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## President's Column

--Louise Ridlon

If you were at the May chapter meeting, you saw lots of relieved smiles as the 2010 Training Class wrapped up their last session. We handed out permanent name badges to 24 trainees who stuck it out for the whole course. Congratulations to each one of the members of that class! Many have put in quite a few volunteer hours already, and some have taken on key tasks within our chapter. Their enthusiasm is infectious!

Speaking of key tasks and enthusiasm, the Membership Committee has been busy checking our rosters to determine whether members are active, inactive, or no longer adhere to our chapter. Gene Moulden has graciously taken on the role of Membership Chair. If you are one who hasn't paid dues or reported hours in the last year or two, you may be contacted to determine whether you still wish to be affiliated with LPMN. We hope you will stay with us!

On the subject of reporting hours, many of our members choose not to—they don't serve enough hours to certify, but help out when

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## Update on TMN Annual Meeting

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.

As reported in the newsletter last month, housing for the event is at the T bar M Conference Center – but it has already sold out!

As a result, an overflow contract has been set up with the Courtyard Marriott in New Braunfels and they have agreed to honor the same room rates as have been negotiated with near by T bar M.

Contact information is:

Courtyard Marriott

Phone: 1-830-626-4700

You will need to give them the code of: TPWD-TMN for the \$85 base rate per room per night.

Again, the overnight accommodations and the Annual meeting registration will be separate expenses. Look for the Annual meeting Registration to become available in Late July/early August with more information in upcoming newsletters.

## Inside This Issue

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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 **July 7 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.

### 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.

### August

**Monday, August 16 – Chapter Meeting:** Red Rock Community Center, 6:30pm. Our speaker will be Steve Box, of Environmental Stewardship, he will be talking about water resources in our region.

### 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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Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.. ~Sherry Anderson

## New Volunteer Activities

**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 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.

**Night Hikes – Bastrop State Park.** Katie Raney, Park Interpreter of Bastrop & Buescher State Parks, is looking for volunteers to lead night hikes again this year. She will provide leaders with an outline of topics to cover with visitors. You can join Katie on hikes on June 18 and 25 to learn the format. Leaders are needed for **July 9 and 23** and **August 6 and 20** and other Fridays can be planned if there are volunteers who wish to lead them. The walk is about a mile and typically takes about 1 1/2 hours to complete. To volunteer, contact Andy Butler ([abutler@mac.com](mailto:abutler@mac.com)).

**Hiking Trail Volunteers.** Dale Morrison is looking for project leaders for trail building and other projects from 7:30-noon on weekdays, **June 8-28**. Volunteers would be supervising the muscle providing juvenile volunteers. If interested in helping, you can reach Dale by phone at 512-332-0998.

**“Outdoor Classroom” programs.** Volunteers are needed to assist in teaching classes with Katie Raney, Park Interpreter of Bastrop & Buescher State Parks, in a partnership with the Lost Pines Complex and the Bastrop Boys & Girls Club. Topics will range from animal tracks to bird beaks to animal camouflage. Katie is looking for volunteers who have knowledge in these topics and who can help out more than once! The outdoor classroom sessions will be on Wednesdays, starting **June 16 and running through August 18**. Plan to set aside 9am-Noon if you want to volunteer. Katie can be reached by phone at (512) 237-2241 ext. 225 and by email at [Katie.Raney@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Katie.Raney@tpwd.state.tx.us).

**Land Survey.** A local landowner has requested MN volunteers to come to her property near Cedar Creek to identify native and non-native species. The date is **June 23**

and as many MN folk as are interested are encouraged to come and help. If interested, please contact Louise Ridlon at (512) 985-5064 or email at [FLRIDLON@hotmail.com](mailto:FLRIDLON@hotmail.com).

**Butterfly Count** Everyone is welcome, including all skill levels. We count butterfly adults and caterpillars within a 15 mile diameter circle centered at Mount Bonnell. In addition to the Botanical Garden, we visit many of the best butterfly spots around town, including the Barton Creek Greenbelt and St. Edward's Park in NW Austin. We usually work as a single group. This is the butterfly equivalent of the Christmas Bird counts. The results are submitted to NABA (North American Butterfly Association). Dates are **June 26 and July 4**. For more information contact Dan Hardy, [dh787@yahoo.com](mailto:dh787@yahoo.com) or the website at <http://www.austinbutterflies.org/calendar>.

## 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

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# Advanced Training

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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>

**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>

**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>

**Leopold Education Project- Aug 13th**- 9 am to 3:30 pm- Lake Waco Wetlands- \$50 includes teachers guide and classroom materials, journals and lunch. Uses a classic environmental literary work to reach students with a conservation message.6-12th grade. Enrollment is limited, **register by July 23**. For more information, contact Melissa Mullins at 254-710-2382 or <http://tinyurl.com/294heu8>.

**“Butterflies as Botanists”** Dan Hardy will use his extensive knowledge of butterfly/ plant relationships to explain the link between food plants and caterpillars. Using examples mostly from around Austin and a few from the tropics, the talk will cover caterpillar specialists and generalists, leaf-eaters and flower-eaters, uses of plant toxins, coordination of life cycles with food, the distribution of plants and caterpillars, and the role of the food plant in evolution. This is the monthly meeting of the [Austin Butterfly Forum](#) and will be **June 28** at 7 pm at the Zilker Botanical Center, Austin

**“Chronicling the Lives of Starr County Butterflies”** Starr County, in the upper part of the Rio Grande Valley, has a very diverse lepidoptera population. Approximately 200 species of butterflies have been recorded in the county. Berry Nall is attempting to document the life histories of as many of these butterflies as possible. He particularly enjoys working with very small species that are difficult to locate and raise. Join us as he relates some of his adventures and shares some of the methods he has learned while chronicling the lives of butterflies. This is the monthly meeting of the [Austin Butterfly Forum](#) and will be **July 26** at 7 pm at the Zilker Botanical Center, Austin.

**Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop**  
A day on the Bamberger Ranch with emphasis on "Stewardship" for anyone who wants to know how to improve land for all plant and animal species. This eight hour, outdoor workshop will be conducted by our experienced ranch personnel. You will look at and examine the many projects that demonstrate the principles which have been successfully used on this ranch. Date is **Sept. 25** and cost is \$100 per person. For more information and to register, call 830.868.2630 or go to their website at <http://www.bambergeranch.org/>

**Hummingbird Identification Class** Presented by the Travis Audubon Society, this class will introduce the fifteen hummingbird species that have been seen in Central Texas. Ranges, habitat,

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– **Volunteer Opportunities, continued**

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 of each month.** Meet at the Center for Environmental Research at 7am for the morning survey (coffee and donuts at 6:30 am) and 4pm 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).

– **Advanced Training, continued**

and frequency of occurrence will be covered and will emphasize those characteristics that can be used for effective identification. Each species will be examined in detail, looking at key diagnostic features, and compared to similar, often confusing species. **Thursday, July 29 and Tuesday August 3 (6:30-9:00 pm)** with an optional field trip to Ft. Davis August 13-16. Cost is \$55. Contact Byron Stone at [drbirdie@aol.com](mailto:drbirdie@aol.com) or <http://www.travisaudubon.org/classes.html>.

**Introduction to Shorebird Identification** - Topics covered will include the basics of shorebird identification, and will view slides of the two dozen plus shorebird species that occur regularly in central Texas in spring, summer and fall. Special attention will be given to certain difficult groups such as peeps, dowitchers and the two yellowlegs species. The classroom sessions and field trips will take place in southeast Austin on two Saturdays from **9 a.m. to 12 p.m July 31 and August 14**. Class fee is \$65. To register, contact Byron Stone at [drbirdie@aol.com](mailto:drbirdie@aol.com) or <http://www.travisaudubon.org/classes.html>.

**Dragonfly (Odonate) Identification Class** - Dr. John Abbott, Curator of Entomology for the Texas Natural Science Center, will be teaching this class in downtown Austin. There will be easy walking on the field trip, and close-focusing binoculars are encouraged. **Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 21, 23, 28, and 30, 2010 from 7 to 9 PM**. Field Trip at nearby park – **Saturday, October 2, 2010, 9 AM to 2 PM**. Class fee is \$65. For more information or to register contact Kathy McCormack by e-mail at [VEFL21@yahoo.com](mailto:VEFL21@yahoo.com) or by calling 512-698-9880 <http://www.travisaudubon.org/classes.html>

**Warblers of Texas: Natural History and Identification** - Doug Booher is going to teach a fall warbler class for intermediate birders (at least one year bird-watching experience). The course will be an

introduction to the 46 species of warblers that regularly occur in Texas including discussion of taxonomy, range of occurrence, breeding status, and habitat. Further, the class will focus on identification of those warblers that are particularly challenging to identify in non-breeding plumage. *Class size is limited. Fees are \$70. To register, contact Francis Cerbins at [fcerbins@yahoo.com](mailto:fcerbins@yahoo.com) or 512 372 9039 or <http://www.travisaudubon.org/classes.html>.*

## Just For Fun!

- Get out and enjoy nature!

**Bamberger Ranch Public Tours – September 18 and October 2.** These tours require reservations and fill up fast! Cost is \$15 and includes a 3 1/2 hour tour of the ranch you will see the results of 37 years of habitat restoration. They will show you projects which demonstrate principles of good stewardship. You may also see dinosaur tracks, fossil beds, a herd of endangered Scimitar-horned Oryx, the "Chiroptorium" which is a man made bat cave designed to hold a million Mexican Free-tailed bats. You'll walk the *nature trail* and then enjoy *Madrone Lake* as you watch "The Rain Machine". Transportation is on the Bluebonnet, an open air trailer with a shade bonnet, so dress for the weather; and don't forget a hat Go to <http://www.bambergeranch.org/tours/#tour> for more information or call 830.868.2630.

**Light O' the Moon Float Trip** - How do you beat the heat and still get in some good times on the river? Join the LCRA at McKinney Roughs on the Light O' the Moon float trips that begin with a sunset on the water and are taken over by the cool night air. Enjoy yourself as your raft is gently guided down a moonlit stretch of tranquil river. **June 26 at 7:30 pm; July 24 at 7:30 pm; August 21 at 7 pm.** \$50 per person, ages 7 and up. Pre-registration required Contact [outdoorprograms@lcra.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@lcra.org) or [www.lcra.org/mckinneyroughs](http://www.lcra.org/mckinneyroughs)

**NATURE NIGHTS** at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center – Austin. - **Thursdays in July**, from 6 pm. TO 9 pm. Join the staff at Lady Bird for family fun on four Thursday evenings in July. Nature Nights are family friendly explorations of plants, animals, and the ecology of Central Texas. Each evening will host interactive presentations with experts and some of their amazing friends. Learn about reptiles, birds of prey, bees, and wildlife tracking through activities and habitat hikes. Admission cost is just \$1!

<http://wildflower.org/nature/>

can. However, reporting volunteer hours isn't just for certification or accumulating pins! The chapter reports go to Texas Parks and Wildlife, who can use our volunteer time, at nearly \$20 an hour, as a match for federal grants! The Texas Master Naturalist organization now would like a quarterly report of our volunteer hours, so help Marsha out by mailing or emailing a report of any time you've spent in volunteer activities at least once a quarter.

Another committee that has been active lately is Outreach. Under the leadership of Chair Jim Estes, they have gathered all our booth materials and keep them in a central location, and have assembled a supply of handouts for outreach events. I understand that the missing table cover showed up, plus Angie Morrison has volunteered to make us a new one, embellished with dragonfly motifs.

The folks at the Colorado River Refuge asked our chapter for ideas to name the new trail that our members helped establish. Several suggested Dragonfly Trail; that name was accepted and already appears in the new trail guide for the Lost Pines Nature Trails! (There's also a nice tribute to Dale Morrison in the brochure.). LPMN's logo appears on the brochure as well in recognition of our contribution of volunteer effort, There is a link to view the brochure in the May 2010 issue of Environmental Stewardship's Bulletin.

Don't forget our summer picnic on Saturday, June 19, at McKinney Roughs Nature Park on Hwy. 71. We'll gather at noon, but we encourage you to come early and hike (many of the trails are quite shady). The dining hall will be available to us from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The meal will be potluck; our members always have some fabulous recipes to share. You're welcome to bring family members along for this event. We will have a short meeting and a presentation regarding the LCRA.

*Meanwhile, stay cool! We hope to see you at the picnic!*



# Tidbits

## Climate and Weather

- submitted by Walt Elson, LPMN member

For anyone interested in learning more about climate and weather, the national weather service has an online school at:

[www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream).

Topics began with how global weather patterns are determined by atmosphere and ocean currents and include thunderstorms, lightning, tropical weather, elNino, Doppler radar and others. Each chapter ends with a quiz. Take it online or download. Printed it fills a 1-1/2" ring binder.

## Lost Pines Master Naturalist Shirts are Available

For those of you who ordered the new shirts, they are ready to be picked up! Please either email Jeannie Jessup at [magicgenie@gmail.com](mailto:magicgenie@gmail.com) or call her at 512-772-3654 to arrange pickup. They will also be available to pick up at the chapter picnic on June 19.

## Mussels

- submitted by Pam Hohman, LPMN member

Musselmen take heart! May 22, 2010 there was an article in the Austin American Statesmen about Mussels! To read the article, click the link below.

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/2ba3sak>

## Got Hummingbirds?

TPWD welcomes volunteers to participate in their Hummingbird Roundup; just keep track of the number of hummingbirds you observe in your yard each week, then submit a data form at the end of the year. Participants receive a newsletter summarizing the previous year's observations plus a gorgeous hummingbird pin (2009's was a Lucifer; 2010's will be a Buff-bellied).

In 2009, there were 11 observers in Bastrop County who reported a total of 7 different hummingbird species, but NO observers reported from Caldwell County!

To get involved, send a \$6 donation with your name, address, county, telephone number, and email address to:

Hummingbird Roundup, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.

Top Picture: 2010 Field trip to Aquarena Springs in San Marcos – picture taken by Susan Smith, LPMN member



Bottom Picture: Smithville Wildlife Expo



## Poems

### The Eyes of Youth

by Susan Crone, LPMN member

Through the eyes of youth  
 Nature is a series of "how's" and "why's".  
 The awakening life in a nest,  
 The rainbow of wildflowers, proudly naming some  
 Along with various trees.  
 The pride in one's favorite rock  
 Or uncovering an artifact.  
 Cicadas, ladybugs, walking sticks,  
 Being amazed at the habits of doodlebugs.  
 The magic of the seasons.  
 Through the eyes of youth  
 The world is filled with mystery.  
 Can we not stop to answer?

## Awards

### Monthly recipients of Master Naturalist awards!

#### April:

Initial Certification: Tina Pereboom  
 2009 Certification: Paulette Boudreaux  
 Dale Morrison  
 Carole O'Toole  
 Liz Pullman  
 250 Hours: Miriam Hall

#### May:

Initial Certification: Mary Ann Melton  
 Martha Mobley  
 2009 Certification: Jim Estes  
 2010 Certification: Mary Ann Melto

## Congratulations!