

2013 Presentations Available by Judit Green

Judit Green is a 25 year employee of Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. with a degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Science from Texas A&M. She has been an Urban Wildlife Biologist in San Antonio for the past 19 years conducting outreach and technical guidance on conservation of natural resources that benefit wildlife, landscapes, and water. She, along with many others, co-founded the first chapter of Texas Master Naturalists™ in San Antonio in 1996 and she still serves as advisor to the Alamo Area Chapter. She's also a contributing Author and Photographer to the Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife book.

San Antonio Urban Office Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/saurbanwildlife> (Please "like us")

Wildlife diversity program's website: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/

YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL47868EA6F87650FA>.

My most requested programs are listed below. Any of these can also have a "field" component added to them (would need to add an hour to the class time listed) if a nearby native plant garden is available to walk through

Note: Some Programs list multiple "titles". Choose the one you best like for your location. The first one listed (all in CAPS) is the most commonly used title for that class / program.

SPECIAL FOCUS—WILDLIFE CONSERVATION:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ISSUES IN TEXAS—WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Time: 1 hour

There are many issues today that threaten the great wildlife diversity of our state, but the conservation community has faced seemingly insurmountable challenges before and rose to the challenge. We can rise to the challenge again.

Texas is blessed with a vast array of habitats and species. In fact, when one compares all of the states, Texas is frequently in the top three. Texas boasts 213 species of reptiles and amphibians, 635 species of birds, 174 species of mammals, an estimated 5,200 species of plants and an estimated 30,000 species of invertebrates. However, complex and daunting issues like emerging diseases, climate change, urbanization, insufficient land use planning, emerging energy production industries, declining conservation funding, etc. are putting intense pressures on our state's wildlife populations. But the conservation community has faced seemingly insurmountable challenges and acted with conviction in the past. The conservation community rose to the challenge in the 1930s and again in the 1970s. With dedication, we can rise to the challenge again and secure a solid future for wildlife of our great state.

FOCUS ON PLANTS:

WILDSCAPING: LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE / Wildscaping Basics

Time: 1 or 1.5 hours

This class offers an introduction on how to landscape to attract wildlife to your property. Food, cover, and water are needed by all wildlife. Learn about native plants that can offer local and migrating animals a haven close to your home. Also learn some design tactics that will help benefit wildlife, add to the beauty of your yard, and also create a positive effect on our environment.

OR,

Native plants and special features can create a beautiful landscape that invites wildlife to your backyard. Attracting butterflies and hummingbirds with nectar rich flowers is easy to do. In addition, adding other simple components will also make your yard a haven for frogs, lizards, songbirds, and some small mammals. Landscaping to benefit wildlife can start with putting out a birdbath or planting a fruit-bearing native shrub. It's not difficult to be successful, and you'll be amazed at the types of wildlife you can attract to your property. Join me in learning what features to incorporate and some common plants to provide to open your back door to a world of wildlife.

OR,

This class is intended to get you prepared for planning and planting your garden this spring! It is an introductory class on how to landscape to attract wildlife to your property. Learn how wildlife view your backyard as potential habitat where they may want to visit or raise their young. Learn what plants offer food and shelter and how these plants, as well as water features, can be incorporated into your design. As a homeowner, you can make a big difference on your small urban lot that can benefit wildlife, add to the beauty of your yard, and also create a positive effect on our environment. A short hike will be offered through the Botanical Garden looking at bed shapes & design (note: due to winter temperatures, most plants will not be showcasing their beauty this time of year unfortunately).

GARDENING IN THE SHADE WITH TEXAS NATIVES / Native Plants: Having it Made in the Shade **Time: 1, 1.5, or 2 hours**

Having a shady yard can frustrate even the most experienced gardener. However, if you have an area where you can't get grass to grow--then learning about some of our Texas native plants that do well in shady conditions might be the trick to turning your yard into a botanical delight while also attracting hummingbirds, butterflies and songbirds! Your garden will not only be beautiful, but because these plants grow naturally in Texas it will be drought tolerant and disease resistant. Join us in learning about these plants, their wildlife value, and some basic landscape design tips.

TOP 20 PLANTS FOR HUMMINGBIRDS / Top 20 Countdown—Plants for Hummers **Time: 1 or 1.5 hours**

Join us for this top 20 countdown to the most valuable native plants that will draw in hummingbirds to your backyard. This class will focus on the plants and how they benefit hummingbirds as well as other songbirds & wildlife. Birds are one of the easiest wildlife species to attract, so why not get started with a new and fun gardening project!

TOP 20 PLANTS FOR BIRDS **Time: 1 or 1.5 hours**

Join us for this top 20 countdown to the most valuable native plants that will draw in birds to your backyard. Many of the plants highlighted are shrubs and trees that serve as valuable food sources, shelter and nesting opportunities. We will also offer up some basic ID tips to help you identify the birds you might see on your property. Birds are one of the easiest wildlife species to attract, so why not get started with a new and fun gardening project!

A FOCUS ON NATIVE PLANTS **Time: 2 hours**

Learn about popular plants that are native to the San Antonio area that provide food and cover for local wildlife. This class will offer information on how native plants can be used in your landscape, where to plant, how to maintain, and where to purchase them.

OR,

Learn about popular plants available in the local nursery trade that are native to the San Antonio area. You will also learn which plants attract certain wildlife so creating a themed garden, such as a hummingbird garden, will be an easy challenge. The class will also introduce the use of field guides to identify plants and will offer a few tips on placement, maintenance, and nursery availability. A short hike through the Botanical Garden will allow participants to use a field guide and to see some of these plants growing in nature. Next week's class, Native Plant Landscape Design, would serve as a good follow-up class that will focus on designing your garden.

FOCUS ON WILDLIFE:

ATTRACTING HUMMINGBIRDS TO THE GARDEN / Attracting Flying Jewels to the Garden / Hummingbird Gardening

Time: 1 or 2 hours

One of the most popular birds that people love to invite to their gardens are hummingbirds. Learn about the natural history of these flying jewels and tips on how to identify and attract them to your backyard.

Join us in learning about the many native plants that offer up nectar for these birds which will provide endless wildlife viewing pleasure!

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO THE GARDEN / Butterfly Gardening

Time: 1 or 2 hours

Various species of butterflies offer up a wonderful opportunity for people to incorporate beautiful colorful native blooms in their gardens to draw in these delicate yet hardy insects that grace our flowers. Learn how to plan your garden well, so that it not only serves as a food source for butterflies, but also as a nursery with "larval host plants" that young caterpillars can feed on to ensure that future generations of butterflies will visit your gardens year after year. Also learn about the natural history of butterflies and tips on how to identify the various families found in our area.

ATTRACTING HUMMINGBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES TO THE GARDEN

Time: 1.5 or 2 hours

If you love colorful flowerbeds, or just want some color in your flower pots and window boxes, learn which native plants you can use to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. There are many plants that will attract both species of wildlife to provide endless wildlife viewing pleasure! This class also teaches some natural history behind the species you can expect to attract and offers tips on identifying your new visitors.

BIRDING--A BEGINNER'S CLASS

Time: 2 hours

This fun interactive class teaches the basics of birding...what clues to pick up on to identify the birds you are seeing. Learn how to use field guides, how to lure birds within close proximity, how to select and use binoculars, and more! Birds are one of the easiest wildlife species to attract, so why not get started with a new and fun hobby! This class will be conducted indoors, but bring binoculars (to learn how to focus them) and bird field guides. You will learn about local Beginner Bird Walks offered in the San Antonio area that will help you get started on your new hobby!

BATS OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS / What Bats are in your Belfry?

Time: 1 or 1.5 hours

Bats are an important species of wildlife that help reduce chemical use on our agricultural products that wind up on our tables! This class will offer you the opportunity to learn about the different species of bats that we have in South Central Texas, their importance, and how you can help ensure these nocturnal mammals continue to fly our Texas skies.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WILD NEIGHBORS / Wildlife in your Backyard/ Understanding Urban Critters

Time: 1 or 2 hours

No matter where you live, you are surrounded by an array of wildlife often living in your backyard. Luckily this doesn't usually pose a problem, but occasionally there can be a conflict that arises when wildlife get too close for comfort. This program will introduce you to some common urban wildlife and will provide you with some insight as to why certain urban species are possibly causing conflict and identifying the mysterious signs they leave behind.

FOCUS ON LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Time: 3.5 hrs. (or 4 w/a walk-about)

Native plants and special design features can create a beautiful landscape that also creates a haven for interesting birds and butterflies. You can start by simply putting up a birdbath or planting a fruit-bearing native shrub in your garden. It's not difficult to be successful, and you'll be amazed at what you'll attract while also conserving water. Join me in learning how to create a design on graph paper, what features to incorporate, as well as some common drought hardy plants to include so that you can open your back door to a world of wildlife. (If hike included: A short hike through the _____ Garden will allow participants to see plants in nature and to look at various groupings and bed shapes for design ideas.)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN WITH HUMMERS IN MIND

Time: 2 hrs.

Native plants and special design features can create a beautiful landscape that easily invites hummingbirds to visit your garden. Adding simple components will also make your yard a haven for a variety of interesting wildlife. You can start by simply putting up a birdbath or planting a nectar rich flower bearing native shrub in your garden. It's not difficult to be successful, and you'll be amazed at what you'll attract while also conserving water. Join me in learning what features to incorporate as well as some common drought hardy plants to include so that you can open your back door to a world of wildlife

Additional Program Ideas:

Top 20 Plants for Butterflies (needs to be developed)

Importance of Pollinators (needs to be developed)

Owl Prowl (evening program done outdoors) by *Jessica Alderson*, Tx. Parks & Wildlife Dept.

Native Plants & their Uses by *Patty Leslie Pasztor*, Co-author of "Texas Trees - A Friendly Guide" *Learn about the benefits of plants and how they were used historically.*

Gardening Without Chemicals by *Craig Oatman*, The Grove Nursery;

The Problem w/Non-Natives in the Garden by *Janis Merritt*, Natural Areas Division of The City of SA (retired);

Down & Dirty - Bed Preparation & Planting by *Richard Love* of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens.
