

Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



-- right here at home -- in the Hill Country

December, 2013

Chapter Events

Chapter Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th, at the Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center at the Jacob's Well Natural Area, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. A map is available [here](#). The meeting is open to members and the public.

If you have any questions or items for the agenda, please contact Art Arizpe, pres@haysmn.org, by Monday January 6th.

Chapter Meeting

There is no chapter meeting this month.

If you have announcements you would like to have presented at the chapter meeting or suggestions for topics/speakers, please contact Karen Archer, vp@haysmn.org.



Board of Directors

President	Art Arizpe
Vice President	Karen Archer
Secretary	Tracy Mock
Treasurer	Beth Ramey
Past-President	Larry Calvert
State Representative	Dixie Camp
Training Committee	Lin Weber
Advanced Training Comm.	Kim Ort
Membership Committee	Ben Adair
Web Master	Herb Smith
Newsletter Committee & Editor	Lisa Kay news@haysmn.org
Outreach Committee	Leah Laszewski
Calendar Committee	Tom Hausler
Host Committee	Helen Bowie Eva Gomez
Historian	Charles Maxcy
Volunteer Service	Tom Hausler
AgriLife Agent	Richard Parrish
TP&WD Rep	Lee Ann Linam

President's Message

I'd like to thank each of you for helping make 2013 such a great year for our chapter! Some of us are more visible or vocal than others, but we all contribute to the success of our chapter. We got very valuable feedback from the survey we distributed at the Summer Social. Thank you for providing it to us and I assure you that we are working on ways to address all of it.

In January, I wrote about beginning with the end in mind. I hope you had a chance to think about what you wanted to accomplish this year and that you now get a chance to review what you did.

I know for me, it's a mixed set.

Some things worked out better than I expected - working with the board and serving my first year as President, for example. I'm happy with our accomplishments and the way everything turned out. In large part, this is due to having such a helpful and enthusiastic team to work with. We were always ready to take anything on and everyone's full participation helped a lot!

Some things turned out about as I expected. Our partnership with the Hill Country Photography Club led to another fantastic Naturescapes Contest and Exhibition. Next year is the contest's 10th year and I'm hoping for something truly amazing.

And of course, some things didn't turn out at all. I need to understand why, modify my aims, and try to accomplish them in the next year.

I've also got a new set of things to work on. Some things never change.

- Art Arizpe



Chapter News

2013 Graduation and Gala

The Class of 2013 Graduation and Gala was held on November 16th at the San Marcos Activity Center. The event was well-attended, with 130 members and guests, with a lively social time, a great dinner, the graduation, chapter award presentations and election of officers.



Enjoying the evening! Photo by Tom Hausler.

Graduation

Lin Weber was the excellent Master of Ceremonies for the graduation. Each graduate walked on stage to receive his or her certificate, shirt, and pin.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013, the Texas Sages!

The Class of 2013, The Texas Sages!



Kneeling left to right: Bettina Castro, Candy Spitzer, Shelly Buse, Celeste Salafia, Jane Sophia

The rest left to right: Jaime Molina, Linda Menville, John Montez, Keith Collignon, Carol Gaultney, Beverly Gordon, Kruger du Plessis, Shannon du Plessis, Irene Bonde, Pam Wuestenberg, Karen Boden (above), Sherrie Stringer (below) Gina Terrell, Kenneth Dees, Mary Frances Myers, Linda Moore, Mark Molak, Roxana Donegan, Jo Hackett, May Dow Ross
Photo by Linda Calvert.

Texas Sages - Complete list of graduates

**Jason Barkdull
Irene R Bonde
Bettina Castro
Kenneth Dees
Kruger du Plessis
Carol Gaultney
Jo Hackett
Marc Molak
John Montez
Mary Frances Myers
Mary Dow Ross
Jane Sophia
Gina Terrell**

**Karen Boden
Shelly Buse
Keith Collignon
Roxana Donegan
Shannon du Plessis
Beverly Gordon
Linda Menville
Jaime Molina
Linda Moore
Kristy Robinson
Celeste B. Salafia
Sherrie Stringer
Pam Wuestenberg**

Texas Sages - State MN Certification

**Karen Boden
Bettina Castro
Kenneth Dees
Kruger du Plessis
Carol Gaultney
Jo Hackett
Jaime Molina
Mary Frances Myers
Jane Sophia**

**Irene Bonde
Keith Collignon
Roxana Donegan
Shannon du Plessis
Beverly Gordon
Linda Menville
Linda Moore
Mary Dow Ross**

Texas Sages - Double Certification

**Karen Boden
Bettina Castro
Roxana Donegan
Jaime Molina**

**Irene Bonde
Kenneth Dees
Beverly Gordon
Mary Dow Ross**

Recognition of Previous Classes

1999 – Roadrunners
2000 – Red Hawks
2001 – Wild Turkeys
2002 – Ringtails
2003 – Wild Things
2004 – Dragonflies
2005 – Cougars
2006 – Falcons
2007 – Madrones
2008 – Roadrunners
2009 – Dire Wolves
2010 – Prickly Pears
2011 – Painted Buntings
2012 – Texas Live Oaks



During the Awards segment, the Chapter recognized many members for their efforts.

Recertification

The first members to be recognized were the HCMNs who completed the recertification requirements by the date of the Gala. Recertification requires completion, during the calendar year, of at least 8 hours Advanced Training and 40 Hours Volunteer Service.

Each HCMN who recertified received the 2013 Monarch Butterfly Certification Pin.

Important: This list is incomplete because we have until the end of the calendar year to complete the requirements. These are the HCMNs who completed their recertification requirements by the November 4th.

2013 Recertification Awards

**Karen Archer
Connie Boltz
Donna Browning
Linda Calvert
Garry Child
Todd Derkacz
Judy Elliott
Dell Hood
Leigh Erin Jandle
Helane Kennard
Melody Kuhns
Jane Little
Tracy Mock
Jean Ohm
Beth Ramey
Leigh Sebera
Bonnie Tull
Tom Watson
Ann Whitus**

**Art Arizpe
Deborah Bradshaw
Nancy C. Russell
John Cassidy
Robert Austin Currie
Jane Dunham
Mark Hammond
Gerin Hood
Lance Jones
Susan Kimmel-Lines
Linda Land
Dick McBride
Blaine Nelson
Kim Ort
Gordon Richmond
Herb Smith
Terry Tull
Lin Weber
David Womer**

**Merry Bateman
Marilyn Brister
Larry Calvert
Anne Child
Suzanne Davis
Jo Ellen Korthals
Tom Hausler
Steve Janda
Katy Jordan
Lucille Trail Kirkham
Leah Laszewski
Jean McMeans
Al Ohm
Julia Osgood
Jean Richmond
Diane Spicer
Jeff Vasgaard
Cara Wernli**

Cumulative Volunteer Hour Milestones

The next members to be recognized were the HCMNs who achieved cumulative volunteer hour milestones. Each received a Dragonfly Pin.

- 250 hours, Bronze

**Ben Adair
Chris Middleton
Don Wallace**

**Marilyn Brister
Al Ohm**

**Jane Dunham
Gordon Richmond**

**M. Lee Brown
Helane Kennard
Kim Ort**

**Cindy Luongo Cassidy
Karen Langridge
Jean Richmond**

**Steve Janda
Jean Ohm**

- 500 hours, Silver

**Art Arizpe
Melinda Seib**

**Gerin Hood
Terry Tull**

**Jean Richmond
Jeff Vasgaard**

- 1000 hours, Gold

Karen Archer

Dick McBride

Lin Weber

Important: This list is incomplete because we have until the end of the calendar year to report volunteer hours. These are the HCMNs who achieved their milestones by the November 4th.

Tenure Awards

The next group received the Tenure Award for 5 years of Recertification.

Deborah Bradshaw
Al Ohm
Diane Spicer

Donna Browning
Jean Ohm
Jeff Vasgaard

Todd Derkacz
Julia Osgood

Receiving the Tenure Award for 10 years of Recertification:

Herb Smith

Tom Watson

Lin Weber received the 2013 Outgoing Training Committee Chair Award.

David Womer received the 2013 Outstanding Training Committee Volunteer Award.

Dick McBride received the 2013 Outstanding Chapter Volunteer Award.



Dick McBride. Photo by Tom Hausler.

Cindy Luongo Cassidy received the 2013 Special Achievement Award.

Anne Child & Garry Child received the 2013 Significant Contribution to the Chapter Award.



Anne & Garry Child. Photo by Tom Hausler.

The chapter also held the 2014 Chapter Officer elections. Nominated and elected were:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Art Arizpe | President |
| Karen Archer | Vice-President |
| Tracy Mock | Secretary |
| Beth Ramey | Treasurer |

Congratulations to our new chapter officers and please give them your full support!

Many thanks to the 2013 Graduation and Gala Committee for putting on such a great event!

New Chapter Committee Chairs

Congratulations and thanks to our new Chapter Committee Chairs!

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Membership | Leah Laszewski |
| Volunteer Projects | Open |
| Advanced Training | Susan Kimmel-Lines |
| Training | Dick McBride |

Outreach	Kim Ort
Host	Helen Bowie
Newsletter	Open
Historian	Open
Calendar	Open
Web Master	Herb Smith

These committees are all very important to the Chapter's operation. Please make sure you thank these folks for serving! If you are interested in any of the open positions, please contact Art Arizpe, pres@haysmn.org.

HaysMN Forum

The forum is a great learning resource. Be sure to check it out. To join the HaysMN Forum, simply go to the haysmn.org web site and look for the Forum application in the menu.

Please let Herb Smith, web@haysmn.org, know if you have any questions or suggestions. Better yet, use the Forum to discuss the Forum.

Reporting Reminder

Reports for November are due by December 5th. Please submit your reports of Volunteer and Advanced Training hours by using the friendly report forms at www.haysmn.org.

As a reminder, 8 hours of Advanced Training and 40 hours of Volunteer work are required each year to recertify. You have until the end of the year to complete these hours.

If you are uncertain about your status, please contact Ben Adair, hourshaysmn@gmail.com, and he can send you a report.

Newsletter Items

Have you read a good book lately? Submit a short review and share with the chapter! Have some neat photos of a volunteer or training activity? Let us see them! Do you have news about yourself or another HCMN? Send it in!

Please send your comments, news items, and photos to news@haysmn.org.

Members News

Marilyn Brister

Marilyn Brister had a letter published in the Winter issue of the Wildflower magazine, published by the Wildflower Center.

"Gardening tip:

If you are planting trees or shrubs in one gallon pots and the ground is hard and dry, try this: Scoop or scratch the place you are going to plant to about the size of a soup bowl. Pour in water. Let this set while you tend to another gardening chore. Come back in ten minutes or so and your hole will be much easier to dig. For extremely dry ground you may have to try this twice. It's an extra step, but you will have a lot less trouble digging the proper size hole"

Jaime Molina

Jaime Molina is featured in an article, "Man set to meet JFK 50 years ago recalls events", on the KTBC Fox web page.

"If an assassin's bullet had not struck down President John F. Kennedy 50 years ago in Dallas, he was scheduled to be here in Austin for a dinner gathering.

FOX 7's Rudy Koski spoke to a man who was among those selected to meet the President and how that night made a mark on his own life.

Dr. Jaime Molina spends a lot of time these days volunteering at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The seeds he is preparing for future growing seasons in a way also represents how some viewed the young man he was 50 years ago.

"I believe they planted a seed in me."

Read more: <http://www.myfoxaustin.com/story/24048951/man-set-to-meet-jfk-50-years-ago-recalls-events#.UpCsuNa-clA.gmail#ixzz2m4NLqKce>

This section is your opportunity to update the chapter about what you've been doing. Perhaps you went on an interesting field trip and took some nice photos; basically, anything you'd like to share.

Please send your news items to news@haysmn.org.



Advanced Training Opportunities

Please watch your emails for upcoming Advanced Training Opportunities. You may also find information in the [Advanced Training Calendar](#) on our web page.

Reminder: Rather than replying to the Advanced Training e-mails which come from the Chapter Secretary, you should send questions about AT Opportunities to Kim Ort, the AT Committee Chair, at atcom@haysmn.org.



Volunteer Opportunities

Please watch your emails for upcoming Volunteer Opportunities. You may also find information in the [Projects Calendar](#) on our web page.



Links to Chapter Sponsors and Partners

Sponsors:

Texas Master Naturalist -- State Website -- masternaturalist.tamu.edu

Texas AgriLife Extension -- texasextension.tamu.edu

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department -- www.tpwd.state.tx.us/

Agencies of Interest:

Bamberger Ranch -- bambergerranch.org

Native Plant Society of Texas -- www.npsot.org

San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance -- www.smgreenbelt.org

San Marcos River Foundation -- www.sanmarcosriver.org

Texas Outdoor Women's Network -- www.townsanmarcos.org

Texas Cooperative Extension -- Sea Grant Program -- texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu

Texas Forest Service -- txforestservice.tamu.edu

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- www.usace.army.mil

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -- www.fws.gov

U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service -- www.nrcs.usda.gov

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority -- www.gbra.org

Partners

Austin Nature Day -- www.austinnatureday.org

Gorge Preservation Society -- www.canyongorge.org

Hill Country Photography Club -- hcphotoclub.org

LBJ Wildflower Center -- www.wildflower.org

San Marcos Nature Center -- www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us/departments/parks/Nature_Center.html