



Officers

President

Mark McClelland
512 281-5516
markmcc@prodigy.net

Vice President

Louise Ridlon
512 985-5064
fridlon@hotmail.com

Secretary

Kathy McAleese
512 321-2857
kmcaleese@austin.rr.com

Treasurer

Marie Medrano
512 360-4172
mmedrano@smithvilleisd.org

Past President

Andy Butler
512 321-1308
butler@mdanderson.org

State Representative

Michal Hubbard
512 303-5976
michal_photog@yahoo.com

President's Column

--Mark McClelland

We've suddenly gone from the unpredictable weather of spring to the completely predictable weather of summer. Hot and dry, with a slight chance of afternoon thunderstorms. All I have to say is: "Come on thunderstorms!!"

Many of our club members enjoyed a relaxing canoe/kayak trip down the Colorado River on June 1. Although it had been a hot week, Sunday morning was pleasant, and we had enough cloud cover and breeze to keep everyone very comfortable. I was at the back of the group, and watching our colorful flotilla pass beneath the historic truss bridge on Loop 150 in Bastrop was quite a sight. Be sure to check out the photos on our Yahoo Groups page.

Farther down the river, Bill Brooks led a few of us into the "Tunnel of Trees" about halfway through the trip. It was shady, peaceful, and really lovely. A few water gun fights broke out along the way, but most folks escaped those watery assaults. Sue Fischer found a nice variety of mussel shells on a sandy beach that we stopped at. Now if we just knew how to identify those darned mussels...

Which leads me to our Amphibian and Mussel Watch Workshops. The Amphibian Watch Workshop is full with 30 participants, but there are still slots left in the Mussel Watch Workshop. Marsha May tells me that this typically happens with these two workshops. Frogs and toads just have more of a following than mussels, but we're going to work to change that!!

Bill Brooks had mentioned a possible trip to the new Canyon Lake Gorge this summer. After checking on dates and weather, he has proposed that we put the trip off until September or October. This will give folks more time to "save the date" and should put us out there in cooler weather. It sounds like a great place to visit, so stay tuned for more information.

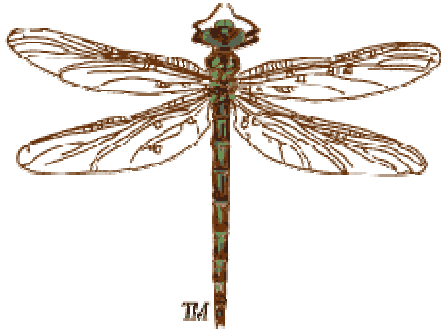
I hope to see you all at the June 16th meeting at the Bastrop State Park Refectory. This will be a "working meeting" to help us plan for the rest of this year. We would like to find out what types of activities, programs, and training the club can offer that would be of interest to chapter members. We'll talk about plans for a summer picnic and get the ball rolling on our Spring 2009 training class. This meeting will count as volunteer time and should be a great opportunity to talk with each other about plans for the future.

Inside This Issue

- 1 President's Column
- 2 Chapter Calendar
- 3 Volunteer Opportunities
- 3 Nature Quotes
- 4 Advanced Training
- 4 Hello To a River

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; 979 458-2034.

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: position vacant;
Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu; 512 398-3122

Bastrop Co. Extension Office: Rachel Bauer, CEA-AG/NR; Bastrop-tx@tamu.edu; 512 581-7186

Bastrop/Caldwell Co. TPWD Wildlife Biologist: Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop,
mltpwd@onr.com; 512 332-7280.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **July 11, 2008**. 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 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 16 – Chapter Meeting: Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 PM. This will be a working meeting to plan future activities and the 2009 training class. It will count as volunteer time.

July

Monday, July 21 – Chapter Meeting and Advanced Training: Red Rock Community Center, 6:30 PM. Jennifer Peterson, Water Quality Program Specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will speak on the Texas Watershed Steward training program and water quality issues.

Chapter Website

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 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; use the on-line reporting form on our website; or mail to
187 Billingsley Hts
Cedar Creek TX 78612

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Nature Education Classes for Kids** – Ongoing, Thursdays, Colorado River Refuge. Joan Russell and Louise Ridlon have been doing a series of nature education classes for kids at the Colorado River Refuge on Thursdays and are looking for some help. They have written 10 lessons, very unstructured, orienting the kids to different aspects of the CRR environment, e.g., birds, flowers, dragonflies, rocks & soils, etc.. Currently, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs come from 5:30-6:30 PM every Thursday (the time may change once school is out), and the Bastrop County Home School group comes every other Thursday morning at 9:30 till 11:00-11:30 AM. At least one leader comes with each group. Materials are housed at the Pines and Prairies Land Trust office at Tahitian Village (lessons, tote bags with magnifiers, clipboards, dip nets, etc.). If you can help out (they're great groups of kids!), please contact Joan Russell at 321-2718, cell 321-8618, or Louise Ridlon at 985-5064 or email flridlon@hotmail.com.
- **TPWD Junior Angler Clinics** – Saturdays, Jun – Aug, 8:00 – 12:30, Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. Volunteers are needed to assist with this free learn-to-fish clinic for boys and girls ages 6 to 13. This is a very basic clinic, and you don't need to be a fisher-person to help out. The kids really have a good time, and parents must accompany their children. Park entrance is free for volunteers, and necessary training will be provided on site. Clinics will be held on
 - June 14 at Bastrop State Park
 - July 12 at Buescher State Park
 - July 19 at Bastrop State Park
 - Aug 2 at Buescher State ParkAt least 7 volunteers are needed for each clinic. Contact Bill Brooks at 512 581-0377 or bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu.
- **Fourth of July Butterfly Count** – Sat Jun 28, 8:00 AM - ???, Zilker Botanical Garden Center. This is the butterfly equivalent of the Audubon Christmas Bird count, with results turned into NABA (North American Butterfly Association). We count butterfly adults and caterpillars within a 15 mile diameter circle centered at Mount Bonnell. In addition to Zilker, we visit many of the best butterfly spots around town, including the Barton Creek Greenbelt and St. Edward's Park in NW Austin. All levels of interest and skills are welcome. For complete information, go to <http://www.austinbutterflies.org/calendar>.
- **Bastrop State Park Interpretive Hikes** – Ongoing, Saturday mornings, 10:00 AM. “Discover

the Lost Pines” interpretive hikes at Bastrop State Park. New local publicity has resulted in increased public interest, so come help out! Contact Sue Fischer at 512 321-1308 or email smfischer@mdanderson.org.

- **Bastrop State Park Nature Surveys** – Louise Ridlon is coordinating nature surveys at Bastrop State Park. Surveys can be done ad hoc on your own schedule, or contact Louise to coordinate a group hike. Contact her at 512 985-5064 or flridlon@hotmail.com for how to report your findings if you would like to participate. Reporting forms are available on the chapter website and Yahoo group site.
- **Colorado River Refuge First Saturday/Sunday Monitoring** – Kathy McAleese leads monthly bird and plant monitoring surveys (and butterflies in season) at the Colorado River Refuge. Time and day may vary from month to month, due to weather or other scheduling conflicts; Kathy will send out an e-mail with exact times prior to the weekend. Bring binoculars, field guides, and water; dress for the weather. 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 for more information.



Nature Quotes

When the spirit swells my breast I love to roam
leisurely among the green hills; or sometimes,
sitting on the brink of the murmuring Missouri, I
marvel at the great blue overhead. With half closed
eyes I watch the huge cloud shadows in their
noiseless play upon the high bluffs opposite me,
while into my ear ripple the sweet, soft cadences of
the river's song. Folded hands lie in my lap, for the
time forgot. My heart and I lie small upon the earth
like a grain of throbbing sand. Drifting clouds and
tinkling waters, together with the warmth of a
genial summer day, bespeak with eloquence the
loving Mystery round about us.

Zitkala-Sa (Red Bird), 1902

Advanced Training

- **Lost Pines Native Plant Society of Texas** – first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, First National Bank, Smithville. Presentations count as advanced training. Contact Bill Brooks at bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu or 512-581-0377 for program information.
- **Austin Butterfly Forum: Those Hard to Identify Butterflies** – Mon June 23, 7:00 PM, Zilker Botanical Garden Center. Dan Hardy, a club board member who enjoys butterfly identification – even skippers! – will give a presentation that will be a great warm-up for the June 28th butterfly count (see Volunteer Opportunities). Dan will review butterfly anatomy and the parts of the wing that provide keys to the field marks for the butterflies we'll be seeing later this month. For additional information go to <http://www.austinbutterflies.org/Calendar/>.
- **Texas Nature Tracker Mussel Watch Workshop** – Sat June 14, 10:00 am– 5:00 pm, McKinney Roughs. Learn to identify freshwater mussel species and participate in scientific research. Workshop includes classroom instruction followed by a field trip for hands on training and identification. Wear comfortable field attire. Bring rubber boots or wading shoes and a hat. \$18 registration fee includes sandwich and chips for lunch. To register, contact Mark McClelland at 512 281-5516 or markmcc@prodigy.net.
- **Ecological Literacy Days** – June 28, July 26, & last Saturday each month, 9:00-1:00 at Hornsby Bend. Combining volunteer work with learning about local ecology, the day begins with several hours of outdoor work - ranging from trail maintenance to habitat restoration to work in the native plant nursery - and ends with at least an hour of learning about local ecology - birds, bugs, and more! Wear boots and work clothing, and be sure to bring your binoculars. For more information contact Kevin Anderson at Kevin.Anderson@ci.austin.tx.us or 512 972-1960.

Hospitality Committee

Thanks go out in advance to the hospitality committee volunteers for our June meeting. Sue Fischer and Judy Walker will be providing the snacks, with Andy Butler bringing the liquid refreshments. We all appreciate your efforts!

Hello to a River!

June 2008 Colorado River Paddle Trip



A Little Help at Launch



Starting Out



Kathy & Jan in Sync

See our Yahoo site for more photos!