

The Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists March 26th meeting

What is Natural? Facts, folk lore and lies about the Texas Hill Country Landscape.

In March, Master Naturalists and their friends are in for a treat. Eric Lautzenheiser will present facts, folk lore and Lies about the Texas Hill Country Landscape. Lautzenheiser, now the Nature Preserve Superintendent for the Parks Department of the City of San Antonio, poses a number of interesting questions: Is “cedar” native? Where did all the KR Bluestem come from? Can we restore our lands to what was? What are the dangers of using the words “natural” and “native”?



In his youth, Lautzenheiser was introduced to nature by his grandfather, an early settler in Kingsville, Texas, who collected snakes and herbarium specimens for Texas A&I. Lautzenheiser then attended Texas A&M and the royal Academy of Landscape Architecture of Sweden and graduated from A&M with a B.S. degree in Horticulture. A fascinating resume of positions followed. To name a few: Director of the Harris County Mercer Arboretum, Executive Director of the Houston Audubon Society, proprietor of the Ecotones Nursery in Kirbyville, Texas, Steward of the Friedrich Wilderness Park in San Antonio, and Superintendent of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

During the time Mr. Lautzenheiser has been Nature Preserve Superintendent in San Antonio, the land holdings of the Parks Department have grown significantly (in part because of a 2000 voter-approved tax initiative to purchase Edwards Aquifer Recharge lands. The Parks system now includes 70000 acres with six facilities open to the public. New additions include lands containing Black-capped vireos, Golden-cheeked Warblers, and karst invertebrates.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Join us Monday, March 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the UGRA Lecture Hall, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, Texas. Arrive early to chat with members and guests. For more information, please call Tom Hynes at (830) 990-5750.

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