



*Officers*  
2002

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- Program & Education—Sue Fischer & Joan Russell
- Volunteer Coordination—Janice Rampy
- Hospitality—Bonnie Shimek
- History—Susan Green
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- Policies & Guidelines—Bill Watson

## President's Column

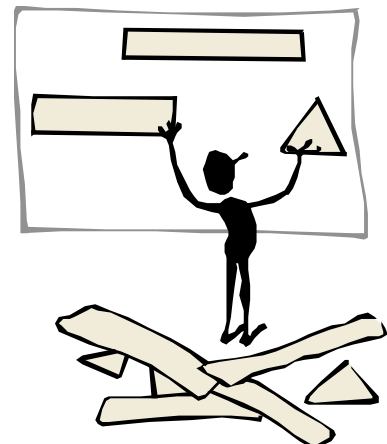
Many thanks to all of you who participated in the January meeting, more aptly described as the *Kamikaze Strategic Planning Session*. We got a huge amount accomplished in a relatively short amount of time.

Possibly it was the hunger that made the minds sharper and gave the task-at-hand a greater sense of urgency. Whatever the reasons, I think we have a good start at identifying our goals for the year. Kudos to all for your vision and effort.

At the February meeting all committees are asked to report with a draft list of **goals** and **tasks** to achieving those goals. Please feel free to phone me where you think I might be of assistance.

As a final note, I want to take this space to express the appreciation I know we all share for the excellent job Rick did as our First President. His leadership and accomplishments formed a solid foundation for the Lost Pines TMN Chapter. Thank you Rick!

—Carol



Reminder—Regular meetings now begin at 6:30 PM, sharp.

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*Over the long haul of life on this planet, it is the ecologists, and not the book-keepers of business, who are the ultimate accountants.*  
—Stuart Udall, 1970

# Notes From the January Meeting

- ✦ **Regular meetings will now begin at 6:30.**
- ✦ Please eat before you arrive, for Regular Meetings only cookies and juice will be served.
- ✦ \$10.00 per year dues have been instituted to cover the cost of this year's meeting space. If you have not already done so, please pay Janice Rampy.
- ✦ Due to organizational needs, the March training class has been cancelled or postponed. When we have speakers of general interest to the public, please feel free to invite interested friends!
- ✦ A class makeup to Freeman Ranch is being planned. Please be on the lookout for this important event.
- ✦ Please check your hours with Rick Johnson. He is making great progress in making sure these are accurate. We want to get everyone certified this year!
- ✦ If you have skills in building a relatively simple relational database (in Microsoft Access) and would like to earn volunteer hours for this task, please contact Carol Brown.

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*It is not only for what we do that we are held accountable, but also for what we do not do.*

*—Moliere*

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The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension Agency and by Texas Parks and Wildlife.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

### FEBRUARY MEETING

**February 25, 2001**

Rockne Church (Old Parish Hall)

**6:30 PM**

Program— Lytle's Surprise Speaker! Also, discuss Committee goals for the year.

### MARCH MEETING

**MARCH 25, 2002**

**6:30 PM**

Program to be announced

### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**March 12, 2002.** Send information to Andy Butler ([butler@mdanderson.org](mailto: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

- Contact Lytle Arche at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail [l-arche@tamu.edu](mailto:l-arche@tamu.edu) for specific information.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 For current schedule and information on other opportunities, call (512) 327-7622 or E-mail [hike@wildbasin.org](mailto:hike@wildbasin.org) or visit the website, [www.wildbasin.org](http://www.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 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 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. (**Note** the Amphibian Watch Workshop listed under Advanced Training).
- **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](mailto: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 Janice Rampy (512-303-7994). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors!

## Advanced Training

**Note:** Please obtain **prior approval** for advanced training, and don't forget to **report** your hours!

- **Small Scale Restoration in Texas**—Saturday, February 23, (9:00 am - 5:00 pm) at The Wildflower Center. Spring Symposium 2002 with the Native Plant Society of Texas: Co-sponsored by the Society for Ecological Restoration. Fourth annual Spring Symposium includes a discussion on restoring healthy ecosystems in Texas. Sally Wasowski and other experts will discuss the how and why of restoration. For a schedule and registration information, call 512/292-4200 for a registration brochure. Registration fee: \$35 if postmarked by February 1, 2002; \$45 if postmarked after February 1, 2002/ Optional Workshop fee: \$20.
- **South Texas Farm & Range Forum**—Fri & Sat, March 1-2, 2002 at Medina County Fairgrounds, Hondo, Texas. "Managing to Make a Difference: Ownership = Stewardship." This is the third in a series of farm and range forums that build on the common interests of the agricultural and conservation communities. Previous forums have fostered understanding, communication, and cooperation. Please join us for this opportunity to continue and expand the dialogue and broaden our mutual horizons. We'll have a field workshop, food and fellowship, and plenty of good information. Numerous topics on stewardship, habitat and sustainability will be discussed. Sponsored by Bexar County Audubon. Contact Susan Hughes, 210-822-4503, [susan@wordwright.com](mailto:susan@wordwright.com), for details. Early registration deadline is February 18. Fee: \$75 for Audubon members; \$85 for non-members; reduced fees are available if you can only attend one day. (Note: a PDF file containing more information and the registration form is on our website, [www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org).)

- **Leopold Education Project Facilitator Workshop**—Fri-Sun, March 22-24. The Welder Wildlife Foundation (near Stinton, Tx; about 45 miles N of Corpus Christi) is sponsoring a LEP facilitators workshop and would like to invite you to attend. This program is based on the essays found in Aldo Leopold's literary classic, *A Sand County Almanac*. By learning about this great conservationist and his writings, educators can discover a variety of practical hands-on/minds-on ways to deepen their students' awareness of the natural world. The workshop will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, March 22nd and conclude at 11:00 am, Sunday, March 24th. The cost of the workshop is \$50 and this fee will include materials, meals, and lodging. The deadline for registration is March 08, 2002, and the workshop is limited to 20 people, so please hurry! If you are interested in the workshop or just need more information please contact Iliana Pena, [welderwf@aol.com](mailto:welderwf@aol.com) (please include a mailing address for mailing a confirmation packet) or call 361-364-2643. (*Highly recommended by Michelle Haggerty*).
- **Stewardship Workshop**—March 23, 2002 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm), at Selah Ranch near Johnson City. Stewardship for large or small landowner or anyone considering buying land, who wants to know how to improve land for all plant and animal species. For information, call 830.868.7303, or see <http://www.bambergeranch.org>. Fee: \$90, but Mr. Bamberger offers a discount to participants in the Master Naturalist program.
- **Amphibian Watch Monitoring Workshop**—May 22, 2002, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at Wild Basin Wilderness, 805 Capital of Texas Hwy Austin. Learn how to identify local amphibians, receive frog and toad call tapes, and get hands-on experience. Registration required. For more information contact: Marsha Reimer (512) 912-7062; [marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us)

### State-wide Chapter Representative Council Meeting

Chapter representatives from throughout Texas will be meeting in Austin on March 2. If you are interested in attending, please contact Michelle Haggerty [mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu)

