

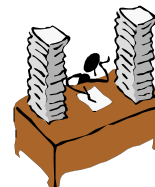


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2000-2001

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- Education Committee  
Jody King, Gerri Martinez, Janice Rampy, Melba Sexton, Pat King, Carol Reidy

## Chapter Elections Coming in November

The Lost Pines Chapter elections to choose Officers for 2002 will be held at our Annual Meeting in November. Now that we have graduated two classes of Master Naturalists, have a real set of by-laws and 501-3(c) non-profit status, we can move ahead as a group. In this regard, nominees are currently being sought for Chapter Officers. *Any* active member of the Chapter is eligible for nomination, whether or not fully certified. Officers to be elected include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and “at-large” Directors. The most important qualifications for these Officers are a commitment to the Master Naturalist program and a willingness to devote the necessary time to the office in order to make it work smoothly. If you are interested in serving, or in nominating someone to serve, in one of these positions, contact any member of the nominating committee, which consists of Andy Butler, Carol Brown, Janice Rampy and Phyllis Metcalfe. The nominating committee will be meeting before the October meeting to assemble a slate of candidates, so this is your chance to help shape our Chapter!



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### Second Annual Statewide Meeting Almost Here!

The agenda for the Second Annual Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training (Oct. 26-28 at Camp Balcones Springs in Marble Falls) has been finalized. This year's meeting promises to be bigger and better than last year's, with more time devoted to Advanced Training and nearly 20 topics to choose from. A social and chapter display showcases from the 15 chapters will familiarize us with our fellow Master Naturalists and their projects. A Master Naturalist Store, sponsored by Native American Seed, Naturally Curious, and A Little Nature Store, will offer Master Naturalist shirts and hats, books, and more! Although the registration fee increased by \$25 after Oct. 12, and some Advanced Training sessions may already be filled, you can still register for the meeting. A complete agenda and registration forms are available from the state Master Naturalist web site (<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>), or by E-mail from Michelle Haggerty ([mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu))

## More on Monarchs

Following up on last month's article about the fall monarch migration and Monarch Watch, reports of monarch sightings in central Texas have been plentiful, according to Mike Quinn. Many people reported seeing them while at the Parks and Wildlife Expo the weekend of October 6. Ridlon Kiphart reported seeing dozens of monarchs at his property between Boerne and Bulverde on October 14. Also on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Betty Dunn saw hundreds of monarchs, apparently attracted to the live oaks, in the same area, while Fred Loxsom saw many while canoing near San Marcos. Patricia Morton reported "hundreds of monarchs" were drifting across Texas Parks & Wildlife headquarters on the 15<sup>th</sup>. To make a report, or for more information on Texas Monarch Watch, E-mail: [Mike.Quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Mike.Quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us).

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*It matters not how long we live, but how.*

—Philip James Bailey, Festus

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## McKinney Roughs Watershed Plot

We have scheduled work on our watershed test plot at McKinney Roughs on October 16 and October 21. If you can help out on either of those days, give Rachel a call. This is a great way to get in some volunteer hours and make a difference. (See Volunteer Opportunities on page 3 for details).



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

### OCTOBER MEETING

Joan Russell's home (348 Old Firetower Rd, Bastrop)

October 22, 2001

6:00 PM

Class— Educational and volunteer opportunities; graduation & Certification. If you didn't get directions at the September meeting, contact Joan at 512-321-2718.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Rockne Church

November 26, 2001

6:00 PM

Annual Meeting—election of Officers and Board Members

### STATEWIDE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST MEETING

Camp Balcones Springs, Marble Falls

October 26-28

See Page 1 for details.

### NOVEMBER-DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**November 9, 2001.** Send information to Andy Butler ([butler@mdanderson.org](mailto: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 specific McKinney Roughs projects, contact Rachel Bauer 512-332-7286. For general 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.

- **Watershed Test Plot**—October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9AM or October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 PM. Help our Chapter to construct a watershed test plot at McKinney Roughs. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a shovel, hoe, or a rake and gloves. Contact Rachel Bauer (512) 332-7286 or by E-mail [r-bauer@tamu.edu](mailto:r-bauer@tamu.edu) so we will know how many people to expect.
- **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](mailto: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 [rojoh@thrifty.net](mailto:rojoh@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](mailto: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 November 10 and December 8. For information, call (512) 327-7622 or E-mail [hike@wildbasin.org](mailto:hike@wildbasin.org)
- Massive Volunteer Restoration—November 3, 2001. We need all the help we can get to restore the environment after our fall fund raiser, Haunted Trails

2001. We will be returning the area around the education building to its natural state; carefully storing props, costumes and sets until next year; loading a construction dumpster with materials we cannot recycle; using power tools to dismantle sets; reassembling the book shop reception center; restoring trails and offices; feeding the crew. We will start about 9am and work until 5pm or until finished, whichever. For information, call (512) 327-7622 or E-mail [hike@wildbasin.org](mailto: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 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.
- **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 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.

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- **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](mailto: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.

## Advanced Training

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

- **Bamberger Ranch workshops**—Several workshops described below will be held at David Bamberger's Selah Ranch, near Johnson City, this fall. As a reminder, Bamberger Ranch is continuing to offer their workshops to all Master Naturalists at half off the listed price. More info about these workshops, and registration forms, can be found on their web site at: [www.bambergeranch.org](http://www.bambergeranch.org), or call 830-868-7303.
- **Trees and Shrubs Workshop**—October 20, 8:30 am-4:40 pm, at Bamberger Ranch. Learn how to identify trees and shrubs using the leaf form and leaf attachment as key characteristics. To insure that you have information to take home, you'll collect leaves in a notebook for future reference. Diversity of trees and shrubs is important for the health of your land and your wildlife. Selecting the best plants for soil and range site is important. 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch. Dress for the weather. \$90/person. 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch, dress for the weather.
- **Advanced Grasses Field Day**—October 27, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, at Bamberger Ranch. A day with Dr. Lew Hunnicutt and others looking at grasses and range-sites at Selah. This day should reinforce the grasses learned in the Grasses Workshop, and provide an opportunity to learn new ones. We will learn some of the

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*Wilderness is a resource that can shrink,  
but not grow*

—Aldo Leopold

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characteristics that will help you identify them during the seasons when there are no characteristic blooms or seed heads. Buddy will talk about management of range land and how to read the effects of cattle on range grasses. Establishing grasses from seed, restoring damaged fields to native grasses, and improving grasslands through proper management will also be covered. How to use livestock as a management tool, and methods of controlling brush will be discussed. \$60/person; 7-hour field day includes some hiking, breaks and lunch break. Dress for the weather.

- **Annual Texas Tree Conference & Trade Show.** October 24-26, at Waco Convention Center. Includes educational sessions, roundtable discussions, with most current information on urban forestry and arboriculture in Texas. Contact Texas Forest Service, 587-7515; or see [txforestservicetamu.edu/texasTreeConference.html](http://txforestservicetamu.edu/texasTreeConference.html)
- **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. See the article on page one for details.
- **Water for Wildlife Workshop**—Saturday, November 3, 9am to 3pm, at The Wildflower Center. Wildlife needs water too! Let the National Wildlife Federation show you how you can attract more creatures like toads, salamanders, turtles, and unique birds to your yard by adding a simple water feature or two. The emphasis of this workshop is on incorporating water resources for wildlife such as ponds, bogs, and seeps into your yard to make a complete wildlife habitat. Learn how you can harvest rainwater to keep your water sources full and flowing. You will explore the beautiful hill country spring and stream, container water garden, and songbird pond that are all found on the Wildflower Center grounds. Plan to take a field trip to nearby backyard wildlife habitats. \$25 per person; bring your own lunch. For registration information contact Alice Nance at 512-476-9805 or email: [nance@nwf.org](mailto:nance@nwf.org)