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## President's Column

-Andy Butler

Congratulations and thanks to all of our LPMN chapter members who have volunteered in the state parks. At our May meeting, Jamie Hackett, TPWD Lost Pines State Park interpretive ranger, awarded our chapter a certificate of appreciation in recognition of our ongoing volunteer efforts in the state parks. This award was presented in the context of National Volunteer Week. Now, we have even more ways to volunteer in the parks. Thanks to Louise Ridlon, you can now do 'roll your own' monitoring in Bastrop State Park. And, due to heavy demand, we've been asked to continue our Saturday interpretive walks at Bastrop State Park through the end of June.

There are several great volunteer events coming up this summer. Bill Brooks is off to a fantastic start with this summer's Junior Angler program, with 95 kids at his June 2 event. With this many kids, Bill needs more volunteers than ever. Additional dates are June 16 and July 21 at Buescher State Park, and July 14 at Bastrop State Park. Check with Bill for details at [Bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:Bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu). On July 28, Deena Spellman of Bastrop Gardens Nursery will hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Butterflies, Dragonflies & Summertime Things" fest. Contact me if you'd like to help with a chapter booth at this event. Finally, although it's still a little far out, mark your calendars for the 2007 Texas Master Naturalist state meeting and advanced training. It will be held October 12-14. In recognition of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding the first Master Naturalist chapter in San Antonio, the meeting will be held in the Alamo City this year.

Let your friends know about signing up for our 2007 fall training class. It will begin Monday, August 13, at Bastrop State Park refectory. Applications are available on our website, or at the Bastrop and Caldwell county extension offices.

Remember that we will not be meeting on our usual date in July. Instead, we will have a pot-luck picnic and tour of Jim Estes place on Sunday, July 15. Stay tuned for details. In the meantime, be sure to come to our June 18 meeting and advanced training at Red Rock. Jason Spangler, our speaker, will speak about tallgrass prairies and provide insight into the plants, wildlife, and ecosystems of our disappearing prairies. Don't miss it.

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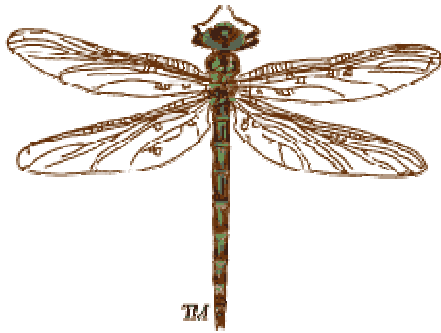
### THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

— Wendell Berry

## MISSION STATEMENT

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.



## STATE PROGRAM CONTACTS

**Website:** <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>

**State Coordinator:** Michelle Haggerty,  
[mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu); 979 458-2034.

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

## SPONSOR CONTACTS

**Caldwell Co. Extension Office:** Rachel Bauer, CEA-AG/NR; [Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu); 512 398-3122

**Bastrop Co. Extension Office:** Maron Finley, CEA-AG/NR; [Bastrop-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:Bastrop-tx@tamu.edu); 512 581-7186

**Bastrop/Caldwell Co. TPWD Wildlife Biologist:** Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop, [mltwpd@onr.com](mailto:mltwpd@onr.com); 512 332-7280.



## Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **July 6, 2007**. We welcome relevant contributions, photos, announcements, or other material relating to the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program, particularly those pertaining to our local area. Please send information to Marsha Elrod: [melrod1@earthlink.net](mailto:melrod1@earthlink.net) 512 321-7400.

# CHAPTER CALENDAR

Chapter meetings alternate between Bastrop State Park's Refectory and the Red Rock Community Center and are normally held at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of each month. Meetings are open to members, prospective members, and the general public.

## June

**Monday, June 18 - Chapter Meeting:** Red Rock Community Center. Jason Spangler will speak on the Disappearing Tallgrass Prairies of Texas. Jason is a board member and treasurer of the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT), and active in the Austin chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT). Jason is the NPAT co-chair of the NPSOT-NPAT 2007 Joint Symposium.

## July

There will be no regularly scheduled meeting in July. Instead, chapter members and spouses are invited to Jim Estes's ranch for a pot-luck social and nature walk on Sunday, July 15. Exact time, directions to the ranch, and additional details will be provided later this month.

## CHAPTER WEBSITE

[www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org)

Please check our website for updated event information and for links to many resources about our region's natural history.

## LOST PINES CHAPTER YAHOO GROUP

Subscribe to our Yahoo Group to keep up with the latest Chapter happenings. Send an email to [LPMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LPMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LPMN/>.

## REPORTING TRAINING & VOLUNTEER HOURS

Send your advanced training and volunteer hours reports to Marsha Elrod: [melrod1@earthlink.net](mailto:melrod1@earthlink.net) or mail to

187 Billingsley Hts  
Cedar Creek TX 78612

# Volunteer Opportunities

- **Colorado River Refuge First Saturday/Sunday Monitoring** –Kathy McAleese leads monthly bird and plant monitoring surveys at the Colorado River Refuge. Time and day may vary from month to month, due to weather or other scheduling conflicts. We are considering alternating the surveys between Saturday and Sunday if that will allow for more overall participation. The next survey is scheduled for **Sunday**, July 8, from 8:30-10:30, or so. Bring your binoculars and field guides, as we will be looking to identify both birds and plants; we have also added butterflies to our survey results. Bring water and dress for the weather; boots are advisable. The CRR is located in Tahitian Village past the Pine Forest Golf Course clubhouse 0.7 miles beyond where the pavement ends. Contact Kathy at 512 718-1313 or [kmcaleese@austin.rr.com](mailto:kmcaleese@austin.rr.com) for more information.
- **Bastrop State Park Interpretive Hikes** – ongoing: Saturday mornings (10:00 AM) "Discover the Lost Pines" interpretive hikes at Bastrop State Park. Hikes have been extended through the end of June. To help, contact Sue Fischer at 512 321-1308 or email [smfischer@mdanderson.org](mailto:smfischer@mdanderson.org).
- **Bastrop State Park Nature Surveys** – Louise Ridlon has volunteered to lead nature surveys at Bastrop State Park similar to the CRR survey led by Kathy McAleese. Surveys can be done ad hoc on your own schedule. Contact her at 512 985-5064 or [flridlon@hotmail.com](mailto:flridlon@hotmail.com) for how to report your findings if you would like to participate.
- **TPWD Junior Angler Program** – Sat Jun 16, Jul 21, Buescher State Park; Jul 14, Bastrop State Park, 8:15 – 12:30. Volunteers are needed to assist with free learn-to-fish clinics for boys and girls ages 6 to 13. You don't need to know how to fish, so come out and help these enthusiastic angler-ettes learn the rules, as well as the techniques, of fishing. Parents must accompany their children. Park entry is free for volunteers, and training will be provided on site. At least 7 volunteers are needed for each clinic. For additional information and to volunteer, contact Bill Brooks at 512 581-0377 or [Bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:Bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu).
- **"Butterflies, Dragonflies, & Summertime Things" Fest** – Jul 28, Bastrop Gardens. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual summer celebration at Deena Spellman's nursery. We need volunteers to man, or woman(?), our booth. This will be a great opportunity to recruit new members for our fall training class. If you can help out, contact Andy Butler at [butler@mdanderson.org](mailto:butler@mdanderson.org).
- **Training Class Committee** – Our fall training class will start on August 13. If you would like to help with contacting speakers or arranging field trips, contact Andy Butler at 512 321-1308 or [butler@mdanderson.org](mailto:butler@mdanderson.org).
- **McKinney Roughs-** The Roughs is just gearing up

their volunteer program and have not yet identified all areas of need. Right now they are looking for people to help weed and clean up the natural plant areas and beds around the visitor center, classroom building, dining hall, and parking lots, which need continuous maintenance. The demonstration trail and herb garden area have been getting spruced up. There is a structured pond in this area, as well as another one in front of the classroom building. There are also a couple of other ponds used for education programs that need to have vegetation restored and bank work. Hiking and equestrian trails are a mess because of the rain and high winds we have had this spring. There are between 100-150 damaged or downed trees. These are having to be pulled off trails and for the most part left as natural habitats. Assistance in any of these areas can be coordinated to work with volunteer schedules during the hours the park is open, 8-5 Mondays through Saturdays and noon to 5:00 on Sundays. They do require volunteer forms be filled out, and a background check is done on each volunteer before they start. To volunteer contact Jana Hellbusch at 800-776-5272, ext. 8041, 512-303-5073, fax 512-303-5277, or [jana.hellbusch@lcra.org](mailto:jana.hellbusch@lcra.org)

- **Friends of the Yegua Knobs** – Pines and Prairies Land Trust is starting a "Friends" group for the Yegua Knobs preserve. Volunteers are needed to survey plant and animal life, identify and clear camping areas and trails, plus other fun and rewarding tasks. Go to <http://www.pinesandprairieslandtrust.org/> for more information on Yegua Knobs. To volunteer, contact Jeremiah Jarvis at 512 281-2762 or [jfrog@flash.net](mailto:jfrog@flash.net).
- **Lockhart State Park prairie restoration project** – Native Caldwell County prairie species will be used to create an attractive, educational display for park visitors that will also be useful to wildlife. Volunteers are needed to assist with planting. To help, contact Muriel Lem at 512-398-9427.

## Nature Quotes

And this our life, exempt from public haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

~ William Shakespeare, As You Like It, 1599

Nature teaches more than she preaches. There are no sermons in stones. It is easier to get a spark out of a stone than a moral.

~John Burroughs

# Advanced Training

- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: Go Native U** – Go Native U is a new, informal, education program designed to teach adults about the use and conservation of native plants. All classes will be held at the Wildflower Center. Registration for Go Native U is arranged on-line through the UT at Austin Informal Classes. See <http://www.wildflower.org/gonativeu/> for detailed registration information. Upcoming classes:

- PlantWise: Native Alternatives To Invasive Plants** – Sat Jul 28, 10:00 – 1:00 or 2:00 – 5:00.

- If you are like most people, your landscape probably harbors a few species capable of escaping and causing ecological or economic harm. In this class you will learn about some of the least wanted plants in Central Texas and their native alternatives. Topics include invasive plant terminology, impact and ecology, identification and management of invasive species, selection of native alternatives and where to find resources.

- Native Grasses for the Home Landscape** –

- Sat, Aug 11, 10:00 – 1:00 or 2:00 – 5:00. Celebrating the beauty of native grasses in the home landscape, this advanced topics class will explore grass function and habit, aspects of landscape design, foliage color & texture, dormancy, bloom period, native turf grasses and a sampling of the “top ten” native grass species for your home. For additional information and registration instructions, see <http://www.wildflower.org/gonativeu/>.

- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: Snaps are Wild! Introduction to Native Plant Photography**

- Sat Jun 16, 9:00 – 4:00. Designed for film and digital SLR photographers, this course is for enthusiasts interested in improving their ability to skillfully produce faithful-to-life biological images. Included are camera techniques for optimal photography, creative techniques for artistic expression, studio and field photography, overview of the “digital darkroom”, publication of images and ethics for biological photographers. SLR camera and macro lens required. For additional information go to <http://www.wildflower.org/gonativeu/>.

- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: Adventures in Native Plants** – Sat’s Jun 23, Jun 30, & Jul 7 (3 meetings), 9:00 – noon.

- Learn the science and lore about Austin’s native plants in a series of fun field trips. You will learn how to recognize and identify wildflowers and other native plants and learn which plants are edible or useful. In the initial classroom meeting, you will get a basic botanical background, including how to know what characters to use in plant identification. Then, we’ll head out to the field and apply our knowledge. Hiking/walking shoes and outdoor clothing recommended. Expect light to moderate walking with occasional uneven levels. For additional information go to <http://www.wildflower.org/gonativeu/>.

- **Austin Butterfly Forum** – Mon Jun 25, 7:00 pm. Monthly meeting at Zilker Botanical Garden Center.

Program by Dan Hardy, a club board member who enjoys butterfly identification (even skippers!): “Those Hard-to-Identify Butterflies.” For more information contact Mike Quinn at 512 577-0250 or [Mike.Quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Mike.Quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us)

- **Lockhart State Park: Blackland Prairie Native Flora** - June 16, 23, & 30, 4:00 – 5:00. Take a guided hike through the park and learn to identify some of the flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees native to the park. Hear information about the flora and its importance to the Blackland Prairie ecosystem and wildlife habitat. For more information call 512 398-3479.
- **Project WILD Workshop** – Jun 21, 9:00 – 4:00, Westcave Preserve, 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd, Austin. Learn how to teach young people about ecology and wildlife using fun, hands-on educational activities. During the six-hour training workshop participants will sample activities and receive an activity guide. Activities are adaptable for all grade levels, integrated with core subject curricula and aligned to the TEKS and TAKS. Teachers, informal educators and youth group leaders may take the training. Fee \$10; pre-registration required. To register, contact John Ahrms at [john@westcave.org](mailto:john@westcave.org) or (830) 825-3442.
- **Flying WILD Workshop** – Jun 22, 8:00 – noon. Region XIII Education Service Center, 5701 Springdale Rd, Austin. TexasFlying WILD, a companion piece to Project WILD, explores bird conservation through classroom activities and stewardship projects. During the six-hour workshop participants will receive an educator’s manual, sample activities and explore guidelines on how to implement school bird festivals and conservation projects. Teachers, informal educators and youth group leaders may take the training. Deposit fee \$10 (refunded the day of the workshop); pre-registration required. For questions, call 713 520-1936.
- **Lockhart State Park: Animal Tracks** - Aug 4, 11, & 18, 4:00 – 5:00. Learn about wildlife and their behavior first hand by identifying the tracks and other clues they’ve left behind as we hike along shady Clear Fork Creek. For additional information call 512 398-3479.

## A Murder of Crows

This month’s quiz is for the birds! Just what do you call a group of...?

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. doves | 3. owls     |
| 2. larks | 4. peacocks |

See below for answers!

1. piteousness 2. exaltation 3. parliament 4. ostentation