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President's Column

--Andy Butler

With the holidays approaching and the end of the year upon us, we're going to abbreviate this edition of your newsletter. But never fear, there is lots going on, and we are already making plans for next year.

Our December meeting will be held at the Bastrop State Park refectory on December 17 at the usual time of 6:30 PM. This is an important meeting! It's important because it is our annual meeting as designated in our by-laws for election of chapter officers. It's important because it will be the final class and graduation for our 2007 Master Naturalist class. And it's important because it provides an opportunity for us to have some fun, socialize, and celebrate another great year for the Lost Pines Chapter.

We've had a great training class this fall with plenty of enthusiasm. I've enjoyed getting to know all of this group. It will be great to honor them at their graduation as they take the next steps towards certification. Please come out and get to know our new members!

The nominations committee has recruited a terrific slate of candidates to lead the chapter for 2008. The candidates are: Mark McClelland for president, Louise Ridlon for vice president, Kathy McAleese for another term as secretary, and Marie Medrano for another year as treasurer. Nominations from the floor will be solicited as well, but this is a very capable group who would do a wonderful job. As a reminder, all chapter members in good standing are eligible to vote, whether or not certified. We will have a few other planning items to discuss and act on as well.

By popular demand, we will again have a "Chinese auction" style gift exchange. To participate, please bring a wrapped gift, preferably with some sort of nature theme. Gifts need not be expensive, but should be sought after by your naturalist friends. We will provide cake and refreshments, but if you have a special holiday treat that you are dying to share, don't be shy.

Finally, please report your volunteer and training hours to Marsha Elrod as soon as possible. Over the next few weeks, we must compile our 2007 report for the state TMN program, and it's a big job to put all the data together. You can help by submitting your hours in a timely fashion.

See you all on the 17th!

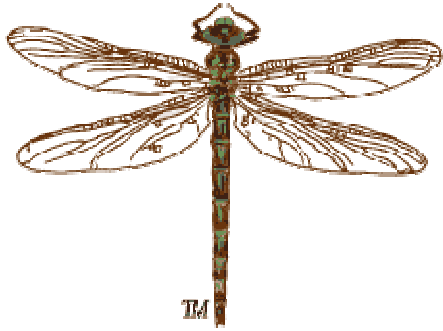
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MISSION STATEMENT

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; 979 458-2034.

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

SPONSOR CONTACTS

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

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

Bastrop/Caldwell Co. TPWD Wildlife Biologist: Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop, mltpwd@onr.com; 512 332-7280.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **Jan 7, 2008**. 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 Marsha Elrod: melrod1@earthlink.net 512 321-7400.

CHAPTER CALENDAR

Chapter meetings alternate between Bastrop State Park's Refectory and the Red Rock Community Center and are normally held at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of each month. Meetings are open to members, prospective members, and the general public.

December

Monday, Dec 17 – Chapter Meeting: Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 PM. Chapter meeting, including election of officers and Christmas party! We will also be celebrating the graduation of our current training class. Come join the fun and meet our new members!

January

Monday, Jan 21 – Chapter Meeting and Advanced Training: Red Rock Community Center, 6:30 PM. Meredith Longoria will be training us on wildlife tax valuation consultation in order to help her consult with landowners and evaluate their property and management plans. This will be followed by a field workshop, date TBA.

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.

LOST PINES CHAPTER YAHOO GROUP

Subscribe to our Yahoo Group to keep up with the latest Chapter happenings. Send an email to LPMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LPMN/>.

REPORTING TRAINING & VOLUNTEER HOURS

Send your advanced training and volunteer hours reports to Marsha Elrod: melrod1@earthlink.net or mail to

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