



*Officers*  
2002

- President Carol Brown  
eve. 512-303-7271  
day 512-332-2820  
E-mail: [carol.h.brown@att.net](mailto:carol.h.brown@att.net)
- V. Pres Bill Watson  
home 830-875-2941
- Secretary Susan Green
- Treasurer Janice Rampy

*Committee Chairs*

- Newsletter—Andy Butler; 512-237-9461, [butler@mdanderson.org](mailto:butler@mdanderson.org)
- Program & Education—Sue Fischer & Joan Russell
- Volunteer Coordination—Janice Rampy
- Hospitality—Bonnie Shimek
- History—Susan Green
- Fundraising & Project Development—Gerri Martinez
- Policies & Guidelines—Bill Watson

## President's Column

### *Greetings—*

April promises to be a great month for TMN outreach. Please remember that our April meeting date and location have been **changed** to accommodate a special program which Sue Fischer has arranged for us. This program will be held on **April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**, at the First National Bank Bastrop Community Room on Main Street. Bob Rose from LCRA will present a program on weather patterns in Central Texas.

This should be a great program. Please plan to attend and **BRING A FRIEND**. This type of "outreach" program can go a long way to meeting our goal of attracting a well qualified next class and increasing our visibility in the community.

Also in April—on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be setting up the TMN booth at Bastrop's Yesterfest. A small fundraiser is planned with the sale of sprouted sunflower seeds. If you have not already contacted Rick or I about attending and receiving volunteer hours for this event, please do so ASAP.

For First Class Members, the amnesty has "officially" passed for your certification. The Lost Pines Chapter is taking some liberty with this deadline, but you should all be working to get this completed. If you are not yet certified from the first class, please contact either Rick or I so we can work with you to finalize your personal plan to achieve this goal.

See you at our special April meeting. In the meantime, while you are enjoying our beautiful Central Texas Spring, why not make a personal goal of learning the names of the wildflowers in your local environment!

*—Carol*

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## State Coordinator's Notes

*From Michelle Haggerty*

Join in "Explore Your World!" Biodiversity Month, May 2002.

Groups across the country are making plans to take part in Explore Your World! Biodiversity Month, May 2002, an important time to celebrate America's rich diversity of life through educational activities and scientific exploration. Only four out of ten Americans understand the human impacts on biodiversity. Take action and register today! Scientists, educators and citizen groups are organizing events. Learn how you can organize and register an event, or check out the on-line calendar and map of events to find an activity near you. The Biodiversity webpage ([www.biodiversitymonth.org](http://www.biodiversitymonth.org)) offers ideas for participating, resources to help plan an event, and forms to register with Biodiversity Month. Simply by registering your activities with Biodiversity Month and reporting your results afterwards you can link your activities with those of others, and contribute to a broader understanding of biodiversity issues while raising the profile of your local events.

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Explore Your World! Biodiversity Month is part of the International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY) 2001-2002, an initiative of DIVERSITAS, the international program on biodiversity science. Activities as part of Explore Your World! Biodiversity Month will also celebrate the United Nations International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22.

**Master Naturalists honored as “Lone Star Legends”**

A brother-sister team of Master Naturalists—Tomye Folts-Zettner and Timothy Folts—received recognition as Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's 2002 Lone Star Legend Volunteers! Both are members of the Capital Area Chapter of the Master Naturalist program. Since 1998 their work has been instrumental in improving wildlife habitat at a TPW Wildlife Management Area—specifically on two islands in the Cedar Creek Reservoir near Athens, Texas. These islands are critical breeding sites for colonial water birds. The duo not only donated their time but also have used their own boat, cameras, computer expertise and greenhouse to contribute to habitat restoration, management and enhancement of the area.

*The long fight to save wild beauty represents democracy at its best. It requires citizens to practice the hardest of virtues—self restraint.*  
—Edwin Way Teale, *Circle of the Seasons*, 1953

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



## Time for Yesterfest!

From Rick Johnson

The annual Yesterfest festival will be held in Bastrop on **Saturday, April 27**, and the Chapter will once again have a booth to promote the goals of the Master Naturalist Program. This is a great opportunity to get volunteer hours close to home, and get community exposure for the chapter. It's also a lot of fun! I will need a definite count of our chapter members who will be there for the 9-1 shift or the 1-5 shift. This should be finalized by April 22, so please volunteer now! Contact Rick Johnson at 512-398-2357 or by E-mail at [rojoh@thrifty.net](mailto:rojoh@thrifty.net) for details.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

**APRIL MEETING**

**April 30, 2001**

**NOTE SPECIAL DATE AND TIME!!**

**7:00PM**

Community Room, First National Bank, Bastrop (next to the Bank, at 1028 Main St)

PROGRAM— BOB ROSE, LCRA METEOROLOGIST “TEXAS WEATHER PATTERNS” (**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**)

**MAY MEETING**

**MAY 20, 2002 (NOTE SPECIAL DATE, DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY)**

PROGRAM—TBA

Rockne Church (Old Parish Hall)

**6:30 PM**

**MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**May 3, 2002.** Please 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 our local 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.

## Yesterfest

- Help at the Chapter booth. This is a great opportunity to talk about the Master Naturalist Program, and nature in general, to members of the community. Contact Rick Johnson at 512-398-2357 or by E-mail at [rojoh@thrifty.net](mailto:rojoh@thrifty.net) for details.

## Lockhart Demonstration Garden

- Lytle Arche plans an open house at the demonstration area on May 1, 2002. Please call Lytle for the specific time, and details of future work dates, at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail [l-arche@tamu.edu](mailto:l-arche@tamu.edu).

## Wild Basin Preserve

- Trail Maintenance—Volunteers welcome. Help repair portions of trails, control erosion, and make our trails safer for everyone to enjoy. 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. (**Note** the Mussel Watch Workshop listed under Advanced Training)
- **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 Rick Johnson (512-398-2357). 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!

- **Texas Grazing School Workshop**—April 23-25, at the Hays County Extension Office, San Marcos. This three day seminar will teach proper grazing and forage management methods for sustainability. Part of the program will be taught at Freeman Ranch. If you are interested in livestock production on your property, this is an excellent opportunity to learn the right way to manage grazing animals. Cost is \$75 per person or \$100 per couple. Questions should be directed toward Dr. Robert Lyons, Extension Range Specialist, Uvalde at 830-278-9151. A flyer is available at the Chapter Website, [www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org).
- **Creating a Water Garden**—Saturday, April 27, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Wildflower Center. David Mahler of Environmental Survey, Inc will discuss the how-to of creating water gardens, from small container "wetlands" to larger concrete and rock sculptures. Learn how to bring a water garden to your home in this one-day workshop. Water features at the Wildflower Center and a survey of over 50 native Texas plants and fish useful in creating a water feature will be used as practical examples. Members: \$30/ Non-Members: \$35.
- **Water Efficient Landscaping for Bastrop County**—April 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm., at the First National Bank Community Room (next to the Bank, on Main St). Sponsored by the Bastrop County Extension Office, and presented by Skip Richter, Travis County CEA, Horticulture.
- **Ranching 101**—May 11, 2002 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm), at Selah Ranch near Johnson City. The purpose of the workshop is to educate new landowners on proper ranching techniques. This workshop was not designed for people already involved in the ranching industry; it was developed solely to introduce people who have never been around ranching to the techniques and benefits that a ranch lifestyle offers. For information, call 830.868.7303, or <http://www.bambergeranch.org>. Fee: \$90, but Mr. Bamberger offers a discount to participants in the Master Naturalist program.
- **Trees and Shrubs Workshop**—May 18, 2002 (8:30-4:30 pm), at Selah Ranch. Learn how to identify trees and shrubs using the leaf form and attachment as key characteristics. To insure that you have information to take home, you'll collect leaves in a notebook for future reference. Some subjects we will cover: What plants are good for wildlife food, and how to care for them? What is Oak Wilt and which oaks are the least likely to get it? Which trees tolerate the Hill Country soil? How to plant trees and shrubs. Ball moss-killer or nuisance? 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch. For information, call 830.868.7303, or see <http://www.bambergeranch.org>. Fee: \$90.

- **Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop**—May 16-19, 2002. The Austin Nature & Science Center is once again hosting a National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in improving their skills in interpretation. For more information call Lisa at (512) 285-4105 or Clark at (512) 327 -8181 ext.14. Cost: \$350 (includes instructor fee, NAI membership, certification fee, and materials; reduced fees if you are already an NAI member or don't want certification.)
- **Texas Mussel Watch Monitoring Workshop**—May 18, 2002, Houston, Texas. Sponsored by the Texas Master Naturalist Gulf Coast Chapter. This workshop will be held at the Sheldon Lake Environmental Education Center, 15315 Beaumont Highway from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn how to identify freshwater mussels and get hands-on experience. Registration required. Contact: Marsha Reimer (512) 912-7062; [marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us) .
- **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) (**Note:** Amphibian Watch workshops will also be held in Houston on and May 17. See the TPWD web site for details: [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/a\\_0129.htm](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/a_0129.htm))
- **Texas Prescribed Burn Workshop**—June 3-7, at the Wildflower Center. This is a five day seminar with plenty of hands on experience. The cost is \$500.00 if payment is postmarked by May 7th and \$600.00 after. Contact the Wildflower Center at 512-292-4200 for details.

## Chapter Website Developments

*Andy Butler*

Little by little, I'm accumulating material for a Chapter website. The goals of the site are to provide a platform for communicating information about Chapter meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities to our members and trainees, to publicize our Chapter to the general community and prospective members, and to provide the public with information on the ecosystems, flora and fauna of Bastrop and Caldwell counties. Currently, the site will have up-to-date listings of volunteer and advanced training opportunities, and electronic PDF files of all our Chapter newsletters. The web address is [www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org). Check it out, and let me know if you have any comments, or an idea for added content.