

Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



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

September, 2009

September 2009 Events

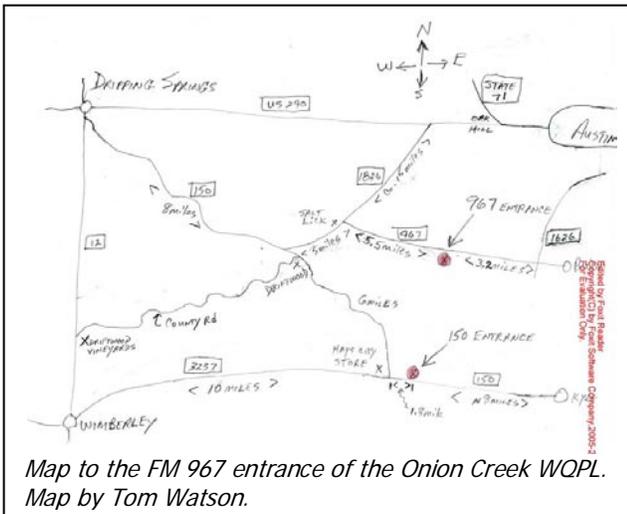
Chapter Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10th at the Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center at Jacob's Well Natural Area, from 7:00 to 9:00 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 Dixie Camp, pres@haysmn.org, or 512-517-3111, by September 7th.

Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24th, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, at the City of Austin facility at the Onion Creek WQPL. The location is a large house on the property and it's about a 2 mile drive off of FM 967. See the map below.



Map to the FM 967 entrance of the Onion Creek WQPL.
Map by Tom Watson.

The speaker will be Kevin Thuesen, Ph.D., who is the City of Austin, Environmental Conservation Program Manager/WQPL. Kevin's topic will be "Planning Fundamentals in Ecological Restoration."

Please plan to arrive at the gate no later than 6:15pm so we can meet Kevin and follow him in a caravan to the site. The gate will be locked after we enter the property, so please RSVP to Ben Adair, vp@haysmn.org, by Wednesday, September 23rd, so we know you plan to attend and that you've arrived. If you are delayed or need help please call Ben at 512-773-3668 or Tom Hausler at 512-608-2688.

Board of Directors

President	Dixie Camp
Vice President	Ben Adair
Secretary	Mary Arizpe
Treasurer	Larry Calvert
Past-President	Dale Shively
State Representative	Tom Watson
Training Committee	Mimi Boelter
Advanced Training Comm.	Betty Finley
Membership Committee	Beth Ramey
Web Master	Herb Smith
Newsletter Committee & Editor	Art Arizpe news@haysmn.org
Outreach Committee	Susan Nenny
Host Committee	Jean McMeans
Historian	Dale Shively
Volunteer Service	Walt Krudop
AgriLife Agent	TBD
TP&WD Rep	Lee Ann Linam

Finally and very importantly, we will have a potluck salad supper! Please note that the facility has no microwave or working stove, so don't bring food that needs to be heated.

If you have announcements you would like to have presented at the chapter meeting or suggestions for topics/speakers, please contact Ben Adair, vp@haysmn.org, or 512-773-3668.



A Naturalist's View

This month we hear from Dale Shively, the Chapter Past-President and head of the Historian Committee.

As I sit in my office overlooking a sea of brown, dry grasses with a few live oaks inserted at McKinney Falls State Park, I am reminded that my interest in the natural world began when I was a young child. In my youth I became enthralled with the work of Jacques Cousteau and made that my life's goal; to become a scuba diving marine scientist who chases sharks and finds an occasional ship wreck loaded with gold. My focus narrowed through high school and I supplemented my marine interest with nature in a more terrestrial surrounding.

I have spent many years in the outdoors participating in hunting, fishing, diving, and nature watching. During this time I have observed many interesting things that occurred in nature. I recall

one archery hunting trip in northern Wisconsin when temperatures were in the 20s, over a foot of snow blanketed the ground, and a howling wind bent trees over. Needless to say, it was difficult to hunt deer in those circumstances. I crossed a dirt road in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and found a cover of fur trees to hide under. As I stood there, a white-tailed deer came to the edge of the road. It did not see me and when another vehicle came down the road, the deer ran over to my side and hid behind a tree staring at the vehicle while I was staring at the backside of the deer. After the vehicle passed, the deer stepped back out to the road and began feeding again, oblivious to my presence.

I have always been interested in learning about nature and when I moved to Texas and began a career with Texas Parks and Wildlife, I became familiar with the Master Naturalist Program. What a wonderful opportunity for anyone to gain knowledge about our local environment. I have commented to others that although I was experienced in the outdoors and knew a fair amount, I struggled with plant identification. If it did not have a fin or was green in color, I could not tell you what it was. The Master Naturalist Program helped me gain a better appreciation of grasses and other plants even though I consider myself an amateur in that field. At least my personal library now has the references I need to identify those plants.

My wife and I enrolled in the Master Naturalist class of 2003 and began our journey into the study of Texas nature. After the class graduation, I was recalled to active duty in the US Navy and spent a year at CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, FL with three months in Iraq. The heat and sand in this foreign country reminded many of us over there that this sand box was not that different from some parts of Texas! After my demobilization, I decided to participate in a more active role within the Hays County Chapter of MN and volunteered to "run" for Chapter Vice President in 2006. Little did I know that the competition for these jobs is very minimal at best! Dr. Tom Watson had been holding up the Chapter as President for several years and asked if I would run for Chapter President in 2007. After a two year term I now find myself as Past-President and am still active in chapter business but miss many of the opportunities to "get out and walk the land."

Although I remain active in raising bees (or more like watching them raise themselves) and do some light gardening, I miss the learning classroom environment. I look forward to the beginning of the new training class and hope to attend some of the lectures again. The Master Naturalist Program gives all of us the opportunity to learn, grow in our stewardship responsibilities, and interact with other

concerned citizens in Texas. As I begin to work as historian of the chapter, my goal is to document where we came from so that we can know where we are going. I hope you get as much out of the program as I have.

- Dale Shively



Featured Project

LBJ Wildflower Center, Project #406



Thomas Adams of the USFWS collecting American Lotus seeds. Photo by Minette Marr.

Imagine wading in the thigh-high water of Canvasback Pond in the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge for 2 hours, collecting seeds of the American Lotus, all the while keeping an eye out for hungry alligators or angry water moccasins!

If you think an invasive species hunt is boring then you might want to check out this project!

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center collects seed for the Millennium Seed Bank. The goals of the MSB are listed below.

- To collect seeds, herbarium specimens and data from 24,200 species worldwide, including the entire UK seed-bearing flora, and to conserve these collections to international standards, both at the Millennium Seed Bank and in the countries of origin.
- To establish and develop partnerships and networks to meet these conservation objectives.
- To make seeds available for conservation in the wild and for research.
- To carry out research to improve all aspects of seed conservation.

- To facilitate access to information and transfer of best practice in seed banking to all project partners and the wider scientific community.
- To increase public awareness of the need for plant conservation.

You can find out more about the MSB at their web page [here](#). A ten-minute video of a collecting excursion to West Texas is available [here](#).

Minnette Marr is our chapter's contact for this project. Many of us know Minnette from training class. She was attending graduate school at Texas State when several HCMNs volunteered to work in the Wetlands Restoration Nursery at Aquarena Center. Their enthusiasm for the program was contagious and she joined the program herself. Minnette graduated with the HCMN class of 2004.

Minnette taught high school science for 14 years before entering graduate school in 1998. After finishing graduate school, she worked on vegetation projects for several state agencies before going to work for Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in 2005.

The project collects seeds at many locations in Texas, but all the collections are processed in Austin at the Wildflower Center. The project has permission to collect seeds on properties managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Texas Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy in Texas. Their efforts are coordinated with numerous partners in other states by the Bureau of Land Management.



Pippa Gordon processing seeds. Photo by Minnette Marr.

HCMN became involved with the project in 2007. Many central Texas volunteers have helped with processing seeds and/or specimens at the Wildflower Center over the past few years. In wetter years, volunteers help the project scout for potential

seed collections and monitor the readiness of target collections close to their homes.

The Wildflower Center hopes to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the collaboration with the Millennium Seed Bank to increase the diversity, quantity and quality of seeds that are available for restoration and research projects in Texas.

If you would like to help, please contact Minnette at mmarr@wildflower.org.

Chapter News

August Chapter Meeting



Photo by Lance Jones.

Kelly Eby, Urban Forester for the City of New Braunfels, was the guest speaker at the chapter meeting on August 27th. The meeting was hosted at the San Marcos Nature Center which provided a tree-filled landscape for a walking tour after the business meeting and brief rain shower. Kelly is standing in front of a desert willow and discussing tree identification and the pros and cons of various trees in the Central Texas environment.

- Lance Jones

It's Officer Election Time!

The Nominations Committee will entertain nominations and volunteer offers to serve as an officer of the chapter as it develops the slate for the election at the Annual Gala to be held on November 20 at the Wimberley Community Center.

Please send your nominations or your offer to serve to Dale Shively, pastpres@haysmn.org, our Past President and Chair of the 2009 Nominations Committee, for consideration by the committee.

The Chapter Officer positions are:

- President

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

You may find descriptions of these positions in the [Chapter Operating Handbook](#), Section C, on our web page.

2010 Training Committee Forming

The application process for the Training Committee starts now. If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact Dixie Camp, pres@haysmn.org.

The Training Committee positions are listed below. You may find descriptions of these positions in the [Chapter Operating Handbook](#), Section E.1 on our web page.

- **Chair / Coordinator of Training Committee** - (1 Position)
- **Vice-Chair / Assistant-Coordinator of Training Committee** – (1 Position)
- **Registration and Attendance** – (2 Positions)
- **Nature Watch Coordinator** – (1 Position)
- **Logistics & Documentation (videography)** – (1 Position)
- **Field Trip and Site Visit Coordinator** – (2 Positions)
- **Secretary** – (1 Position)
- **Speaker's Contact (includes logistics, gifts and evaluation)** – (1 Position)
- **Meals: supported by Chapter's Host**
- **Standing Committee** – (Coordinator and helpers as needed)
- **Graduation** - (Chair and volunteers as needed)
- **Other** - Volunteers as needed and determined by Chair and Vice-Chair

Chapter Committees

Perhaps you would be interested in serving on or chairing a committee. Please contact Dixie Camp, pres@haysmn.org.

You may find descriptions of these committees in the [Chapter Operating Handbook](#), Section B, on our web page.

- Membership Committee
- Volunteer Service Projects Committee
- Advanced Training Committee
- Newsletter Committee
- Outreach Committee
- Host Committee
- Historical Committee

2009 Chapter Awards Nominations

We are currently seeking nominations for the 2009 Chapter awards. Please see the procedure for nominations and a description of each award in the [Chapter Operating Handbook](#), Section F.3, on our web page.

Please submit your nominations to Beth Ramey, Chair of the Membership Committee, membership@haysmn.org. Beth is also serving as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Awards Committee.

TMN News

Registration for the TMN Statewide Annual Meeting & Advanced Training is now Available!

You may register NOW by navigating to: <https://www.regonline.com/TMNconference2009>

Note: For your ease of registering you will want to look at (and maybe even print out) the Conference Website information from the four tabs shown before clicking the "register now" button.

This year's statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced Training is taking place October 23-25th, 2009 at Mo Ranch! Early Bird Registration at a discounted rate is available through September 27th. Prices increase by \$40 across the board after that.

Annual Meeting Scholarships available:

Each chapter also have a partial scholarship available to them to help support the attendance to the annual meeting by one of your chapter members. The scholarships are the largest to date that we have been able to offer. Scholarships will cover up to \$100 of the registration fee for a member of your chapter's choice. Scholarships are possible this year in part by the assistance of the North Texas Chapter hosting of the Silent Auction at last year's meeting.

Chapters: please begin making your selection for the scholarship recipient so that you may have your scholarship winner identified and ready to register for the annual meeting as they will need an individualized code in order to register at the scholarship rate. Scholarships are intended to help offset the registration cost associated with attending the Annual Meeting & Advanced Training.

The scholarship recipient must be selected and pre-approved by the local Chapter with notification given to the contact listed here. Scholarship winners shall contact Sonny Arnold for further registration instructions once registration opens. All scholarship recipients must register prior to the deadline. For more details, contact Sonny Arnold at 979-458-1099 or sarnold@ag.tamu.edu. Sorry, scholarships are not refundable or transferable and cannot be honored after the deadline. In the event Sonny is out of the office, you may contact Michelle.

Deadline for Chapter Advisor Award Nominations nearing (September 1)

Advisor Award Nominations open:
Last year we implemented a new award for the Texas Master Naturalist program-the Advisor Award. Nominations for the award are now being accepted through September 1, 2009. Please be thinking about which of your chapter advisors you would like to nominate for this year's award. Nominations will be accepted for activities and advisors who have been a part of and contributing to your local chapter efforts during the past year. Deadlines for nomination submissions in the format requested will be due no later than September 1st, 2009. Guidelines are attached and will be posted on the TMN website.

Exemplary Project Awards take place at the Annual Meeting—Make sure your chapters submits an entry!

Project Fair: This event is planned for the annual meeting again this year. Each Chapter will have the opportunity to showcase an exemplary project of their choice at the fourth annual Project Fair. This will provide an opportunity to share a successful project and give other chapters ideas to take home and implement. Plan to exhibit an example of the service project work that your members have completed with pride!

Contact Michelle Haggerty or Sonny Arnold for more information and display guidelines for this year*s event at mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu or sarnold@ag.tamu.edu. There is award money at stake! This year's awards are being underwritten by the Magnolia Charitable Trust. There are also some

revised/updated guidelines for this year's Project Fair competition... the biggest change being the display area dimensions. See the Project Fair download on the TMN website or contact Sonny or Michelle for your copy today.

Michelle M. Haggerty
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Master Naturalist Program Coordinator
309 Sidney Baker South
Kerrville, TX 78028
Ph: 830-896-2504
Fax: 830-792-6167
Mobile: 979-587-2627
mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu

TMN Homepage: <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>

Class September Schedule

<i>Ch. #</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
	Sep1 2 Field Trip	Bamberger Ranch	Impact of Man, Range Management	Colleen Gardner
8, 11	Sep2 6 Sat. class	Freeman Ranch 9:00-12:00	Insects & Butterflies 9:00-12:00	Dr. Chris Nice

Hypoxylon Canker

Ginger Geist reports that earlier this summer, she was swamped with phone calls via the Extension service for what turned out to be Hypoxylon, not oak wilt.

You may find information about this fungus [here](#).

HaysMN Forum

Posting has been light on the forum lately.

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 August 2009 are due by September 7th. Please submit your reports of Volunteer and Advanced Training hours by using the friendly report forms at www.haysmn.org.

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

Richard Barnett

Richard Barnett's wife, Alleen, passed away on August 27th. A memorial service was held at Wimberley Presbyterian Church on August 30th and a graveside service was held at Forest Park/ Lawndale Cemetery in Houston on Monday, August 31st.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Richard and his family.

Winifred Simon

A photograph that **Winifred Simon** submitted to the National Geographic Energizer Ultimate Photo Contest has been selected as one of 12 finalists!

The next step is a public voting, which runs until September 15, to determine the six photos (one in each category) which will then be judged to select the grand prize winning photo. The grand prize is a trip to the Galapagos Islands for two!

Please consider voting for her photo. Also please consider forwarding this information to your friends and acquaintances. Let's give Winifred all our support!

Voting is located at: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/energizer/> and is accessed by clicking on the Vote Now box.

Winifred's photo is in the "People / Cultures" category.

One vote per category. One vote per person/e-mail address. Abuse will get a photo disqualified.

Tom Watson

Tom Watson will be making a presentation of the work that HCMN has been doing at Onion Creek to help WCD with their restoration activities at the Texas Master Naturalist 10th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas, October 23rd – 25th.

His presentation is scheduled for Friday, October 23rd, from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

You can more information about the meeting [here](#).

Many thanks to Tom for promoting the work that our chapter has been doing!

Tom Hausler Wildlife Photos

Tom Hausler provides water for wildlife on his property and has many thirsty visitors. Here's a few he's recently captured with a wildlife camera. He's also seen raccoons, possums, armadillo, squirrels, birds, bob cats, etc.



A Whitetail Buck. Photo by Tom Hausler.



A Gray Fox. Photo by Tom Hausler.



A Whitetail Doe and her fawn. Photo by Tom Hausler.



A Ringtail. Photo by Tom Hausler.

Birding News

Tom Hausler reports that there are many doves around this year. Here's a couple caught with his bird cam.



White-Wing Doves. Photo by Tom Hausler.

*** **Calendar**

Tuesday, September 1st

6:00pm

Class Site Visit (Designated Class) – Wimberley
Contact Ann Connell for directions and more info (512.913.1441).

Saturday, September 12th

HCMN Class Field Trip - Johnson City

Topic: Impact of Man

Location: Bamberger Ranch

Tuesday, September 15th

6:00pm

HCMN Class Site Visit – Fischer

Contact Ann Connell for directions and more info (512.913.1441).

Tuesday, September 29th

6:00pm

HCMN Class Site Visit - Wimberley

Contact Ann Connell for directions and more info (512.913.1441).



Advanced Training Opportunities

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is offering its Go Native U education program again this fall.

Please go to

wildflowercenter@wildflowercenter.pmailus.com for a list and description of the full program. All are approved for advanced training with the exception of sessions Native Plant pot-pourri and Native Plant Photography.

Each session shows the time for the session. If you attend a session you should report the number of hours shown for that session.

Austin Insect Class

Valerie Bugh and Mike Quill will teach a three-day "Austin Insect Class" this fall. The course is approved for 9.5 hours advanced training.

Content:

- an overview of the insect orders, including identification and life histories
- an emphasis on the katydids, beetles, moths, and "true bugs"

- an overview of the significant popular and technical literature
- a discussion and demonstration of insect identification methods
- a discussion and demonstration of photographic techniques
- a discussion and demo of finding, collecting and curating techniques

Location:

Center for Environmental Research (CER) at Hornsby Bend (in southeast Austin near the airport)

Schedule:

Saturday, September 26, - 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Lecture & Fieldtrip

Wednesday, September 30 - 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - Blacklighting

Saturday, October 3 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Lecture & Fieldtrip

More information on the class is posted here: <http://www.texasento.net/InsectClass.html>

Mike Quinn
7739 Kiva Drive
Austin, TX 78749
entomike@gmail.com
(512) 577-0250 cell



Volunteer Opportunities

Barsana Dham

Here is a new volunteer opportunity. Barsana Dham, in south Austin, would like help building trails (which will eventually be open to the public). It's project number 909.

Work will begin October 2 and continue every Friday for 8 weeks.

Hours will be from 9am-1pm.
The HCMN contact person is:
Dennis Wagner 512-288-4888
Dennis@UnitedCountryCentralTexas.com

FLOW

Volunteers are needed for the FLOW workshop on September 11-13 in Wimberley.

Workshop volunteers would be in charge of being sure the meeting room has the right handouts and

AV equipment, that the workshop starts and stops on time, and in general being an aide for the presenters in that room. They need 4 or 5 folks. They will be able to attend the entire day and only have to pay \$10 for their lunch.

They also need volunteers to help with the following prior to the event:

Someone to be sure we have a pure enviro-friendly water supply.
Someone to help us locate & borrow the right AV equipment.
People to help with getting the word out.
People to help hang or take down the art show.

Depending on their level of service, these folks would also get in for \$10 (price of food) So a volunteer (if they actually put in some time on the project) would get in for \$20 for the whole event or \$10 either day.

Volunteers are to contact:

Peggy Cole
Holistic Management Texas
512-847-3822
www.hmitexas.org

Extension Office

The Extension office will be sponsoring an interpretation luncheon at Cottage Kitchen on September 18th. I know last year some of your members volunteered. The time is approximately 11-2 p.m. For more information contact Susan Schramm at s-schramm@tamu.edu or call 512-393-2120.

Also I am looking for a volunteer to answer phones at the Extension Office on September 1, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Thank you,
Bari Conley
Office Administrator
Hays County Extension
1253 Civic Center Loop
San Marcos, Texas 78666
512.393.2120
512.393.2136 Fax

Elephant Ear Removal

**Wednesday, September 2nd and 16th
4:00pm-7:00pm
Hays MN Project #408**

The unique and critical habitat of Spring Lake requires a carefully managed habitat conservation

program. Volunteers meet the first and third Wednesday of each month to remove the invasive Elephant Ear plant that grows along the banks of the lake. Work begins at 4pm.

For more information, contact Leah Laszewski (laszewski@yahoo.com).

Hyacinth Removal

Saturday, September 26th
9:00am-12:00pm
Hays MN Project #408

The unique and critical habitat of Spring Lake requires a carefully managed habitat conservation program. The San Marcos River Foundation works with Aquarena to provide regular water hyacinth removal the 4th Saturday of every month. Volunteers meet at the Wetlands nursery at 9 AM and work until about noon.

For more information e-mail Diane Wassenich (wassenich@grandecom.net).



State and National News

Federal Act Signed in March

Some members may not be aware of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act that the president signed into law in March. It is a comprehensive act that includes 160 bills in support of public lands, parks, sites, wilderness areas, national trails and other matters related to our natural and human heritage. This act, along with the extension of the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, the combined efforts of state, county and municipal governments, and the support of a host of non-profits at all levels will mean real progress can be made toward combining living natural areas with the places we live.

You play a key role in bringing some of those resources to San Marcos. When ever and where ever the opportunity arises, voice your support for keeping our watersheds clean and our habitats healthy, and for growing the opportunities for all ages to get out and get into nature.

SMGA will keep you informed of important times and places when voicing the vision will have the most impact on our local policy decisions.

- SMGA

Local News

Recycling: Single stream almost doubles totals

From the San Marcos Record:

"The city and Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) say residential solid waste customers have almost doubled the amount of recyclable materials being collected with the introduction of single stream recycling.

The initial three-month totals for April, May and June reveal that an average of 101 tons of recyclable materials per month are now being collected from San Marcos residents.

That compares to approximately 52 tons of recyclable materials per month collected in the three months prior to the launch of single stream."

You can read the full article [here](#).



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

LBJ Wildflower Center -- www.wildflower.org
San Marcos Nature Center -- [www.ci.san-
marcos.tx.us/departments/parks/Nature_Center.html](http://www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us/departments/parks/Nature_Center.html)
Gorge Preservation Society -- www.canyongorge.org