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## President's Column

--Louise Ridlon

When the summer doldrums hit and I don't feel like going out in the Texas heat or battling mosquitoes, but want a "nature fix", I enjoy reading books about and/or by self-styled naturalists, who describe their observations and discoveries in their own particular neck of the woods. But is there anything that sets these naturalists apart from the rest of us? One definition of a naturalist is *A person who specializes in natural history, especially in the study of plants and animals in their natural surroundings.* I would add that naturalists are naturally inquisitive about the world around them, and pursue their hobby to satisfy their own curiosity. Many of us have a "need to know" more about what we observe in the natural world. We may keep notes, lists of sightings, or a journal, but for the most part we are content to keep our discoveries to ourselves and those close to us. Others have a desire to discover in order to share with others, to teach or make people aware of the beauty and diversity in nature. They may share photos, take friends hiking or camping, or even write a blog

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## TMN Annual Meeting Information

The 11th Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Annual Meeting & Advanced Training will be held October 22-24, 2010 at T bar M Ranch in New Braunfels. The Lindheimer Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will be assisting as hosts of this year's conference and together we have already planned many exciting trainings and features for the conference. This year, the overnight accommodations will be separate from the conference registration expense. While the conference registration is not yet available, members may begin reserving their rooms at T bar M now. A block of rooms is available to reserve at the special rate of \$85.00 per room per night (plus tax, where applicable). The rooms are extremely nice, hotel style rooms. There are also a limited number of 2 & 3 bedroom condos available at \$85 per bedroom as well. Obviously, the more people you care to have in your room, the less the per person cost. The majority of the rooms are doubles that may sleep up to 4 individuals. If you are planning to share a room with someone, only one person needs to make the reservation. However, once the conference registration becomes available each person

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## 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.

The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

## SPONSOR CONTACTS

Caldwell Co. Extension Office: Jeff Watts; [Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu); (512) 398-3122.

Bastrop Co. Extension Office: Rachel Bauer, 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, [Meredith.Longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Meredith.Longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us); (512) 332-7280.



## Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **June 9, 2010**. 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 Jeannie Jessup: [magicgenie@gmail.com](mailto:magicgenie@gmail.com), (512) 772-3654.

## Chapter Calendar

Chapter meetings generally 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 public.

### May

**Monday, May 17 – Chapter Meeting:** *Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 pm.* Val Bugh will give a presentation on insects, and Kelly Bender will talk about the urban-wildlife Interface. (Joint meeting with 2010 training class.)

### June

**Saturday, June 19 at Noon – Annual Picnic and Social: McKinney Roughs Nature Park, Dining Hall. This event replaces our normal Monday chapter meeting for June.** There will be a brief presentation about the LCRA's work in conservation and education, and their nature parks. A short business meeting will be followed by lunch. The presentation will begin promptly at Noon. Come early and enjoy the gardens and trails!

### July

**Monday, July 19 – Chapter Meeting:** Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 pm. Joe Marcus, from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, will be presenting a program on Wildlife (and Wildflower Photography), as well as online resources of wildflowers.

### Chapter Web site

<http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/>

Please check our Web site 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 e-mail to [mLPMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mLPMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LPMN/>.

### Reporting Training & Volunteer Hours

Send your advanced training and volunteer hour reports to Marsha Elrod: [melrod1@earthlink.net](mailto:melrod1@earthlink.net); use the online reporting form on our Web site or mail to:

187 Billingsley Hts  
Cedar Creek TX 78612

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# Volunteer Opportunities

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## New Volunteer Activities

- **Colorado River Refuge – Nature Education Classes** – Joan Russell has organized a series of nature education classes for homeschoolers. Master Naturalists can volunteer to assist with these classes, held on Thursday mornings from 10:00-12:00. Class sessions will be held at the Water District Building in Tahitian Village just off Hwy. 71 on Tahitian Drive. Dates for the remaining upcoming class is **May 20**. Contact Joan Russell to volunteer at [joanrussell@suddenlink.net](mailto:joanrussell@suddenlink.net) or (512) 321-8618.
- **WMA Wildlife Extravaganza** on May 15 at Riverbend Park in Smithville. LPMN will have a booth and volunteers are needed. There will be shifts from 12:00-3:00 and 2:30-5:30. The more the merrier! Contact Nancy Parish or Susan Crone for more information.

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Family Fishing Clinics** – Volunteers are needed to assist with learn-to-fish clinics for boys and girls ages 6 to 13. You don't need to be a fisher-person to help out. Park entrance is free for volunteers, and necessary training will be provided on site. Clinics will be held on:  
– **June 12** at Bastrop State Park  
– **June 19** at Buescher State Park  
– **July 10** at Bastrop State Park  
– **July 1** at Buescher State Park  
Volunteers should be there at 9:00 am. Contact Bill Brooks at (512) 581-0377 or [bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu) to participate.

## Lost Pines Master Naturalist Shirt Ordering

The newest class of LPMNs are graduating on May 17 and with that comes new shirt orders. We are opening ordering up to all members of the chapter. If you are interested in ordering a shirt, please contact Jeannie Jessup at [magicgenie@gmail.com](mailto:magicgenie@gmail.com). She will email you an PDF of the shirt options and prices. All orders must be placed by the monthly meeting, May 17. Shirt color options this year are Light Blue, Indigo Blue, Forest Green, and Khaki.

## Ongoing Volunteer Activities

- **McKinney Roughs Nature Survey** – Kathy McAleese is coordinating a long-term project to survey trails through the burned-out areas of McKinney Roughs. Plans call for at least two surveys per month, one during the week and one on a weekend. Actual days and times will vary based on the weather and Kathy's schedule. Please contact her at (512) 718-1313 or [kmcaleese@austin.rr.com](mailto:kmcaleese@austin.rr.com) if you are interested in leading or participating in either weekday or weekend surveys, or both.
- **Bastrop State Park Interpretive Walks** – We need volunteers each Saturday morning from **March into June**. Hikes are from 10 AM to about 11:30 AM. Remember, these hikes are literally a "walk in the woods": one leisurely mile. Meet at the kiosk next to the playscape rest rooms (down the road from the Refectory and swimming pool). Please contact Sue Fischer to volunteer at [smfischer@mdanderson.org](mailto:smfischer@mdanderson.org) or (512) 321-1308.
- **Hornsby Bend – Ecological Literacy Days – Last Saturday of every month, 9 am - 1 pm** – Combining volunteer work with learning about local ecology, the Ecological Literacy Day at Hornsby Bend 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 bring your binoculars. For more information, contact Kevin Anderson at [coordinator@hornsbybend.org](mailto:coordinator@hornsbybend.org) or (512) 972-1960.
- **Hornsby Bend – Monthly Bird Survey – Second Saturday each month** – Meet at the **Center for Environmental Research at 7:00 am** for the morning survey [coffee and donuts at 6:30 am] and **4:00 pm** for the afternoon survey. All levels of birders are welcome - the survey is a great way to improve your skills since we form teams matching experienced and novice birders. For more information, contact Eric Carpenter at [ecarpe@gmail.com](mailto:ecarpe@gmail.com).



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# Advanced Training

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- **AgriLIFE Extension – Using Rainwater in the Home: A Do-it-yourself Course** – Thursday, **May 27**, 8:30 am-5:00 pm. Course goes beyond the rainwater basic courses to give the participant a detailed understanding of how they can use rainwater for indoor use, too (potable and non-potable uses). To register, visit <https://agrilifevents.tamu.edu> and search “rainwater” or call (979) 845-5385, or go to <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu>.
- **Travis Audubon Society** has also scheduled numerous workshops on *How to Attract and Care for Bluebirds, Bird Drawing, Hummingbird Gardening, Hummingbird Identification, Introduction to Shorebird Identification, and Superzoom Digital Cameras for Wildlife Photography*, starting in June and July. Visit their Web site for more information and to register: <http://www.travisaudubon.org/classes.html>
- **Travis Audubon's Shorebird Identification class** will take place on two Saturdays in late July/early August at Hornsby Bend. Registration fee is \$65. Visit their Web site for more information and to register: <http://www.travisaudubon.org/classes.html>
- **Bastrop State Park Alum Creek Walks – Select weekends in May.** Learn about the area on a nature walk led by a Master Naturalist. The walk will also serve as training if you wish to volunteer to lead one of these hikes in the future. Last hike is scheduled for **May 22**. Meet at the parking area between the Refectory and the swimming pool. Dress for the weather, bring water and sunscreen; wear shoes or boots that you don't mind getting wet. The hike is not difficult, but is about 3 miles long (2-2 1/2 hours). **Please be punctual**, as the hike requires a short car shuttle and late comers may be left behind. Please contact Andy Butler to volunteer at [abutler@mac.com](mailto:abutler@mac.com) or (512) 321-1308.
- **TPWD – Project WILD and Other Workshops** – Numerous workshops are being offered across Texas. Here are some close by:

**Project WILD Aquatic Workshop** –  
Wednesday, **July 14** – Austin, TX

**June 22, 2010 – Fort Worth, Texas** –  
*Growing Up WILD Workshop* – Learn how to build on young children's sense of wonder about nature and invite them to explore wildlife and the world around them.

For additional information, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/?calpage=a0181>

- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center – Nature Nights**, 6:00-9:00 PM. *Endangered Species* on Friday, **May 21**. Admission is \$1.00. For additional information, visit <http://www.wildflower.org/nature/>.
- **The 5th Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference, in association with the Cullowhee Native Plant Gardening Conference is June 2-5, 2010** and is hosted by the Pineywoods Native Plant Center at SFASU in Nacogdoches, TX. *Come join a unique blend of naturalists, horticulturists, nurserymen, landscapers, and gardeners to hear talks ranging from green roofs to landscape design and native azaleas. Conference attendees will also have the opportunity to enjoy unique local flora from a choice of guided tours as well as educational workshops.* For more information contact Dawn Stover at 936-468-4404 or go to <http://arboretum.sfasu.edu>.
- **Beetles of Texas.** Mike Quinn, an entomologist and the Austin Butterfly Forum president, will share his enthusiasm about the beetles of Central and South Texas. He will discuss beetle families, collection techniques, and his past and current studies on beetles. May 24 at 7 pm at the Zilker Botanical Center. For more information, email Mike Quinn at [entomike@gmail.com](mailto:entomike@gmail.com).
- **Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)** with Baylor University. **June 12th-** facilitator training-Lake Waco Wetlands - 9 am to 3 pm-- \$20 registration includes curriculum and lunch. Limited space, pre-register by **May 28**. An award-winning water education program for K-12. For more information, contact melissa Mullins at 254-710-2382 or <http://www.baylor.edu/crasr/index.php?id=14531>
- **POW! (Planning of Wetlands)-with Baylor University.** Lake Waco Wetlands-**July 7th-** 9 am to 3 pm- \$50 includes materials and curriculum guide. How to build small habitat wetlands and incorporate them into student activities. K-12. Limited space, pre registration by June 23. For more information, contact melissa Mullins at 254-710-2382 or <http://www.baylor.edu/crasr/index.php?id=14531>

or book. Still others take it to the next level, putting their discoveries and knowledge into action, whether it be leading hikes, building trails for easier access to unique sites, teaching classes, staffing information booths at festivals, or writing articles about their observations and discoveries. Most of us Texas Master Naturalists will recognize ourselves in this category.

But a few have a real vision to do something new, to create a project that hasn't been done before, to partner with agencies that can help bring that vision into the public arena. Examples of this type of naturalist are in our midst: Joan Russell, a Bastrop Master Naturalist, was a founding member of the Pines and Prairies Land Trust, and more recently started the nature classes for children at the Colorado River Refuge; Kim Bacon, a Capital Area Master Naturalist, created a study and website devoted to Native Texas Bees and shares her discoveries through presentations for other chapters; and our own Dale Morrison, who has designed and supervised the building of numerous trails providing public access to newly-opened preserves along the Colorado River. Their contributions will have a lasting impact on the land, as well as the lives of many Central Texas. They are truly the MASTER Naturalists!

The state Texas Master Naturalists have notified us that all chapters will receive a DVD with a presentation from last year's statewide annual meeting. There was an overwhelming response to John Davis' talk entitled Texas Master Naturalists: A Biologist's Attempt to Value the Invaluable. We will try to present this DVD at an upcoming chapter meeting when time permits. It has been recommended that new training classes see it, too.

Speaking of the TMN Annual Meeting and Advanced Training, this year's event will be held October 22-24 at T bar M Ranch in New Braunfels. By all accounts, this is a marvelous opportunity to get lots of Advanced Training as well as network with other TMNs to see what other chapters are involved in. Information about reserving rooms is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Remember the Bastrop/Caldwell WMA Wildlife Extravaganza on May 15 at Riverbend Park in Smithville; even if you don't work our booth, it's a fun event to attend.

The 2010 training class members are eagerly anticipating their upcoming graduation at the end of the month. Our May 17 chapter meeting, to be held at the Bastrop State Park Refectory, will be on Insects (Valerie Bugh) and Urban-Wildlife Interface (Kelly Bender). As the activity slows down for the summer, don't forget to come out to McKinney Roughs on Saturday, June 19 at 12:00 noon for our summer potluck picnic. And find a good natural history tale to keep your curiosity whetted!

- TMN Annual Meeting, continued

attending the conference will need to register for that. If you live close enough to T bar M to commute, then you need only to register for the conference. ALL ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY September 27, 2010.

You may make your room reservation at this time on-line. The instructions provided to us are as follows:

ON-LINE (T Bar M's Preferred Method that you use):

Rooms must be reserved by September 27, 2010

1. Go to [www.tbarm.com](http://www.tbarm.com)
2. Click on Reservations
3. Click on Reserve Online
4. Check T Bar M Groups & Conferences, then Continue
5. Enter Group # txmasnat
6. Enter Password naturalist
7. Continue to date entry
8. Enter correct data (you will need to select 2 as the # of nights to read correctly or it will not work)
9. Search for availability
10. Choose room type
11. Verify all data, go to the bottom of the screen and continue
12. Select SKIP Virtual store to continue with reservation
13. Enter personal data on Reservation Entry Form
14. Click Make Reservation
15. Receive confirmation

If you have any questions concerning making your reservation or about T Bar M please contact reservations at 800/292-5469 twenty-four hours a day and reference reservation number 308734.