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> **BOERNE CHAPTER March 2024**

7 - 8:00 pm - Presentation

8 pm - Clean up*

*Please bring a dish to share. Volunteers will be needed to help with set up and clean up of the auditorium.

PRESENTATION

"Land Stewardship for Birds

and the Importance of Native Plant Communities"

RSS 3

Translate ▼

Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas Chapter Meeting Tuesday, March 5 Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium 6 - 6:45 pm - Check-in/Hospitality/Announcements

Presented by: Jan Wrede and Rufus Stephens Fifty years of data tells us that bird populations are declining at alarming rates. Birds have declined in all major habitats most often because of habitat destruction or

degradation. Fortunately, with thoughtful practices land stewards can be agents of change.

What you do with your land can restore and enhance native plant communities needed to

produce the cover, food, and water needed for thriving bird populations. Our presentation will

focus on why native plant communities are key to healthy bird populations and what you can

Rufus is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and educator. He has worked as a wildlife biologist for 35 years, 23 years with TPWD. Rufus is one of the founders of the Texas Master Naturalist program and in recognition for this accomplishment was a co-recipient of the Wildlife Management Institute's award for Innovation.

Jan is a non-fiction writer and environmental educator. She worked for 19 years as the director of education and citizen science at the Cibolo Nature Center and wrote weekly nature

columns for the local newspapers. She also was a secondary science teacher for 15 years. Jan is the author of Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of the Texas Hill Country. Books available for purchase, "Land Stewardship for Birds" is \$50 and "Trees, Shrubs, and Vines" is \$25. Cash or check, no credit cards.

do to help.

Welcome new members! Michael Fahrenthold, Pamela Huck, Kathleen Marlett, Karen and John Tabor, Linda Rae Myers

Boerne Pollinator Gardens Update by Rachel Thompson

Our Boerne Pollinator Garden volunteers have been hard at work the last several Wednesdays. There has been lots of cutting back, pulling out, and digging up from the gardens along Main Street.

the wild, their growth characteristics are not what are typically described.

We have learned a lot from this garden! Over the next few weeks, we will work to fill in the low areas with new soil, replant some of the perennials we have lost, and try some new ones.

The Visitor Center Pollinator Garden will be getting a major overhaul this spring. Originally

aggressive perennials (Texas Greeneyes and Plateau Goldeneye, for example) have overgrown

neighboring plants, and annuals (such as Cowpen Daisy and Bluebonnets) have smothered

some of their neighbors. With richer soil and more consistent water than those plants have in

planted in April 2020, it needs additional soil and some replacement plants. The more

The Main and Veterans Plaza planter boxes have also been cleared of weeds and plants have been cut back. A few new species will be added to each location later in March.

Lynn Scoggins, Kathy Webster, and Vicki Schmidt cutting back shrubby boneset and turk's cap. Cecilia Fuentes and Della Andretti removing

Our newest garden, located in the old stone water trough behind the Parks Department office on Adler Street, has generated a lot of positive comments, both from walkers on the Curry Creek trail and the directors of the parks department. A less formal garden, it has a kidneywood shrub at its center and an assortment of wildflowers and blue gramma and seep

native plants and enjoying the camaraderie of the group. Volunteer credit is available through

Special Thanks to the Boerne Parks Department. Our partners at the Boerne Parks

Department have been especially helpful at these locations over the years. They work to keep

the drip systems going and haul off our bags of clippings which is no easy feat. In fact, they

hauled off seven large garbage bags full of clippings last week from Veterans Plaza! Thank

Spring Plant Sale Around the Corner

by Kathy Webster

It's Spring! Or maybe not? Many people think we will have at least one more freeze. Either

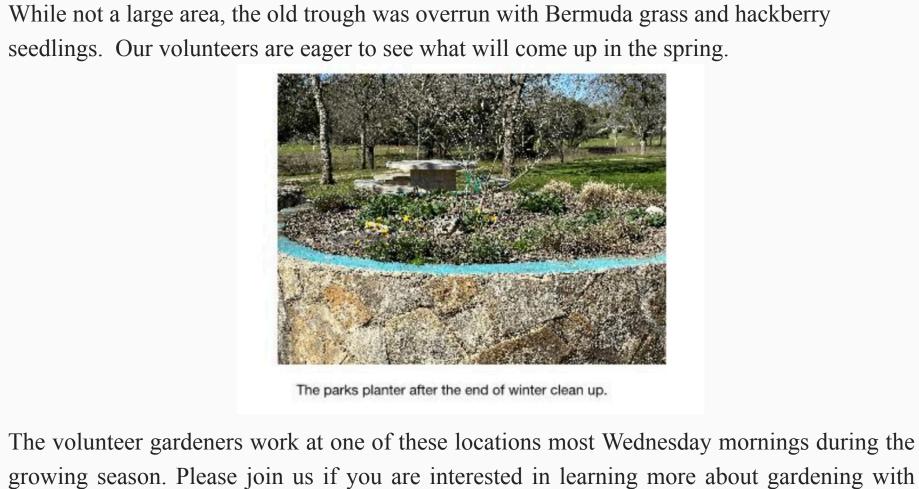
way, one thing is certain: The Spring Plant Sale is fast approaching! Please mark your

calendars for Friday and Saturday, April 19 & 20. We will likely have a "members only"

shopping time in the afternoon on Friday, April 19. Then the sale will be open to the public on

Please remember that we are completely dependent on donated plants from our Chapter

members. These can be purchased from reputable native plant nurseries or home grown.



the Hill Country Master Naturalist chapter.

you to these great partners for all their help!

Saturday, April 20 from 9:00-1:00.

Dear Members:

information.

at <u>meg.inglis@npsot.org</u>.

Click to volunteer:

hearing from you -

Happy Planting!

Meg Inglis, Executive Director

You must be registered to assist.

muhly throughout the rest of the planting area.

Last year, each of our two sales had over 80 different species of native plants and over 600 individual pots! Pretty impressive quantity for a completely volunteer effort! Now is a great time to dig up the small volunteers that grow around your native plants and pot them up for the sale!

2024, let her know at katweb59@gmail.com. **State Volunteer Opportunities**

These are exciting times to be involved with the Native Plant Society of Texas. The public is

becoming much more aware of the importance of native plants for conserving water,

supporting wildlife, reducing emissions and increasing an aesthetic sense of place and beauty.

Society volunteers are integral to our success moving forward. Here are some opportunities

The Communications Committee is also seeking a few volunteers that have graphic art skills

to address the growing need to create brochures, rack cards, posters, social media posts, and

website graphics. Contact Jim Carras, <u>jim.carras@npsot.org</u>, to discuss in more detail.

Call Kathy Webster (210-867-4656) or Gary Fest (830-688-1505) if you need pots. Kathy will

be emailing those who donated plants in 2023. It you want to be added to the Growers List for

The I-35 Monarch Waystation Safety Rest Areas Committee is looking for a chairperson. The committee acts as the planning and maintenance group for I-35 Waystations at Hillsboro (Bell County) and Salado (Bell) safety rest areas. The waystations are seen by thousands of motorists every year. Help organize workdays and promotional events! Contact Meg

The Native Plant Database Sub-Committee is looking for assistance with entering Level IV

Ecoregion data. You will need to be detail oriented, comfortable working with multiple

windows open, and using plant distribution maps to determine which Ecoregion each plant

fits in. Contact chairperson, Claire Sorenson at <u>claire.sorenson@npsot.org</u> for more

The Invasive Plant Committee is looking for a chairperson. The committee works to convey the harm caused by invasive plants, to provide resources to identify and manage invasive

for you to contribute towards advancing our mission:

Inglis, <u>meg.inglis@npsot.org</u> for more information.

plants, to support invasive plant removal and to restore habitats with native plant alternatives. The committee is responsible for updating and maintaining the *Invasive Plant* <u>Database</u>. Contact our past chairperson, Deedy Wright at <u>deedy_Wright@outlook.com</u> for more information. The Planning and Development Committee is looking for members to help shape the

Society's future by developing our next 5-Year Strategic Plan. Contact Meg Inglis

The 2024 Spring Symposium Committee is looking for day-of persons to help with the

registration table and meal service oversight. The event takes place on Saturday, March 2nd.

Reception Table **Lunch Assistance** Contact Renata Lucia at <u>admin-assist@npsot.org</u> for more information. Thank you for caring about native plants and native plant habitats! Looking forward to

Native Plant Society of Texas npsot.org

By Carol Clark, Collin County Chapter

City Nature Challenge

City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual, global event that takes place over a four-day

weekend (April 26-29, 2024). Participants in defined metro areas compete with other metro

areas in a friendly competition to see which location can document (using a free app called

iNaturalist) the most species in their local area. CNC promotes citizen science, environmental

education, and awareness of urban biodiversity, fostering a greater connection to the natural

world. The San Antonio Metro Area CNC comprises Bexar and eleven surrounding counties;

Kendall is one of them. Last year, the Houston area ranked first in Texas, and the San Antonio

Area just squeaked by the Austin area to grab third. Training on the iNaturalist app will be

To learn more about the City Nature Challenge 2024 in the San Antonio Area, please

Please download iNaturalist on your phone and create a user profile before arriving.

visit CNC-SA.org. Follow City Nature Challenge on Facebook or Instagram.

Park in the parking lot at NW Military Entrance

Please wear closed-toed shoes and dress for the weather.

Meet at the Urban Ecology Center

Be a part of a global challenge to see which city can document 29, 2024 will automatically help San Antonio Metro Area succeed

(available on IOS and Android).

Please leave your pets at home.

CITY

NATURE

Are you planting the right Milkweed type for the Texas Hill Country?

provided.

4.

5.

Find out here: Invasives: Choose Native over Tropical Milkweed

Easy to moderate hiking. Follow us on Facebook at "City Nature Challenge Team: San Antonio Metro Area", and visit us at www.CNC-SA.org.

Saturday, Mar. 2 - Spring Symposium - Join virtually or in person at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin! Registration is now open. For event details and registration, click here.

Jan Wrede and Rufus Stephens. Also, they

Friday Field Trip, 9 am - Noon will be

Herff Farmers Market Teaching Barn

Archeologist, "The Role Native Plants and

Landscapes Played in Past People's Lives."

Tuesday, May 7 - Chapter Meeting at 6 pm. Leslie Bush, PhD.,

to ABK State Natural Area. Bring a sack lunch,

hat and be prepared to do a little hiking. The group

Tuesday, March 5 - Chapter Meeting @ 6 pm. Presentation by

will have books for sale.

Dates to Remember

The Cibolo CENTER FOR CONSERVATION **Meet Stephen Ritz at The Cibolo** You're invited! Meet the founder of Green Bronx Machine and discover firsthand the impact of Tower Gardens to transform classrooms and communities.

jdb.txn@gmail.com Alamo Master Naturalist - Calendar and Contact for AT hours approval - Keeley Porter, keeley.porter@gmail.com Special thanks to all our contributors.

may even get the opportunity help with surveys. Tuesday, April 2 - Chapter Meeting @ 6 pm. Ryan Bass, Environmental Program Manager, City of Boerne Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium.

Saturday, Apr. 20 - Spring Plant Sale, 9 - 1 pm

Friday, March 8 - Field Trip Friday.

Green Bronx Machine Blvd

vww.greenbronxmachine

award-winning school academic program that puts the art and science of growing

Ritz will make a special guest appearance at Cibolo Nature Center and share more

improving social determinants of health, and growing fresh fruit and vegetables all

Date: Monday, March 25, 2024

6:30-7:00pm: Meet & Greet with Stephen Ritz

on the impact of the Green Bronx Machine. Imagine the benefits of introducing

Come meet Stephen Ritz, author and founder of the Green Bronx Machine, an

vegetables indoors at the heart of project-based learning in the classroom.

students and families to healthy eating habits and healthy lifestyles while

@StephenRitz

year long.

@greenBXmachine

7:00-8:00pm: Presentation by Stephen Ritz Location: The Gathering Hall at Herff Farm (33 Herff Rd. Boerne, TX) Free to the public **Contacts for Media Postings** Boerne NPSOT - Website - Theresa Butler, theresabutler722@gmail.com, Mackenzie Brown, mbrown@trinity.edu Boerne NPSOT - Newsletter - Lorraine Popp, <u>llpopp4@gmail.com</u>, Felicia Zeitman, fzbranek@gmail.com Boerne NPSOT - Facebook & Instagram - Felicia Zeitman, fzbranek@gmail.com

Woolly Butterflybush Butterfly Bush (Buddleja marrubiifolia)

Our mailing address is: PO Box 1032 Boerne, Texas 78006 of Texas

Hill Country Master Naturalist - Newsletter - Lenore Langsdorf, lenorelangsdorf@gmail.com (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) and (Natives Improve and Conserve Environments) **NICE! Plant of the Month - March**

Hill Country Master Naturalist - Contact for AT hours approval—Dale Bransford,

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You are receiving these emails because you are a current or recent member of the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society

Photographs taken by: Marcus, Joseph A. and Wasowski, Sally and Andy For more information about March NICE! plant of the Month, click <u>here</u>