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President's Column

--Mark McClelland

As I write this, we are enjoying some of the nicest weather that we have seen in months. We've had more than a week of low humidity, cool nights, and warm, sunny days. The butterflies are out in bunches, and our winter birds have started to arrive. What a great time to be a Master Naturalist in Central Texas!

Thanks to Miriam Hall for an interesting program on the fossils of our area at the October meeting—with take-home gifts for everyone, no less! I am amazed at the varied knowledge that we have in our chapter. I hope that others in the chapter will consider giving a program on something in which they are interested.

NatureFest 2009 was a big success. The weather could not have been nicer. The organizers reported that attendance was 8,000 folks. We didn't see anywhere near that number at our booth, but we did have a chance to talk to plenty of folks about what our chapter does. We also generated a lot of interest in our upcoming Spring 2010 class. Remember to let friends and family know about this great program. Registration information should be up on the Web site soon.

Once again, I want to remind everyone that it is time to start thinking

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Angie Morrison Wins TMN Contest!

--Wendy Sera

One of our own, Lost Pines Master Naturalist Chapter member Angie Morrison has won the 10th Anniversary Texas Master Naturalist slogan contest! The slogan is featured in the newly released *Texas Master Naturalist 10th Anniversary Program Report: 1998-2008*. Her winning entry was:

*"Ten Years Strong. Million Hours Long.
Texas Master Naturalist Still Marching On."*

Congratulations, Angie!

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

SPONSOR CONTACTS

Caldwell Co. Extension Office: Jeff Watts; Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu; (512) 398-3122.

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

Bastrop/Caldwell Co. TPWD Wildlife Biologist: Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop, Meredith.Longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us; (512) 332-7280.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **December 8, 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 Wendy Sera: wendy_sera@hotmail.com, (512) 652-8605.

Chapter Calendar

Chapter meetings generally 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 public.

November

Monday, November 16 – Chapter Meeting: Red Rock Community Center, 6:30 pm. Kim Bacon from the Texas Bee Watchers will give a presentation about native Texas bees. Learn more about Texas Bee Watchers at: <http://www.bee watchers.com>.

December

Monday, December 14 (NOTE: this is the 2nd Monday of December rather than our normal 3rd Monday of the month) – Chapter Meeting: Bastrop State Park Refectory, 6:30 pm. Annual meeting, elections, and holiday party.

Chapter Web site

<http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/>

Please check our Web site 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 e-mail 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 hour reports to Marsha Elrod: melrod1@earthlink.net; use the online reporting form on our Web site or mail to:

187 Billingsley Hts
Cedar Creek TX 78612

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Boy Scouts of America, Capitol Area Council – Webelos Winter Camp** – December 27-30, 2009, in Bastrop. Volunteers needed to teach activity badges (Naturalist, Geologist, or Forester badges may be of interest to Master Naturalists) to 10-11 year olds in morning and/or afternoon sessions. Please contact Sonya Willis at goodturnusa@yahoo.com or Nicholas Cowey at ncowey@lcra.com for additional information.
- **McKinney Roughs Nature Survey** – Kathy McAleese is coordinating a long-term project to survey trails through the burned-out areas of McKinney Roughs. Plans call for at least two surveys per month, one during the week and one on a weekend. Actual days and times will vary based on the weather and Kathy's schedule. Please contact her at (512) 718-1313 or kmcaleese@austin.rr.com if you are interested in leading or participating in either weekday or weekend surveys, or both.
- **Bastrop State Park Interpretive Walks** – We need volunteers each Saturday morning from October 3 through early December. Hikes are from 10 AM to about 11:30 AM. Remember, these hikes are literally a "walk in the woods": one leisurely mile. Meet at the kiosk next to the playscape rest rooms (down the road from the Refectory and swimming pool). Please contact Sue Fischer to volunteer at smfischer@mdanderson.org or (512) 321-1308.
- **Adopt-A-Highway** – One Saturday every 2 months, Brett Finch leads the Adopt-A Highway project for our chapter. It involves six clean-ups a year, for which TxDOT provides all clean-up and safety equipment. We have adopted a 2-mile section of Hwy 95 to the north and south of FM 2336. At least three volunteers are needed in addition to Brett, and clean-up takes about 1-2 hours. For information on the next clean-up date and to volunteer, contact Brett at goldward@yahoo.com.
- **Hornsby Bend – Ecological Literacy Days – Last Saturday of every month, 9 am - 1 pm** – Combining volunteer work with learning about local ecology, the Ecological Literacy Day at Hornsby Bend begins with several hours of outdoor work - ranging from trail maintenance to habitat restoration to work in the native plant nursery - and ends with at least an hour of learning about local ecology - birds, bugs, and more! Wear boots and work clothing, and bring your binoculars. For more information, contact Kevin Anderson at coordinator@hornsbybend.org or (512) 972-1960.
- **Hornsby Bend – Monthly Bird Survey – Second Saturday each month** – Meet at the **Center for Environmental Research** at **7:00 am** for the morning survey [coffee and donuts at 6:30 am] and **4:00 pm** for the afternoon survey. All levels of birders are welcome - the survey is a great way to improve your skills since we form teams matching experienced and novice birders. For more information, contact Eric Carpenter at ecarpe@gmail.com.
- **Pines and Prairies Land Trust – Teaching Nature lessons** to homeschooled children and their parents at the Colorado River Refuge. They are planning for the fall 2009 lessons and need teachers to plan and lead lessons and assistants to help children and answer questions. Two assistants are needed for each lesson. Need teachers and assistants for **November 19** and **December 3**. All the lessons are on Thursdays **10:00 am – Noon**. The lessons this fall will concentrate on trees and insects. If interested in leading or assisting with a lesson, please contact Joan Russell at joanrussell@suddenlink.net or (512) 321-2718. Small stipend **or** Master Naturalist volunteer credit available.

Nature Quotes

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson



Advanced Training

- **McKinney Roughs Nature Park – *Nature Realized: Connecting Your Children to the Land*** – Saturday, **December 5**, 9:00 am–3:30 pm. This workshop is for parents, grandparents, or influential adults who wonder how to get kids outdoors—and love it! The class will address the disconnect between today's children and the natural world. \$15 per person, adults 18 and up. Pre-registration required. Call 512-303-5073 or outdoorprograms@lcra.org.
- **TPWD – *Growing Up WILD Facilitator Training Workshop*** – **November 20, 2009** in **Boerne, Texas**. Join the corps of volunteer facilitators who lead the *new Growing Up WILD workshops* to adults. By attending this 8-hour workshop, participants will be certified to teach Growing Up WILD professional development workshops to formal and informal early childhood educators. Must be willing to teach one workshop per year. Held at the Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Rd. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; fee \$5; preregistration required. For more information and registration, contact Mary Kennedy at mbkenned@sbcglobal.net or (830) 249-4616.
- **Austin Butterfly Forum (club meeting) – *Wasp Evolution, Biodiversity and Behavior*** – Monday, **January 26**, 7:00 PM, Zilker Botanical Garden Center. Dr. Allan Hook, Professor of Biology at St. Edward's University, will speak about the evolution of Hymenoptera, the group that includes wasps, ants, and bees. He will talk about diversity within this large group, and how and why various behaviors developed. He show films and explain the behavioral ecology of solitary wasps at Pedernales State Park. For more information, see Dr. Hook's Web site at <http://www.stedwards.edu/science/biology/people/hook.html>.
- **McKinney Roughs Nature Park – *Ranger in the Roughs*** – Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 pm, **November 19** – Skunks; **December 17** – Beavers; **January 21** – Texas Hummingbirds; **February 18**- Texas Wildflowers. Sit in the amphitheater under the night sky and learn about the native animals that inhabit the land in and around the Colorado River. The focus will be on the natural history of and folklore about each animal. Program will be held indoors in bad weather. Registration not required. FREE, all ages welcome. To register, contact Erin Barker at (512)303-5073, Ext. 8013.
- **Lost Pines Native Plant Society of Texas** – Select **first Tuesdays of each month**, 7:00 PM, First National Bank, Smithville. Presentations count as advanced training. Contact Bill Brooks at (512) 581-0377 or bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu for more information.
- **Bastrop County Audubon Society – *Regular Monthly Meeting*** – Tuesday, **November 17**, 7:00 pm at the First National Bank Meeting Room 489 Highway 71 West, Smithville. Robert Reeves will give a presentation about raptors.

A NatureFest Thank You

To all of our Wonderful Volunteers:

Thank you so much for your participation in NatureFest 2009. The event was a huge success and over 8,000 friends, neighbors, and members of surrounding communities attended this year.

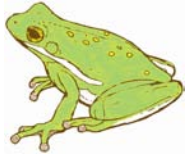
The mission of NatureFest is “to educate our communities, counties, and state about nature and all of its beauty and to provide a pleasant experience for all attendees so they will recognize the importance of saving and preserving nature for future generations.” With volunteers like you who freely give their time to support all of NatureFest’s activities, we would have to say that this event accomplished its mission.

We sincerely appreciate all of your efforts in setting up activities, keeping them running smoothly and the clean-up at the end to restore the park to its natural beauty. NatureFest’s success depends on reliable and helpful volunteers and your service to the event and your community is truly appreciated.

We value your feedback, so please feel free to share with us any suggestions or comments you may have on this year’s events. We look forward to another wonderful event next year and hope to see you back again!

Sincerely,

Ginger Leedy & Tina Fucile
Co-Chairs, Children's Activities
NatureFest 2009



- *President's Column, continued*

about officers for 2010. Andy Butler is heading up the nominating committee, and is looking for a few good folks who are interested in helping guide the chapter in the coming year. I can tell you that it is an enjoyable activity, and you will get a chance to really meet and interact with chapter members, advisors, speakers, etc.

Our group is still involved in leading Saturday morning interpretive hikes at Bastrop State Park, as well as a few other weekend and evening programs. Katie Raney sends her thanks to all of the chapter members who have helped at Buescher/Bastrop State Parks, and Liz LaRue sends the same from Lockhart State Park. The parks are already starting to plan their Spring 2010 activities, so if you have any thoughts about a workshop, class, or activity that you would like to lead or assist with, please let Katie or Liz know.

Our November 16th meeting will be held at Red Rock Community Center. Kim Bacon from Texas Bee Watchers will give a presentation about the hundreds of species of native Texas bees, most of which are solitary. She will bring 'bee census forms' so members can report bee species on their property. Check <http://www.beewatchers.com> for a photo of Master Naturalist Vernon Berger in action (also a great resource for information about bees and gardening for bees). The meeting will begin at 6:30.



Lost Pines Master Naturalists Volunteering in the Community



Master Naturalist Linda Presto surveys birds at Hornsby Bend, who had their 50th anniversary on October 10, 2009! (Photo courtesy of Linda Presto)



Master Naturalist Frank Ridlon talks to students attending 5th Grade Science Day at Lockhart State Park. (Photo courtesy of Liz LaRue)

Images from NatureFest Bastrop, TX October 24, 2009



TOP PHOTO:

At Bastrop's **NatureFest**, LPMN Chapter volunteers assisted with guided hikes, as well as informing the public about the Master Naturalist Program at the LPMN booth. From left to right are volunteers Bryan Estes, Joan Baker, Susan Crone, and Karen Sterling.

(Photo courtesy of Pam Hohman)

BOTTOM PHOTO:

At Bastrop's **NatureFest**, LPMN Chapter President Mark McClelland talks with a visitor.

(Photo courtesy of Pam Hohman)

