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2000-2001

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From the Desk of the President

McKinney Roughs is now part of our community volunteer effort, and those of you in the Bastrop area can take advantage these opportunities to get your volunteer hours in. They have both weekday and weekend programs for us to help with. They are looking for at least 6 people from our chapter. Just let me know so I can make the arrangements for you.

In the Lockhart area, we have the Lockhart State Park Nature Trail project, which will involve at least 4 of us to organize and proceed with. Those of you interested in this project contact me because we need to meet before the end of June with the local officials. We will be cleaning, inventorying, and building the 2 1/2 mile trail.

Don't forget that the new class will be meeting at McKinney Roughs on Friday June 15, from 5

to 8 PM. You will have an excellent opportunity to learn about this great place and see where we can help with volunteer effort.



Our regular meeting will be on Monday, June 25 at Rockne. The new class will hear about wildlife management while the charter members will be discussing and learning about horned toads and other wildlife in our area.

Finally, remember that Saturday, June 30, from 9 AM - 1 PM, the new class will be traveling to Neasloney Wildlife Management Area just South of Luling. There we will observe wildlife management food plots and habitat.

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Reminder-Volunteer Service Reports

It's time to submit your quarterly volunteer service/advanced training reports to Gerri Martinez. Bring the sheets to the June 25 meeting, or send to Gerri. Include date, location, a description of the activity, contact person and number of hours. Remember to indicate volunteer hours or advanced training. If possible, give an estimate of the number of people each volunteer activity reached.

Volunteer Opportunity: 2001 Texas 4th of July Butterfly Counts

Compiled from information provided by Mike Quinn of TPWD

The 27th annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Fourth of July Butterfly Count will be held in the summer of 2001. The NABA Butterfly Count is an ongoing program of NABA to census the butterflies of North America (United States, Canada and partially Mexico) and to publish the results. Volunteer participants select a count area with a 15-mile diameter and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies sighted within that circle. The counts are usually held in the few weeks before or after the beginning of July in the U.S. and Canada and at more widespread dates in Mexico. The tables give the location and compiler information for the 2001 counts. If you are interested in participating in your area in 2001, please contact the compiler listed and join that count for a day of fascinating butterfly counting. If there is no count in your area, you may start your own if you know how to identify the butterflies. Otherwise, inspire a nature center or butterfly club to start one for you! The NABA Butterfly Count form and instructions for the U.S. are available at <ftp://ftp.naba.org/naba01us.pdf>.

In 2000, 421 counts were held across North America, a 7% increase over 1999. Last year, there were 345 U.S. counts, and 22 in Texas.

2001 Counts for Region 7: TEXAS

P.D. Hulce, regional editor; email: pdhulce@IO.COM

This is a *partial* list. A complete list of dates, locations and coordinators of 2000/2001 Texas 4th of July Counts is at: <http://www.naba.org/counts/tx.html> Contact coordinators (via this link) more information. P.D. Hulce may be contacted at (713) 863-1142, or at pdhulce@io.com. David F. Henderson may be contacted at (936) 231-3201, or at dhenderson@kleinisd.net. Ken Sztraky can be contacted at kens@ih2000.net. Ro Wauer can be contacted at 361-572-3400, rwauer@viptx.net.

=====East Texas=====

*Conroe	June 29	David Henderson
**Roy Larsen Sandylands	July 17	Ken Sztraky
Trinity River	June 24	P.D.Hulce

=====Upper Texas Coast=====

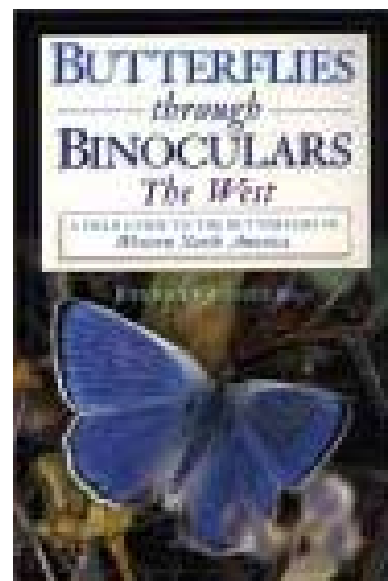
Attwater	June 26	P.D. Hulce
Baytown	July 14	Sallie Sherman
Brazos Bend	June 23	P.D. Hulce
Galveston	July 5	P.D. Hulce
Harris County (NW)	June 28	P.D. Hulce
High Island	June 30	P.D. Hulce
Houston	July 4	P.D. Hulce
* Arboretum	July 21	David Henderson
*San Jacinto	June 25	David Henderson
Sea Rim	June 10	Ken Sztraky

=====Coastal Bend=====

Aransas NWR	July 7	Ro Wauer
Freeport	July 7	David Heinicke

...Continued on Page 5

Resources for Butterfly Enthusiasts



A new butterfly guide, **Butterflies Through Binoculars—The West**, by Jeffrey Glassberg has just been published and should be useful to butterfly watchers in our area (The author's previous books on eastern butterflies have been well-received). Another popular guide for our area is **Butterflies of Houston & Southeast Texas**, by John & Gloria Tveten. This is a beautiful book, filled with in-depth text and outstanding photographs.

Internet Resources

How To Create A Butterfly Garden—Landscaping Tips Offered to Attract Winged Creatures, by Dr. Gary Noel Ross
<http://www.leeric.lsu.edu/le/special/butterflies.htm>

Ten Secrets to Good Butterfly Gardening, by Dr. Gary Noel Ross
http://www.louisianagardener.com/pages/feats/but_secret.htm

Butterfly Gardening Plant List
<http://www.sabot.org/natives/butterfly.html> Compiled by Janis Merritt, San Antonio Botanical Gardens. (Janis works closely with the Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program in San Antonio.)

From the Desk of the President—continued from Page 1

This is another great learning area and I am sure you will be impressed.

June is a busy month, but July is just around the corner. So please have all your volunteer hours and training hours written down and your quarterly time sheets turned in to me by the end of June.

See you along the trail.

Rick Johnson

There is nothing more practical than the preservation of beauty, than the preservation of anything that appeals to the higher emotions of mankind.

— *Teddy Roosevelt*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

Regular meetings of the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, are the 4th Monday of the month.

JUNE MEETING

Rockne Church

June 25 2001

6:00 PM

Class— Wildlife management, writing management plans, and local wildlife management associations, by Len Polasek.

Program—Marcia Jenkins: Conservation of Bats and Horned Lizards.

JULY MEETING

Rockne Church

July 23 2001

6:00 PM

Class— Debbie Reid, Friedrich Nature Preserve, and Mark Klemm, TPWD. Botany & Taxonomy; Ornithology.

A big “Thank you” —

to the volunteers who helped out at the Bastrop County Health Fair on June 8. Helping to distribute water well test kits were Joan Russell, Carol Reidy, Sherrie Ray, Bill McPherson, and Sue Fischer. Thanks, everyone!

Rachel Bauer

FIELD TRIPS

Tour: McKinney Roughs

June 15, 2001

5:00-8:00 PM

The tour will focus on woodland and grassland ecosystems, plant identification, and native landscaping.

Tour Neasloney Wildlife Management Area

June 30, 2001

9:00 AM-1 PM

Tour an area actively managed for wildlife habitat, and learn how to manage for various wildlife species.

Tour LCRA Cooper Farm

July 28, 2001

9:00 AM-1 PM

Wildscape design, prescribed burning practices, conversion of farmland to wildlife habitat.

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

July 10, 2001. Send information to Andy Butler (butler@mdanderson.org) or Doyle Kolle (kolle@totalaccess.net). We welcome relevant contributions, photos, announcements or other material relating to the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program, particularly those pertaining to the Lost Pines area.

Volunteer Opportunities

McKinney Roughs Volunteer Opportunities

These are some current opportunities at McKinney Roughs. For more information about our Chapter's projects, contact Rick Johnson. For more information about McKinney Roughs, call 512-303-5073, ext. 8040 (Bastrop Area) or toll-free, 800-776-5272, ext. 8040.

- **Chapter Projects at McKinney Roughs**—
Evening Nature Hike, June 16 from 6-8 P.M.
Nature Craft Day for Kids, June 30, 9:00 A.M. to 1 P.M.
- **Trails and Parks support**—Activities include monitoring trail activities, ecological restoration, trail maintenance & construction projects data collecting on native plants and wildlife
- **Education activities**—Serve as guides for student groups, give orientations, assist in preparation for student & teacher groups.

Lockhart Demonstration Garden

- Contact Lytle Arche at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail l-arche@tamu.edu for specific dates.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- Maintaining trails, watering gardens, collecting seeds, helping in the store. Contact Megan Murphy, Director of Volunteer Services, at (512) 292-4200 to arrange for a volunteer interview, or E-mail megan@wildflower.org

Wild Basin Preserve

- Trail Maintenance—Volunteers welcome. Help repair portions of trails, control erosion, and make our trails safer for everyone to enjoy. 9 A.M to Noon, scheduled dates include July 14 and August 11. For information, call (512) 327-7622 or E-mail hike@wildbasin.org

Texas Nature Trackers

Projects coordinated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or partner organizations. Some projects available:

- **Texas Horned Lizard Watch**—provides maps and instructions for surveying the Texas state reptile on your property or on public areas. Data sent from volunteers in the first year have already helped biologists suggest possible relationships between fire ant distributions and the distribution of Texas horned lizards. Each year, more volunteers are needed from all over the state to increase our knowledge about Texas

horned lizards. For more information, contact the Wildlife Diversity program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.

- **Texas Mussel Watch**—volunteers are helping us 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. **Please** also note Amphibian Watch training workshops, listed under Advanced Training, below.
- **Texas Monarch Watch**—monitor the spring and fall migration of this familiar butterfly on your own property or public lands. Volunteers can call the Monarch Watch hotline at 1-800-468-9710 (or if you are 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 more 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. Texans involved in this project will 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.
- **Project Prairie Birds**—Answer questions about Texas' wintering sparrows and their avian grassland neighbors. Project Prairie Birds can be conducted in any temperate grassland site. For more information, contact Cliff Shackelford, 512-912-7045 or by E-mail: clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us.
- **Adopt-A-Species Projects**—Takes place on public properties that support populations of rare Texas plants or animals. Learn monitoring techniques. Volunteers agree to continue monitoring for a set period of time. Suitable for schools, club or civic groups. (Not available in all parts of the state). Contact the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Remember**—Get approval before you begin a project that you want to count for volunteer credit. Record your volunteer service and hours and submit to Gerri Martinez (512-303-5936). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified. In addition, it helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors.

Master Naturalist Notes

From Michelle Haggerty,
State Program Coordinator

Please mark your calendar with the dates for the Second Annual Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training to be held **October 26-28, 2001** at Camp Balcones Springs in Marble Falls. We are currently planning the details of the event so be looking for the announcement and registration information soon.

This event will be open to all involved in the Texas Master Naturalist program—certified, in training, administrators of local programs and program partners—Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Advanced Training Opportunity—
Many of you have had the opportunity to visit **Bamberger Ranch** through your local Chapter training or your involvement at the First Statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced Training and know what a gem this ranch and its owners are! Throughout the year Bamberger Ranch offers several workshops on trees, grasses, water, stewardship and wildflowers that would count for Advanced Training if approved through your local Chapter. The best news is that Bamberger Ranch is offering all of their workshops to Texas Master Naturalists at HALF PRICE! They have several great opportunities! Check out the schedule today at www.bambergeranch.org/workshops

TreeGuide: The Natural History of Trees
<http://www.treeguide.com/>

This excellent commercial site offers news, features, and information about trees, with an emphasis on North American trees (including natives, naturalized, and ornamental). Designed for the general public, the site includes many "gee whiz" curiosities, adding interest to every topic and making this a great resource for undergraduates. The content of the site includes full taxonomic information, current news, and partially-completed information on regional trees, tree biology, and "superlative" trees. At present, about 150 of 1,000 trees are described in the database, with completion of the database "anticipated by the second quarter of 2001." Definitely worth the visit!

Editor's note: Another tree resource of interest is the updated Texas Big Tree Registry, at <http://txforestservicetamu.edu>. Bastrop County's Cedar Elm and Black Locust are included. (Thanks to John McPhaul of Bastrop County Environmental Network for pointing this out).

Victoria July 14 Ro Wauer

=====**Central Texas**=====

Austin*** July 14

(The following counts are suggestions for our area-just waiting for volunteer coordinators!!)

- Balcones Canyonland NWR ???
- Bastrop/Smithville ???
- Edwards Plateau ???
- Georgetown ???
- Hamilton Pool ???
- San Antonio ???
- Palmetto St. Pk. ???

=====**Rio Grande Valley**=====

- Bentsen-RGV St. Pk July 14**** P.D. Hulce
- Brownsville July 10 P.D. Hulce
- El Canelo** July 11 P.D. Hulce
- Falcon Woodlands July 12**** P.D. Hulce
- Santa Ana NWR July 15**** P.D. Hulce

=====**West Texas**=====

Davis Mountains June 9 Ro Wauer,
Big Bend??? ???

* New counts, contact David Henderson, dhenderson@kleinisd.net
** Tentative counts, contact P.D. Hulce pdhulce@IO.COM
*** Long established count not compiled by NABA, contact Chris Durden, drdn@mail.utexas.edu
**** Revised dates from those listed on the NABA web site.



Advanced Training

Please obtain prior approval for advanced training, and don't forget to record your hours! (Events listed in chronological order).

- ▶ **Natural History of the Texas Hill Country Workshop Series** Saturday, June 23 and June 30, 9am - 12:30; 1:30-5pm, at The Wildflower Center. Full Series: Members \$65/ Non-members \$85, Individual Workshops: Members \$20/ Non-members \$25. Expand your time scales and gain a better understanding of the origins of the natural world that surrounds you, with special attention to the plant communities of Central Texas. Take one or all four workshops. **Pre-registration required.** June 23, Saturday, 9am to 12:30 P.M.: Cultural History-with Dr. Phil Dering.; June 23, Saturday, 1:30 to 5pm: Geological History with Dr. Bill Ward; June 30, Saturday, 9am to 12:30pm: Vegetative History and Evolution with Mark Simmons, M.S.; June 30, Saturday, 1:30 to 5 P.M. Ecological History with Dr. Steve Windhager.
- ▶ **Organic Vegetable Gardening**—August 4, 2001, at McKinney Roughs. In anticipation of the Fall planting season, join us for an informative workshop dedicated to assisting the avid gardener with composting and organic vegetable gardening techniques. Steve Bridges of Kimas Nursery in Bastrop will be sharing his techniques and expertise. Please call (512) 303-5073 for more information and registration. Fee: \$5; Time: 9 A.M. till 1 P.M.
- ▶ **Texas Mussel Watch Workshop**—Denton, Tuesday, Aug 7th, 8:30 A.M-2 P.M. Workshop, at Lewisville ISD field trip fee includes lunch. To register or for more information, contact Steven Spurger at 940-565-3710 or spurgers@lisd.net or Ann Miller at 512-912-7025 or ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us.
- ▶ **Nature Photography Seminar**—August 11, 2001 at McKinney Roughs. Award-winning photographer Frank Brabee will present a nature photograph seminar. Students will have the opportunity to see some of his work and learn the basics of nature photography. Lunch is not provided. Please call (512) 303-5073 for more information and registration. Class size is limited. Fee: \$30 per person. Time: 9 A.M.. till 4 P.M.
- ▶ **Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training**—October 13, 2001 at McKinney Roughs. This is a training session to become certified as a Facilitator of Project Learning, developed by the American Forest Foundation. This program uses the forests as a "window on the world." Participants learn hands-on activities for the classroom or outdoors to increase students' understanding of our complex environment. LUNCH IS INCLUDED. Call (512) 303-5073 for more information and registration. Time: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Cost: \$40 (includes Educational Activity Guide)

Plant of the Month: Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*

Andy Butler



This East Texas native perennial is well-known for its stunning blooms, which are attractive to butterflies. *E. purpurea* are drought tolerant, grow in full sun or partial shade, and can be propagated from seed or from root cuttings in the fall. They make great additions to a meadow or perennial border and are good for cut flowers. The genus name comes from the Greek *echinos*, or hedge-hog. The roots contain the herbal drug echinacea. According to Ajilvsgi, echinacea was used in a decoction by Native Americans as a blood purifier, a wash for wounds, or a gargle for sore throats. The related *E. angustifolia* (narrow-leaved coneflower or Black Sampson) is native to the cross-timbers and plains, requires full-sun and is also a beautiful addition to your wildflower garden.

Wanted—A Few Good Words

The newsletter will soon begin 'spotlighting' our on-going projects and other issues of interest. If you enjoy information gathering and writing, we need your help. These contributions will also be useful for our Chapter web site, which is 'under construction'. Please contact Andy Butler (512-321-1308; butler@mdanderson.org) for more information. Please remember the deadline for newsletter articles is the 10th of each month, and we welcome relevant contributions, photos, announcements or other material relating to the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program, particularly those pertaining to the Lost Pines area. The editor has the right to decline use of any material deemed inappropriate and to edit the material for space considerations.