

## **NATURE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER DIGEST**

To help the community locate articles in the Nature Committee newsletters, we have compiled this listing of articles published since we began this venture in 2015 with the link that will take you directly to that issue. Our intent is to keep the community here in The Hills aware of the wonderful natural habitat we have, the history of our community, and the wildlife we are blessed to have. Our goal since beginning this effort has been to put out a newsletter twice a year – Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter although not always successful. While we may write on the same topic at times it is important to note that each article is different in its own way with new and unique information.

Each of the Newsletters can be located on our POA Webpage if you click on the links below. (hover over the link & follow the instructions). Note that the most current newsletter & Checklist will always appear on the Webpage under News ([Current Newsletter & Check List](#)) and then be moved to archive when new issues replace it. We will as a result be updating this list once a year so it is always up to date. And lastly – we have also linked the bird list we are keeping that identifies each of the birds seen in the Hills which you will find as our first entry below.

### **LIST OF ALL BIRDS SEEN IN THE HILLS**

#### **[Bird Checklist for The Hills Above Possum Kingdom](#)**

### **FALL/WINTER 2015** [Fall/Winter 2015](#)

- Birds (Hummers, Upland Sandpiper, Sand-hill Cranes. Ducks, Great-horned Owls, Eastern Screech, other birds that occur during the winter) • Night sky article
- Monarch Butterflies & Milkweed
- [Update Newsletter](#)

### **SPRING/SUMMER 2016** [Spring/Summer 2016](#)

- 2011 wildfire in our development
- Plant Succession
- Night Skies
- Beneficial Insects
- Wasps & Hornets

### **FALL/WINTER 2016** [Fall/Winter 2016](#)

- Balance of Nature (how birds, wildlife and habitat interact)
- Deer
- Plants (Leavenworth's Eryngo, Scotch Thistle, Ragweeds, Spiny Aster, Common Mullein, Narrow Leafgayfeather, Silverleaf Nightshade, Tall Bread Scurfpea, Texas Blue-bell)

- Night Skies

#### **SPRING/SUMMER 2017** [Spring/Summer 2017](#)

- Early History of The Hills
- Western Diamondback Rattlesnake Characteristics
- What To Do In Case of A Rattlesnake Bite
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Preserving the Dark Skies

#### **SPRING/SUMMER 2018** [Spring/Summer 2018](#)

- Vultures
- Praying Mantis
- Getting Prepared for Wildfire Season
- Firewise Checklist
- A Brief History of The Cross Timbers of Texas
- Big Bluestem
- Little Bluestem
- Switchgrass
- Indiangrass
- What To See In The Skies this Spring & Summer

#### **FALL/WINTER 2018** [Fall/Winter 2018](#)

- Early Pioneer Settlement of Palo Pinto County
- Hybrid Hummingbirds
- Mountain Lion and Bobcat
- Night Sky – The Halloween Sky

#### **SPRING/SUMMER 2019** [Spring/Summer 2019](#)

- Eagles – Bald or Golden
- Promoting and Protecting our Texas Wildflowers
- Managing as Natural Habitat and Landscape In The Hills
- The Skies Over The Hills
- Recommended List of Native Plants for Landscape Use in North Central Texas

#### **FALL/WINTER 2019** [Fall/Winter 2019](#)

- Spiders
- Tadpoles
- Praying Mantis

- Life in Palo Pinto County 1865-1940
- Fall/Winter Landscaping Reminders
- Nature Committee Star Party Report
- Five Ways to Improve Northern Bobwhite Habitat

#### **SPRING/SUMMER 2020** [Spring/Summer 2020](#)

- Possums
- It's Wild Hog Time
- Removing Weeds the Chemical-Freeway
- Tadpoles
- Apps, Websites, Newsletters & Free Programs (And Real Books) to Help You Enjoy The Night Sky In The Hills

#### **FALL/WINTER 2020** [Fall/Winter 2020](#)

- A History Of the Area Near The Hills - 1930's
- Cedar Elm Trees
- Hawk Migration
- Fall and Winter Landscape Guide
- The Night Sky Over The Hills For Winter 2020-21

#### **SPRING/SUMMER 2021** [Spring/Summer 2021](#)

- Fun Turkey Facts
- Four Creatures That Just Might Confuse You (Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Fox, Coyote)
- Reclaiming Habitat, Balancing Nature And Gardening With Wildlife in Mind
- Texas Bluebonnets
- Events in The 2021 Spring And Summer Sky And What You And Your Neighbors Can Do To Help Keep the Sky Dark In The Hills
- Examples of lighting that are best for both seeing your own property in the dark and at the same time shielding your light from your neighbors and our dark skies

#### **FALL/WINTER 2021** [Fall/Winter 2021](#)

- Scat (Includes info on lots of the wildlife in our community)
- A Brief Introduction To Our New Walking Trail
- Will The Real Canyon Wren Please Step Forward
- Close Places to Visit
- 2021 Fall & Winter Sky Over The Hills

## **SPRING/SUMMER & FALL/WINTER 2022** [Spring/Summer & Fall/Winter 2022](#)

- Night Birds In The Hills Above Possum Kingdom
- Monarch Butterflies
- Protecting Our Pollinators
- Especially Texan: Armadillo
- Feral Hogs In Texas And The Hills Above Possum Kingdom Community • Let's Talk About Spotlights

## **SPRING/SUMMER 2023** [Spring/Summer 2023](#)

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Barn Owl & Our Owl Box at The Fishing Pond
- Brown-headed Cowbirds
- Allergies In Texas
- Let's Talk About Dandelions
- 2023 Summer Sky Night And Day

## **FALL/WINTER 2023** [Fall/Winter/2023](#)

- Migration – “put a lab on a bird”
- Beep!! Beep!! – Roadrunners
- What's the deal with all of these crickets
- The Sky over the Hills Fall & Winter 2023
- Is it a Bee? Is it a Hummingbird? No, it's a moth – Sphinx (Hawk) Moths

## **SPRING/SUMMER 2024** [Spring/Summer 2024](#)

- Searching for Spring in an Old Mesquite
- Native Plants
  - Firewheel or Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
  - Snow on the Mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*)
  - Golden Crownbeard or Cowpen Daisy (*Verbesina*)
  - Prairie Verbena (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*)
  - Horsemint or Lemon Beebalm (*Monarda citriodora*)
  - Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
  - Horse Crippler Cactus (*Echinocactus texensis*)
  - Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.)
  - Lotebush or Gray Thorn (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*)
  - Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)
  - Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*)
  - Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
  - Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*)

- The Environmental/Nature Psychology of Country People and City Dwellers
- Seriously, Why Do I have Weeds In My Yard
- Flies of Texas
- April 8 Solar Eclipse, Save the Date

#### **FALL/WINTER 2024 [Fall/Winter 2024](#)**

- An Updated Note From PKLA President Monte Lane – This updates include information on his post contains an update on the TCEQ permit renewal for the City of Abilene relating to effluent water discharge from there to Possum
- Kingdom Lake. The City of Abilene purchased rights from the Brazos River Authority (“BRA”) for 20,000 acre/ft of raw water to be pumped out of Possum Kingdom Lake from the Caddo area.
- Moths
- Exploring PK Lake in a Kayak
- The Importance of Trees
- Firewise Landscaping
- Scorpions – Yet Again, My Question Is: What’s The Point?
- Meteor Showers Fall 2024 and Winter 2025