



Officers
2002

- President Carol Brown
eve. 512-303-7271
day 512-332-2820
E-mail: 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
- 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—

By the time this newsletter reaches you, Muriel, Maron and I will be working on the next Master Naturalist training class due to begin early spring. The future of the group clearly hangs on this important session! So I encourage anyone with ideas, time, or resources to join us in this challenge.

If you are on our mailing list, and not yet part of the group, I would also appeal to you to pitch in with this necessary venture.

Our new Cooperative Extension Agent, Maron Finley, has such a great vision and energy for the Master Naturalists that I think if we can hang on, together we will be able to pick up the steam necessary to grow and flourish.

—Carol



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Report your hours!

Janice Rampy

Please report your volunteer activities, and advanced training on a regular basis. Maron Finley, our new Bastrop County Ag Extension Agent, has asked that we prepare a monthly report of our volunteer activities. This information is helpful in receiving additional funds, etc., and also helps you maintain your certification. Submit your hours to Janice Rampy at the monthly meeting. If you are unable to attend, please either e-mail them to Janice at birdwatchinbabe@aol.com or fax them to her at 303-3441. If you haven't submitted your hours in several months, please submit them ASAP.

No meeting Nov 25—please join us for the Trail Building Workshop at Lockhart SP, Saturday November 23 at 1 PM

Project Ideas

Maron Finley, Bastrop County CEA

Here are a few ideas that I think would be excellent projects, in addition to those that you already have.

I am of the opinion that McKinney Roughs should remain part of our plans. Completion and monitoring of the watershed plot started by Rachel Bauer and installation of French drains or guzzlers would be good projects. Building projects that would be helpful to particular species such as bat caves or bird houses, are also possibilities.

I would also like you to be involved when we get the GREEN project off the ground, as discussed at the September chapter meeting. This is very promising. A grant was approved with funds at the State level for getting this started. I have received some training on this, but it will be adapted to help educate employees at nurseries, feed stores and Home Depot on the safe application of fertilizers, pesticides, etc. We are also looking at having Nature Tourism educational meetings sometime in 2003. As part of the GREEN project, there will be educational meetings. For example, we have a plant pathologist who will put on educational meeting labeling plant diseases, insects, etc. This should be an informative meeting.

Add to this training a new class in 2003 and I think it will be a big year. Also I think a recognition event should be one of the events.

I want the Master Naturalists to be a fun-filled educational group who are well known in the community, and really enjoy the projects. I want it to be a very congenial group that really enjoys getting together for events, and I think you are off to a great beginning!

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



If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life.
—Rachel Carson, 1992



MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

OCTOBER MEETING

Monday, October 28, 2002

6:30 PM

Sacred Heart Church

SPEAKER: STEVEN BRUEGGERHOFF, LADY BIRD JOHNSON
WILDFLOWER CENTER NATIVE PLANT SPECIALIST

NOVEMBER EVENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

1:00 PM

Lockhart State Park

Trail Building Workshop, with Chris Beckman

(No regular meeting in November)

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

November 8, 2002. Please 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 our local area.

CHAPTER WEBSITE:

www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Right Here at Home Opportunities

- **Fall Fire Fest /Fire-Wise Landscaping Development** Ongoing and September 28th. 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.
- **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 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**—Second Saturday of most months (October 12; December 14), from 9:00 AM to noon. Volunteers are welcome to join Wild Basin Second Saturday crews, to help repair trails, control erosion, and make trails safer. Restoration projects and removal of non-native plants also help maintain the preserve. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and dress for the weather. Tools and work gloves are available. For reservations, call (512) 327-7622, E-mail hike@wildbasin.org or visit the Wild Basin website, 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.

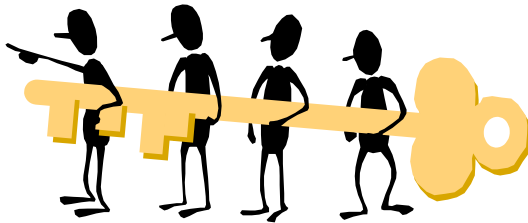
- **Texas Monarch Watch**—monitor the spring and fall migration of this familiar butterfly on your own property or public lands. Volunteers can call the Monarch Watch hotline at 1-800-468-9710 (in Austin, 326-2231) to report sightings of monarchs or hear a recorded message about the status of the migration 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.
- **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 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. Your volunteer work isn't really completed until it is reported...take a minute now to send in your hours.

Visit our website at
www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org !

Advanced Training

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

- **Monarch Watch Workshop**—October 8-10, Bamberger Ranch. Training to help with Texas Monarch Watch monitoring program. This workshop will take place at Bamberger Ranch. Margaret Bamberger at 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.
- **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)



Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.
—American Indian Proverb



Farkleberry provides great native fall color

Events Around the State

The Alamo Chapter (San Antonio) is sponsoring a series of **Teacher Workshops: Using Nature as a Classroom**, during 2002 and 2003. The next workshop (How to create a school habitat) will be held Nov. 9, with additional topics coming up each month, beginning in February. The workshops are \$20 each, and include valuable teaching resources. You can find details on our Chapter website (www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org), or call (210) 804-7142 ext.376. or (210) 348-6350.

Thanks to Carol Reidy for pointing out the following two events:

The Friends of Enchanted Rock, a nonprofit Cooperation, will be hosting a **Trail Building Course at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area** on November 2-3, 2002. Jim Angell of Bend, Oregon will teach the course. The two-day course will include lectures, audio-visual presentations and hands-on fieldwork. It will cover a variety of trail design, building, renovation and repair techniques. The cost of the course is \$175.00 per person. For organizations sponsoring two or more members, the cost is \$150.00 per person. For more information, see www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org.

On November 7th, 2002, the Town of Flower Mound, Texas (near Dallas) will host the 3rd Annual **Conservation Development & SMART Growth Symposium**, one of Texas' premiere forums for discussing open space conservation, sustainable development and environmental protection. The Keynote speaker, John Fregonese, will demonstrate how developing with the land and water can significantly enhance a community's quality of life and economic development, while still preserving environmentally sensitive and valuable open spaces.

Dr. John Davis, Urban Biologist, TPW will discuss how to incorporate wildlife habitat into a successful conservation-oriented land development initiative. Juan Palma will present the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's nationally recognized program for integrating and protecting open spaces into a comprehensive regional planning vision.

Leading specialists throughout Texas and the Country will run a series of breakout sessions, exploring topics of SMART Growth, conservation easements, land trusts, green spaces and urban ecology. Elected officials, concerned citizens, nonprofit organizations, environmental professionals, along with government planners, resource managers and landscape specialists will want to attend. Visit the Symposium Website at: www.flower-mound.com and click on "Annual Symposium". Or, register and pay-by-credit-card online at: www.signmeup.com/16118. For more information, contact Timothy Riley, Environmental Resources Manager, Town of Flower Mound, (972)-874-6363.