



## Officers

### President

Mark McClelland  
512 281-5516

[markmcc@prodigy.net](mailto:markmcc@prodigy.net)

### Vice President

Louise Ridlon  
512 985-5064

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

### Secretary

Kathy McAleese  
512 321-2857

[kmcaleese@austin.rr.com](mailto:kmcaleese@austin.rr.com)

### Treasurer

Marie Medrano  
512 360-4172

[mmedrano@smithvilleisd.org](mailto:mmedrano@smithvilleisd.org)

### Past President

Andy Butler  
512 321-1308

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

### State Representative

Michal Hubbard  
512 303-5976

[michal\\_photog@yahoo.com](mailto:michal_photog@yahoo.com)

## President's Column

--Mark McClelland

The spring festival and celebration season is upon us! Our club has participated in Lockhart's Rites of Spring and the Bastrop/Caldwell WMA Extravaganza in Smithville, with Earth Day at McKinney Roughs and Bastrop's Yesterfest still to come! My special thanks go out to Rick Johnson for organizing and leading our efforts in both Lockhart and Smithville.

Don't forget our joint Master Naturalist / Native Plant Society plant swap coming up on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM at Debbie Sewart's home. Deb e-mailed information to our group back on March 27<sup>th</sup>, but if you have any questions give her a call at 512-237-1154. It should be great fun!

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Amphibian and Mussel Watch workshops are set. Thanks to our partners at LCRA, we'll be hosting these workshops at McKinney Roughs. The Amphibian Watch workshop will be Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and will run from 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM. The late hour will allow us to travel to a nearby wetland at dusk to listen for (and identify?) local frog species. The Mussel Watch workshop is Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and will run from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. These workshops are offered in only a few locations each year, so be sure to take advantage of this nearby training!

Last month I discussed three of our chapter's standing committees. This month I'll cover the activities of the remaining committees.

Advanced Training/Program Committee – This committee has two big jobs. The first is to determine which of the activities available to club members

—Continued on Page 4

## Inside This Issue

- 1 President's Column
- 1 Historic 2<sup>nd</sup> Reforestation
- 2 Chapter Calendar
- 3 Volunteer Opportunities
- 3 Weeds & Wild Things
- 3 Nature Quotes
- 4 Advanced Training
- 5 Miscellany
- 5R 2008 Activity Report

## Historic Second Reforestation of BSP

– Walt Elson

On February 26, LPMN members teamed with TPWD employees to start the reforestation of Bastrop State Park.

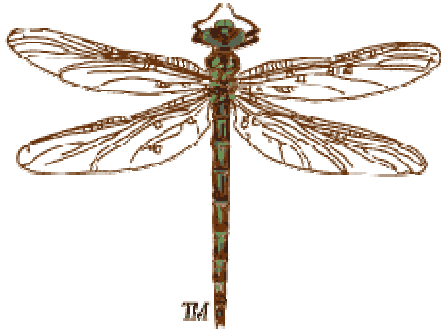
"This is cool," said Greg Creacy, TPWD project coordinator. "This is the first day of the first reforestation of the park since the Civilian Conservation Corps built the park in 1937. And you're a part of it!"

Sue Arcy, Walt Elson, and Pamela Hohman, working with three TPWD

—Continued on Page 5

## 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 Department.

## SPONSOR CONTACTS

**Caldwell Co. Extension Office:** position vacant;  
[Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu); 512 398-3122

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

**Bastrop/Caldwell Co. TPWD Wildlife Biologist:** Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop,  
[mltpwd@onr.com](mailto:mltpwd@onr.com); 512 332-7280.



### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **May 9, 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](mailto: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.**

### April

**Monday, Apr 21 – Chapter Meeting and Advanced Training:** Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 PM. Mark Klym will present an overview of the TPWD Nature Tracker program and explain how we can participate.

### May

**Monday, May 19 – Chapter Meeting and Advanced Training:** Red Rock Community Center, 6:30 PM. Dan Hardy, vice-president of the Austin Butterfly Forum, will be presenting "Common Central Texas Butterflies". He will discuss identification of the butterflies and their caterpillars, as well as the specific relationships that each butterfly has with its host plants.

### 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.

### Lost Pines Chapter Yahoo Group

Subscribe to our Yahoo Group to keep up with the latest Chapter happenings. Send an email to [LPMN-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:LPMN-subscribe@yahoo.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](mailto:melrod1@earthlink.net); use the on-line reporting form on our website; or mail to  
187 Billingsley Hts  
Cedar Creek TX 78612

# Volunteer Opportunities

- **Bastrop State Park Interpretive Hikes** – Ongoing, Saturday mornings, 10:00 AM. “Discover the Lost Pines” interpretive hikes at Bastrop State Park. Hikes started again in February. New local publicity has resulted in increased public interest, so come help out! Contact Sue Fischer at 512 321-1308 or email [smfischer@mdanderson.org](mailto:smfischer@mdanderson.org).
- **Bastrop State Park Nature Surveys** – Louise Ridlon is coordinating nature surveys at Bastrop State Park. Surveys can be done ad hoc on your own schedule, or contact Louise to coordinate a group hike. Contact her at 512 985-5064 or [fridlon@hotmail.com](mailto:fridlon@hotmail.com) for how to report your findings if you would like to participate. Reporting forms are available on the chapter website and Yahoo group site.
- **Colorado River Refuge First Saturday/Sunday Monitoring** – Kathy McAleese leads monthly bird and plant monitoring surveys (and butterflies in season) at the Colorado River Refuge. Time and day may vary from month to month, due to weather or other scheduling conflicts; Kathy will send out an e-mail with exact times prior to the weekend. Bring binoculars, field guides, and water; dress for the weather. The CRR is located in Tahitian Village past the Pine Forest Golf Course clubhouse 0.7 miles beyond where the pavement ends. Contact Kathy at 512 718-1313 or [kmcaleese@austin.rr.com](mailto:kmcaleese@austin.rr.com) for more information.
- **McKinney Roughs Spring/Earth Day Festival** – Sat Apr 19, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to staff our booth and assist with other planned activities. If you can help out, contact Mark McClelland at 512 281-5516 or [markmcc@prodigy.net](mailto:markmcc@prodigy.net).
- **Tallgrass Prairie Restoration** -- Sat Apr 26, 9:00 – 11:00. Muriel Lem is coordinating a tallgrass prairie restoration project at Lockhart State Park with Liz LaRue. The initial site to be planted is in an open area just beyond the Clear Fork Creek crossing near the camping area and the golf course fairway. Muriel is providing native grasses and forbs, but needs some helping hands. Bring your tools, too! For additional information and to volunteer, call Muriel Lem at 512 398-9427.
- **McKinney Roughs Gardening Work Day** – Sat Apr 26, 9:00 – noon. Bring hat, gloves, and any favorite tools. Most tools will be provided, as will drinks and snacks. Contact Jen or Jana at 303-5073 for details and to RSVP, or email [jana.hellbusch@lcra.org](mailto:jana.hellbusch@lcra.org).
- **TPWD Junior Angler Clinics** – Saturdays,

Jun – Aug, 8:00 – 12:30, Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. Volunteers are needed to assist with this free learn-to-fish clinic for boys and girls ages 6 to 13. This is a very basic clinic, and you don't need to be a fisher-person to help out. The kids really have a good time, and parents must accompany their children. Park entrance is free for volunteers, and necessary training will be provided on site. Clinics will be held on  
June 7 at Buescher State Park  
June 14 at Bastrop State Park  
July 12 at Buescher State Park  
July 19 at Bastrop State Park  
Aug 2 at Buescher State Park  
At least 7 volunteers are needed for each clinic. Contact Bill Brooks at 512 581-0377 or [bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu).

## Weeds & Wild Things Plant Swap

Don't forget, Sunday afternoon, April 20, from 2:00 – 4:00 is the joint plant swap with the Native Plant Society. Deb Sewart is our hostess, and she advises you to bring plants you wish to swap, something to take your new "weeds" home in (a box, wagon, bag), a hat/sunglasses (we'll be outside), and a sweet tooth.

We'll be gathering at 137 Ann Powell Rd in Smithville. Going east from Bastrop on Hwy 71, turn left onto KLBj Rd between the Chevron Station (La Cabana Restaurant) and the Highway 95 exit to Smithville. This is the road leading to the MD Anderson Science Park. As you go up the hill on KLBj Rd, bear to the left (Ann Powell Rd) and continue up the hill to the second driveway on the right. Brown RV in the yard, log cabin and shed ... can't miss "Griswold Acres!"

Pull in and park carefully as there are deep drainage ditches on both sides of the driveway. Questions? Call or e-mail Deb at 512 237-1154 or [ione818@yahoo.com](mailto:ione818@yahoo.com).

## Nature Quotes

Once you have heard the lark, known the swish of feet through hill-top grass and smelt the earth made ready for the seed, you are never again going to be fully happy about the cities and towns that man carries like a crippling weight upon his back.

~Gwyn Thomas

# Advanced Training

- **Lost Pines Native Plant Society of Texas** – first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, First National Bank, Smithville. Presentations count as advanced training. Contact Bill Brooks at [bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu) or 512-581-0377 for program information.
- **Travis Audubon Society: The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve - A Community-Based Conservation Model** – Thu Apr 17, 7:00 PM. Travis County's Senior Environmental Resource Manager Kevin Connally will speak about the history and current status of the Balcones Canyonlands reserve. As the very first multi-species regional Habitat Conservation Plan in the nation, the BCP forged a model that is being emulated and tailored to meet the needs of communities across the country. For additional information, see <http://www.travisaudubon.org/meetings.html>.
- **Texas AgriLife Extension & Bastrop County SWCD Pond Management Workshop** – Apr 16, 8:00 – noon, Dr. Weaver estate on Hwy 21. Program topics will include an overview of water quality, the aquatic food chain, weed and pest management, pond fertilization, stocking fish, and pond location and design. You are welcome to bring aquatic plants for identification. Please bring a lawn chair and wear a hat/sunscreen, as we will be out in the field. Refreshments will be provided. Dr. Weaver's estate is located on Hwy 20, ½ mile south of Hwy 71. Signs will be posted at the gate. (Coming from Lockhart- Turn right into the last gate on Hwy 20 before you get to Hwy 71.) For additional information contact Rachel Bauer at 512 581-7186.
- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: Go Native U** – Go Native U is an informal adult education program on the use and conservation of native plants. All classes will be held at the Wildflower Center. Registration for Go Native U is arranged on-line through UT at Austin Informal Classes. For registration information go to <http://www.wildflower.org/gonativeu/>.  
Upcoming classes:
  - **Container Gardening with Native Plants** – Sat Apr 26, 9 AM – 1 PM
  - **Floral Designs with Native Plants** – Sat May 24, 9 AM – 1 PM
- **Austin Butterfly Forum: Tales of Woe, Deception & Wonder; the Myriad Defenses of Texan Caterpillars** – Mon Apr 28, 7:00 PM, Zilker Botanical Garden Center. Author Dr. David

L. Wagner will show splendid photographs that showcase the wonderfully varied and deceitful ploys that caterpillars employ to dupe birds and other would-be predators. Along the way he will touch on silk, spices, and other stuff you'd never associate with a bunch of bugs. His book, Caterpillars of Eastern North America: a Guide to Identification and Natural History, will be available for sale at the meeting. Go to <http://www.austinbutterflies.org/Calendar/> for additional information.

- **Luling Foundation Annual Field Day** – Thu May 15. Speakers, topics, and a schedule will be available from the Luling Foundation Farm. Call (830) 875-2438 to RSVP and to request a schedule.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference** – May 28 - 31, Nacogdoches. This 3-day conference hosted by the Stephen F. Austin University College of Forestry & Agriculture's Pineywoods Native Plant Center includes field trips, workshops, and lectures. Total conference registration fee is \$250 on or before May 7. Single day options are also available. Lodging is not included. For complete information go to <http://pnpc.sfasu.edu/brochure.pdf> or call the Pineywoods Native Plant Center at 936-468-1832.

—President's Column, continued

qualify as advanced training (AT). We each need to obtain 8 hours of AT to receive our initial Master Naturalist certification, and then 8 hours each year thereafter to re-certify. The committee identifies activities that will fulfill these requirements, reviews activities submitted by members for consideration as AT, and maintains the "LPMN Approved Advanced Training" document, which was included in the March 2008 newsletter, to assist members in understanding what counts as AT and what does not.

The second task is to line up speakers and programs for each of the monthly chapter meetings. As you can imagine, maintaining the steady flow of interesting speakers requires a lot of networking and scheduling. According to our bylaws the Vice President is the chair of the program committee and oversees this task. I think that Louise is doing an outstanding job with this year's programs and know that she welcomes suggestions for speakers and topics. So the next time you find yourself listening to a particularly interesting speaker, pass the name and contact information on to Louise.

—Continued on Page 5

## Rachel Bauer Transfers to Bastrop Extension Office

Effective April 14, Rachel Bauer, County Extension Agent for Caldwell County, became the new Bastrop County Extension Agent, transferring into the vacant position left by Maron Finley's retirement. Caldwell County's loss is Bastrop County's gain, but the great thing is we will still continue to work with Rachel as a chapter sponsor.

Rachel is actually coming back to a position she left several years ago, when she was instrumental in the organization of the Lost Pines TMN chapter. It is a happy homecoming for both her and our chapter!

## CRR Grand Opening and Spring Field Day at Yegua Knobs Preserve!

Pines and Prairies Land Trust will be showing off two of its jewels this month. Earth Day, Tuesday April 22, marks the grand opening of the Colorado River Refuge. There will be food and a strolling fiddler to accompany the resident birds' songs from 3:00 until 7:00 PM.

Then on Saturday April 26, Yegua Knobs will be open for hiking, birding, photographing, botanizing, or just hanging out far from the madding crowd. Bastrop Audubon will conduct a bird census in the morning. Call Priscilla Jarvis for details and directions at 512 281-2762.

For more information on both these events, go to <http://www.pinesandprairieslandtrust.org/> and pull up newsletter volume 6 number 1.

## Hospitality Committee

What would a meeting be without refreshments? Dry, for one thing, and not nearly as much fun! Thanks to our hospitality committee volunteers for this month's meeting: Karen Sterling and Larry Diamond for the food, and Brett Finch for the drinks.

**Historian** – This one man committee is made up of Bill Brooks. Bill is our chapter historian and is charged with keeping the chapter history. According to our bylaws, this history may include, but is not limited to: "Training classes, projects, recognitions, events, elections, meetings, and Chapter Newsletter archives." Bill welcomes any and all materials related to the history of our chapter. Please make sure to label items with names, dates, specifics of the events, etc. so that Bill can catalog and document the materials accurately.

**Training Committee** – Each of us has participated in the 40+ hour Master Naturalist training program and has seen firsthand the effort that goes into organizing and presenting the class. This task falls to the training committee. This committee sets the schedule for the classes, prepares the budget, obtains the class materials, selects the speakers and coordinates their presentation and handouts, makes arrangements for the classrooms, schedules the field trips, and manages the class activities from start to finish. Andy Butler headed this effort up for the past training class, with help from several club members. This committee is not currently active, but will begin work again this summer to plan for our spring 2009 training class. We'll be looking for volunteers to spread the load, so think of ways that you would like to assist with the next class!

I will miss the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at the Bastrop State Park refectory building, so Louise Ridlon will be running the show. Come and hear Mark Klym from Texas Parks and Wildlife discuss the Nature Tracker volunteer program. This citizen science monitoring effort is designed to involve volunteers of all ages and interest levels in gathering scientific data on species of concern in Texas through experiential learning.

— Historic Second Reforestation, continued

employees, planted approximately 2500 pine trees, covering about five acres. The trees, 8 to 16 inches tall, were obtained from the Texas Forest Service and are part of an overall plan to plant 50,000 trees in the park.

The area being reforested was recently purchased by TPWD for park expansion. It had been used for cattle grazing for many years and was a Bermuda grass pasture. The area had been burned off 3 days before as part of a prescribed burn to beginning restoring the area to its natural state.

# LOST PINES CHAPTER -TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS ACTIVITY REPORT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR 2008

I. ADVANCED TRAINING - do NOT count travel time					
DATE	ACTIVITY & LOCATION, SPONSOR/INSTRUCTOR	HRS	TRVL		
			NA		
			NA		
			NA		
II. VOLUNTEER HOURS - count travel (max 1 hour) and/or preparation time					
A. CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT *					
DATE	ACTIVITY & LOCATION	HRS	TRVL		
B. COMMUNITY SERVICE - OUTREACH					
DATE	ACTIVITY & LOCATION	DIRECT OR INDIRECT?	NUMBER OF YOUTH ADULTS	HRS	TRVL
C. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE					
DATE	ACTIVITY & LOCATION	ACRES IMPACTED	MILES IMPROVED	HRS	TRVL
* Time attending and traveling to and from chapter meetings is not volunteer time.					