



President's Column

Greetings—

Rick, Susan, Marcy, Phyllis, Linda, and I assisted Joan with plant identification on March 29th in preparation for Field and Forest Day on April 6. As I suspected, it was an educational event and fun day. Joan provided a delicious lunch and a few of us sighted a wild turkey! Joan said that she and Horace had seen three in 12 years so it was an exciting moment!

Speaking of exciting moments, you don't want to miss our April meeting! Several of our members will be receiving their pins for 2002 service AND we will have our chapter photograph taken. (Please wear your Lost Pines Chapter shirt for this event). We will also be discussing our training curriculum and schedule. Please review the curriculum outline that is forthcoming prior to our meeting.

Another event that will take place prior to our April meeting is Yesterfest in Bastrop on April 26. Some have already agreed to work. If anyone else is interested in getting those "community service" hours, this is an enjoyable occasion. Looking forward to seeing each of you on April 28th!

—Janice



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Annual Report

Andy Butler

Recently, Janice passed me a copy of our Chapter Annual Report. Seeing this document caused me to think about several things. First, it made me realize how much work Janice, and Carol and Rick in previous years, must do to collate all the information about our membership and our volunteer efforts to put together for the State program. Second, I was pleased to see that our relatively small Chapter contributed over 600 hours of volunteer time in 2002. That's really significant. The one negative statistic was that, of those trained in our program, many—almost 50%— have dropped out. Recently I looked over a synopsis of the Capital Area Master Naturalist report. Now CAMN has been in operation for several years longer than LPMN, and has a much larger base of people to draw from, and currently has 70 certified members. But their drop out rate, over time, has been similar to, or a little higher, than ours. The take home message to me is that our program is both beneficial and very demanding, requiring a commitment that many people with jobs or kids simply can't maintain. It will be important, as we begin training a new Class, that we make sure prospective members realize the necessary commitment, and that we provide them flexible ways in which to achieve their volunteer time and become certified.

Officers
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

Native Dogwoods Near Buescher SP



*“We have not inherited the world
from our forefathers—
We have borrowed it
from our children”
— Kashmiri 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.

APRIL MEETING

Monday, April 28, 2003

6:30 PM

Red Rock Elementary Library

2002 PIN AWARDS; CHAPTER PHOTO (WEAR YOUR CHAPTER SHIRT) AND PLANNING OF 2003 TRAINING PROGRAM

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

May 9, 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

- **Bastrop Yesterfest**—April 26. Help staff our Chapter's booth at Bastrop's annual Yesterfest. Yesterfest is a community event with hundreds of volunteers that help to put on a wide variety of activities. This is a great way to 'get the word out' about our Chapter and network with other volunteer groups. Volunteers are needed for 2 hr blocks of time beginning at 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Call Janice Rampy at 512-303-7994.
- **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, 512-398-3122; 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

- **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 (May 10; June 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.

- **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.
- **Remember**—Get approval *before* you begin a project for volunteer credit. Report your monthly volunteer service to Sue Fischer (144 Colovista Dr., Bastrop, TX 78602; or e-mail sa83161@odin.mdacc.tmc.edu). 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!

- **East Texas Wetland Workshop for Landowners**—April 17, 2003. Old Sabine Wildlife Management Area (Lindale, near Tyler, Tx). Classroom and field tours dealing with wetland function and management, waterfowl and farm ponds, wetland regulations and assistance programs available for landowners. Registration, \$15. Forms available at: www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org. For more information call Jeff Gunnels at (903) 389-7080, rcwma@airmail.net.
- **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.
- **Third Annual Texas Songbird Festival**—May 2-4, Lago Vista. Take a guided tour with wildlife experts who can share with you rare encounters with endangered songbirds, unique native wildlife and the gorgeous natural habitat of the Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge. Various presentations on birding, wildscaping, butterflies and moths, etc. Presenters include Mark Klym, John & Gloria Tveten, Noreen Damude, David Bamberger and Mike Quinn. Costs vary by events. For more details and registration form, check the Festival website: <http://songbirdfestival.homestead.com/index.html>.
- **Common Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Hill Country**—May 3, 2003, 9:30-Noon at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. You will learn to identify the 50 most common woody species native to the Texas Hill Country as you walk through the collection of 120 trees, shrubs, and vines in the Meditation Garden. Habitat information will also be discussed. David Mahler, instructor. Registration is \$22 for Wildflower

Center members; \$25 for non-members. Register at www.wildflower.org.

- **Trees and Shrubs Workshop**—May 17, 2003, **Bamberger Ranch**. Learn how to identify trees and shrubs using the leaf form and leaf attachment as key characteristics. It is easy to learn how to identify woody plants and to insure that you have information to take home, you'll collect leaves in a notebook for future reference. 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch. Dress for the weather. Registration \$100 (discounts available for Master Naturalists). Registration form at the website: <http://www.bambergeranch.org/>.
- **Project WILD Facilitator Training**—May 17, 2003, 10 AM to 4 PM., Aquarena Springs, San Marcos. Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students in kindergarten through high school. Project WILD is based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. Contact Gretchen Reutzel at 512-245-7557 or 800-999-9767 to register (\$10 facility fee); see <http://www.projectwild.org/> for details about the program.
- **Texas Amphibian Watch Workshop**—May 21, 2003, at Wildbasin Wilderness Preserve, 805 Capital of Texas Hwy (Loop 360). Workshop to qualify for Texas Amphibian Watch monitoring program. Please contact Marsha Reimer for information and reservations at marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us or (512) 912-7062.

Hands on at the March Chapter Meeting

Did you miss the March Chapter meeting? If so, you lost out on an extremely entertaining and educational presentation on reptiles by Bill Brooks. Looks like Joan has recovered from her last encounter with a snake!

