



Officers
2002

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Spring Events

The **March 25** meeting will feature Eric Mendleman, from Texas Watch. He will present an informative talk on "The importance of limiting non-point source pollution". Texas Watch is a bi-partisan, advocacy organization working to protect Texas families in a competitive marketplace. Texas Watch educates and mobilizes Texas families and small businesses to ensure Texas public policy serves and meets their needs. Texas Watch works on a variety of issues affecting families, including civil justice, insurance, banking, health care and other government issues. Through research, education, and mobilization activities, Texas Watch is helping ensure that government and regulatory decision-making is responsive to and reflective of its citizens.

The **April** meeting will be on a special day and at a special place: April 30, at 7:00 P.M, at the Community Room of the First National Bank, on Main Street, Bastrop. One of the KEYE-42 meteorologists will speak on what controls the weather patterns in Texas. This presentation will be open to the public, so invite your friends.

Biodiversity is the tool with which you play the game of promoting global stability. But it also consists of the organisms that give wonder and beauty and joy to the world, and that provide the context in which we evolved.

-Peter Raven, 1990

Chapter News Highlights from Around the State

From Michelle Haggerty

There are now 18 developed Master Naturalist Chapters, with the Rio Grande Valley Chapter in Harlingen and the Rolling Plains Chapter in Wichita Falls as the newest Chapters conducting their first volunteer training this spring. In addition, new chapters in development include the Hill Country Chapter near Kerrville, the Post Oak Chapter near Athens, the Davis Mountains Chapter near Fort Davis and more new Chapters in the Beaumont, Bryan/College Station and Waco areas. The Galveston County Chapter recently rang in the New Year with a change in their name. They are now known as the Galveston Bay Area Chapter of the Master Naturalist program.

The New Chapter Coordinators training will take place May 31st and June 1st, 2002 at Bamberger Ranch in Johnson City, TX. This training is conducted for all newly established and developing chapters and provides information on the process and guidelines for establishing and maintaining a local Master Naturalist Chapter. Many new presentations have been added to the agenda since our last training almost 2 years ago, therefore it is strongly suggested that all chapters (no matter how old they are) send a representative or two to this training. Chapters that have developed within the

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John Graves Symposium

From Rachel Bauer

The Southwestern Writers Collection at Southwest Texas State University honors one of the state's most revered writers. Meet John Graves, author of the Texas classic *Goodbye to a River* at a two-day symposium, **April 19-20**. The symposium includes presentations of academic papers, and lively panel discussions by friends and colleagues offering anecdotes and insights about the author's life and writings. The symposium will be in the Alkek Library on campus at SWT in the 7th floor. Admission is free. Call (512) 245-2313 for further information.

John Graves is either a Texas naturalist who is a great writer—or—he is a writer that has often focused on ideas and issues important to naturalists—take your pick!

Remember to submit your volunteer and training hours for the quarter at the end of March!

One generation plants the trees, another gets the shade.

—Chinese Proverb

The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension Agency and by Texas Parks and Wildlife.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

MARCH MEETING

March 25, 2001

Rockne Church (Old Parish Hall)

6:30 PM

Program— Eric Mendleman from Texas Watch will speak on "The importance of limiting non-point source pollution"

APRIL MEETING

APRIL 30, 2002

NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!!

7:00PM

Community Room, First National Bank, Bastrop

Program— "Texas Weather Patterns" (open to the public)

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

April 12, 2002. 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

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

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 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. For current schedule and information on other opportunities, call (512) 327-7622 or E-mail hike@wildbasin.org or visit the website, www.wildbasin.org.

Other Opportunities

Texas Nature Trackers

Ongoing projects coordinated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or partner organizations.

- **Texas Horned Lizard Watch**—provides 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 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. (**Note** the Amphibian Watch Workshop listed under Advanced Training)
- **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. (**Note** the Amphibian Watch Workshop listed under Advanced Training).
- **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 Janice Rampy (512-303-7994). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors!

Advanced Training

Note: Please obtain **prior approval** for advanced training, and don't forget to **report** your hours!

- **Leopold Education Project Facilitator Workshop**—Fri-Sun, March 22-24. The Welder Wildlife Foundation (near Stinton, Tx; about 45 miles N of Corpus Christi) is sponsoring a LEP facilitators workshop and would like to invite you to attend. This program is based on the essays found in Aldo Leopold's literary classic, *A Sand County Almanac*. By learning about this great conservationist and his writings, educators can discover a variety of practical hands-on/minds-on ways to deepen their students' awareness of the natural world. The workshop will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, March 22nd and conclude at 11:00 am, Sunday, March 24th. The cost of the workshop is \$50 and this fee will include materials, meals, and lodging. The deadline for registration is March 08, 2002, and the workshop is limited to 20 people, so please hurry! If you are interested in the workshop or just need more information please contact Iliana Pena, welderwf@aol.com (please include a mailing address for mailing a confirmation packet) or call 361-364-2643. (*Highly recommended by Michelle Haggerty*).
- **Keep the Wild Alive Golden-Cheeked Warbler Celebration**—Saturday, March 23, 2002 at Wild Basin; 10:00am-4:00pm. Meet experts in land management and landscaping to discuss your property needs. Learn how to use binoculars, walk the trails and explore with a self-guided tour designed for the entire family. This family event is free with admission to Wild Basin Wilderness and as always is free to members of Wild Basin. Co-sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. For more information call 512-327-7622 or visit www.wildbasin.org, or call Alice Nance at (512) 476-9805.
- **Ranching 101**—May 11, 2002 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm), at Selah Ranch near Johnson City. The purpose of the workshop is to educate new landowners on proper ranching techniques. This workshop was not designed for people already involved in the ranching industry; it was developed solely to introduce people who have never been around ranching to the techniques and benefits that a ranch lifestyle offers. For information, call 830.868.7303, or see <http://www.bambergerranch.org>. Fee: \$90, but Mr. Bamberger offers a discount to participants in the Master Naturalist program.
- **Texas Mussel Watch Monitoring Workshop—May 18, 2002 - Houston, Texas.** Sponsored by the Texas Master Naturalist Gulf Coast Chapter. This workshop will be held at the Sheldon Lake Environmental Education Center, 15315 Beaumont Highway from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn how to identify freshwater mussels and get hands-on experience. Registration required.

Contact: Marsha Reimer (512) 912-7062;
marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us.

- **Amphibian Watch Monitoring Workshop**—May 22, 2002, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at Wild Basin Wilderness, 805 Capital of Texas Hwy Austin. Learn how to identify local amphibians, receive frog and toad call tapes, and get hands-on experience. Registration required. For more information contact: Marsha Reimer (512) 912-7062; marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us (**Note:** Amphibian Watch workshops will also be held in Houston on April 25 and May 17. See the TPWD web site for details:
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/a_0129.htm

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last 2 years need to make sure they have had at least 2 participants attend this training. Chapters that are in development for the year 2002 will need to have 2 representatives attend as well. And, if any members are aware of individuals interested in establishing a new local Master Naturalist Chapter please let Michelle know so that they may receive a direct invitation to the event. For more information on the training, contact Michelle Haggerty.

Mark your calendars! The 3rd Annual Statewide Meeting and Advanced Training for the Master Naturalist program has been scheduled for **October 25-27, 2002**. This year's event will be held at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas. Planning is underway now so if there are Advanced Training topics you would like to see covered at the Annual meeting now is the time to submit your request to Michelle Haggerty, State Program Coordinator at mhaggerty@wfsc.tamu.edu

The Master Naturalist program, this year, will unveil a series of new pins commemorating different milestone achievements within the program. The milestone pins will honor those volunteers that have given 250, 500 and 1,000 hours of service within the Master Naturalist program. Also this year, we will start the new tradition of an annual re-certification pin. This pin will honor a Master Naturalist volunteer that has attained their annual re-certification requirements—which at the state level consists of a minimum of 40 hours of service and 8 hours of advanced training annually. There will be a new pin design each year and this design will only be available during that given year. The 2002 certification pin design is our Master Naturalist Oak Leaf. Each volunteer, given that they have attained the requirements, should only receive one of these pins during the given year. Volunteers being certified for the first time through the program will still receive their certificate and a dragonfly pin only. They are only eligible to receive an Annual re-certification pin in their second year of involvement in the program. Likewise, volunteers should only receive the dragonfly pin once during their involvement in the Master Naturalist program.