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2000-2001

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From the Desk of the President

We had good programs and training sessions last meeting in June. Linda Lenoach won the door prize (*Cyrano darter* yard art). Then, on Saturday June 30, we went to Neaslony Wildlife Preserve for the new class field trip. The weather was great and Jeff Bonner, TPWD Biologist, and Len Polasek, TPWD, conducted the overview, plant species and deer habitat presentations. We all then walked the Nature Trail.

On June 28, Phyllis Metcalfe, Bill Watson and I met at Lockhart State Park for an overview and hike of the existing Nature Trail as well as a look at the proposed extension of that trail. This project is expected to take 3 to 4 years to complete and will offer a lot of volunteer hours for any of you who would be interested. Let me know if you are interested in this project, and I will send you more information.



We need to update our Chapter committee structure to fit our agenda. I want to thank Muriel Lem for her input and ask you all to review these titles and make any suggestions at our July 23 meeting.

Proposed Standing Committees:

- 1) Speakers and Education—outreach to other groups and to schools. Promote TMN, its projects and mission goals.
- 2) Volunteer Coordination—Approve and track volunteer projects and hours; advanced training requests; trainee makeup for classes missed.
- 3) Newsletter/ Publicity—monthly membership newsletter; contact with media to provide input on chapter events/projects; and maintains website.
- 4) Hospitality—coordinates food and drink at meetings and training sessions.
- 5) Historian—keeps records of programs and chapter events, including photos.
- 6) Fundraising and Project Development—Locating and working with community leaders, entities and individuals

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who wish to support our organization and/or have worthy projects we may assist.

We also need to set up a Chapter Policies/Guidelines committee. This group will set the chapter operating procedures and working guidelines. This is the next step in the organization following approval of our Chapter Bylaws in June. Call me if you have any questions, otherwise see you July 23.

Rick Johnson



Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry.

— *Richard Feynman*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -

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

JULY MEETING

Rockne Church

July 23 2001

6:00 PM

Class— Curtiss Chubb, owner of "The Capture Rainwater Company" in Blanco, will be speaking on rainwater harvesting. Curtiss is also a Hays County TMN member. Also speaking will be Mark Klemm from Texas Parks and Wildlife, who will speak on ornithology and bird watching.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Rockne Church

Sept 24 2001

6:00 PM

Class— Debbie Reid will speak on Taxonomy and botany.

FIELD TRIPS

Tour LCRA Cooper Farm

July 28, 2001

9:00 AM-1 PM

Alice Nance, of the National Wildlife Federation, will describe wildscape design, prescribed burning practices, conversion of farmland to wildlife habitat.

Tour Freeman Ranch (Note: this class will be in lieu of the August meeting)

August 27, 2001 (Monday)

6:00 AM-9 PM

Watershed management and conservation through brush management; demonstration of good vs. destructive land use, and successional stages.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

(no newsletter in August)

Sept 10, 2001. Send information to Andy Butler (butler@mdanderson.org). 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

For information about our Chapter's McKinney Roughs projects, contact Rick Johnson, 512-398-2357. For more information about volunteering at McKinney Roughs, call 512-303-5073, ext. 8040 (Bastrop Area) or toll-free, 800-776-5272, ext. 8040. Here are some current opportunities at McKinney Roughs.

- **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

- Usual work days are Saturdays from 8 AM to 11 AM . Contact Lytle Arche at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail l-arche@tamu.edu for specific details.

Lockhart State Park Nature Trail

- Help extend and develop the Park's Nature Trail. Contact Rick Johnson at 512-398-2357 or by E-mail at rohoh@thrifty.net for details.

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 August 11 and Sept. 8. 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.

- **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 (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 for volunteer credit. Report your volunteer service to Gerri Martinez (512-303-5936). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors.

Master Naturalist Notes

From Michelle Haggerty,
State Program Coordinator

A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland

http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/bonap/checklist_intro.html

The Digital Checklist is a joint project of The Biota of North America Program, BONAP (North Carolina Botanical Garden) and the Museum Informatics Project (University of California at Berkeley). This no-frills Checklist contains a wealth of information, including scientific and common names of North American Flora (and any synonyms), a "dot map" of state or provincial distribution of taxa, and a list of distributional locality names. The Checklist may be queried by text search or hierarchy select, with results available in "browse" (e.g., further options) or "phytogeography and synonymy" modes (no further options). To access the Checklist, first-time users should read the overview and instructions in the Getting Started section.

INVASIVE SPECIES...AMERICA'S LEAST WANTED

October 4th, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET, Live Broadcast.

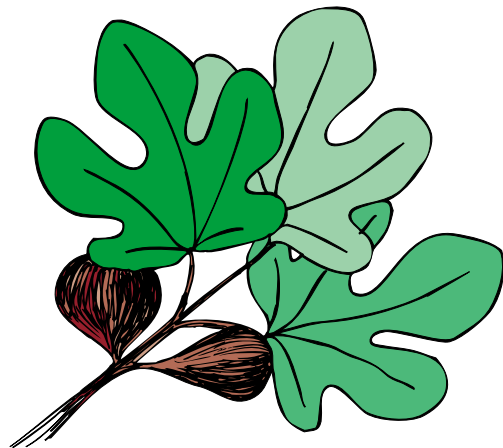
Learn about invasive species, what they destroy, what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is doing to keep them under control, and what you can do to help. Geared to students in grades 6-8. To register for this FREE distance learning broadcast (via C-band satellite or cable) go to:

<http://www.wildthings2001.org/>

For further information contact Deborah McCrensky at deborah_mccrensky@fws.gov.

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

—Crownfoot, a Blackfoot warrior and orator



Hummerfest!

The Hummerfest in Rockport, Tx. starts Thursday, Sept 13, 2001 (through Sept 15).

Celebrate the spectacular fall migration of the Ruby-throated hummingbird and the fun of birding. Go on guided field and boat trips, Attend seminars by birding professionals. TPWD staff and staff from the Cockrell Butterfly Center. Programs and workshops will be held at the School Auditorium, Cafeteria and the Mid-Beach Pavilion.

Advance Registration is recommended, but not required. However, this early notice is for the ability to secure accommodations at a reasonable rate for those attending the festival.

This event covering 3 days is approved for advanced training for Gulf Coast Chapter Master Naturalists. It is also approved by TEA for teachers wishing to receive credit in environmental science education.

Please use the following link to get all the information on classes, dates & time, speakers & topic. A speaker profile follows the event list.

<http://community.webtv.net/texasmaster/HUMMERFESTROCKPORT>

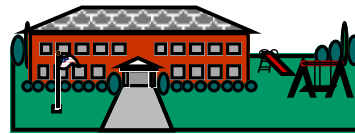
Advanced Training

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

- **Trail Maintenance Workshop**—July 28, 2001, at Wild Basin, in conjunction with the Central Texas Trail Tamers. Learn and apply techniques for maintaining wilderness trails. Registration of \$25 includes light dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday. Bring brown-bag lunch and be prepared to spend part of Saturday on the trail. Time: 7 A.M. to mid-afternoon. Call (512) 327-7622 for details and to register.
- **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.
- **Habitat Stewards Training**—August 4, 2001, at Wild Basin. This training prepares volunteer to create small demonstration habitats for schools, nature centers, nursing homes, neighborhood parks. Time, 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Please call (512-327-7622) for fee information and to register.
- **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..
- **Certified Interpretive Guide Training**—August 15-18, 2001, at the Austin Nature Center. This workshop is designed for seasonal or temporary guides, new hires, or volunteers who desired certification by National Association of Interpretation. The CIG program offers an opportunity to train guides in interpretive techniques and then acknowledge that training with an internationally-recognized certification. For information, call Lisa at (512) 285-4105 or e-mail lbrochu@aol.com. Fee is \$350, or \$275 if certification is not required.

Volunteer Opportunity—

Marcia Jenkins, who spoke to the Charter class at our June meeting, is looking for a volunteer to help present programs on either Bats or Horned Lizards to area schools. Marcia has all the material you need to make an effective presentation to the kids, but she needs someone with a few hours a month to teach kids about these fascinating animals. If you can help out, please contact Marcia at 512-237-9517 or by E-mail mjenkins@mdanderson.org.



- **Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop**—September 29, 2001 at Selah Ranch. Stewardship for the large or small landowner or anyone considering buying land, who wants to know how to improve land for all plant and animal species. This is an 8 hour outdoor workshop. See www.bambergerranch.org/workshops for details, and note that Mr. Bamberger will reduce the normal \$90 fee for Texas Master Naturalists. What a deal!
- **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)
- **Annual Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training**—October 26-28, 2001 at Camp Balcones Springs in Marble Falls. This event will have a number of advanced training opportunities. Watch the newsletter for more details.