



President's Column

Greetings:

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your new president. I have a lot of ideas for projects, field trips and educational programs and hope we'll have an exciting and productive year in 2004. My schedule is packed full, especially through June, so I'm relying on all of you for help. My motto will be "DELEGATE!". That's the only way that we will be able to have a successful year.

Every member needs to serve on at least one committee and new members should think about serving as officers, committee chairs and project coordinators next year. If anyone needs "mentoring" to get started on a volunteer project or just for a little encouragement to stick with the program, please let me know. I'll find a veteran naturalist (really, we're all still learning) to assist you.

I attended most of the all-day naturalist meeting at John Knox Ranch on Saturday and came back with lots of good ideas for promoting the Master Naturalist program and for more communication and joint ventures among the clubs. We'll discuss this at the **Feb. 23rd meeting**. Hope to see everyone there (Bastrop State Park refectory) so we can review all of the class attendance records and prepare for certification and arrange make-up classes.

We will also discuss dues and meeting dates. The March meeting will probably be moved to the fifth Monday, Mar. 29 unless Mar. 15 doesn't conflict with anyone's spring break. Then we will wait to meet as a whole group in May. Committees and board members will plan and hold their own meetings as needed. If you can't attend the next meeting, please call 512-321-5073 and let me know where you plan to serve (see the list of possibilities below).

— Carol

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Opportunities to serve include:

Fundraising; Education; Programs and Hospitality; Public relations; Historian; Photographer; Web page coordinator; Project development and outreach; Volunteer coordinator; Speakers' bureau; Newsletter; Facilities; Grant writers; Project coordinators; Curriculum writers/planners; Training chairman; Advanced training chairman

Junior Master Naturalist Grant

Congratulations to Carol Reidy for applying for and obtaining a small grant towards development of a Junior Master Naturalist Program.

Officers
2004

- President Carol Reidy
Tel. 512-321-5073
E-mail: carolreidy@hotmail.com
- V. Pres Nancy Flanagan Hartke
- Secretary Marcy Youngman
- Treasurer Marie Medrano

2003 Committee Chairs

- 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

*"Live your beliefs and
you can turn the world around."
—H.D. Thoreau*

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

February

Monday, February 23, 2004

6:30 PM, Bastrop SP Refectory

New class: Review of attendance and prepare for certification.
Everyone: Discuss projects and establish committees for 2004; discuss joint ventures with other Chapters.

March

(Date and place for the March meeting TBA)

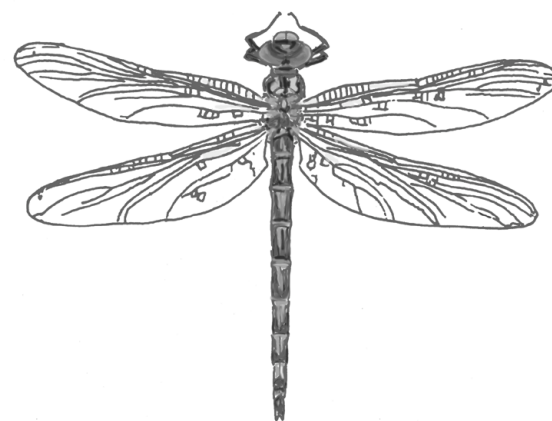
MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

March 10, 2004. We welcome relevant contributions, photos, announcements or other material relating to the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program, particularly those pertaining to our local area. Please send information to Andy Butler (butler@mdanderson.org); 512-321-1308.

CHAPTER WEBSITE:

www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org

Please check our website for updated event information and for links to many resources about our region's natural history.



Volunteer Opportunities

Right Here at Home Opportunities

- ▶ **Bastrop/Buescher State Park Volunteer Activities**—Ongoing: Saturday morning (10:00 AM) “Discover the Lost Pines” interpretive hikes at Bastrop State Park. This is a great excuse to go to the park! Lead small groups on a short hike (about 1 to 1 1/2 hr), giving them an overview of the importance of the park, both historically and ecologically. (Note: hikes will resume in early Spring.) To volunteer, contact Sue Fischer at 321-1308; email sa83161@odin.mdacc.tmc.edu.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **McKinney Roughs**—Opportunities for docents, tour guides, exhibit guides, gardeners and education program assistants. In February, volunteers will be needed to help with the gardens; there are canoe trips scheduled for March 6 and 27; and other opportunities as exhibit guides or in educational programs. For specific volunteer projects at McKinney Roughs, call Lizzie Pincoffs, 1-800-776-5272, extension 2926; email: lpincoff@lcr.org.

Other Opportunities

- ▶ **Great Backyard Bird Count**—February 13-16, 2004. Spend 15 minutes or more monitoring birds in your own neighborhood and submit the results to the GBBC website. For information on how to count and submit your totals, see the website: www.birdsource.org. Sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon.
- ▶ **Wild Basin Preserve Trail Maintenance**—Second Saturday of most months (Feb 14 & Mar 13), 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. Opportunities for a variety of educational activities, as well. For information, call (512) 327-7622, email hike@wildbasin.org, or visit the 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**—The monarchs are coming! Help monitor the fall (and spring) 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 a 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. Report your monthly volunteer service to Sue Fischer (144 Colovista Dr., Bastrop, TX 78602; or e-mail sa83161@odin.mdacc.tmc.edu). Documenting your hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support from our sponsors. Take a minute **now** to send in your hours.

*We do not see nature with our eyes,
but with our understandings
and our heart.
—William Hazlitt*

Advanced Training

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

- **Prescribed Burn School**—Monday-Friday, February 9-13, 8 AM-5 PM, at the Wildflower Center. This five day course is approved by the Texas Prescribed Burn Board, and earns 16 CEU from the Society of Range Management. Keith Blair will cover topics including weather, fuel moisture, ecology, burn plans and regulations, and post-burn management. Fee: \$500 before January 10; \$600 afterwards. See <http://www.wildflower.org/> for more information.
- **Texas Trees and Their Uses**—Saturday February 14, 9 AM-Noon, at the Wildflower Center. Discover how native Americans and settlers used trees for food, fiber and more from Patty Leslie Pasztor, co-author of *Texas Trees—a Friendly Guide*. She will highlight both human uses of native trees, and their importance to wildlife. Workshop includes both a classroom presentation, hands-on look at baskets, roots, dyes, etc., and a walk through the center grounds to study the trees up-close. Fee \$25 (members); \$30 (non-members). See <http://www.wildflower.org/> for more information.
- **Prescribed Burning Workshop**—Feb 19-21, 2004. The Academy for Ranch Management will conduct a prescribed burning workshop at the Sonora Experiment Station (between Sonora and Rock Springs). Go to the web site <http://rangeweb.tamu.edu/arm> to see more information on this training that TMN volunteers may be interested in participating.
- **5th Annual Ecological Integration Symposium**—Friday, February 20, 2004 at the Bush Presidential Conference Center on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station, TX. The focus of this year's symposium is "Ecological Value: Promoting Conservation and Sustainability". This annual event is an interdisciplinary effort organized by graduate students with the goal of providing a one-day forum for the discussion and demonstration of topics on the forefront of ecology and conservation. For more information see our website. Web Address: <http://symposium.tamu.edu/>.
- **Native Plant Symposium**—Feb 28, 9 AM-3 PM, at the Wildflower Center. Co-sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Texas. Includes presentations by author and designer Jill Nokes, landscape architect Gary Smith, and others.
- **New Chapter Coordinators Training**—March 19-20, at Bamberger Ranch, near Johnson City. This training is for developing and newly developed chapters-it's also a good "refresher" course for older chapters or newly elected officers. If anyone knows of someone interested in attending this training please contact Michelle to add

them to the list to receive further information as it becomes available. Contact Michelle Haggerty (mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu) for details.

- **Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop**—Saturday, March 27, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, at Bamberger Ranch, near Johnson City. 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. Learn about cedar management, water, grasses, trees, managing for wildlife and endangered species. Includes a short hike; dress for the weather. Fee, \$100 (includes lunch); Master Naturalists get a discount. For information, see www.bambergeranch.org/.
- **Rangeland Management for Cattle, Wildlife and Recreation**—April 1&2, 2004 at Graham and Throckmorton. Topics include plants for cattle and wildlife, managing for natives, and water quality. Tour three ranches. For Information, call TWA (972) 681-1701, t_trail@texas-wildlife.org, TSCRA (800) 242-7820 x 118 or Young Co. Extension at (940) 549-0737.
- **Water Workshop**—how to get water on your land without drilling a well—May 8, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, at Bamberger Ranch. Leroy Petrie and other ranch personnel will explain the Selah water projects. Visit the lakes and dams on the ranch, learn about construction, soils and their use in ponds, and how to identify sites on your property, including low cost, do-it-yourself ideas. Includes a short hike; dress for the weather. Fee, \$100 (includes lunch); Master Naturalists get a discount. For information, see www.bambergeranch.org/.
- **2004 Annual Statewide Meeting**—Oct 22-24. The 2004 Annual meeting will be held at the MO Ranch near Hunt, Tx. Lots of advanced training opportunities!

Of Interest

Texas Memorial Museum Grand Re-Opening with All-New Exhibits

The new fourth-floor Biodiversity Discovery Hall features a cutting-edge visualization facility showcasing 3-D images of fossils scanned in UT's state-of-the-art CT lab and a wide variety of other natural history presentations. The main exhibit area includes colorful and unusual specimens of insects, microscopic cave fauna, fish, and amphibians from the Museum's collections, with hands-on educational tools to help visitors learn more about the living world around them. For information and directions, see http://www.tmm.utexas.edu/exhibits/new_exhibits.html.