



President's Column

Greetings—

It really is an honor to be president of my chapter. Thank you for your vote of confidence. I was a little hesitant to accept the nomination because I've held the notion that the president knows everything and is everywhere. It's interesting how actually holding the office causes reflection and correction of views! Sorry, Rick and Carol for those crazy notions. I can't possibly be involved in every detail (we have so much to accomplish this year) and know all...definitely not!

I am absolutely certain that our chapter has great potential! I'm counting on each of you to help me achieve the following goals: 1) increase percentage of graduates. I believe this can be accomplished by providing a lighter, more varied curriculum, 2) less talk, more action! Sponsor at least one chapter project. Our personal endeavors are terrific, but I believe we must sponsor a project annually *at a minimum* and 3) increase our funds. Yes, this means we need to either get sponsors or plan a fundraiser. Increasing our dues was a quick solution for the moment. It's not realistic over the long haul.

Finally, our accomplishments at the February meeting will define our chapter. It's the last meeting before our classes begin in March, so please be certain to attend. We'll hear from our committees and discuss our chapter project and fundraising if time permits, so bring your ideas EVERYONE!! Please feel free to call me at 303-6060 during the day, 303-7994 in the evening or write me at my **new e-mail address**: jlorampy@yahoo.com .

—Janice

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Texas Master Naturalist Listserve

The State Coordinator's Office maintains an e-mail listserv to "improve communications, facilitate discussion and allow for the quick dissemination of news and information to participating Texas Master Naturalists, their respective chapters and their affiliates." Many of the messages on this service are announcements of pre-approved volunteer or training opportunities around the state; some are questions concerning Master Naturalist policies; others are naturalist news from around

the state. Typically there are only a few messages a week.

Just what is a "listserv"? Essentially, it is an automated e-mail responder. Any subscriber to the list will receive **all** the messages submitted, and any subscriber can also post an e-mail to the list. It's important to remember that the message will go to **everyone** who belongs to the list! Listservs are a great way for a group to efficiently communicate. You can learn more, and subscribe, at: <http://taex001.tamu.edu/mailman/listinfo/tmn> .

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2002

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

New Meeting Location

Janice has been making arrangements with Red Rock Elementary School to hold our monthly meetings and training classes there. At press time, the decision wasn't final. If we are unable to get this venue for February, we will notify the membership.

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



“We have to remember that what we observe is not nature in itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning”
—Werner Heisenberg

**Beginning this month,
please report your
volunteer hours monthly to
Sue Fischer**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

FEBRUARY MEETING

Monday, February 24, 2003

6:30 PM

Red Rock Elementary (**Subject to Change!!**)

PLANNING OF 2003 TRAINING PROGRAM

MARCH EVENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2003

6:30 PM

Red Rock Elementary (**Subject to Change!!**)

Speaker: TBA

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

March 7, 2003. 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.

CHAPTER WEBSITE:

www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Right Here at Home Opportunities

- **Rockne Historical Museum Landscaping**—The Rockne Historical Museum is scheduled for its grand opening on June 14, 2003. Plans are now being made for paths, roads, parking, and landscaping. The Lost Pines Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists has volunteered to help plan, obtain and plant native trees and shrubs. Anyone wishing to donate a plant or help in this project should contact Gerri Martinez (512) 303-5936 or Carol Brown (512-303-7271).
- **Fire-Wise Landscaping Development**—Ongoing. Joan Russell is working with several agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, an urban forester from TPWD, and local fire departments to develop landscaping techniques and landscaping plant materials which will make our homes “fire-wise.” She is looking for volunteers to help with this project which includes developing a list of fire-wise native plants. Call Joan at 321-2718.
- **Bastrop/Buescher State Park Volunteer Activities**—Ongoing; Sue Fischer will serve as our liaison with these parks to provide them with assistance in a variety of activities from trail maintenance to leading group tours. This opportunity is in the development stage. For further information, please call Sue at 321-1308.
- **Lockhart Demonstration Garden**—Ongoing; contact Lytle Arche for the specific time, and details of future work dates, at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail l-arche@tamu.edu.
- **GIS Software Input**—Take a short training course on this software and help our TPWD Wildlife Biologist map wildlife activity in a three county area. Call Len Polasek at 332-7280.

Other Opportunities

- **Bastrop State Park**—The Friends of the Lost Pines State Park will hold their monthly work session on Saturday February 22. Meet at the Bastrop SP pool building at 9:00 A.M.
- **McKinney Roughs**—For information about volunteering at McKinney Roughs, call 512-303-5073, ext. 8040 (Bastrop Area) or toll-free, 800-776-5272, ext. 8040.
- **Wild Basin Preserve Trail Maintenance**—Second Saturday of most months (October 12; December 14), from 9:00 A.M. to noon. Volunteers are welcome to join Wild Basin Second Saturday crews, to help repair trails, control erosion, and make trails safer. Restoration projects and removal of non-native plants also help maintain the preserve. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and dress for the weather. Tools and work gloves are

available. For reservations, call (512) 327-7622, E-mail hike@wildbasin.org or visit the Wild Basin website, www.wildbasin.org.

- **Texas Horned Lizard Watch**—provides instructions for surveying the Texas State Reptile on your property or on public areas. Data from volunteers in the first year have helped biologists suggest possible relationships between fire ant distributions and the distribution of Texas horned lizards. 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.
- **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. 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.
- **Remember**—Get approval *before* you begin a project for volunteer credit. Report your monthly volunteer service to Sue Fischer (512-321-1308). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors. Your volunteer work isn't really completed until it is reported...take a minute now to send in your hours.

Advanced Training

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

- **Ecological Integration Symposium**—Feb. 22, 2003, at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center at Texas A&M University, College Station. The fourth annual Ecological Integration Symposium, this year's theme "Natural History and Modern Conservation," is interdepartmental effort by graduate students to provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of current trends in ecology and related fields. The symposium is free, but advance registration is suggested. Contact Dr. Kirk Winemiller, k-winemiller@tamu.edu, 979-862-4020, or visit the website to register: <http://eco-symposium.tamu.edu/eco-home.htm>.
- **Native Plant Spring Symposium 2003: Historic Flora of Texas**—March 1, 2003 at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 LaCrosse Ave., Austin, TX. This workshop includes lectures on Historic Flora of Texas, Fossil Pollens of Texas, and Historic and Current Ecological Conditions of Big Bend National Park. Afternoon workshop topics will include butterfly gardening, plant identification, seed harvesting and propagation, butterfly and caterpillar behavior and propagation of madrones. Registration: \$25 (M) \$30 (NM). Visit <http://www.wildflower.org> or call (512) 292-4200 for details.
- **Wetlands Advanced Training**—March 20 or April 17, Tyler, Tx. Designed for landowners and the general public, this 1-day course is an introduction to the basics of wetlands, their functions and values. Topics include basic wetland identification, importance to water quality and wildlife, wetland processes, government programs available for landowners, human impacts, watershed roles, and economic values. One half day classroom, one half day in the field (transportation included). Lunch is provided. Sponsored by Whitentongroup, Inc, Texas Wildlife Association, Ducks Unlimited, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Cooperative Extension - Texas A&M University, The Wildlife Society - Texas Chapter, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. To register (\$25), contact Scott W. Jecker, 512-353-3344, or swjecker@whitentongroup.com
- **Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop**—March 22, 2003 at Bamberger Ranch. A day on the Ranch with emphasis on "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. Transportation is on the "Bluebonnet". This eight hour, outdoor workshop will be conducted by our experienced ranch personnel. You will look at and examine the many projects that demonstrate the principles which have been successfully used on this

ranch. Registration: \$100 (discounts available to Texas Master Naturalists). Visit the Bamberger Website, <http://www.bambergerranch.org/workshops.htm>, or call 830-868-2630 to obtain a registration form.

- **The 2nd Annual Texas Native Fish Weekend**—March 28 (evening) and 29 (all day), Athens Texas. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, East Texas Master Naturalists and the North American Native Fishes Association present an opportunity to get to know some real Texas Natives! Includes presentations on fisheries diversity, tours of the Fisheries Center, field identification tips, comparative anatomy and taxonomy, and some actual fishing! Approved for 8 hours of advanced training credit. For more information or to register, contact Margie Ranc, 903-676-2277, 5550 FM 2495 Athens, Texas 75752.
- **Texas Ornithological Society Meeting**—April 24-26, at Port Lavaca. The Texas Ornithological Society meeting will be holding its 50th anniversary meeting at Port Lavaca from 24-26 April 2003. Many field trips are scheduled for birding activities, speakers are scheduled each night and during Saturday running concurrent with field trips is a science session running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For details, see http://www.texasbirds.org/meetings/port_lavaca_2003.html.
- **Texas Hill Country River Regions' 4th annual Nature Quest**—April 22-27, in Uvalde County. Nature Quest participants can choose from expert-led birding, butterfly, wildflower, and native plant tours and workshops in the Frio, Sabinal, and Nueces River Canyons, including scenic Garner State Park and Lost Maples State Natural Area. Located where the eastern and western bird species overlap, the Texas Hill Country River Region is a mecca for birding enthusiasts. This year Marshall Johnston, author of *The Vascular Plants of Texas*, will offer a wildflower workshop. There are many options in the Quest, so for information, see www.thcrr.com.

Six New Lost Pines Chapter Master Naturalists Certified

At the January Chapter meeting, six more individuals were certified as Master Naturalists, signifying their completion of basic training, 40 hours of volunteer work, and 8 hours of advanced training. A hearty congratulations to Carol Brown Linda Lenocho, Phyllis Metcalf, Janice Rampy, Joan Russell, and Marcy Youngman.

Also at the January meeting, officers for 2003 were elected. Congratulations to Janice Rampy, President; Bill Watson, Vice President; Susan Green, Secretary, and Sue Fischer, Treasurer. We all appreciate the hard work of last year's officers. Finally, dues for 2003 were set at \$30.