

The Lindheimer Quarterly Newsletter

1st Quarter 2021



Photo by Darlene Nancy Varga

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There are some great articles in this issue – be sure to take a look!



From the Editor

We started 2020 with plans for our 20th Anniversary Celebration. Then came the pandemic, and we had to scramble to learn how to accomplish the work of the chapter when we were isolated from each other and restricted in what we did. But we made it through.

The beginning of 2021 saw a catastrophic weather event – the Texas Freeze of 2021 – the worst winter storm many of us have seen. We are still assessing the damage done to the flora & fauna – and hoping that the recovery won't be as difficult as we fear.

We're still here, and coping with whatever faces us – both individually and as a chapter. Resilient and resolved, we carry on, working for better days. Thank you to all who continue to volunteer under difficult circumstances. –MJM

IN MEMORIAM

Lindheimer Chapter is very saddened by the news that one of our members, Steve Dockal, unexpectedly passed away on January 9, 2021. Steve was an active member of the Red-tailed Hawks and served as Class Photographer. Steve submitted beautiful photos. He was known for his friendly smile, his sense of humor and his kindness. Steve was actively involved in numerous LMN projects. Gone too soon, he will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the chapter.

Our deepest condolences to his family and friends for their loss.



Member Photos

Photo by Edith Bergquist



Photo by Judy Brupbacher



Photo by Brian Trock



Chapter Information Page



2021 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Rich Nielson
VICE PRESIDENT	Michael Buley
SECRETARY	Rob Kyrouac
TREASURER	Stephen Jones



COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Education - Joe Finneran, Rick Corbell, Erin Harrison, Jack Sullivan
 Membership & Records – Cheryl Trock
 Outreach – Debbie Kyrouac, Jane Schnell
 Projects & Opportunities - Jeanie Springer

Subcommittees

Trunks – Deb Kyrouac, Jane Schnell
 Program to Assist Landowners – Art Williams
 Community Recognition (VP) – Michael Buley
 Hospitality – Inactive due to COVID-19
 New Class – President, Kade Anderson
 Photographer, Cal Jordan

Ad Hoc Committees

Big Give SA – MJ McFarland, Jane Schnell



COMMUNICATIONS

Director – MJ McFarland
 Out & About – Sara Riggs

CHAPTER ADVISORS

Craig Hensley, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Wildlife Tracker
 Troy Luepke, Texas A&M AgriLife, Comal County Agent

The Lindheimer Quarterly Newsletter MJ McFarland – Editor

Newsletter published quarterly by the Lindheimer Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™ to communicate, educate & inform chapter members & the Hill Country Community. Current and previous issues of The Quarterly are posted on the website www.txmn.org/lindheimer.



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 325 Resource Dr.
 New Braunfels, TX 78132



2021 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

January 21
 Rangelands Trends with Dr. Barron Rector
 February 18
 “Snakes of Texas” with Brett Parker
 March 18
 “Central Texas Cave Life” with Colin Strickland
 April 15
 ‘iNaturalist Master Class’ – Craig Hensley
 May 20
 TBA
 June 17
 TBA
 July 15
 TBA
 August 19
 TBA
 September 16
 TBA
 October 21
 TBA
 November 18
 TBA
 December 16
 Elections & Graduation



2021 Board of Directors Meetings
 Every 4th Monday at 5:00 PM
 During COVID-19, meetings are via WEBEX

AgriLife Building
 325 Resource Dr.
 New Braunfels, Texas

- January 25 ● February 22 ● March 22 ● April 26
- May 24 ● June 28 ● July 26 ● August 23
- September 27 ● October 25 ● November 22
- December 27



Board Minutes available at:
<https://txmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/lmn-board-members/lmn-board-minutes-archive/>

A New Butterfly Garden

by Jane W. Miller

Last August, five months into the Covid-19 pandemic, Gail Groves & I donned our masks and went to work. Weeds had overtaken the Landa Family Memorial located in New Braunfels's beloved Landa Park.

Choose to work outside in August in Texas? Yes, and yes, we must have been nuts! But we thought of it as service – service to our community.

Landa Family Memorial was dedicated in 1955 to Joseph & Helena Landa, the first owners of Landa Park, by their grandchildren. The Memorial, marked by a granite headstone-type marker, is encircled by white limestone. Simply put the 36' diameter Landa Family Memorial was a mess. Bermuda grass had invaded the garden and the mulched circular pathway. Gail and I worked to subdue the invaders. We labored there daily to rid the garden of those unwanted species.

In late-August, we were rewarded. Both the New Braunfels Parks Foundation and the Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park decided to buy beautifully forged butterfly benches for the area. The benches honor authors of *Historic Landa Park: Its Springs and Its People* by Rosemarie Leissner Gregory and Arlene Krueger Seales.

Additionally, New Braunfels Parks & Recreation Department's Operations Division installed: a crushed granite pathway, new inner edging to match the outer white limestone, an irrigation system (yes, irrigation!); and lastly, a new cement walkway to showcase the benches.

By October, these structural changes had occurred. In mid-October the Parks Director, Stacey Dicke, joined us to plant wildflowers. Mrs. Dicke brought her great-niece and great-nephew along for the fun. Our youngest helpers were ages 3 and 4. Those young, aspiring Texas Master Naturalists worked with Lindheimer Chapter members Aleta Meyer, Rhonda Neel, and Susan Bogle. Jean Wilson, a Native Plant Society of Texas member, and a descendant of New Braunfels Founding Families also helped.

The kids loved planting Native American Seeds "Comanche Mix." Guess what's doing pretty well in the garden...

Pretty well, you ask. Having planted in a public space, sometimes the unexpected occurs. I later witnessed *the unexpected* as a 3-year-old rode his bike through the plants. Fortunately, his mother utilized the teaching moment. I just left the scene of the crime...

Deer present another challenge. Our local herd seems to have a strong palate for the Chocolate Daisies that Gail Groves so wants to grow there. Gail thinks the familiar scent of chocolate will be a plus in children's appreciation of the garden.

Winter isn't the best time to admire this work. The site seems bleak. There are precious few, if any, butterflies. This, however, is where we find ourselves as 2021 begins and we must remind ourselves that "*it's just going to take time*".



Photo by Gay Woodward and Courtesy of Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park

Spotlight on Chapter Committees



Projects Committee – Jeanie Springer, Director

What we do:

The Projects Committee is managed by Director Jeanie Springer.

Committee members are Janet Hahn, Joyce Doyle, Rich Bradley and Teresa Turko.

The committee reviews and recommends for approval or disapproval all Chapter volunteer service (VH) and advanced training (AT) project opportunity requests. This is done using the guidelines from the State Chapter Management and Operations Protocols.

In 2020, 81 AT/VH applications were reviewed. The Director has to ensure the AT/VH events are available for the Chapter members via the 'Out and About' calendar and the Main Projects List (located on LMN website). In addition, the committee assigns the proper Service Project Codes and updates the Volunteer Management System (VMS) Opportunities.

Membership Committee – Brian Trock and Cheryl Trock, Directors

What We Do:

Brian inherited Membership November 1, 2013 as a new LMN graduate. He has tweaked and added info onto the master spreadsheet. Cheryl joined the membership committee in September 2015 as part of the VMS transition team (which eliminated the chapter's timesheets and spreadsheet hours recording system).

Brian manages the master spreadsheet with the history of our chapter.

Cheryl monitors the Criminal Background Check (CBC) function. She also works with the Master Gardeners to provide their membership director with CBC status.

Since our chapter began 20 years ago, there have been 423 members.

The biggest role is managing chapter hours in the VMS since January 1, 2016. Membership has provided VMS training as a class, over-the-phone and in-home visits. In 2020, we approved 15,936 VH hours and 2271 ATH. Prior to approval, there are many edits and emails for corrections of dates, hours, description boxes and opportunity titles. VMS data is routinely monitored for recertification and recognition pins. As members attain recertification and recognition milestones, we annotate this info in the member's profile. In conjunction with Projects, VH and ATH are recorded (Projects approves our activities, Membership records our activities).

Membership assigns Trainees and Transfer members their VMS opportunities. When a member goes inactive, these VMS opportunities are removed. As members receive specialized training, the specific opportunity for this training is assigned. Trainees are assisted with the VMS and their training hours are monitored. Membership coordinates the transfer of TMN members into and out of the chapter. Communications Director is provided with directory updates as member information changes.

The state audits our VMS entries for timeliness, accuracy, percent of active members submitting hours among other things. We monitor the VMS routinely and perform internal audits. If issues arise, we request the state for assistance and guidance.

As part of public outreach, Membership has attended events such as Earth Day, Agrilife Open House and Dino Day. 2/21/2021

Outreach Committee – Deb Kyrouac, Director

What we do:

The Outreach Director is primarily responsible for managing volunteers and trunks for events throughout the year. The chapter supports many events that occur annually which means the outreach chair is automatically notified. New requests are evaluated as they come in. The goal of the chapter is to participate in events that support our mission. Below is a list of events from the end of year report.

- Recurring Events:

-- April – FolkFest and Earth Day

-- Sept – Comal County Fair, AgriFest and Anniversary Celebration?

-- Oct – Science Fest (New Braunfels)

-- Dec – North Pole Village

- Other Activities:

-- Possible event at Smithson Valley High School called Ag Advocacy Day (if invited)

-- Dino Days - Outreach needs to be notified if volunteers are needed

-- Pollinator Festival at GRSP (fall)

Another is to manage a Speakers' Bureau to be able to better handle requests for presentations from the public.

The Outreach Director does not typically have a weekly commitment. Most of the events occur in the spring and fall each year. During those times, the director may spend 2 hrs per week managing Sign-up Genius for getting volunteers and coordinating pick-up of trunks. Before the first events in the spring and over the summer, the director should spend some time checking on the condition of trunks and making any changes or updates. This may take 2-4 hrs in the spring. The time spent during the summer is determined by a need or desire to make changes to the trunks. The Speakers Bureau is a list that will grow initially and take 2-3 hrs to create. After that, the management of the list may take 1 hr every month or two.

FYI

a comprehensive guide to

Yellow Stripey Things



Carpenter Bee

-acts like it's hot shit but can't actually hurt you
-has no concept of what glass is
-lives in your fence
-flies aggressively to try and scare you away



Honeybee

-is the bee that needs help the most
-excellent pollinator
-very friendly
-can only sting once



Bumblebee

-also pollinates stuff very well
-so fat it shouldn't be able to fly
-will let you pet it without getting agitated
-actually a flying panda



Hoverfly

-wears yellow stripey uniform to scare you
-actually can't do anything to you
-hangs out in fields
-follows you if it likes you



Paper Wasp

-looks scary, but will only attack if provoked
-sting hurts like hell
-will chase you if you swat at it
-has no concept of personal space



Yellow Jacket

-wants your food and will fight you for it
-never leaves you alone
-will sting you just for the hell of it
-is just an asshole



Cicada Killer

-looks like Satan's nightmares
-exclusively eats cicadas
-can sting you, but usually won't
-still pretty terrifying



Dirt Dauber

-almost never stings anything except spiders
-builds nest in the ground
-hoards spiders in said nest
-coolest looking of the wasps

Mountain Lions of Texas: Solitary, Secretive, Silent & Super

by MJ McFarland

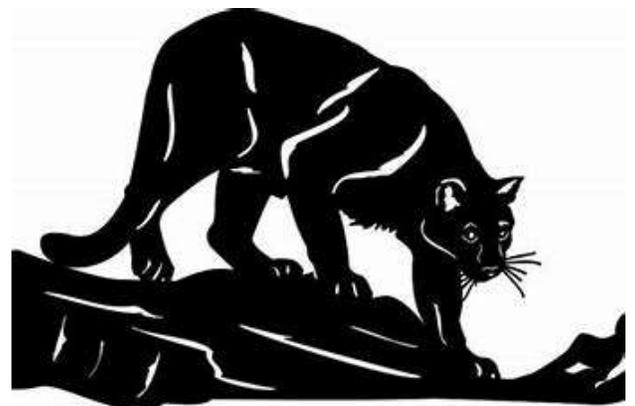


If you have ever seen a mountain lion in the wild, you'll never forget it. I was 10 years old the first (and last) time I saw a mountain lion – two days in a row – as he roamed our Atascosa County pastures. Here in Comal County, there are **periodic reports of big cat sightings** (latest March 2021)–

some visually, some by footprints. None have been verified by TPWD, but it is entirely likely (and I believe some of the sightings are real) that mountain lions occasionally roam through this territory. Why? Because the Hill Country has the **highest concentration of whitetail deer in Texas** and a sizable population of **feral pigs** – both of which rate high on a mountain lion's list of things that are good to eat. Mountain lions are solitary, secretive, silent predators who primarily hunt at dusk and dawn.

Puma concolor (aka cougar, puma, panther) is a large, relatively slender but muscular cat with a smallish head and a long, thick tail. The tail is generally one-third of the body's length, and serves to provide balance during leaps and jumps. Head + body length is 3 – 5 feet, with an additional 2 – 3 feet of tail. The mountain lion stands 25 – 32 inches at the shoulder, and may weigh between 70 – 200 pounds (females are smaller than males). It is a tawny brown color, which in dim light or in the shadows may look grey or even black. Contrary to popular belief, **there are no black panthers in North America** (including Texas)! The term "black panther" is most frequently applied to black-coated leopards (*Panthera pardus*) of Africa and Asia and **jaguars** (*P. onca*) of Central and South America; black-furred variants of these species are also called black leopards and black jaguars, respectively.

Don't even think you'll outrun, outjump, outmaneuver, or outclimb this cat! The largest wildcat in North America, the mountain lion is an apex predator, capable of **running at speeds up to 45 miles/hour**, taking a **running jump of 40 feet**, and making a **vertical leap of 15 feet**. They are skilled climbers, and will often dwell and sleep in trees.



Hunting Behavior: Mountain lions are generalist carnivores – they'll eat anything meaty they can catch. They silently and patiently stalk their prey, waiting for the opportunity to leap on its back and deliver a devastating neck bite (don't turn your back on this cat!). They will drag a big kill to a spot under brush and return to feed over a period of days, although they will abandon it when it begins to spoil. Adults need 8 – 10 pounds of meat daily to survive. Although an apex predator, lions have to frequently compete with other large

carnivores and can be run off a kill by packs of wolves or a bear. Humans are not usually on the menu, although cats who have had a taste of human flesh are thought to be more likely to prey on humans.

Distribution: It is estimated that the population of mountain lions in the US is between **20,000 and 40,000**; however, they are so elusive it is nearly impossible to obtain a more exact count. The mountain lion has the widest distribution of any wild cat, from Canada to South America. Previously found throughout North America, Puma concolor is now found mostly in the remote mountains, canyonlands, or hilly areas with good cover of the western U.S., as well as western Canada and much of Mexico. A small population still exists in southern Florida, where the species is considered endangered. Because the mountain lion is a generalist carnivore, Florida lions eat what is most abundant – feral pigs and armadillos.

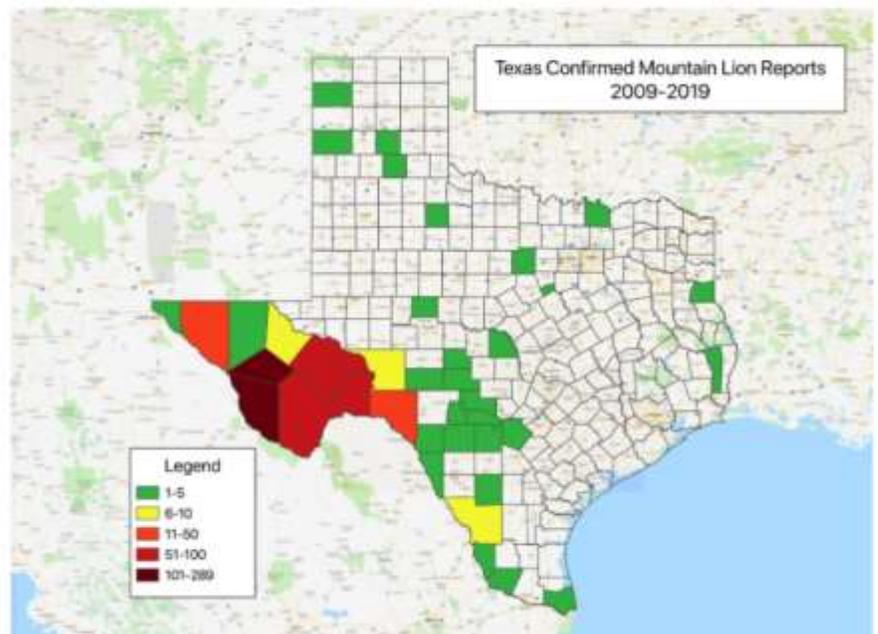
In Texas, the Mountain Lion is found primarily **throughout the Trans-Pecos**, as well as the **brushlands of south Texas** and **portions of the Hill Country**, as you can see in the map below. Sighting and kill reports indicate that Mountain Lions now occur in more counties than they did 10 years ago and appear to be **expanding their range into central Texas**. In the Trans-Pecos, **the home range of mountain lions range from 50,000 to 80,000 acres**.

Texas Parks & Wildlife states: “Mountain lions are **native to Texas and classified as a nongame species**. The largest breeding population of mountain lions in Texas occurs in the Trans Pecos region where there are large undeveloped tracts of land. Smaller populations of mountain lions still inhabit portions of the South Texas Plains, the Balcones Escarpment and rugged canyonlands in the Panhandle of Texas. Contemporary records of mountain lions in other portions of the state are infrequent and probably represent dispersing individuals from main breeding populations. Lions are reclusive by nature. You should **consider yourself fortunate if you ever get the opportunity to see one of these big cats.**” Although currently rare to see a mountain lion, as humans encroach on their habitat and remove its prey, conflict is bound to occur.

Educational Mountain Lion Resources

- [Mountain Lions of Texas](#)
- [Field Guide to the Mountain Lions of Texas](#)
- [Mountain Lions of Texas – Tips from a Wildlife Biologist – YouTube](#)
- [MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION – Saving America’s Lion](#)

Mountain Lion Confirmations in Texas



Mating, Reproduction and Care of the Young: Courtship and mating mostly occur from December to March, but pumas can breed year-round. Most births occur between April and July. Females generally begin mating at two to three years of age. Males remain reproductively active to at least an age of 20 years, and females to at least 12 years. During a 14-day period of mating a male and female will break their normally solitary habits to hunt together and sleep next to each other. **Mating is one of the few times adult lions tolerate each other.**



After six cycles without mating, the female has a lull for two months before coming into estrous again. A male puma in the wild will not mate until he has established a home territory.

After a gestation period of about 90 days, the female gives birth to 1 – 6 cubs (or kittens, either is correct) with an average of 3 – 4 per litter. Cubs are about a pound and a foot long at birth. Their coats are covered with black and brown spots with rings around their tails. Eyes open at 10 days, ear pinnae unfold, first teeth erupt and they begin to play. They are weaned at about 40 days of age. At 6 months of age, the cubs weigh about 30 pounds and have learned vital hunting skills, which they constantly practice through play and through watching their mom. Mom is the sole caretaker and she will aggressively defend her young against any threat, including any male lions who may kill them (in order to send the female into estrous). Cubs stay with mom for about 12 months.

iNaturalist Observations of *Puma concolor* in Texas

Most of the photos in iNat are of footprints or scat, or via trail cam. The majority of observations in Texas center around Big Bend National Park in west Texas. The most recent sighting of *P. concolor* was by footprint and occurred 1/13/2021 in Lost Maples. There are likely other sightings of cats that are not recorded in www.Naturalist.com, which shows 36 sightings in Texas.

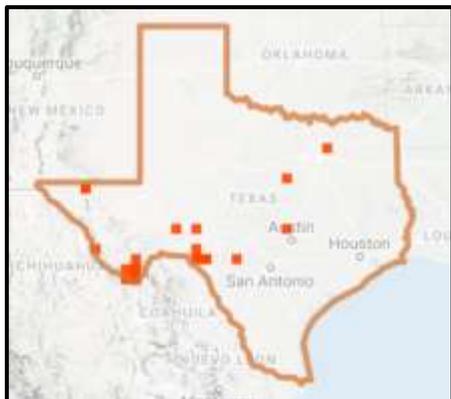
Resources:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:

www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/mlion/

Mountain Lion Foundation:

www.mountainlion.org/FAQfrequentlyaskedquestions.php



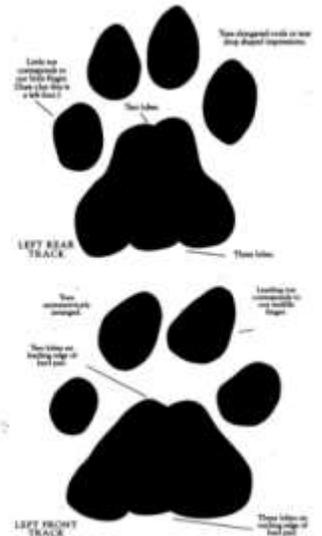
Mountain Lion Encounters

Approximately 125 attacks by mountain lions have occurred in North America (includes Canada) between 1890 – 2017 with 27 fatalities ([List of fatal cougar attacks in North America - Wikipedia](#)).

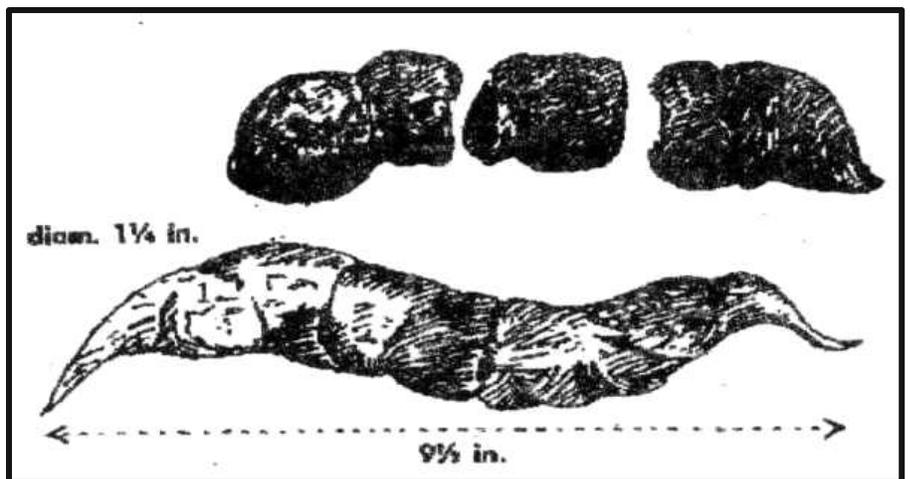
The only reported fatality in Texas was a 3-year-old boy killed inside the family home on August 21, 1911, but I was unable to confirm that. Otherwise, no confirmed fatal attacks on Texans.

Is there a mountain lion prowling around? How can you tell?

- Real time visual sightings are rare – trail cams catch most of the pictures.
- Footprints are the next most frequent sighting. To the right is an illustration of left front and rear footprints. If you do see prints you believe is a lion, contact game wardens for verification.



- Scat – Mountain lion scat tends to be segmented with a diameter of an inch or larger. It often contains hair and bits of bone which may give it a white coloration. There should be no vegetable matter in the scat, unless the lion has eaten the stomach contents of prey that contains it.



Mountain lions deposit their scat in prominent locations such as the middle of trails and dirt roads, along ridgelines, and near kill caches as territorial markings. This behavior is more commonly seen with males than females. Another sign is the remains of kills, but the injury patterns are sometimes difficult to distinguish from other top predators.

What to do if you encounter a mountain lion:

- Pick up all children off the ground immediately. A mountain lion prefers smaller prey that is subdued easily.
- Do NOT approach the lion.
- Do NOT run.
- Stay calm. Talk calmly and move slowly.
- Face the lion and remain in an upright position.
- Do not turn your back on the lion. Back away slowly.
- If you see cubs out and about, do not approach and leave the area. A perceived threat to her cubs is the surest way to be attacked by mom.
- Do all you can to enlarge your image. Do NOT crouch down or try to hide. It won't work.
- If the lion is aggressively following, throw rocks, sticks, or anything you can get your hands on. Sometimes this following behavior is triggered in a mama protecting her cubs.

If you have a verifiable sighting or information pertaining to a kill of a mountain lion, please contact the closest Wildlife Division office or call:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Headquarters at 1 (800) 792-1112.



LMN Chapter Project Bird Blind, Butterfly Garden & Wildscape (BBW) at AgriLife Gardens

Busy Days at the BBW
Photos by Brian Trock



2021 NPSOT Garden Grant Awarded to Lindheimer Chapter



Christy Martinez in the BBW



Christy Martinez, member of the 2020 Red-tailed Hawks Class, successfully applied for a **2021 Garden Grant** from NPSOT in support of their program **"Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas."**

This is an application for funds up to \$400 to be used to purchase only Texas native plants for the purpose of installing or refreshing a Monarch Butterfly garden in a public place. NPSOT goals are to "further both Monarch Butterfly conservation and education, and to promote and showcase the use of Texas native plants." Because of Christy, Lindheimer Chapter was awarded \$300 for plants, which must be planted by October 31, 2021 at our BBW (Bird Blind, Butterfly and Wildscape) at the AgriLife Complex. The garden is also **certified with the North American Butterfly Association.**

Many of our members may not be aware of the extent of the Bird Blind, Butterfly Garden & Wildscape (BBW) Chapter Project, so here are some of the questions answered by Christy as part of the grant application.

How will your project use Texas native plants to benefit Monarchs and promote native plants for landscaping?

"This area is designated a Butterfly garden but in a Wildscape setting so using Texas natives is what works best due to their ability to be drought tolerant and to be able to survive without permanent irrigation all while surviving the occasional browse by deer. It will demonstrate to visitors the top items they seek when trying to landscape their property – how do I attract butterflies, how do I keep my property native and natural, what do I plant that the deer will not devour, what plants can survive drought conditions."

How will your garden be seen and used by the public? "This year, the BBW put in the paperwork to be added to the Great Texas Wildlife Trails as part of the Heart of Texas East Wildlife Trail on the West Guadalupe Loop."

List native milkweeds and native nectar plants to be used in your project. "Currently what is planted in the BBW:

Flame Acanthus (3), Alamo Switchgrass (2), Salvia gregii (5), Damianita (3), Frostweed (10), Copper Canyon Daisy (2), Zexmenia (3), Little Bluestem (3), Moonflower (1), Gregg's Mistflower (2), Mexican Olive tree (1), Red Butterfly milkweed (2), Dallas Red lantana (3), Cenezio (1), Beebrush (3), Lindheimer senna (5), Frogfruit (5), Blue bonnets, shrubby boneset (1), and crucita (1). The BBW participated in the Monarch Habitat Restoration Project in the spring of 2020 and planted 120 milkweeds that were a 50/50 mix of *Asclepias viridis* (Green Antelope horn) and *Asclepias Asperula* (Antelope horn milkweed). The plan is to add more native nectar plants to meet the recommendation of a ratio of at least 4:1 nectar plant to milkweeds. With the grant, we would like to accomplish this with the addition of the following: Blue mistflower, Gregg's mistflower, Shrubby boneset, Crucita, Fall Aster, Maximilian sunflower, Standing cypress and Kidneywood."

Describe the educational aspects of your garden program/plans. "The AgriLife Extension office has a few events that the Lindheimer Master Naturalists participate in to educate the public: Fall Family Day, Kids Day in the Garden and AgriFest. Interpretive signs were made and installed in the BBW. There has also been at least one planning meeting to discuss how to implement field trips for small groups such as home-schooled children."

**Many thanks to Christy Martinez for her hard work!
Be sure to visit the BBW and see how it has blossomed!**

2021 Recertifications and Milestone Awards

2021 Recertification Pin – Sideoats Grama

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

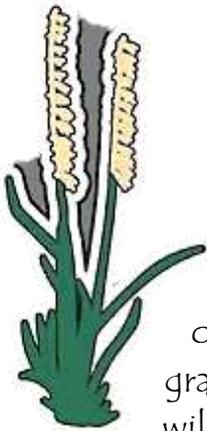


	Recertifications	Milestone Awards
December 2020 American Bumblebee Pin 	Bob Gray, Janet Hahn, Nancy Gray, Allison Sciarffa, Cynthia DeWitt, Jack Oliver, Jack Sullivan, Teresa St. John, Ron Stoeck, Lynn Boyd, Marie Miller	250 Hours Cynthia DeWitt 500 Hours Harry Ferrell
January 2021 Sideoats Grama Pin 	Susan Bogle, Brian Trock, Marilyn McFarland, Darlene Varga, Edith Bergquist, Don Bergquist, Lois Ricci, Sara Riggs	500 Hours Pat Fletcher
February 2021	Jane Miller, Jeanie Springer, Cheryl Trock 	250 Hours Rob Kyrouac, Christy Martinez 2,500 Hours James Jameson

Texas Master Naturalist Program™ 2021 Pin

Sideoats Grama

The Official State Grass of Texas



Sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) is a native species of prairie grass found on rocky hillsides and dry, open grassland. "Sideoats" refers to the small oat-like seeds that hang down uniformly on one side of the seed stem. Sideoats grama prairie grass is a nutritious food for foraging wildlife and livestock. The bright purple and orange flowers of sideoats grama give it a special grace and beauty.

[Texas State Grass | Sideoats Grama \(statesymbolsusa.org\)](http://statesymbolsusa.org)



2021 Chapter Meetings



TEXAS
Master Naturalist

Lindheimer Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist™



Monthly Chapter Meeting
When: Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm
Who: Barron Rector, PhD
What: "Trends in Land Management: What Ranches to Ranchettes Means for the Hill Country"
Where: Online via WEBEX
Members: Login to our Members Area for the Link
Non-members: Email LindheimerMNCContact@gmail.com



Dr. Barron Rector, Extension Range Specialist at Texas A&M University, is with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. His professional experience is biology, chemistry, plant taxonomy, environmental ecology and range animal nutrition. He is recognized nationally and internationally for his plant identification skills, training workshops which include discussing poisonous plant issues, exotic, noxious weed management and plant materials important to agriculture and urban interests in native plants. Be sure to join us!



January 21, 2021

"Rangelands Trends on the Edwards Plateau EcoRegion" with Dr. Barron Rector

Approximately 67 people attended the virtual presentation "Rangelands Trends on the Edwards Plateau EcoRegion". Dr. Rector took us through the effect of man, animals and weather on the land. The main point was that we need to "restore balance" to the land. Many thanks to Dr. Rector for an excellent and thought-provoking presentation.

The book that Dr. Rector discussed was "Field Guide to Texas Bluestem Grasses.": Here's a link: [Field Guide to Texas Bluestem Grasses \(agriflifebookstore.org\)](http://agriflifebookstore.org)

February 18, 2021

"Snakes" with Brett Parker

Speaker cancelled due to "The Great Freeze of '21" – will be rescheduled!



TEXAS
Master Naturalist

Lindheimer Chapter
Monthly Meeting



When: Thursday, February 18, 2021, 6:00 pm
Who: Brett M. Parker – Hill Country Snake Removal
www.facebook.com/bparkersnakeremoval
What: Texas Snake Identification and Safety
 "Kill the fear, not the snake!"
Where: Online via WEBEX
Members: Login to our Members Area for the Link
Non-members: Email LindheimerMNCContact@gmail.com



About the Presentation:

- Facts over folklore
- Importance of snakes in our ecosystem
- What species of both non-venomous and venomous snakes live in their area of Texas and how to determine their unique differences from a safe distance.
- What to do and what NOT to do if they or someone else is bitten by a snake and much more!
- Brings native snakes and a few non-native snakes to safely allow a "close encounter" if desired!

About Brett Parker:

Brett owns [Hill Country Snake Removal](http://HillCountrySnakeRemoval.com), and is a Firefighter/Paramedic at [Carnal County ESD No. 3 \(Canyon Lake Fire / EMS\)](http://CarnalCountyESDNo.3.com). He has given numerous presentations on Texas Snakes, as well as safe handling procedures, to schools, groups and communities. Brett promotes the humane removal & relocation of snakes.



TEXAS
Master Naturalist

Lindheimer Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist Program

Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm
Who: Colin Strickland, Biologist
City of Austin/Austin Waters/Wildland Conservation Division
Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

What: "Central Texas Cave Life"
Where: Online via WEBEX

Members: Login to our Member Area for the Link (you'll need the chapter password)
Non-members: Email LindheimerMNCcontact@gmail.com



Join us and find out what is underfoot, overhead & surrounds us in the dark of a cave!

About our speaker: Colin Strickland is a second-generation caver. He works at the City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve as a cave biologist. One of his main goals is to shed light on Central Texas cave organisms through photography and videography.

About his presentation, Colin says, "Starting at the entrance and working my way deeper I will show photos and videos of the commonly encountered organisms found in Central Texas caves."

Be sure to mark your calendar for March 18 to attend this lecture on some of the most unusual and rarely seen inhabitants of our Hill Country such as *Tenebrio molitor*, *Gambusia pascalis* & *Pseudocricetus violaceus*!



Cave dwelling larva *invertebrate*
Diphysocryptus infans

Colin has a Master of Applied Geography - Geographic Information Science from Texas State University, a Bachelor of Science, Biology - Ecology, Evolution & Behavior from UT Austin and a Certificate of Applied Multimedia Technology - Visual Communications & Design from Austin Community College.
Photos by Colin Strickland.

March 18, 2021

"Central Texas Cave Life" with Colin Strickland

Great meeting & presentation by Colin Strickland, biologist at Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, on Central Texas Cave Life. It was attended by approximately 57 members via WEBEX. To see more of his videos, here is his youtube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCQFvoKJbPjTF1-HiTrSfugg

We learned that not a lot is known about cave dwellers - studying them is very difficult as many are very small (1 - 2 mm). A common adaptation among the insects & animals is eyelessness - they use other means such as highly developed touch to find food. Cave life is dependent upon an influx of nutrients brought in to the caves by visiting animals.

A very fascinating talk! Thank you, Colin!

Coming in April!

TEXAS
Master Naturalist

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Texas Master Naturalist Program

Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm
Who: Craig Hensley, Texas Nature Trackers Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

What: "iNaturalist and City Nature Challenge Master Class"
Where: Online via WEBEX

Members: Login to our Member Area for the Link (you'll need the chapter password)
Non-members: Email LindheimerMNCcontact@gmail.com



Join Texas Nature Trackers Biologist Craig Hensley for an advanced look at iNaturalist and learn how your involvement can help conservation in Texas.



You'll also learn about the upcoming City Nature Challenge and how you can participate in the San Antonio metro effort during this 4-day global event!



The 2021 City Nature Challenge takes place in 2 parts:

April 30 - May 3	May 4 - May 9
Identifying photos of wild plants and animals	Identifying what you heard

Contributing to Community Science: iNaturalist.org



Photo of Rocky 1 & Rocky 2
by MJ McFarland

“Community Science” (formerly “Citizen” Science) is the participation of non-scientists in scientific research. As naturalists, many of us already participate in community 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 community science projects is iNaturalist, a world-wide, on-line database of observations provided by community scientists like Master Naturalists.

“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.” How to get started? Go to www.inaturalist.org and sign up!

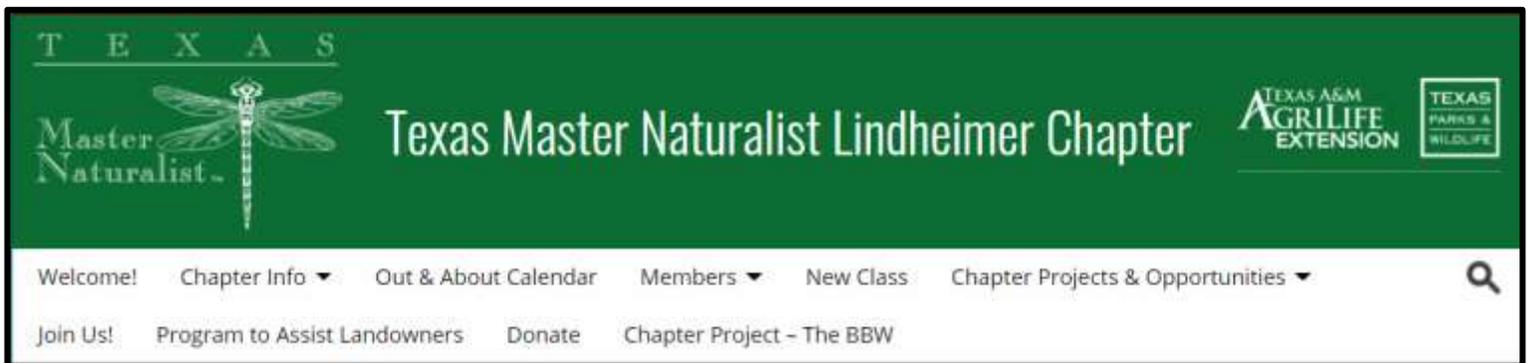
Here are the numbers as of 3/24/2021. Take a look at Comal County!!!

Location	Observations	Species	Observers
World	59,890,926	324,753	1,499,188
Texas	4,134,785	22,419	85,111
Comal County	47,185	3,530	2,737



Electronic Lindheimer

Website: www://txmn.org/lindheimer/



Facebook: www://facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer

Ops & Info: **Weekly email with news, announcements, and AT/VH opportunities sent to your email on Sunday.**

Upcoming Events

For more information, go to www.citynaturechallenge.org/

The 2021 City Nature Challenge
takes place in 2 parts



April 30 -
May 3

Taking pictures of wild plants
and animals.

May 4 -
May 9

Identifying what was found.



Texas Waters Specialist Program

Questions? Email LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com

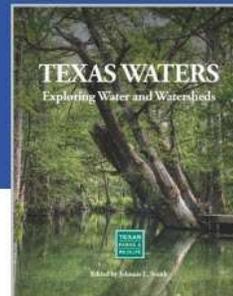


Texas Waters Specialist Program

Start Your Advanced Training Today!

About Texas Waters Curriculum

With the Texas Waters curriculum, we want to inform and educate the citizens of Texas about the most precious natural resource Texas possesses, its water.



Program Requirements

Obtain at least 8 hours of Advanced Training:

- Attend Texas Waters live webinars or view recorded webinar with group discussion
- Read Texas Waters curriculum and pass quizzes or small group interactive study/discussion
- Attend Texas Waters Day events, sessions, and field trips at the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting
- Other approved aquatic or watershed learning activities or trainings (up to 4 hours)

Specialists earn a Certificate of Recognition, nametag flag, and heron pin!

Annual Renewal Requirements

- Participate in at least 10 hours of approved volunteer service projects in the area of water and watersheds.
- Examples: Habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, clean-ups, and educational

Renewed Specialists receive recognition at Texas Waters Day.



2021 Webinar Series

Join live from 6:30-7:30 PM CT

Jan	Shark and Fish Larvae Impacted by Microplastic
Feb	Monofilament Recovery and Recycling & Nurdle Patrol
Mar	Harmful Algae Blooms
April	Watershed Protection Programs
May	Native American Cultural Connection to Water
June	Regenerative Land Management for Watersheds
July	Aquatic Vegetation Management
Aug	One Water and Water Conservation

Lindheimer Chapter 'The Big Freeze' Member Photos



"Crystallofolia" Photo by Dana Rathbun



"The Icehouse" Photo by Teresa Turko



"Hummingbird Popsicle"
Photo by Brian Trock



"Cardinal in the Snow – in Texas!"
Photo by Darlene Varga



"Brrrrr!"
Photo by Erin Harrison