



## Officers

### President

Elaine Cearley

512-237-3021

[ElaineA@starband.net](mailto:ElaineA@starband.net)

### Vice President

Andy Butler

512-321-1308

[butler@mdanderson.org](mailto:butler@mdanderson.org)

### Secretary

Jan Walter

512-620-0032

[bswalter@compuserve.com](mailto:bswalter@compuserve.com)

### Treasurer

Marie Medrano

512-360-4172

### Past President

Carol Reidy

512-321-5073

[carolreidy@hotmail.com](mailto:carolreidy@hotmail.com)

### State Representative

Michal Hubbard

512-303-5976

[Michal\\_photog@yahoo.com](mailto:Michal_photog@yahoo.com)

## President's Column

Elaine Cearley

Spring is here! The wildflowers are blooming, and the hummingbirds are back. We have to get up an hour earlier.... oh well, most of the changes are good, and we do have more daylight after work.

### Reminders:

- Please submit your volunteer and advanced training hours to Sue Fischer. **Now** is a good time to turn in those March hours.
- Our April 8 field trip “Communication and Interpretation” has been designated as **advanced training** for members who are not currently leading interpretive hikes at Bastrop State Park.
- The April 10 presentation on “Weather and Climate” specifically, Severe Weather by Troy Kimmel, is also designated as advanced training for members not in the 2006 training class.

Our next **chapter meeting** will be on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the “Rangeland Ecology” class at Red Rock Community Center. This is an important meeting. We will offer the new Chapter Bylaws and Chapter Handbook for vote of the membership. These documents will soon be posted on our web site in the “About Us” section ([www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/chapter.html](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/chapter.html)). **Please** review them and be prepared to vote at the chapter meeting. I will have printed copies of our existing chapter bylaws at the meeting for your review. We are being strongly urged by the State to approve these bylaws, as are all chapters. We will not be able to make any changes in the bylaws in the future, but the Chapter Handbook is changeable by chapter vote as needed (within certain parameters). Another important document which guides our chapter is “Chapter Management Guidelines” (10/04 revision) which is also available on our web site. Together, these documents should answer most of your questions about the administration of our chapter. If you are not able to attend the meeting on May 1, please Email your vote for or against the approval of the documents prior to the meeting to me at [ElaineA@starband.net](mailto:ElaineA@starband.net).

See you at the meeting,  
—Elaine

## Inside This Issue

- 1 President's Column
- 1 Editor's Notes
- 2 Chapter Calendar
- 3 Volunteer Opportunities
- 4 Advanced Training



### MISSION STATEMENT:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

### STATE PROGRAM CONTACTS:

Website: <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>

State Coordinator: Michelle Haggerty,  
[mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu); 979-458-2034.

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

### SPONSOR CONTACTS:

Caldwell Co. Extension Office: Rachel Bauer, CEA-AG/NR; [Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu); 512-398-3122

Bastrop Co. Extension Office: Maron Finley, CEA-AG/NR; [Bastrop-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:Bastrop-tx@tamu.edu); 512-581-7186



## CHAPTER CALENDAR

### February & March

#### Saturday, April 8: Field Trip & Advanced Training

**Class, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**, Bastrop State Park Refectory. Park personnel will talk about interpretation and communications. We will do an example interpretive hike in the park. Advanced training for those not in this year's class or currently leading interpretive hikes in Bastrop SP. This also qualifies volunteers to lead the interpretive hikes.

#### Monday, April 10

**Class:** Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 PM. **Meteorologist Troy Kimmel** will discuss **Texas Severe Weather**. Our own **Mary Schiff** will cover **Texas geology**

#### Saturday, April 22: Field Trip

**Class: Luling Foundation Farms. Luling, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM.** We will learn about native and xeric plants in the range and in the landscape. Please note the **volunteer opportunity** following the class as we help to prepare a walking path that we surveyed in the area last year. (after a lunch break, from 12:30 until 2:30 or so).

#### Monday, April 24

**Class: 6:30 PM;** Note the location: **Bastrop County Court House, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor court room.** **Mark Klym**, TPWD, will discuss Texas Birds and **Stan Wellso** will talk about **insects and the environment**.

#### Monday, May 1: Class and Chapter Meeting

**Class:** Red Rock Community Center, 6:30 PM. Speaker: **Bob Lyons** will discuss rangeland ecology and the use of soil surveys and range site descriptions. We will also have a **Chapter Meeting** to vote on by-laws revisions.

#### Saturday, May 13: Field Trip & Advanced Training

**Class: LCRA Cooper Farm**, near Waldek, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM. The topic will be wildlife management options on acreage, presented by **Lee Fritsch**, Ranch Manager.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue is **May 7, 2006**. 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](mailto:butler@mdanderson.org); 512-321-1308.

### CHAPTER WEBSITE

[www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://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

## ► **Bastrop State Park Activities**

**Interpretive Hikes**—Ongoing: Saturday mornings (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 1/2 hr), giving them an overview of the importance of the park, both historically and ecologically. **Volunteers are still needed for hikes in April and May.** To help, contact Sue Fischer at 512-321-1308; email [smfischer@mdanderson.org](mailto:smfischer@mdanderson.org).

**Monitoring, exotic removal and other activities**—we are working with Todd McLanahan and the Park staff to set up a regular schedule for these activities. If you are interested, contact Andy Butler ([butler@mdanderson.org](mailto:butler@mdanderson.org); 512-321-1308).

► **Lockhart State Park Lecture Series**—A series of monthly presentations are planned. May 9 will be “Fauna of Lockhart State Park and Caldwell Country.” Further talks on the natural and cultural history of the area will be planned for the summer in collaboration with Park Staff. To volunteer, contact Rick Johnson ([rickjohnson718@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rickjohnson718@sbcglobal.net); (512) 398-4405).

► **Navarro Elementary School Xeriscape Garden**—Design and implementation of a xeriscape garden at Navarro Elementary School in Lockhart. We will provide an overview and design, while the student council will do the ground prep, planting and upkeep of the garden. Unveiling of the completed project is planned for March 20 (first day of Spring) with bare root seedlings give to each student. For information, contact Rick Johnson ([rickjohnson718@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rickjohnson718@sbcglobal.net); (512) 398-4405).

► **Yesterfest**—April 29, 2006, in downtown Bastrop. Volunteers are needed for an LPMN Chapter booth at this community event. Contact Rachel Riffe, [RachelRiffe@academicplanet.com](mailto:RachelRiffe@academicplanet.com), if interested.

► **Bobwhite Quail count**—Spend a couple of hours on Saturday May 6 counting bobwhite whistles at specified locations in your area. This is part of a state-wide effort to monitor the quail, involving a number of agencies and groups. Volunteers will receive appropriate training and forms for recording results. More information about this will be on our website ([www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org)) as it becomes available.

► **FireCAP Facilitators**—Facilitators will make presentations to home owners on how to protect their homes against wildfire, through creating defensible space and instituting other protective measures. Please

contact Michal Hubbard 512-517-1416 or by email [Michal\\_photog@yahoo.com](mailto:Michal_photog@yahoo.com) for details. If you have not received FireCAP Facilitator’s training, contact Michal; if there is sufficient interest a 4 hour training workshop (Advanced Training) will be scheduled.

► **Lockhart Demonstration Garden**—The Chapter Demonstration Garden now has a native wildflower plot and a tallgrass prairie plot. Some small trees have been planted so that a shade garden can develop. The garden is evolving to a demonstration of native plants for the home landscape. To help, contact Muriel Lem at 512-398-9427.

## Monitoring Activities

► **Individual monitoring activities**—In addition to Chapter activities and events with our partners agencies, a variety of individual monitoring activities, such as those listed here, may qualify for Volunteer service, particularly when they involve reporting your results as part of a broader monitoring effort. Please get these activities approved by Chapter officers, preferably before you begin.

► **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.

► **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.

► **See the TPWD “Nature Tracker” web page for detailed monitoring information**—  
[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas\\_nature\\_trackers/index.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas_nature_trackers/index.phtml).

► **Remember**—Get approval for volunteer activities not listed *before* you begin a project. Report monthly volunteer service to Sue Fischer at 144 Colovista Dr., Bastrop, TX 78602; email [smfischer@mdanderson.org](mailto:smfischer@mdanderson.org). Activity report forms are available on our website at <http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/volunteer.html>.

# Advanced Training

- **Interpretation: Discover the Lost Pines.** (Field trip for 2006 class members; Advanced Training for other members not currently leading hikes at Bastrop SP.) Join Chris Holmes, TPWD Regional Interpretive Specialist to learn the art of interpretation and communicating with the public. After his introduction, we will practice with a short walk through the park. This serves as training for leading our Saturday AM interpretive hikes.
- **South Central Texas Severe Weather Hazards and Safety.** (Part of 2006 class; Advanced Training for other members). **Troy Kimmel** has been forecasting Texas weather since 1978. He is Chief meteorologist for KVET and was previously on Fox 7 news and KEYE TV. He also teaches meteorology classes at the University of Texas.
- **Nature Quest 2006**—April 25-April 30, Uvalde & Frio Counties. Keynote speaker: Bobby Ray Harrison of Ivory-billed woodpecker fame. Photo workshops during & after the festival with Kathy & Gary Clark. Numerous Field Trips, Workshops, Seminars, Evening Programs & Activities. Speakers include John and Gloria Tveten, authors of several books on Texas birds and butterflies, and our own Bill Brooks. For complete information on guest instructors, lodging and registration information, visit the web site: <http://www.thcrr.com/static/index.cfm?contentID=10>.
- **Wildflowers Field Day**—May 6, 9 AM-12:30 PM, Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve (near Johnson City). Spend a morning in the fields and woods around Selah identifying wildflowers. Bring a snack and something to drink. Cameras are welcome if you wish to take pictures. Botanist and volunteer, Laura Sanchez helps Steven Fulton teach Wildflower Field Day guests the “art of appreciating” the small ones. 3.5-hour field day includes some hiking. Please dress for the weather. See <http://www.bambergerranch.org/tours/> for details.
- **Rocks, minerals and fossils of Central Texas**—May 20, 9 AM to Noon. Join our own Miriam Hall for a hands-on discussion of how rocks and minerals are formed, their properties, identification of fossils, information on the geological periods they represent, and detailed information on collecting rocks or fossils. Participants will receive samples for reference. The workshop will be held at Miriam’s workshop. Directions to follow, or contract Miriam for details ([MHALL@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:MHALL@tceq.state.tx.us)).
- **Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference**—May 24-28, Nacogdoches. The Stephen F. Austin State University Native Plant Center is proud to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference in association with the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Join a unique blend of plant enthusiasts, nursery professionals, landscapers, botanists, and horticulturists to hear nationally known speakers address region-specific topics such as East Texas ecosystems, landscape use, invasive and exotic plants, and conservation efforts. Enjoy the local flora on fabulous field trips and learn from experts during hands-on workshops. There will be numerous field trips led by noted botanists. Conference fees range from \$75 (single day) to \$175 (complete package). For details and registration form, see our web site [www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/training.html](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/training.html).
- **Project Learning Tree**—June 19-22. Janette Scott from the Region 12 Education service center in Waco will be facilitating three environmental education classes. "Food, Land & People," an agriculture based program will be June 19<sup>th</sup> at Mother Neff State Park. Project Learning Tree's "Exploring the Places We Live" will be June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Waco Wetland Education Center, and a general Project Learning Tree class will be June 22<sup>nd</sup>, also at the Wetland Education Center. For details and registration, contact Janette Scott at (254)297-1127 or [jscott@esc12.net](mailto:jscott@esc12.net). All classes are open to the public and have been approved for advanced training for Master Naturalists.
- **See our Web site for more events!** **Note:** For events not listed in the newsletter or web site, please obtain **prior** approval for advanced training credit.

---

*Our ideals, laws and customs should be based on the proposition that each generation, in turn, becomes the custodian rather than the absolute owner of our resources and each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance on to the future."*

—Charles A. Lindbergh

---