



John Norman Maclean Book Signing

One of the special community events associated with the Capital Area Interagency Wildfire Academy will be a review by John Norman Maclean of his book *Fire and Ashes*. Anyone interested in writing, journalism, or the impact of wildland fires on the environment is invited to attend. Maclean will begin his review **October 15** at 7:30 pm at the new Chestnut Square Family Entertainment Center (Loop 150 and Highway 95) in Bastrop. Light refreshments will follow. Also attending will be many of the 800 wildland firefighters in Bastrop for the Wildfire Academy. For details, see our website, www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org.

President's Column

Greetings:

Can you believe we've completed one-third of the curriculum? Time does pass quickly. Keeping this in mind, our next **chapter meeting** will be held on **October 18** in Bastrop, immediately following the Interpreter Training class (approx. 3:15 p.m.). Topics of discussion will include a Junior Master Naturalist program and forming a nominating committee for 2004 officers whom will be elected in December. As many of you know, I will not be seeking reelection, so the presidency is definitely up for grabs! In fact, I've held the office of treasurer and secretary as well, so if you're thinking about serving but have a question or two give me a call. *All are encouraged to attend these last two meetings of the year, and if you are interested in holding an office please let me know!*

See you October 18th!

—Janice

TMN Annual Statewide Meeting and Advanced Training

Camp Allen, near Navasota, (less than 2 hr from Bastrop) is the location for this annual meeting, Oct. 24-26, 2003. This year's meeting will have more opportunities than ever for Advanced Training, with over 20 topics to choose from. In addition, there will be lots of time to share ideas with other chapters, and get to know your peers from around the state. Registration information is available for downloading from our Chapter website (www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org), or you can register on-line at <http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tmn03/>. Registration is \$65 for a single day, or \$110, including lodging, for the weekend. Fees go up by \$30 after October 11, so sign up now!

As a reminder, if you are currently a Master Naturalists in Training, you ARE encouraged to begin pursuing your Advanced Training hours. The State meeting is an excellent opportunity to get started!

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Turn in your hours!

Please remember to submit your Volunteer and Advanced Training hours on a regular basis. This is especially true as we approach the end of the year, since we must file an annual report on our activities. Report your hours to Sue Fischer (144 Colovista Dr, Bastrop, Tx 78602). Forms are available from the Chapter website.

Officers
2003

- President Janice Rampy
eve. 512-303-7994
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- Secretary Susan Green
- Treasurer Sue Fischer

Committee Chairs

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

*“The Earth’s distances invite the eye,
And as the eye reaches,
so must the mind stretch to meet these new
horizons. Stand with autumn on a hilltop and
see a new expanse not only around you,
but in you, too.”*
—Lord Byron

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

OCTOBER

Monday, October 6, 2003

6:30 PM, at Bastrop State Park Refectory

“Water Resources and Aquatic Life,” to be presented by Gordon Linam and Cindy Loeffler, TPWD.

Saturday, October 18, 2003

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, meet at Bastrop SP Refectory

State Park Interpretive Training: Chris Holmes and Todd McLanahan. Note that this training is required for any member who wishes to volunteer at the State Parks. The morning session will be at Buescher SP, we will return to Bastrop SP for the afternoon. Bring a sack lunch & dress for the weather.

3:15 – 4:00 PM, Chapter Meeting

We will have a Chapter Meeting immediately following the Interpretive Workshop. All members are encouraged to attend!

Monday, October 27, 2003

6:30 PM, Bastrop State Park Refectory

Authors Fred and Marie Webster will talk about “Birds and Bugs”

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 17, 2003

6:30 PM, Lockhart, Caldwell Co. Extension Office

“Range Management; Agriculture of our Area,” to be presented by Maron Finley, Bastrop Co. Extension, and Rick Machan.

Saturday November 22, 2003

9:00 AM-Noon, Luling Foundation Farm

“Range Management; Diversity in Land Use,” presented by Lytle Arche, Caldwell Co. Extension Agent, and Michael Kuck, Luling Foundation Farm Manager.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

November 7, 2003. 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. Please send information to Andy Butler (butler@mdanderson.org); 512-321-1308.

CHAPTER WEBSITE:

www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Right Here at Home Opportunities

- **Fire-Wise Landscaping Development**—Ongoing; 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 developing 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. (Please note the October 18 training session for Parks volunteers in this newsletter). For further information, please call Sue at 321-1308; email sa83161@odin.mdacc.tmc.edu.
- **McKinney Roughs**—Opportunities for docents, tour guides, exhibit guides, gardeners and education program assistants. Some upcoming volunteer opportunities include: October 11; Light O’the Moon Canoe; October 18, Texas History for kids; **October 31 (5:30 - 9:30 PM), Halloween Festival—volunteers are DESPERATELY needed for this fun event.** For specific information about volunteering at McKinney Roughs, call Lizzie Pincoffs, 1-800-776-5272, extension 2926; email: lpincoff@lcra.org.

Other Opportunities

- **Wild Basin Preserve Trail Maintenance**—Second Saturday of most months (Oct 11 & Nov. 9), 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, email hike@wildbasin.org. For other opportunities, call, or visit the 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**—The monarchs are coming! Help monitor the fall (and spring) 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.
- **Remember**—Get approval *before* you begin a project for volunteer credit. Report your monthly volunteer service to Sue Fischer (144 Colovista Dr., Bastrop, TX 78602; or e-mail sa83161@odin.mdacc.tmc.edu). 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.



*“Live your beliefs
and you can turn the world around”
—Henry David Thoreau*

Advanced Training

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

- **State Trails Workshop**—October 10-12, at McKinney Roughs. What do trails mean to your community? How do you incorporate them into your natural landscape? These and many more issues will be addressed along with issues of design and construction of trails at this year's Texas Trails Network State Trails Conference. Fees are \$75 per day, \$185 for all three days (includes a Texas Trails Network membership). For registration and detailed schedules, visit www.texastrails.org, or email Joe Moore (jmoore@ci.grapevine.tx.us)
- **Water for People and The Environment**—October 11, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM, at the Guadalupe Telephone Co-op Building, Smithson Valley (near New Braunfels). South Central Texas Regional Water Conference, featuring a keynote address by Dr. Peter Gleick, expert on global freshwater resources, and an address by State Rep. Robert Puete, Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. Registration is \$15. For information, contact the Lone Star Sierra Club at 512-477-1729, or visit the website www.texas.sierraclub.org/water/waterconf.asp.
- **Lost Pines Park Volunteer and Tour Leadership Training**—October 18, 2003. This all day workshop will be led by TPWD Regional Interpretive Specialist
- Chris Holmes and Lost Pines Interpretive Ranger Todd McLanahan. This workshop is prerequisite for volunteer activities in Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. See Calendar on page 2 for details, or contact Sue Fischer, 512-321-1308; email sa83161@odin.mdacc.tmc.edu.
- **Big Thicket Wildflower Roundup**—October 17-19, Kountze, TX. Sponsored by the Old Hardin Wildflower Association. Featuring nationally-acclaimed wildflower enthusiast Howard Peacock, and other artists, photographers and naturalists. Field trips to Big Thicket National Preserve, Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary, and Watson Pineland Preserve. Maps & checklists, walks & talks, show & sale, canvas & lens contests. For information, call 409-246-8000; or email nowingsover@aol.com. Fees from \$5 for 2 hr symposia, to \$200 for weekend motel & meal packages.
- **Ecological Restoration Essentials**—Saturday, October 25, 9 AM-1 PM, at the Wildflower Center. Taught by Steve Windhager and Mark Simmons This course will present the basic science, tools, and economics of ecological restoration. The class will cover assessment, monitoring, seed selection, seeding techniques, woody management, and long-term management practices for Central Texas. The fee is \$30 (M) \$35 (NM). See <http://www.wildflower.org/> for registration.
- **Texas Master Naturalist State Meeting**—October 24-26 at Camp Allen, near Navasota. Lots of training opportunities! See page 1 for details.

Welcome Class of 2003!

