

Wimberley Birding Society meeting

August 16, 2021 10:00am - 11:20am via Zoom

Participants: 20

**Guest speaker: Sheryl Smith-Rodgers** <topic: Window on a Texas Wildscape>

Blogs on gardening journal, found Wildscapes certification. Put up a sign "The Meadow" on vacant lot, got certified from various orgs. An effective wildscape provides 3 basic: food, shelter, water.

Plants: Trumpet creeper, columbine, etc Texas redbud, mountain laurel, twisted leaf yucca, velvet blundleflower, narrowleaf blue-eyed grass, etc TONS of plants from plant sales – sticks to local natives. Estimated that she put over 100 species of plants. Blanco crabapple, Texas Madrone (see her blog for details about soil, preparation, etc) Now lots of wildlife: screech owl, Texas spiny lizards, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Ladybugs, etc Uses iNat (has 1077 species just for her yard) Host plants: milkweeds! Passionflower vines, Flame acanthus, sawtooth sunflower, Fennel, wafer ash, Pipevine (non-native), Swanflower, Woolly Dutchman's pipe, Fragrant, mistflower, Gregg's mistflower, yellow honeysuckle, red honeysuckle. Extras: purple martin house, bee nesting box, bat house, owl boxes. Suet feeders, bird baths, stock tank. Removing invasives...

Questions: Water? Yes. Fertilize? No. Pesticides? No. Deer? No fences in front – deer don't bother. Now, have fence around backyard – to deer proof. Mow? On July 4 and Jan but 2021: No. Takes time? Hummm, yes but it's fun.

#### **Business Meeting:**

Bob Currie \$5K from Burdine Johnson Foundation to assist with water run-off from Alexis Point. Patsy Glenn Refuge – erosion issue. Landscape plan to address this water, put some serpentine channels. Needs to be recommended by Wimberley Parks & Recreation Board (vote on Tues) and then goes to City Council for approval (vote on Thurs). Cleaned up some dead wood but this opened up area around bird blind to deer....Need to take the cut brush and put close to bird blind.

Have bird feeder crew that is retiring...need volunteers to fill feeders once-twice/week. Contact Bob.

Susan Evans: Next WBS meeting is scheduled for in-person in Nov but we'll have to see what Covid brings.

Linda Land leaving Treasurer's position.... Need volunteer. Duties: serve on board, collect dues, track dues, submit expense report, file IRS reports and maintain membership contract information. We currently have \$13K (with grant money).

### Trip Report (Jesse Huth)

- 1) Tues – first of month walks, each walk is TBD
- 2) Oct- Hawaii is full
- 3) Dec 4 - 9: N Mexico trip
- 4) Jan 20 – 24: MN
- 5) Apr – Rio Grande Valley, Big Bend, High Island ... TBD
- 6) Ecuador/India – moved to 2022 due to Covid

Meeting time change proposal: morning meeting: Nov, Feb; afternoon: May, Aug  
Jaci has WBS Facebook page.