



Texas  
Master  
Naturalist

# Lost Pines Chapter

Bastrop-Caldwell Counties

Volume 8, Issue 12

December 2008

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## President's Column

--Mark McClelland

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. The Lost Pines Master Naturalist chapter has had a busy and productive year. We led a bunch of hikes, sponsored three different Nature Tracker classes, attended several festivals, spoke to community groups, canoed down the Colorado River, and watched a few million bats fly off into the night, along with dozens of other activities.

I think that each of us is involved in the Texas Master Naturalist program for different reasons, but we all share a love of nature and the outdoors. I personally enjoy the opportunity to learn something new at each meeting or activity and to spend time with all of the other members of our chapter. We have such an interesting and diverse group of folks, and I feel lucky to be part of it.

We have scheduled a work day in Bastrop State Park on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The signs are in for placement on the Carrizo Trail project that we've been working on for several years now, and the parks folks have asked us to place them. We'll be placing the signs on small masonry pedestals that we will construct, so bring some gloves. We'd also like to rake the trail clean and to continue with our Japanese Honeysuckle and English Ivy eradication project, so tools like rakes and loppers would be helpful.

Preparations continue for our spring 2009 Master Naturalists training class. The first class will be Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Bastrop State Park refectory building. Now is the time to get the word out to your friends and neighbors who may be interested in joining this program. Sign-up information is available on our website.

Coming up on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bastrop State Park refectory at 6:30, we'll be electing officers for next year. Our current officers have agreed to stand for re-election, so your slate will be:

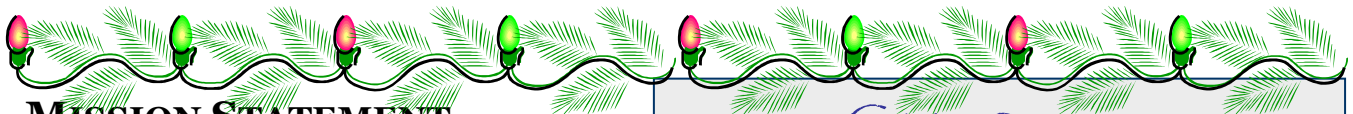
President: Mark McClelland  
Vice-President: Louise Ridlon  
Secretary: Kathy McAleese  
Treasurer: Marie Medrano

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, so don't be shy about stepping forward and making your interest known.

And finally, we'll have our Christmas potluck dinner and gift exchange at the December meeting. Bring your favorite snack or drink and a wrapped gift that has a nature theme to it for our traditional "Chinese Auction" gift exchange. It need not be expensive, and can be either silly or serious, your choice! See you there!!!

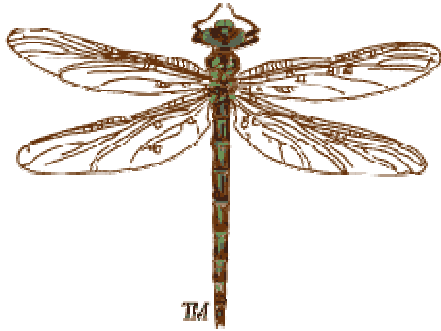
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu); 979 458-2034.

The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

## SPONSOR CONTACTS

**Caldwell Co. Extension Office:** Jeff Watts; [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 **January 9, 2009**. 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.**

### December

**Monday, December 15 – Chapter Meeting and Holiday Party:** Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 PM. We will be electing officers for next year and exchanging gifts in our "traditional" Chinese auction. Bring a wrapped gift with a nature theme for the auction and your favorite holiday treat to eat!

### January

**Monday, January 19 – Chapter Meeting:** Red Rock Community Center, 6:30 PM. Program to be announced.

### 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@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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](mailto:melrod1@earthlink.net); use the on-line reporting form on our website; or mail to  
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