



Officers
2002

- President Carol Brown
eve. 512-303-7271
day 512-332-2820
E-mail: carol.h.brown@att.net
- V. Pres Bill Watson
home 830-875-2941
- Secretary Susan Green
- Treasurer Janice Rampy

Committee Chairs

- Newsletter—Andy Butler; 512-237-9461, butler@mdanderson.org
- Program & Education—Sue Fischer & Joan Russell
- Volunteer Coordination—Janice Rampy
- Hospitality—Bonnie Shimek
- History—Susan Green
- Fundraising & Project Development—Gerri Martinez
- Policies & Guidelines—Bill Watson

President's Column

Greetings—

Several thanks to give this month.

Many thanks to the folks who worked the booth at Yesterfest. All in all, I think we had a great showing and are slowly building an awareness and interest in the Lost Pines TMN chapter.

Also, a belated but huge thanks to Melba for her generous contribution which allowed us to pay for our meeting rental space for this year. Thank You Melba!

For those who were unable to attend the April meeting in Bastrop, it was quite a treat! Bob Rose from LCRA gave us a fabulous presentation on Central Texas weather. Thanks to Sue for arranging this fine program.

The May Meeting will be Monday, **May 20**, at 6:30 P.M. in Rockne. Note that this program will be on a special date due to the Memorial Day holiday. Our speaker will be Ginger Soule, who will discuss the life-cycle of the lady bug. She will be bringing us examples of the *Harmonia* Lady Beetle as well as the California Convergent Lady Beetle.

For all you Caldwell County folks there is a local connection: Ginger's great grandfather, L. Taylor Beaty was one of the first nurserymen in the state, and had a nursery in Caldwell County.

—Carol

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's column
- 1 Chapter Website News
- 2 Entomology CD
- 2 Calendar
- 3 Volunteer Opportunities
- 4 Advanced Training
- 4 Hayes County News

Introducing www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org

Andy Butler

Any good naturalist should be outside enjoying nature, not surfing the web, right? Still, the internet can be a useful tool for Master Naturalists, for rapid communications and for access to a wealth of information about nature.

April marked the "unofficial" launch of our Chapter web site, www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org. Yes, I know the name is long, so I encourage you to "bookmark" or add the site to your "favorites" for easy access. I am still adding sections, and plan to enhance the graphic design of the site by early June, at which time we will make a more public announcement of the site. So please take a look at the site, and send me (butler@mdanderson.org) any ideas you have for making it more useful.

The main goals of the site are to provide a platform for communicating information about Chapter meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities to members and trainees; to publicize our Chapter to the general community and prospective members; and to provide the public with information on the ecosystems, flora and

Continued on Page 2...

...Web site, continued from page 1

fauna of Bastrop and Caldwell counties. Currently, this includes a "Resources" page, with pointers to various databases of plants and animals around the internet that are specifically useful for our area. If you need a checklist of the Butterflies of Caldwell County, it's here, along with Birds of Bastrop State Park and Grasses of Texas. Know of other good resources? Let me know.

The site also has current listings of volunteer and advanced training opportunities, which can be updated in between newsletters. In addition, there are electronic archives of our past Chapter newsletters (Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view or print these files from your web browser.) So try out the site, and let me know if you have any comments, or an idea for added content.

*A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful,
full of wonder and excitement.
It is our misfortune that for most of us
that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct
for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring,
is dimmed and even lost before we reach
adulthood.*

—Rachel Carson

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



Entomology for Master Gardeners

Mike Quinn, TPWD Invertebrate Biologist

Entomology for Master Gardeners is an introduction to insect identification and management in and around the home. This two-CD set was originally developed for Master Gardeners, but can be used by teachers, or anyone interested in the fascinating world of insects.

Topics include: Introduction to Entomology, Insect Structure and Function, Putting Order Into the Insect World, Insect Collecting and Preservation, IPM - Concepts for Urban Living, Biological Control of Pests in Home, Gardens and Landscapes, Pesticide Technology, Insecticide Resistance, Urban Pests, Landscape Pests, Pests of Vegetables, Fruit Insect Pests, Pests of Nut Trees, Fire Ant Management.

The set costs \$25, and can be ordered from TAMU, <http://entowww.tamu.edu/mgcd.pdf>, or call 979-845-7026.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

MAY MEETING

May 20, 2002

NOTE SPECIAL DATE!!

6:30PM

Rockne Church (Old Parish Hall)

PROGRAM— GINGER SOULE, "THE LIFE-CYCLE OF THE LADY BUG"

JUNE MEETING

JUNE 24, 2002

PROGRAM—TBA

Rockne Church (Old Parish Hall)

6:30 PM

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

June 7, 2002. Please 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 our local 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 for the specific time, and details of future work dates, at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail arche@tamu.edu.

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 Mussel 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 Rick Johnson (512-398-2357). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors!

Congrats!

Congratulations to Carol Reidy, who received her certification as a master naturalist at the April 30 meeting. Good job, Carol! She joins Rick Johnson, Melba Sexton, Carol Brown, Andy Butler, Bill Watson and Muriel Lem among the ranks of the "certified". If you are close to achieving this status, make sure to check your hours with Janice Rampy or Rick Johnson to get all the credit you deserve.

Advanced Training

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

- **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 <http://www.bambergerranch.org>. Fee: \$90, but Mr. Bamberger offers a discount to participants in the Master Naturalist program.
- **Trees and Shrubs Workshop**—May 18, 2002 (8:30-4:30 pm), at Selah Ranch. Learn how to identify trees and shrubs using the leaf form and attachment as key characteristics. To insure that you have information to take home, you'll collect leaves in a notebook for future reference. Some subjects we will cover: What plants are good for wildlife food, and how to care for them? What is Oak Wilt and which oaks are the least likely to get it? Which trees tolerate the Hill Country soil? How to plant trees and shrubs. Ball moss-killer or nuisance? 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch. For information, call 830.868.7303, or see <http://www.bambergerranch.org>. Fee: \$90.
- **Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop**—May 16-19, 2002. The Austin Nature & Science Center is once again hosting a National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in improving their skills in interpretation. For more information call Lisa at (512) 285-4105 or Clark at (512) 327-8181 ext.14. Cost: \$350 (includes instructor fee, NAI membership, certification fee, and materials; reduced fees if you are already an NAI member or don't want certification.)
- **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 May 17. See the TPWD web site for details: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/a_0129.htm

- **Texas Prescribed Burn Workshop**—June 3-7, at the Wildflower Center. This is a five day seminar with plenty of hands on experience. The cost is \$500.00 if payment is postmarked by May 7th and \$600.00 after. This course meets the training requirements needed for the Certified Burn Manager Program. See <http://www.wildflower.org/fireschool.html>, or call the Wildflower Center at 512-292-4200 for details.
- **Native Plant Summer Institute:** In cooperation with Austin Community College (ACC), The Wildflower Center is offering college-level courses at the Wildflower Center. Two Biology courses, Native Plants of Texas and General Botany, will be taught this Summer. They will run for 11 weeks, from May 28 through August 13, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Native Plants (Bio 1623) will be from 9am-12:15 pm; Botany (Biol 1424) from 1:00 pm to 4:40 pm. Visit the ACC web site, www.austin.cc.tx.us, for more information on the courses, fees and registration (look under summer 2002, Biology).
- **Xeriscaping with Native Plants** June 19- July 31, 6-8pm (6 Wednesdays; will not meet July 3) Participants will learn how to design, install, and maintain a native plant garden based on principals. This certificate course will introduce the concepts of xeriscaping with a native plants approach. This 6-week course will include classroom instruction and outdoor activities. Advance registration is required. Class size is limited. Click on the link to our printable registration form. \$90 members/ \$105 non-members. Registration form: http://www.wildflower.org/registration_form.html

More Volunteer Opportunities

From Rachel Bauer

Still behind on your volunteer hours? Rachel sends these opportunities from Hayes County:

The Greenhouse Interpretive Center in San Marcos always needs attention in the garden plots, and is a great way to get in volunteer hours. The Greenhouse Breakfast Club meets from 7:30 - 11 am on the 2nd Saturday of the month for coffee and goodies followed by wildscape gardening. The contact is Julie at 512-393-8449 or hulbert_Julie@ci.san-marcos.tx.us.

Fridays and Saturdays in May- 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., workdays at the Extension office to clean and weed flowerbeds. This is a "work on your own" project. Bring your own tools and water. You can stay as long as you wish. [Note: details of these and other opportunities in Hayes Co can be found at www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org]