



Officers
2000-2001

- President Rick Johnson
home 512-398-4405
work 512-398-2357
E-mail rojoh@thrifty.net
- V. Pres Gerri Martinez
home 512-303-5936
- Sec/Treas Janice Rampy
Home 512-303-7994
- Newsletter
Andy Butler 512-237-9461
- Program Committee
Sue Fischer, Bill Watson
- Speaker Committee
Jody King, Pat King, Rick Johnson
- Education Committee
Jody King, Gerri Martinez, Janice Rampy, Melba Sexton, Pat King, Carol Reidy

From the Desk of the President

What a refreshing time we all had at Joan's home for the final wrap up meeting for the class of 2001. The relaxed setting allowed for a good flow of information on ideas for individual projects in areas of interest. And the food was perfect. Thank you, Joan, for the memories. We were also able to present Muriel Lem with her pin and Texas Master Naturalist Certification. We have a few more members that could be certified this month. Great!!!!

Please everyone, make an effort to attend the last meeting of this year on November 26. We will elect officers and directors for 2002 and discuss our direction for 2002.

Also, you should have your volunteer hours and advanced training hours up to date and ready to turn in to Rachel or Gerri. These hours are needed to prepare our chapter annual report.

See all of you on November 26.

Rick Johnson



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WISHING EVERYONE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Chapter Native Plant Exchange

Muriel Lem

A native plant exchange is planned as part of our chapter meeting in the month of January. If you are desirous of growing a particular native plant, or plants, make up your "wish list" and bring it to the November meeting. Please try to use the botanic name, as much as possible, for the plant(s) you want. We will try to match up each plant sought with someone who can supply that plant.

Native plants are endlessly fascinating, and they have the great advantage that they are already adapted to our Bastrop/Caldwell county soils and climate. By concentrating on our native plants, we will avoid competing with the landscape plants offered by most nurseries.

For those who will be collecting and potting up plants for the exchange, please note that woody plants are best dug while dormant. Average date of first frost in this area is the end of November, although in any given year the actual date can vary widely. Deciduous plants will have lost their leaves by about two weeks after first frost. The leaves are the food-making organs of a plant, and in autumn, that food is being stored up in the roots for use next spring. To maximize the stored nutrition it is best to avoid disturbing the roots until after the leaves have fallen. Similarly, when collecting a plant, try to get all the roots, which contain the plant's stored food. Excess soil can be combed from the roots, if necessary, for potting.

Collecting grasses is somewhat different. They seem to do better if dug before dormancy, not after. Again, try to get as many of the roots as possible, and clip off 1/2 to 2/3 of the foliage, including seed heads. A large grass clump may be divided, especially if it comes apart naturally when dug.

Good luck!



Native Plant Nurseries

Several local nurseries also have a good dose of native plants, including:
Kimas Tejas Nursery, (Bastrop) 512-303-4769, kimas@flashnet.net

Bastrop Gardens, 512-303-5672,
www.bastropgardens.com

Schumacher's Hill Country Gardens (New Braunfels) 830-620-5149

Native American Seeds (Junction),
<http://www.seedsources.com>

Agnes Plutino, Native Plant Society of Texas, has posted an extensive list of Austin area nurseries which carry native plants:
<http://www.npsot.org/events/FallSymposium/Resources.htm>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

Regular meetings of the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, are the 4th Monday of the month.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Rockne Church

(Note: we will be meeting in the old Parish Hall, to the right of the usual building)

November 26, 2001

6:00 PM

Program— Annual Chapter Meeting, Election of Officers.

JANUARY MEETING

January 28, 2002

6:00 PM

Program to be announced

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

January 14, 2002. Send information to Andy Butler (butler@mdanderson.org). We welcome relevant contributions, photos, announcements or other material relating to the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program, particularly those pertaining to the Lost Pines area.

Volunteer Opportunities

McKinney Roughs Volunteer Opportunities

For information about our Chapter's McKinney Roughs projects, contact Rick Johnson, 512-398-2357. For more information about volunteering at McKinney Roughs, call 512-303-5073, ext. 8040 (Bastrop Area) or toll-free, 800-776-5272, ext. 8040. Here are some current opportunities at McKinney Roughs.

- **Trails and Parks support**—Activities include monitoring trail activities, ecological restoration, trail maintenance & construction projects, data collecting on native plants and wildlife
- **Education activities**—Serve as guides for student groups, give orientations, assist in preparation for student & teacher groups.

Lockhart Demonstration Garden

- Usual work days are Saturdays from 8 AM to 11 AM. Contact Lytle Arche at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail l-arche@tamu.edu for specific details.

Lockhart State Park Nature Trail

- Help extend and develop the Park's Nature Trail. Contact Rick Johnson at 512-398-2357 or by E-mail at rojoh@thrifty.net for details.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- Maintaining trails, watering gardens, collecting seeds, helping in the store. Contact Megan Murphy, Director of Volunteer Services, at (512) 292-4200 to arrange for a volunteer interview, or E-mail megan@wildflower.org

Wild Basin Preserve

- Trail Maintenance—Volunteers welcome. Help repair portions of trails, control erosion, and make our trails safer for everyone to enjoy. 9 AM to Noon; scheduled dates include December 8. For information, call (512) 327-7622 or E-mail hike@wildbasin.org

Other Opportunities

Texas Nature Trackers

Ongoing projects coordinated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or partner organizations.

- **Texas Horned Lizard Watch**—provides maps and instructions for surveying the Texas state reptile on your property or on public areas. Data sent from volunteers in the first year have already helped

biologists suggest possible relationships between fire ant distributions and the distribution of Texas horned lizards. Each year, more volunteers are needed from all over the state to increase our knowledge about Texas horned lizards. For information, contact the Wildlife Diversity program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.

- **Texas Mussel Watch**—volunteers are helping us document the presence or absence of native freshwater mussel species. To volunteer for Texas Mussel Watch, call the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Texas Monarch Watch**—monitor the spring and fall migration of this familiar butterfly on your own property or public lands. Volunteers can call the Monarch Watch hotline at 1-800-468-9710 (in Austin, 326-2231) to report sightings of monarchs or hear a recorded message about the status of the migration in Texas. For more information about Texas Monarch Watch or to receive monitoring kit, call the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Hummingbird Roundup**—provides instructions for monitoring hummingbirds, along with suggestions and supplies for improving hummingbird habitat on your property in Texas. For information, call the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4644.
- **Texas Amphibian Watch**—a partner with the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program. Texans involved in this project will use field guides, web sites and audio tapes to learn to identify the various species of frogs and toads native to their area by sight and by listening to their calls. For more information about Texas Amphibian Watch or about related workshops, contact the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Project Prairie Birds**—Answer questions about Texas' wintering sparrows and their avian grassland neighbors. Project Prairie Birds can be conducted in any temperate grassland site. For more information, contact Cliff Shackelford, 512-912-7045 or by E-mail: clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us.
- **Adopt-A-Species Projects**—Takes place on public properties that support populations of rare Texas plants or animals. Learn monitoring techniques. Volunteers agree to continue monitoring for a set period of time. Suitable for schools, club or civic groups. (Not available in all parts of the state). Contact the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Remember**—Get approval before you begin a project for volunteer credit. Report your volunteer service to Gerri Martinez (512-303-5936). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors.

Chapter Volunteer Projects

Lockhart State Park Wildflower Seeding



McKinney Roughs Watershed Test Plot



2002 Chapter Committees

Rick Johnson

The following committee assignments for next year are based on the preferences that everyone gave at a recent meeting. Thanks for your help!

PROGRAM SPEAKERS / EDUCATION: co-chairpersons—Sue Fischer & Joan Russell; members—Marcy Youngman, Linda Lenocho, Carol Reidy, Melba Sexton, Jody King.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION: chair—Janice Rampy; members—Rick Johnson, Carol Reidy.

NEWSLETTER/ PUBLICITY: chair—Andy Butler; members—Phyllis Metcalfe, Sue Fischer.

HOSPITALITY: chair—Bonnie Shimek; members—Linda Lenocho, Susan Green, Joan Russell, Janice Rampy.

HISTORIAN: chair—Susan Green; members—Bill Watson, Marcy Youngman, Phyllis Metcalfe.

FUNDRAISING & PROJECT

DEVELOPMENT: chair—Gerri Martinez; members—Bonnie Shimek, Carol Brown.

POLICIES & GUIDELINES: chair—Bill Watson; members—Muriel Lem, Carol Brown, Andy Butler.

This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gleaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls

—John Muir, 1913
