of water and the environment, and enjoying nature are important to me and I am looking forward to learning more and being proactive in teaching others these concepts.

**What hobbies or other projects do you do?** I spend my time caring for my home and yard, hiking with my dogs and friends, being a grandmother to my 3 grandsons, helping care for my elderly parents, and whatever I feel like doing. I don't have a bucket list but do want to travel more within the U.S.

**Are there any Master Naturalist volunteer areas around the county that you're specially drawn to?** (ex. the Gorge, Headwaters, Butterfly Garden, etc.). Currently, I am a docent for the Headwaters of the Comal. I look forward to the birding. I'll better know my interests after more classes and field trips.

**Anything else you'd like your fellow Master Naturalists to know about you?** I am the oldest of 3 children, born and raised in Lake Charles, La. It was in La. that I obtained my LVN licensure and began my nursing career. I married young, at age 18, and in 1979 moved to New Braunfels with a 2-week-old baby girl - the first of my 3 children. I knew no one here at the time; that has changed, thank goodness. That was a scary time for me. I went back to school at SAC, obtained my RN licensure, and worked at the local hospital for 36 years. I quit in 2017 as I had an ill grandbaby and had to choose: keep working or help care for the baby. The baby won out. I'm REALLY enjoying time for myself and still haven't decided if I'm retired.

**Rock Star: Colette Nies, New Braunfels,**

Occupation: Land Researcher; Doctoral Student (Land, Food, Ethics, and Faith Formation); Chaplain and Ecological, Feminist Theologian

**What caught your attention and decision to join the Texas Master Naturalists?** My friend, Jamie Manning, went through the class in La Grange and she suggested it as it would be a perfect fit

**What hobbies or other projects do you do?** Organic gardening (3rd generation), kayaking; painting; hiking; cooking; reading; writing

**Are there any Master Naturalist volunteer areas around the county that you're specially drawn to?** The Headwaters and honestly there is so much that I don't even know about yet to discover!

**Anything else you'd like your fellow Master Naturalists to know about you?** That I appreciate the diversity of the Rock Stars class and enjoy listening to other people's perspective and passions about nature. Also, this week became a mom (conservator) for the first time with a 2-month-old foster (who is also my grandniece)! Her name is Emberlyn.





**Rock Star: Michael (Mike) Roberts, New Braunfels**  
Occupation: Geologist (retired from Chevron 2017, 33 years),  
and currently consulting on projects in Africa

**What caught your attention and decision to join the Texas Master Naturalists?** Opportunity to give back to the community and learn new things

**What hobbies or other projects do you do?** Golf, fish, hike, kayak, travel

**Are there any Master Naturalist volunteer areas around the county that you're specially drawn to?** Been helping at Guadalupe South hiking trail, want to start at Gorge soon.

**Anything else you'd like your fellow Master Naturalists to know about you?** Ohio native, lived in New Orleans & Houston (17 years each) before retiring and moving to NB

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**Donate to Lindheimer Chapter Painlessly through Amazon Smile!**



## How to Donate to Our Chapter Using Amazon Smile

- **What is AmazonSmile?** AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.
- **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?** To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.
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- **How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?** The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5% of the purchase price** from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

# Contributing to Citizen Science: Naturalist.org

“Citizen Science” is the participation of non-scientists in scientific research. As naturalists, many of us already participate in citizen science projects that contribute to the body of scientific knowledge about plants, animals & insects: butterfly surveys, bird counts, plant identification. AND we take pictures – LOTS of pictures! Each picture is an observation and represents an opportunity to increase the scientific knowledge of what, where & when. One of the largest citizen science projects is iNaturalist, a world-wide, on-line database of observations provided by citizen scientists like Master Naturalists.



From [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org): “From hikers to hunters, birders to beach-combers, the world is filled with naturalists, and many of us record what we find. What if all those observations could be shared online? You might discover someone who finds beautiful wildflowers at your favorite birding spot or learn about the birds you see on the way to work. **If enough people recorded their observations, it would be like a living record of life on Earth that scientists and land managers could use to monitor changes in biodiversity, and that *anyone* could use to learn more about nature.**”

Here are the numbers as of 1/18/19. Take a look at Comal County!!!

| Location     | Observations | Species | Identifiers | Observers |
|--------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| World        | 15,614,928   | 195,726 | 62,521      | 425,939   |
| Texas        | 1,486,368    | 17,255  | 11,147      | 29,865    |
| Comal County | 6,760        | 1,631   | 1,031       | 826       |

How to get started? Go to [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org) and sign up. You can pick a cool user name such as “sea-kangaroo” or use your name “SamSmith”. Then go to “Getting Started” & follow the directions. If you have an iPhone or an Android & download the mobile app, it’s really easy to submit your observations. The information you need to submit is: 1) Photo or sound; 2) date; 3) location; 4) your species identification (you can get help from the Naturalist community on identification). It’s that simple!

Within Naturalist are specialty projects which usually have a much narrower focus – such as “Herps of Texas” or “Texas Monarchs and Milkweeds.” You can join as many projects as you like and add your data to the appropriate projects.

Here’s what a sample observation looks like:

| Photos/Sounds   | Species/Taxon  | Date               | Place                                      | Date Added                    | Verified ID                              |
|---|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
|  | Western Diamondback Rattlesnake<br><i>Crotalus atrox</i> | September 11, 2005 | Val Verde County, TX, USA<br>(Google, OSM) | October 16, 2016 10:07 AM CDT | 3 IDs<br>Research Grade<br>Edit   View » |

The data quality assessment in the far-right column documents the observation’s accuracy. “Research Grade” observations can be used by scientists (and citizen scientists!) for research.

- Upload sounds like bird songs, frog chirps, whale vocalizations and wolf howls
- Accepted are observations of dead animals and roadkill.
- You can search anywhere in the world for any species. Want to know how many & where a Western Diamondback has been sighted? Query the database!
- If you want to be a citizen scientist, Naturalist is the place to start!



# 2018 Chapter Information



## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

**PRESIDENT** Rich Nielson  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Jim Doyle  
**SECRETARY** Kim Wright  
**TREASURER** Evelyn Nielson  
**PAST PRESIDENT/TMN REP** Joel Dunnington

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Communication - Marilyn McFarland  
 Education – Deb Kyrouac, Mike Hammack  
 Membership & Records – Brian Trock  
 Outreach – Darlene Varga  
 Projects & Opportunities - Jeanie Springer

## SUBCOMMITTEES

### Communication Subcommittees

Out & About – Sara Riggs  
 Historian – Peggy Haley  
 Newsletter – Carmen Horn, Editor  
 Publicity/Social Media – Marilyn McFarland  
 Website – Marie Miller

### Outreach Subcommittees

Trunks – Darlene Varga  
 Program to Assist Landowners – Art Williams

### VP Subcommittees

Community Recognition – Jim Doyle  
 Hospitality – Joyce Doyle, Salty Brady

## CHAPTER ADVISORS

**Craig Hensley**  
 Texas Parks & Wildlife  
 Guadalupe River State Park

**Troy Luepke**  
 Texas A&M AgriLife  
 Extension Service



**LMN Board Meetings**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 5:00-6:00  
 AgriLife Building

**Chapter Meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**  
 5:45 Social, 6:15 Speaker  
 Tye Preston Memorial Library

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2019 DATES

**February 21**

Two Birds of Texas: The Northern  
 Bobwhite and the Rio Grande Turkey  
 Craig Hensley

**March 21**

Birdsongs: Nature's Sweetest Tweets  
 Patsy Inglet

See "Meetings" on our website!



## LMN HOSPITALITY

Many thanks to Joyce Doyle, Hospitality Head,  
 and the LMN members who volunteer to feed  
 us such delicious food.

**Wow! Earn 1 VH by  
 Bringing refreshments!**  
 Sign up with Joyce Doyle  
 at the next meeting!



October

Many thanks to The Mud Daubers  
 for a great meal and social time.

November

Glenna Dunnington, Salty Brady, Edith  
 Bergquist, Darlene Varga, Ellen Anderson,  
 Marie Miller

December

Many thanks to all the members  
 who brought such an abundance  
 of fabulous food!  
 We should make a cookbook!

# 2019 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Rich Nielson  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Jim Doyle  
**SECRETARY** Martha Bersch  
**TREASURER** Robin Hagan  
**PAST PRESIDENT/TMN REP** Rich Bradley

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Communication - Marilyn McFarland  
Education - Mike Hammack, Joe Finneran  
Membership & Records – Cheryl Trock  
Outreach – Debbie Kyrouac, Jane Schnell  
Projects & Opportunities - Jeanie Springer

### SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Communication Subcommittees

Out & About – Sara Riggs  
Historian/Archivist – Recruiting  
Newsletter – Carmen Horn, Editor  
Publicity - Recruiting  
Social Media/Webmaster – Marilyn McFarland

#### Education Subcommittees

Initial Education – Mike Hammack & Joe Finneran  
Continuing Education – Recruiting  
Youth Education – Recruiting

#### Outreach Subcommittees

Trunks – Deb Kyrouac & Jane Schnell  
Program to Assist Landowners – Art Williams

#### VP Subcommittees

Community Recognition – Jim Doyle  
Hospitality – Evelyn Nielson

#### The Rock Stars

President – Aleta Meyer  
Reporter/Photog – Erin Harrison

### CHAPTER ADVISORS

**Craig Hensley**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife

**Troy Luepke**  
Texas A&M AgriLife

### LMN Board Meetings

4<sup>th</sup> Monday 5:00-6:00  
AgriLife Building