

The Lindheimer Quarterly
 2nd Quarter 2019
 April – June



“Two Tailed Swallowtail on Thistle”
 Darlene N. Varga



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LMN Member Photos

Clockwise from left:

“Squirrely” by Nancy Hammack

“Cactus Flower” by Rick Corbell

“Munchtime” by Brian Trock

“Huntsman Spider” by Richard Scarbrock
 Our chapter has some great photographers!

We believe you can be one of them!

Submit your photos to:

LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com

It's Summertime!!!

By Carmen Horn, Editor



Summertime is the stuff of which dreams are made. It is the season of the year whose approach causes school children to turn from thoughts of literature and math to daydreams of picnics at the lake and lazy afternoons. It's the season when adults can drop the yoke of so much responsibility - work, school for children, driving to soccer practice and music lessons, to dream of enjoying time with family, spending time in the garden, vacations and **lots of frolicking in the out of doors!**

Each year the Summer Season is heralded in with the Summer Solstice. This year (2019), the Solstice welcomed in the season on June 21 at 10:54 for our location. South of the Equator, this same moment marked the unofficial beginning of winter. **Solstices occur because Earth's axis of rotation is tilted about 23.4 degrees relative to Earth's orbit around the sun.** This tilt is what drives our planet's seasons. From March to September, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted more toward the sun, bringing its spring and summer. From September to March, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away, so it feels Autumn and Winter. The Southern Hemisphere's seasons are reversed.

The **Summer Solstice marks the longest day of the year**, during which the axial tilt of the Earth puts the western hemisphere closest to the Sun. For time immemorial, it has been a day of celebration for many cultures across the world. But if you were unsure of how to celebrate the Summer Solstice of 2019, here are some of the ancient rituals and celebrations practiced by our ancestors.

The word "solstice" comes from the Latin words "sol," meaning sun, and "stitium" or "sistere," meaning still or stopped. In ancient times, our ancestors likely used this day as a marker to decide when to plant crops, noticing that the sun switched from a southward to northward trajectory in the sky. But more importantly, the solstice was a time of celebration and a break from the norm. Many cultures believed that magic took place on the night of the summer solstice, with færies showing themselves to humans, while evil spirits were dispelled from their lives.

In ancient Greece, the Summer Solstice marked the start of a new year and the month-long countdown to the Olympics. The Greeks also observed the festival of Kronia, during which they worshipped Cronus, the god of agriculture.

In ancient Egypt, the Summer Solstice represented the coming of the brightest star, Sirius. Not long after, the Nile would begin to flood its banks, marking a season of abundance from the land. The Egyptians believed Sirius was responsible for the floods and considered it the start of a new year.

The ancient Romans celebrated the festival of Vestalia, in honor of the goddess of the hearth. Married women brought offerings to the temple of Vesta, hoping the goddess would bestow blessings upon their families. Vesta was the protector of married women and virginity, and was exclusively a goddess for women.

In ancient China, Summer Solstice was represented by "yin," or feminine energy, as opposed to the Winter Solstice which was represented by "yang" or masculine energy. The Chinese celebrated the Earth with a number of festivities on this day.



"Summer Sunrise" by LMN Member Sara Riggs



Midsummer was a crucial time of year for the **Vikings**, who would meet to discuss legal matters and resolve disputes around the Summer Solstice. Much of this had to do with the fact that traveling was facilitated by more hours of sunlight - but surely there were fine celebrations as well.

In Celtic areas there were both Wiccan and Christian festivities celebrating the sun, agrarian success and honoring St. John the Baptist. According to folklore St. John's Wort was often used to promote good health and to ward off evil spirits.

To this day large numbers of people from all over the globe gather at Stonehenge, England for the Solstice. Archeologists and historians have long debated the purpose and uses of Stonehenge. The site is aligned with the direction of the sunrise on the Summer Solstice - but as yet, there is no absolute explanation for by whom it was erected and for what purpose. (Anyone with additional or different information on Stonehenge or other sites, we certainly invite you to share.)



Summer is good time, it allows us to enjoy the bloom of warm experiences, fertilize fresh plantings, ideas and projects for the Fall - and to recall other Summers when life was good and "youth was mellow", as it should be every day that **we decide to make it so.**

"In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back." - Albert Camus



"Butterfly & Pride of Barbados" by
LMN Member Joel Dunnington



2018 Scrapbook

Lindheimer Chapter 2018 Scrapbook is Posted on the Website

<https://txmn.org/lindheimer/files/2019/06/2018-Annual-Archive-2.pdf>



 **THE VALUE OF MEMORIES**

Having recently spent time looking through old scrapbooks, paper documents, and photographs of previous years of the Lindheimer Chapter, I realize how important it is to have an archive which collects and arranges Chapter memories in an orderly and concise fashion; how helpful and gratifying it is to look back at past Chapter members as they carried out the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program.

An archive provides reminders of people, places and projects, of hard work and awards. An archive allows us to evaluate progress and changes made over the years, and perhaps revive or recycle some of the successful ideas of the past. What a plus that technology now allows us to put our "scrapbooks" online for access by everyone! The Chapter has many historical documents that are waiting to be scanned and posted online, and it is our goal to do so. I hope you enjoy this look back at Lindheimer Chapter 2018!

Marilyn J. McFarland, Historian/Archivist

Thank you to our photographic contributors:

 Edith Bergquist, Don Bergquist, Rick Corbell, John Davis, Glenna Dunnington, Joel Dunnington, Holly Emrie, Nancy Hammack, Mark Henderson, Carmen Horn, Debbie Kyrouac, Evelyn Nielson, Sara Riggs, Dick Scarbrock, Jane Schnell, Jeanie Springer, Brian Trock, Teresa Turko, Darlene Varga and Cheryl Walthour!

How to Use the Electronic Version of the 2019 Annual Archive

As you browse you will notice text entries highlighted in blue:
<https://txmn.org/lindheimer/>
This is a "link" that will take you to another page - in this case, a link to a page on the Lindheimer Chapter website. If you place your cursor on the link, a hand appears. Just click. You will be taken to that page. To return back to the annual, use your back arrow.



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The Electronic Lindheimer

Place your cursor on the hyperlink, then press your ctrl button and click to follow the link.

1. Check out Lindheimer Chapter on the Web! <https://txmn.org/lindheimer/>

2. Donate to Lindheimer Chapter painlessly through Amazon Smile!



https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_rspo_laas_aas

3. Check out Lindheimer Chapter on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer/>



Have you gone to 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 chapter activities and articles, and photos taken by our members.

If you go to our website, you'll see the link for Facebook on the righthand side of the page.

Just click on it and it will take you to our site on Facebook. It's easy!

Come see us! **“Like”** us! And **“Follow”** us!

4. See us on Pinterest!

For those of you who like Pinterest, check us out! We went live mid-June, and have 8 boards:

- *Green Living*
- *Of Interest to Naturalists*
- *Bees, Birds, Butterflies & Moths*
- *Bugs & Insects*
- *Nature Photography*
- *Flood & Tornado Preparedness*
- *Invasive Plants, Animals & Insects*
- *Texas Hill Country & Beyond*

<https://www.pinterest.com/FerdinandLindheimer/>



President's Message: The Case for Dues

Your Board spent the bulk of the May board meeting discussing the issue of imposing dues for the chapter. The decision was that we will postpone imposing dues for now. The Board decided to participate in **The Big Give SA on March 26, 2020** with a goal of netting \$2,000 after expenses. If the required funds are not generated then the Board will revisit the question of dues.

How did we get here, talking about dues? As you know, the bulk of the income of the chapter comes from the tuition we charge the Master Naturalists-in-Training. We generate a meager amount of additional funds from Amazon Smile and a small amount from the Lindheimer branded TMN shirts and hats that we sell at chapter meetings.

The Board decided to fully fund the training of the new class each year instead of forgoing field trips that have a fee associated with them to every other year. This means we will be spending approximately 75% of the tuition collected on the new class. This leaves approximately \$1,000 left to fund chapter activities. Only having \$1,000 per year in income means the balance in the checking account will be decreasing unless an alternative means of income is put in place. Hence the participation in **The Big Give SA** in 2020. I hope this answers some of your questions regarding the Board's decision. —Rich Nielson, President



The Big Give SA

- **What is "The Big Give"?** From The Big Give website <https://www.thebiggivesa.org/>: "The Big Give is South Central Texas' 24-hour online day of online giving fueled by the power of generous donors, creative nonprofits, social media, collaboration, and you! The goal of the Big Give is to support our local nonprofits that are committed to making South Central Texas a great place to live, work, and play. Since 2014, 188,937 donors have given over \$20 million dollars to over 2,000 nonprofits through the Big Give, making it one of the most successful giving days in the country."
- In 2019, The Big Give SA raised **\$4,711,934.94** from **28,104 donors** for **545 non-profit** organizations!
- The next Big Give SA is **March 26, 2020**. As a 501(c)(3), the **Lindheimer Chapter** can participate. Our **goal is \$2,000.00**. We're hoping you'll be interested in supporting our Big Give effort!
- In the coming months, you'll be hearing more about The Big Give. Stay tuned!
- To learn more now, take a look at their online information. <https://thebiggivesa.org>



What's up with the TMN Pins? From Michelle Haggarty at TMN: As you painfully know, the majority of the TMN re-certification and milestone pins stock is depleted AND the 2019 Annual Recertification pin has not been produced yet. Here is what has happened...Due to state agency changes in purchasing procedures, the TMN pins for 2019 had to be acquired through an entirely new bid process that none of us have been through before. I'll spare you the painful details, but after a couple of attempts (through long and drawn out processes) our first two bid attempts proceeded but then failed and/or were dismissed due to errors in the new process or misunderstandings and misinterpretations from bidders. I am happy to report though, that after all of this, **the pins are finally in the process of production as of mid-July** and we are hopeful to begin receiving stock as they are completed beginning **late August**. Olivia has been keeping a tally of your orders and your needs and will ship all pins once they come in. We realize this situation is unacceptable and our Texas Master Naturalist volunteers deserve so much better than this! So... we have a plan moving forward to ensure that annual recertification pins should never be late—ever again! Thank you for your patience and understanding through this painful endeavor!



Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™



Call for Nominations Lindheimer Chapter Community Naturalist Award

Each year the Lindheimer Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist™ may honor a single particularly outstanding act by a business, group, organization or individual involving a property in Comal County which:

- 1) results in the preservation or restoration of an area or its flora and fauna, or
- 2) results in measurable conservation, protection, or waste reduction of an important natural resource, or
- 3) applies unique skill or creative imagination to the solution of a problem affecting our natural world.

This recognition shall be given to a non-member of Lindheimer Master Naturalist who has contributed to the achievement of the ideals of Texas Master Naturalists by aid and conservation of our natural resources including, but not limited to water, native plants, animals, birds, insects, and land.



Previous award recipients have been *Headwaters of the Comal* in 2018, *New Braunfels Parks and Recreation* in 2017 and *Bat Conservation International* in 2014.

To make a nomination, or obtain more information, please use the online submission form on the LMN website under **'Chapter Info – Community Naturalist Award.'**

Jim Doyle is requesting **your** help to recognize those in the community who further the mission of Texas Master Naturalist™! Thank you very much.

For questions, email LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com.

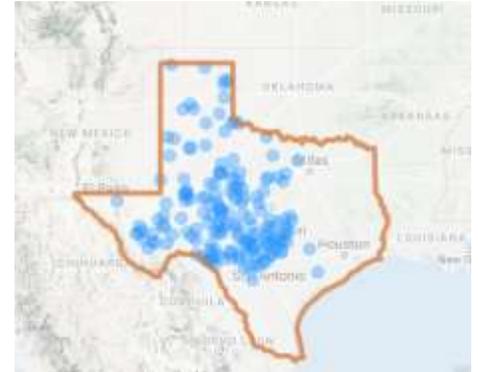


Texas Wildlife: The North American Porcupine

By MJ McFarland, Assistant Editor

Having lived in the Texas Hill Country for eight years, I was unaware that porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*) inhabited the same space – until I came upon a road-killed porcupine on the south side of Canyon Lake. As I passed it, my first thought was – is that a porcupine? They're hard to mis-identify alive or dead, but...I circled around, parked on the road and got some photos to prove it.

The carcass was decomposing in the heat (I've spared you the photo of the deceased). Many of its quills had detached and were laying on the roadside. I estimated it weighed about 10 – 12 pounds; definitely an adult. It was saddening to see it as roadkill. I checked Naturalist to see if any other porcupines had been reported in Comal County - a total of eight, including mine. There are 397 total *Erethizon* sightings in Texas to date in Naturalist. As you can see from the Naturalist map, most sightings are central to west Texas. That could mean a number of things: 1) not many porcupines in Texas; 2) porcupines are difficult to catch on camera; or 3) not many people taking photos of porcupines where porcupines live.



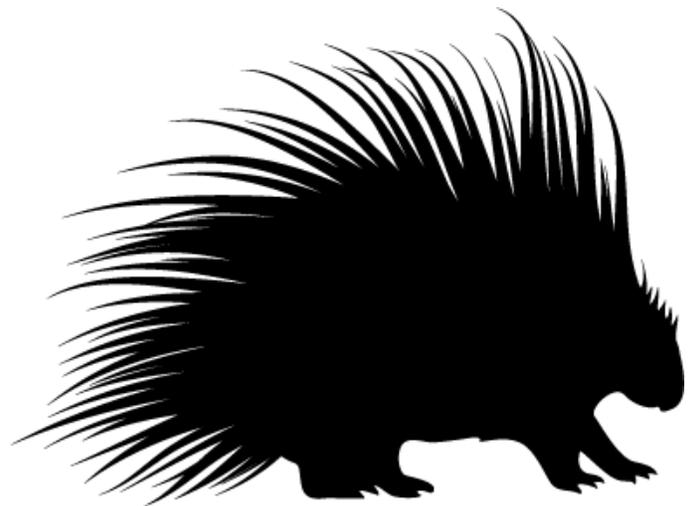
Porcupines are fat, bowlegged, pigeon-toed, five fingered, sharp clawed, nocturnal herbivorian rodentian mammals with teeth that grow continually. They are really slow on the ground - move about as fast as I do in the morning. They would be a very vulnerable prey animal – if they weren't protected by “diabolical hair” (my term). What's that, you ask? Prepare to be amazed!

Porcupines – or “prickly pigs” - are covered with a protective armor of needle-sharp quills, which are really only modified hairs. It's estimated that a **porcupine has about 30,000 quills** all over its body. Only the nose, legs and underside are unprotected. The quills have a topical antibiotic in the tip (in case the porcupine accidentally sticks itself) and **each quill has about 700 - 800 overlapping barbs at the tip** (that's why it's so hard to remove). Here's

why I call it “diabolical hair”: Once the quills are stuck into flesh, every muscle movement causes the quill to pierce further into the muscle. Unless removed, **the quills can migrate through muscle, into organs and through blood vessels**, causing severe damage. Most authorities agree the best way to remove a quill is with a quick jerk as soon as possible to prevent any further inward movement.

Just like all hair, the porcupine sheds quills, which are replaced by new ones which grow a millimeter every two days. The porcupine has muscular control over each quill. **There's no doubt about when a porcupine feels threatened** – its quills are raised (just like when you encounter something fearful and the hair stands up on your arms). It will waggle its tail as an additional warning. Then it will quickly turn until its backside is facing the threat. Chattering loudly, and flicking its tail violently, it will back into the perceived threat. It doesn't “throw” its quills, but at the slightest touch, the quills are released into the closest body part of its enemy.

Mating season is usually October/November. The female will advertise her availability; the males will violently fight each other. **Gestation is about seven months** at which time the mother gives birth to **one “porcupette” weighing about a pound, with soft quills** (to make the birth easier on the mom) which harden after a few days. Porcupettes hide like baby deer, and wait for their mothers to come to them. It nurses for about 10 weeks, and leaves its mom at about 6 months. They reach sexual maturity at two years and can live up to about



10 years. Adults are solitary, but have quite a vocal repertoire, with mumbles, murmurs, moans, grunts & whines, and even sings during mating season! It **mumbles to itself as it rambles**, much like an absent-minded professor!

The porcupine is an **excellent tree climber** – much faster going up a tree than walking on the ground. They go up a tree head first but back down. The porcupine has **poor vision, but an excellent sense of smell** and will sniff its food carefully before eating. **Porcupines love salt**, including the salt from human perspiration, and will nibble on anything that has the slightest bit of salt – canoe handles, clothing, hats and the like. They love salt licks, and will wander into inhabited areas to find one. In the summer, porcupines will eat low growing vegetation such as shoots of trees and shrubs. In the winter, it will eat the inner bark of trees, and can cause widespread damage to forests. The **average meal for a porcupine is bark the size of a piece of paper**. In spring they return to the ground and tender vegetation. They prefer trees, or areas where there are natural den sites and resting places, but **can adapt to a variety of habitats**.

Coloring Page from TPWD



<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/kids/fun-stuff/color-your-world/porcupine>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/porcupines/>

<https://www.theiwrc.org/kids/Facts/Mammals/porcupine.htm>

<https://licensed.storyful.com/videos/222285> (Great 31 second video of a baby porcupette following mom up a tree)

Texas Wildlife: The Alligator Gar

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FACT SHEET

NAMES

Scientific: *Atractosteus spatula*; Gator Gar

DESCRIPTION

Regulated nongame species. Gars are easily distinguished from other freshwater species by their long, slender, cylindrical bodies, long snouts, and diamond-shaped interlocking (ganoid) scales. The tail fin is rounded. Dorsal and anal fins are placed well back on the body and nearly opposite each other. Alligator gar is the largest of the gar species. It can grow up to 8 feet long and weigh more than 300 pounds. Adults have two rows of large teeth on either side of the upper jaw. Coloration is generally brown or olive above and lighter underneath. The species name *spatula* is Latin for "spoon", referring to the creature's broad snout.

LIFE HISTORY

Alligator gar can live for many decades. They grow very fast when young, but growth slows with age. In general, for every additional foot the fish grows, its age doubles. A 3-foot gar is typically about 2.5 years old; a 4-foot gar about 5, and a 7-foot trophy catch might be 40 years old. The world record, caught in

Mississippi in 2011, weighed 327 pounds and was probably at least 95. Alligator gar are slow to mature; they usually don't spawn until they are about 10 years old. Spawning typically takes place in shallow areas of flooded vegetation when springtime water temperatures exceed 68 degrees. In Texas, this generally occurs in April and May. Eggs hatch within a couple of days. Young fish feed on larval fishes and insects. Adults will eat whatever they can catch, consuming primarily fish, but occasionally taking birds, mammals and other animals.



DISTRIBUTION

Alligator gar are present in the Gulf coastal plain from the Econfina River in Florida west and south to Veracruz, Mexico. The historic range extends north in the Mississippi River basin to the lower reaches of the Missouri and Ohio rivers. In Texas, alligator gar may be found in large rivers and reservoirs, as well as in coastal bays. Recent surveys indicate the species is declining or has disappeared in many areas of the southeastern United States. Texas populations are still strong.

THREATS AND REASONS FOR DECLINE

Good conditions for spawning don't happen every year, and there may be years when alligator gar produce few if any offspring. The long life span of this species has no doubt enabled it to survive periods of drought and low river flows; however, it also means that populations could take decades to recover from effects of overfishing.

OTHER

The Texas state record is 302 pounds, caught on a trotline in 1953. Bow fishers and rod and reel anglers have landed several specimens in excess of 200 pounds. Historically considered a "rough fish," the alligator gar has recently gained popularity as a sport fish, attracting national and international attention after being featured on several television shows. Texas has one of the best remaining fisheries for this unusual freshwater fish. To help ensure that high quality, recreational fisheries remain compatible with long-term conservation of the species, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department imposed a one-per-day bag limit on alligator gar beginning in 2009.

Reference: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

MONTHLY MEETINGS

April 18, 2019 Meeting "State of the Chapter" President Rich Nielsen



Approximately 40 members attended to hear about "The State of the Chapter". President Rich Nielsen discussed the efforts being made to accomplish the master naturalist mission. Also discussed were expanding education programs, changes to the Chapter Operating Handbook and the budget. Board directors presented brief explanations of their committees and activities.

Mary Ann Melton from the Good Water Chapter Texas Master Naturalist in Hutto gave a presentation on their youth education program from 2010 – 2018.



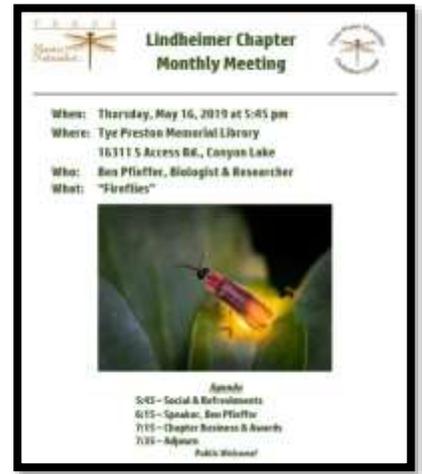
Photos clockwise: President Rich Nielson; Mary Ann Melton of Good Water TMN Chapter talking about their Youth Education Program; meeting flyer; and members in attendance at the meeting.

At this meeting, Art Williams was voted in by the membership to fill the vacancy in the Secretary's position. **Our thanks and best wishes go to Martha Bersch for ably serving as the previous secretary.**



**May 16, 2019 Meeting
 “Fireflies of Central Texas”
 Ben Pfeiffer, Biologist/Researcher**

Ben Pfeiffer, Firefly Expert, Speaks to May Meeting by Carmen Horn, Editor



Benjamin Pfeiffer, Firefly Expert and Lindheimer Master Naturalist, spoke to a packed house, including people who came from as far as Oregon for his presentation, at the May 16 Lindheimer Master Naturalist meeting.

Ben is quoted by Firefly.org “It was maybe 2008 when I noticed the fireflies in South Texas were disappearing. There weren’t as many as I remembered when I was a kid. And then I heard a report on Firefly decline on NPR Radio that confirmed it.”

A sixth generation Texan, Ben grew up in the Hill Country and South Texas and graduated from Texas State University with a degree in Biology. As a beekeeper and Naturalist, he developed a deep understanding of the state’s unique ecology. So Ben began research and as he was already a website developer/designer with a background in marketing, he founded Firefly.org, a foundation and website that is all about the study of fireflies and their conservation.

Through Firefly.org, the little creatures get plenty of attention and Ben’s research has been published all over the United States as well as abroad. “The website has two missions,” Ben says. “To educate the public on threats to fireflies and how they can help; and to serve as a resource for scientists.”

Ben’s work was recently featured in Texas Monthly magazine. He explained why there are more fireflies in Central Texas than in Houston: “There are fireflies in Houston, but they are not as prevalent as they once were, and the species diversity is pretty flat. There is really no native habitat left in Houston for any of the unique species, so what you find in Houston is just the common type of firefly—Photinus pyralis. You might find some other [types] hidden away in pocket parks and stuff like that, and the hurricanes have helped fireflies out a lot—kinda cleaned out some areas and let them repopulate in some areas because it might have been too dry or overpopulated with people.”

He goes on to say “A lot of my research is on documenting the state’s firefly diversity. I would like to find some new things if it possible. Most fireflies in Texas were described many, many years ago by entomologists that only listed basic morphology information. Until I started taking high quality photos, documenting flash behavior, life history, etc. there wasn’t much available. It took years to study and get familiar. They are not easy insects to study because you have to study the flash patterns and morphology (structure, coloration, etc.). Some fireflies mimic the flash patterns of others and two fireflies can often be different species but look entirely the same. It’s been an enjoyable challenge for me. One of my favorite parts of my research is just being able to get into the field and see incredible things most people very few people get to see. It’s remarkable what I uncovered once I got into it. I hope that my classes and lectures help others understand their local fireflies better so they can have those same experiences.”

Ben also led a group of naturalists on an evening hike to identify the different fireflies. Thank you, Ben!

FIREFLY FACTS

Number of Species

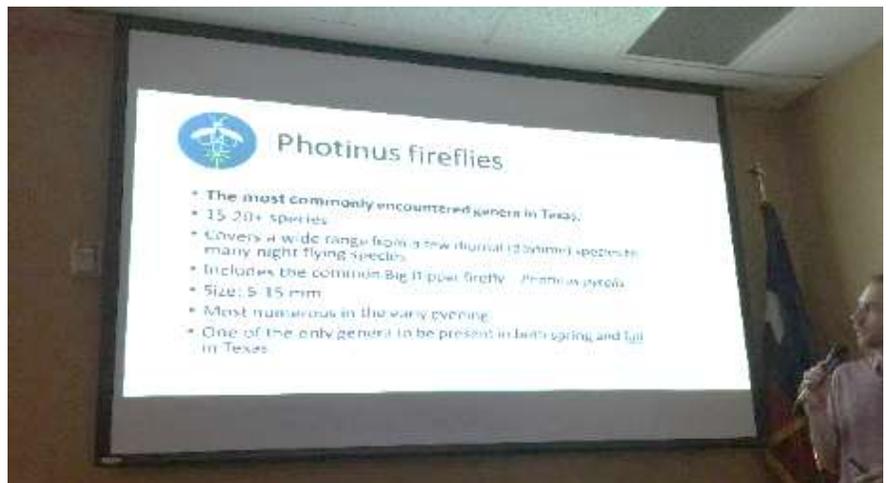
In North America, there are an estimated 170+ species. Worldwide there is estimated 2000+ species. These numbers are going up as new Lampyridae species are described by scientists.

Why Blink?

The purpose of blinking is so that male fireflies can find potential mates. If you watch long enough you will be able to pick up on their unique flash pattern. Try to remember it so that next time you see a firefly flash you can identify it.

Links to Ben’s websites:

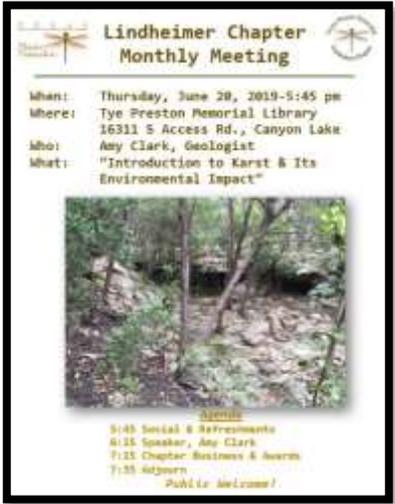
- <https://www.firefly.org/ben-pfeiffer>
- <https://www.firefly.org/contact-us>



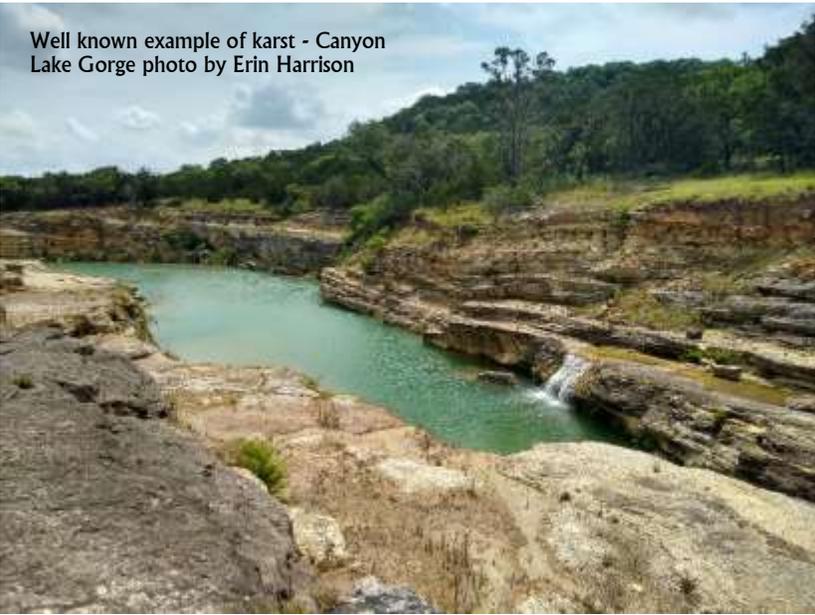
June 20, 2019 Meeting "Introduction to Karst" Amy Clark, Geologist



Amy Clark, Professional Geologist, spoke to a group of 56 LMN members & guests on karst and its significance to life in the Texas Hill Country. We learned that karst is formed when soluble rocks such as limestone and dolomite dissolve. The Texas Hill Country sits on a landscape of karst, within which are aquifers that provide water. Karst, unlike sandstone, has no ability to filter out contamination from water, and is one of the issues concerning human development over an aquifer region. Characteristics of karst are sinkholes, caves, and springs. It was a fascinating look at what's beneath the ground we walk on, and makes the case for protecting the land from contaminants.



Ms. Clark is a San Antonio native and Hill Country resident for the past seven years. She is a wife of fellow geologist Allan and a mother of six daughters. Amy has BS and MS degrees in Geology from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), specializing in environmental geology focusing on water issues. Currently she is on sabbatical.



Well known example of karst - Canyon Lake Gorge photo by Erin Harrison



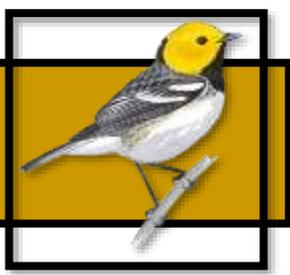
Art Williams ran the chapter business meeting in the absence of President Rich Nielson. Art discussed the idea of fundraising by participating in The Big Give SA in 2020 rather than implement dues. Art also presented recertifications & awards.



Close up of karst by MJ McFarland

Recertifications & Volunteer Hour Milestones Thank You for Volunteering!

2019 Recertification Pin - Golden Cheeked Warbler



March 2019

Recertifications – Golden Warbler Pin
John Davis, Rich Bradley, Jim Jameson,
Marilyn McFarland, Harry Ferrell, Jim Doyle,
Jeanie Springer, Teresa Turko

Volunteer Hour Milestones
250 Hours - Cheryl Walthour

April 2019

Recertifications – Golden Cheeked Warbler Pin

Rich Nielson, Cheryl Trock, Pete Bryant,
Deborah Kyrouac, Jane Schnell,
Valerie Lafebvre, Mike Hammack,
Judy Brupbacher, Marilyn Garrison,
Gretchen Ferrell, Ron Butts, Dottie Green,
Mary Ann Richey, Tom Mathey,
Barry Brupbacher, Evelyn Nielson,
Cathy Oberkamp, Jane Miller, Edi Finger,
Kathy Ofsdahl, Dan Madden

Volunteer Hour Milestones
500 Hours: Jane Schnell
1,000 Hours: Barry Brupbacher



May 2019

Recertifications – Golden Cheeked Warbler Pin
Mary Barr- Gilbert, Joyce Doyle, Don Epps,
Robert Gray, Henry Hahn, Jack Olivier,
David Reel, Cheryl Walthour

Volunteer Hour Milestones
500 Hours: Marietta Diehl, Joyce Doyle
1,000 Hours: Debbie Kyrouac, Marilyn McFarland

Rock Stars Journal 2018 - 2019

An Account of the Activities of the Lindheimer Chapter Master Naturalists-in-Training Class

Earthday 2019 – A Big Success!

Article by Erin Harrison



Lindheimer Master Naturalists at the 2nd Annual Earthday Festivities at the Headwaters at the Comal was a success!! Over 400 visitors came to Earthday that beautiful April day! The weather was perfect too! Our chapter had a large table display with many volunteers talking with visitors! We had a geology display with dinosaurs and fossils. We also showed our skulls and skins trunk with native Comal county animals. There was also our birds and beaks display to teach how different beak shapes help these birds survive in the wild.

Our awesome Brian and Cheryl Trock team headed the information table telling all about who and what the Lindheimer Master Naturalists are and do...along with their tempting Tootsie Rolls! Lots of fun was had that day with volunteers and visitors. We're looking forward to next year!

The 2019 Bio-Blitz: LMN + CCCA

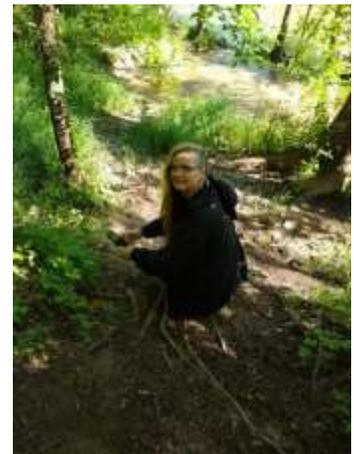
Article and Photos by Erin Harrison, Rock Stars Class

On the last weekend of April, a handful of us Lindheimer Master Naturalists went on a BioBlitz with the Comal County Conservation Alliance down on the south trail of the Guadalupe River just below the Canyon Lake Dam.

What's a BioBlitz you ask? It's a defined period of time where we observers make as many good observations as possible in a defined place. We were also taught to use the iNaturalist app so we could record these observations as part of the world wide City Nature Challenge BioBlitz.



Our count went towards the San Antonio greater metro area's total.



We had a lot of fun, found TONS of growth and a fuzzy creature (an owlet moth caterpillar) and we also made some new great friends.

Naturalist.org: Contributing to Citizen Science

“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 : “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 7/10/2019. Take a look at Comal County!!!

Location	Observations	Species	Identifiers	Observers
World	22,992,437	215,159	86,514	632,253
Texas	2,049,428	18,970	14,317	42,323
Comal County	12,618	2,186	1,384	1,258

How to get started? Go to www.inaturalist.org and sign up. You can pick a cool user name such as “seakangaroo” 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 <i>Crotalus atrox</i>	September 11, 2005	Val Verde County, TX, USA (Google, OSM)	October 16, 2016 10:07 AM CDT	3 IDs Research Grade Edit View »

The data quality assessment in the 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!

LMN Board Meetings
 4th Monday 5:00pm
 AgriLife Building
 All are welcome!

2019 Chapter Information



2019 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Rich Nielson
VICE PRESIDENT Jim Doyle
SECRETARY Arthur Williams
TREASURER Robin Hagan
PAST PRESIDENT/TMN REP Rich Bradley
 Email: LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

SUBCOMMITTEES

Communication Subcommittees

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

Outreach Subcommittees

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

VP Subcommittees

Community Recognition - Jim Doyle
 Hospitality - Evelyn Nielson

Rock Stars Class

President - Aleta Meyer
 Reporter/Photographer - Erin Harrison

CHAPTER ADVISORS

Craig Hensley
 Texas Parks & Wildlife
 Guadalupe River State Park

Troy Luepke
 Texas A&M AgriLife
 Extension Service

The Lindheimer Quarterly

Published quarterly by the Lindheimer Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™ to communicate, educate & inform chapter members & the Hill Country Community.

If you have an article or photo of interest to the chapter, please send email to: LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com.

The Quarterly is emailed to all members and posted on the website www.txmn.org/lindheimer.

Previous issues are available.

- Carmen Horn, Editor
- MJ McFarland, Design/Layout
- Erin Harrison, Rock Stars Photographer/Reporter

Chapter Meetings - 3rd Thursday

5:45 Social, 6:15 Speaker

Tye Preston Memorial Library

January 17, 2019

"Spying on Bats" Danielle Cordani

February 21, 2019

"Birds of Central Texas: Northern Bobwhite/Rio Grande Turkey" - Craig Hensley

March 21, 2019

"Bird Song: Nature's Sweet Tweets" - Patsy Inglet

April 18, 2019

Business Meeting & Photo Show

May 16, 2019

"Fireflies" - Ben Pfeiffer

June 20, 2019

"Environmental Impact of Karst" - Amy Clarke

July 18, 2019

"Central Texas Fishes" - Stephen Curtis

August 15, 2019

"Black Crested Titmouse" - Rebekah Rylander

September 19, 2019

"Topic TBA" - Troy Luepke

October 17, 2019

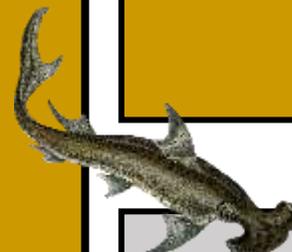
Rock Stars Graduation

November 21, 2019

"Duckology" - Patsy/Tom Inglet

December 12, 2019 (2nd Thursday)

Elections & Social Event



LMN HOSPITALITY

Many thanks to Evelyn Nielson, Hospitality, & the LMN members who bring such delicious snacks!

April

Teresa Turko, Gretchen Ferrell,
 Lois Ricci, Joe Finneran,
 Jane Finneran, Sandra Carson,
 Jeanie Springer, Marilyn McFarland

May

John Davis, Jane Schnell, Joyce Doyle,
 Darlene Varga, Robin Hagan, Dick Scarbrock

June

Laird Ingham, Brian Trock, Debbie Kyrouac,
 Marilyn Garrison, Cheryl Trock, Joel Dunnington

All fish illustrations are from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, except for the guppy upper left.