



# NATURE NOTES

Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Conservation of the Natural Beauty of Sun City Texas at Georgetown  
VOLUME 25 Issue 4 April 2023

**Tuesday, April 11, 2:30 p.m., SCB**

***The Strange Creatures in Texas Caves and Springs and the Efforts to Protect Them***  
*Presented by Kemble White*

**Tuesday, May 9, 2:30 p.m., SCB**

***Solutions to Climate Change*** Presented by Larry Kremer

## MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$12 for 2023

Dues include our monthly programs and all Special Interest Group programs and activities.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Nature Club activities are posted on the [Nature Club](#) website calendar. E-mails are sent to Club members only.

## REPTILES & MAMMALS



### REPTILE ID, RELOCATION & MAPPING

FREE service, call:

- Jim Christiansen 512-868-3504
- Steve Kelley 512-639-0539
- John Leek 713-825-0145
- Joe Plunkett 774-226-0810
- City of Georgetown Animal Control 512-930-3592



We encourage residents to leave harmless, beneficial reptiles in their landscapes, but call us so we can identify and map all reptiles.

## ASTRONOMY SIG



Mon., **April 17**, 7:00 p.m., CCF. "TBD"  
Mon., **May 15**, 7:00 p.m., CCF. "TBD"  
*Check the Calendar for up-to-date info and watch for Special Viewing announcements.*  
*SIG Chair: Richard Wagoner*

## BIRDING SIG

No SIG Meeting in April.

Tues., **May 2**, 2:30 p.m., RLSR – *"The Remarkable Tropical Bird Life of Panama"* by Martin Byhower



## BIRD WALKS

*Bird walks:* Thurs., **April 6** and Wed., **April 19**, Thurs., **May 4** and Wed., **May 17**.

*All walks 8:00 a.m., meet at LHPP parking lot near the lake. Any changes will be emailed.*

*SIG Chairs: Ed Rozenburg & Martin Byhower*

## BUTTERFLY/MOTH SIG

Tues., **April 4**, 2:30 p.m., RLSR – *"Looking at Pollinators: Birds, Bats, Insects and More"*

No SIG Meeting in May.



## BUTTERFLY WALKS

Wed., **April 26**, 10:00 a.m. and Wed., **May 31**, 10:00 a.m.

Meet at the Tranquility trailhead off Lone Star.

*SIG Chair: Ed Rozenburg*

## EARTH SCIENCE SIG

Starting in **March** the SIG will be known as **"Earth Science"** SIG combining the sciences of geology, archeology and paleontology.



Tues., **May 23**, 4:00 p.m., ACA

*SIG Chair: Paul Swetland*

## Living With Wildlife SIG

Thurs., **April 27**, 10:00 a.m., ACA, *"Snakes of Sun City"* Presented by John Leek.

Thurs., **May 25**, 10:00 a.m., ACA, *"Skunks"* presented by Dr. Robert Dowler.

*SIG Chair: Nancy Wagoner*



## NATIVE PLANTS SIG

### PLANT WALKS

Mon., **April 3**, 8:00 a.m. – Meet at Berry Creek (Legacy Pavilion) and,

Thurs., **April 6**, 8:00 a.m. – Tranquility Trailhead (Lone Star).

Mon., **May 8**, 8:00 a.m. – Cowan Creek Trailhead (Cowan Pavilion) and,

Thurs., **May 11**, 8:00 a.m. – Woodland Trailhead (Softball Lot).



*SIG Chair: Pat Garren*

## Speaker Bio

### *Dr. Kemble White*

This presentation covers the race to protect our unique and unusual endangered species in caves and karst habitats and the aquifers that support them. Examples from Sun City, the Berry Creek watershed, and the broader Edwards-Trinity karst aquifer system are presented.

Dr. Kemble White has been working since the 1990s to enforce the Endangered Species Act as it relates to water quality pertaining to caves, springs and aquifers. He has discovered many new locations for rare and endangered species and two new species have been named in his honor. He helps his clients find the middle ground between the needs of resource protection and human population growth.

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## Lace Cactus

This little beauty is called Lace Cactus. Native to our area, the Lace Cactus is usually not noticed because the plant itself is only a few inches tall, sometimes growing in clusters that blend very well with the flat rock surfaces where it frequently grows. However, for a few days each year the cactus puts forth this magnificent flower, which is very attractive to our native bees, beetles, and other pollinators. Then, it fades into the ground again for another year.

I have seen a few of these on the upper reaches of Tranquility Trail. Right now is a wonderful time to get out and see a lot of beautiful wildflowers, often growing in open sunny areas in our remaining wild spaces. If you wish to plant your own wildflowers, you can order native ones from places like Native American Seed or you can collect seeds on your own. But make sure you only plant native Central Texas wildflowers, because using cheaper or non-local wildflower mix is often introduces non-native plants that can become problems later on.

The best time to plant wildflower seeds is late September early October. They typically don't like mulch but prefer dirt. Flatten them by hand or with a rake into the surface, and hope we get a rainy winter and spring!

*By Martin Byhower*