



*Officers*  
2002

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## President's Column

### *Greetings—*

This summers tragic and devastating wildfires out west serve as a timely reminder to us all of how quickly our Lost Pines area can become truly “lost” pines. As such, I hope you will all look at the new volunteer activities listed in this newsletter that focus on stewardship of our unique natural area.

Joan Russell is still looking for committed volunteers to help out with an exciting project on fire-wise landscaping. This program, once developed, will be adopted by other counties in central Texas.

Another exciting new opportunity under the leadership of Sue Fischer involves volunteer activities at Bastrop/Buescher State Parks. Continue to be on the lookout for the many opportunities which will develop through this partnership.

Details about both of these programs can be found in Right Here at Home Volunteer Opportunities.

*–Carol*

### Lost Pines Chapter Reunion Pot Luck

We will be holding a pot luck supper on Monday, July 22<sup>th</sup> at Carol's house. Current, former and prospective members and their families are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Please **RSVP to Carol at 332-2820**. We will begin at 6:30, but feel free to arrive between 6 and 6:30 to assist with set up.

#### Directions:

Carol's house is in the Watterson Community south of town between Rockne and Rosanky. From Lockhart take FM 20 north to FM 535 and from Bastrop take FM 20 south to 535 (our regular turn for the Sacred Heart Church).

Turn heading east on 535. That will be a right turn if you are coming from Lockhart and a left if you are coming from Bastrop.

Follow 535 for 4.3 miles.

Take a left at Watterson Road. (beware, there is a Watterson School House Road well before Watterson Road).

Follow Watterson Road north for 1.2 miles.

Turn right on Lee Road.

Follow Lee Road for 1.4 miles. It will dead-end into our cattle guard. The fence is marked with the street address 1026 as well as our name BROWN. If you get turned around or lost, please call Carol at 303-7271 or 332-2820.

If you are coming from Smithville please call and Carol will give you directions.

## Lockhart "Water-wise" Demonstration Garden

By Muriel Lem

Two years of planning and preparation paid off in April 2002 with the commencement of vegetable production and permanent display plantings at the Lockhart Demonstration Garden. This is a project in partnership with the Caldwell County Commission, the Sheriff's Department, and the Caldwell County Agricultural Extension Service.

The vegetable garden of 0.22 acres has been replanted with tomatoes, peppers, okra, squash, and cucumbers. A drip irrigation system, using in-line emitters has been installed in the rows, providing supplemental water for the crops as needed.

In the 3600 ft<sup>2</sup> lawn-grass area, plots have been sodded with buffalo, Bermuda and zoysia grasses. A manual sprinkler system will supply water according to three different protocols: watering on demand (when soil is dry), watering on a fixed calendar schedule, and watering based on transpiration data (obtained from the Luling and Austin weather stations). Transpiration data show the exact amount of water plants lose in a given time period, when temperature and humidity conditions are known.

Adjacent to the lawn-grass area, the Landscape Plant Demonstration has been laid out in plots 20 feet square, and to date, two of these plots have been planted. The first is devoted to native wildflowers, both annual and perennial, so that there will be something in bloom throughout the growing season. The second plot features the major grasses of the Tallgrass Prairie, plus selected other specimen grasses for landscape use. Both plots have drip irrigation installed, but the use of native and well-adapted plants means that supplemental water demand

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



should be quite low.

As with any garden, careful preparation is the basis for success. Many hours of volunteer work went into the contour of the beds for drainage, the application and tilling of topsoil, setting of railroad tie borders, installation of a water system and valves, weed control and countless other essential tasks, before a single planting could be made. Major contributors to the project are Turfgrass America of Austin, who supplied the lawn grasses, and Ewing irrigation of Austin, suppliers of the various sprinkler systems being used.

The Lockhart Demonstration Garden is intended as a community service to demonstrate water-conserving methods and plant material for landscapes. Records will be kept of supplemental sprinkling required in each area for optimum growth. The Lost Pines Chapter thanks Lytle Arche, and the Caldwell County Commission and Sheriff's Department for this opportunity to contribute to native plant appreciation, home beautification and water conservation in our service area.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

#### JULY MEETING

**Monday, July 22, 2002**

**6:30PM**

Carol Brown's House

CHAPTER REUNION POTLUCK

#### AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**August 9, 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

## Right Here at Home Opportunities

- **Fall Fire Fest /Fire-Wise Landscaping Development**  
Ongoing and September 28<sup>th</sup>. Joan Russell is working with several agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, an urban forester from TPWD, and local fire departments to develop landscaping techniques and landscaping plant materials which will make our homes “fire-wise.” She is looking for volunteers to help with this project which includes develop a list of fire-wise native plants. Call Joan at 321-2718.
- **Bastrop/Buescher State Park Volunteer Activities—**  
Ongoing; Sue Fischer will serve as our liaison with these parks to provide them with assistance in a variety of activities from trail maintenance to leading group tours. This opportunity is in the development stage. For further information, please call Sue at 321-1308.
- **Lockhart Demonstration Garden—**Ongoing; contact Lytle Arche 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).
- **Spotlight Deer Counts** in both Bastrop and Caldwell County—Several nights in August. What a fun way to spend a clear Texas summer evening—sitting in the back of a TPWD pickup under the stars monitoring our county deer population. Two people are required for each count, so bring your mate or a friend. Please call Len Polasek at TPWD at 332-7280 if you can assist with this.
- **Turkey Poult Counts—**Ongoing from June 1 - August 15. These are self directed daytime counts. Len Polasek at TPWD has several areas which need to be monitored. Call Len at 332-7280 for locations, instructions and forms for this survey. (Carol adds: Anyone interested can come out to my neck of the woods where I regularly see groups of 10 – 15 hens or smaller groups of gobblers traveling together.)
- **Deer Herd Composition Survey—**August. Take a Sunday drive in the comfort of your own car on county roads in Bastrop and Caldwell Counties. The fawns will still be traveling with the does at this time. Call Len Polasek at TPWD at 332-7280 for forms, recommended locations and instructions.
- **Public Dove Lease Surveys—**First two weekends of September in both Bastrop and Caldwell County. Monitor attendance and activity. Call Len Polasek at TPWD at 332-7280 for forms, recommended locations and instructions.
- **TPWD Wildlife Expo—**October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now for this fun day of community education at the Austin TPWD Headquarters.

- **GIS Software Input—**Take a short training course on this software and help our TPWD Wildlife Biologist map wildlife activity in a three county area. Call Len Polasek at 332-7280.

## Other Opportunities

- **McKinney Roughs—**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.
- **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).
- **Texas Horned Lizard Watch—**provides instructions for surveying the Texas State Reptile on your property or on public areas. Data from volunteers in the first year have helped biologists suggest possible relationships between fire ant distributions and the distribution of Texas horned lizards. 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. 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.

*Volunteer, page 4...*

## Advanced Training

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

- **Managing Your Watershed To Reduce Soil Erosion**—Friday, July 19, Freeman Ranch. "Managing Your Watershed To Reduce Soil Erosion" is a Texas Cooperative Extension Water For Texans educational program which will be conducted in cooperation with Southwest Texas State University on Friday, July 19th, at the SWT Freeman Ranch located 7 miles west of San Marcos on Ranch Road 12. Participants are asked to pre-register by July 17 to the Hays County Extension Office at (512) 393-2120. Three hours of CEU credits will be offered for private, commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators. In addition, 2 hours of credit are being offered through the Society for Range Management for Range Certification. Texas Master Naturalist volunteers are invited to participate in this program and receive 3 hours of advanced training. For further information, please contact Rachel Bauer at the Hays County Extension Office at (512)393-2120 [r\\_bauer@tamu.edu](mailto:r_bauer@tamu.edu).
- **Monarch Watch Workshop**—October 8-10, Bamberger Ranch, Johnson City. Training to help with Texas Monarch Watch monitoring program. This workshop will take place at Bamberger Ranch. Margaret Bamberger at [selah@tstar.net](mailto:selah@tstar.net) or call (830) 868-4639.
- **Third Annual Statewide TMN Meeting and Advanced Training**—October 25-27, 2002, Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas Numerous advanced training sessions. Mark your calendar! Details to follow.

- **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 (512-398-2357). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors



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*All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth,  
befalls the sons of the earth.*  
—Chief Seattle, letter to President Franklin  
Pierce, 1855

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## Texas Master Naturalist News and Notes

*Michelle Haggerty, State Program Coordinator*

**Volunteer representation needed for the Statewide Advisory Committee:** The Statewide Advisory Committee is in need of a few good Certified Master Naturalist Volunteers to serve on this Committee. The time commitment includes a minimum of 4 meetings per year held during the day, usually in Austin or College Station. Volunteers on this committee represent the interest of their peers in our statewide Master Naturalist program. Time spent serving on the committee does count toward your annual Master Naturalist service hours requirement. For more information contact Michelle Haggerty.

**The North Texas Chapter** recently tried a Master Naturalist Mentoring program to help with member retention. Each trainee is paired with a 'Seasoned' Master Naturalist member. The 'Seasoned' member attends the first

training session and welcomes their assigned new trainee to the program. The 'seasoned' member spends a few minutes with them getting to know their interests and background, and makes sure the new volunteer has accurate phone numbers to contact their mentor and other chapter leaders. The 'seasoned' member also periodically contacts the new volunteer throughout their training period to see how the training has been going, invites them to participate in volunteer projects, advanced training opportunities and the monthly chapter meetings. Members say they "have found that if you leave it up to a new member, they become timid and fail to contact the mentors." Therefore, the members approach the new volunteers to guide them toward volunteer opportunities and Advanced Training that follow their interests. Now that's the way to show your new members some of that Texas hospitality and friendliness!

**New Chapter Coordinators Training**, November 14-15, 2002 at Welder Wildlife Refuge in Sinton, TX For details, call Michelle (979-458-2034; [mhaggerty@wfsc.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfsc.tamu.edu))