



President's Column

So much has happened since our last newsletter! Field and Forest Day at Horace and Joan Russell's was a great success! Thank you, Joan and the Audubon Society for organizing the event. Bill and I worked our Master Naturalist booth and had quite a few people show an interest in our next series of classes. Another community outreach event was Yesterfest in Bastrop. The weather was terrific with six members sharing our message with the community.

At our April meeting, Andy Butler, Rick Johnson and Bill Watson received their 2002 pins in recognition of their volunteer service. Thanks, guys, for your contributions to your community as well as our chapter! I also want to thank Chris Holmes with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for attending our last meeting. Chris is a Region V Interpretive Specialist in the State Parks Division. We were please to hear of TPWD's desire to get the local Master Naturalists actively involved in the parks as interpretive guides, etc. When Chris has chosen a date for this training, we'll include that information in the newsletter as well as our chapter website.

Finally, for those of you that have been waiting anxiously for our next training session, thank you for your patience! Applications will be mailed out no later than June 10th for the training that will begin with an orientation to be held at McKinney Roughs on July 28th. Formal training will begin August 29th. The price for these 40+ hours of training will be \$75. This year, the fee will also include a chapter shirt and name tag to be issued upon graduation! If you are interested and haven't received your application by June 14th, please contact me immediately. As always, keep up the good work and see you soon!

—Janice

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Please Note—Special Meeting Date: & Place

*Because of the Memorial Day holiday, we will meet **Monday, June 2**. This meeting will be at **McKinney Roughs**, and we will have a presentation by Lizzie Pincoffs, the McKinney Roughs Volunteer Coordinator. This presentation will consist of Advanced Training for McKinney Roughs volunteers.*



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*“To cherish what remains
of the Earth and to foster its renewal
is our only legitimate hope of survival.”
— Wendell Berry*

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



**National Wildlife Federation—
Creating Schoolyard Habitats**

This 2.5 day workshop, which will be held at the Wildflower Center, June 21-23, will teach you how to use your school grounds as a wildlife habitat and ecological teaching tool. Learn site inventory, design, and native plant selection. Understand the importance of creating a habitat team, integration of outdoor classroom activities with required curriculum content, and participate in fun, hands on activities (designed for K-8). Receive up to 18 hours of SBED credit. To register, call Marya Fowler at 512-476-9805, or email fowler@nwf.org. Limited space, register by June 6.

(Editor’s Note: This is just an example of the many great opportunities this summer at the Wildflower Center; see www.wildflower.org for more.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 2, 2003

6:30 PM, at McKinney Roughs

McKinney Roughs Volunteer Training—Lizzie Pincoffs, Volunteer Coordinator will introduce us to the programs at McKinney Roughs and train us for volunteer work there.

Note special day and place!! (Advanced Training credit).

JUNE MEETING

Monday, June 23, 2003

6:30 PM, at Red Rock Elementary

Final planning for 2003 Chapter Training

JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

June 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

- **Bastrop County Health Fair**—June 6. We will host a joint Texas Parks and Wildlife Department/Texas Master Naturalist booth at the 7th Bastrop County Health Fair, at Bastrop High School. The booth will focus on identification of potentially hazardous snakes and plants. The time is from 8 AM until 3 PM. We will have available poisonous snakes and also poison ivy specimens and other plants that look like poison ivy. Contact Len Polasek (lenptpwd@onr.com; 512-332-7280)
- **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.

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 (June 14), from 9:00 AM 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!

- **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.
- **McKinney Roughs Volunteer Training**—June 2, 2003, at McKinney Roughs. As part of our monthly meeting, Lizzie Pincoffs, McKinney Roughs Volunteer Coordinator, will provide training necessary to perform volunteer work at the Roughs. Contact Janice Rampy for information.

State News and Notes

From Michelle Haggerty

Texas Master Naturalist Program 5th Anniversary

Don't forget that this year is the statewide program's 5th anniversary. Congratulations to the Capital Area Chapter, Hays County Chapter and North Texas Chapter this year. Fifth year anniversary stickers are still up for grabs for your use on letters and other promotions this year. Call Michelle to obtain some.

State Advisory Committee Discusses Policy Changes

During a recent meeting of the State Advisory Committee, the committee discussed confusion over the existing policy setting limits on chapter volunteer administrative service hours in the Chapter Management Guidelines. Effective immediately: All Master Naturalist volunteers performing leadership, administrative, coordinator and/or management services and functions for local Master Naturalist chapters should be receiving volunteer service credit for any and ALL hours contributed to the chapter. This change will be made to the next revision of the Chapter Management Guidelines and distributed.

Volunteers needed for Statewide Meeting and Advanced Training

Planning for the 2003 Statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced training is underway. If there are particular topics that you would like to see covered at this event, NOW is the

time to let us know. This year's annual event will be held October 24-26th at Camp Allen in Navasota. I am also looking for volunteers to help run this year's event. Volunteer positions include: planning committee members, Master Naturalist Store Coordinators, meeting room greeters during concurrent sessions the days of the meeting, and field trip coordinators. Call Michelle for more details.

State Coordinator E-mail Address Changes

I'm sorry if some of you have had trouble with emailing me the past couple of weeks. My email address has been updated. Please update your address books. The OLD address was: mhaggerty@wfsc.tamu.edu

The NEW address is: mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu

Please note the addition of 'gate' back to my email address.

New on-line location for Master Naturalist Merchandise

All of our Texas Master Naturalist merchandise (shirts, caps, license plate frames, patches, etc.) can now be purchased on line at: <http://tcebookstore.org> or at: <http://erc.tamu.edu> under the ENVIRONMENT then LAND, AIR & WATER links.

This move of merchandise sales from the State Coordinators office to the Extension Resource Center location will offer faster service and the ability to purchase on-line using a credit card. It also allows you to see if your preferred size is in stock at the time of purchase.

Chapter Photo from the April Meeting

