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2000-2001

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## From the Desk of the President

Spring is proving to be a busy time for the group. We welcome the new Class of 2001. We have several events coming up and encourage you to attend these.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 23, at Rockne. We will have a lively program on wildflower identification by Megan Lowery. Bring a plant for identification! At the same time that evening, the new class will be having a program on Range Land Management. Any of you who may have missed that topic last year may sit in to make up the class.

For volunteer opportunities this month, Lytle Arche's group have begun working on the Demonstration Garden Project in Lockhart. Contact Lytle for more information. In addition, the Chapter will have a booth at the "Yesterfest" festival at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop on April 28

(Saturday). We need members to help with the booth in either the morning or afternoon. Please contact me if you are interested, this is a good opportunity to increase visibility of both our Chapter and the Texas Master Naturalist program in the community.



Finally, don't forget the Bamberger Ranch Field Day on Saturday, May 12. You have to sign up in advance for this, so please let us know at class April 23, or before, if you will be attending, as we need an accurate count. The fee for the tour will be \$10 each, Spouse or friends are also invited. See the **map to Bamberger** with this newsletter.

*Rick Johnson*

## Bastrop State Park Field Trip

A good sized group of Lost Pines Master Naturalists enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Barron Rector, Range Specialist, on ecosystems and plant communities on April 7. The chairs at the Commissioners' Court may have been hard, but Dr. Rector's enthusiastic presentation style kept us involved, as he introduced us to new ways of thinking about ecosystem relationships. The field trip to Bastrop State Park gave us a lesson in grazing...and in teaching, as well as plant identification. **See pictures on page 3.**

## Lost Pines Chapter Class Curriculum, 2001

Class	Subject	Instructor
March 26, 2001 Monday 6-9 PM Rockne	Introduction to Texas Master Naturalist Program— Roles, responsibilities, benefits. History of the TMN program. What is a naturalist? Ecological regions of Texas Overview. Plant identification-cool season grasses & forbes.	Lytle Arche, CEA; Rachel Bauer, CEA; Michelle Haggerty, state coordinator.
April 7, 2001 Saturday 9 AM-1:30 PM Bastrop Commissioners' Court and Bastrop State Park	Impact of man and land management— Ecosystems of the Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savannah & others in the area. Plant succession, plant parts. Soils. Plant communities and native identification.	Dr. Barron Rector, Range specialist.
Apr 23, 2001 Monday 6:00-9:00 PM	Rangeland management and agriculture— Plant identification and significance to livestock. What is management? What are its limitations and relationship to nature? The importance of land stewardship. Livestock management. What can the land support? What effect do cattle, goats and deer have on the land? Relationship of brush/wildlife/livestock to watershed management. Tax exemption issues.	Dr. Larry White, Extension Range Specialist
May 12, 2001 Saturday 1:00 PM	Bamberger Ranch Tour, Johnson City— Holistic ranch management. Brush management and water resources. Native grass restoration. Compatibility of livestock and wildlife management (including endangered species). Bat habitat. Wildflower and grass identification.	J. David Bamberger, Owner; Buddy and Evelyn Faries, Ranch Managers.
May 29, 2001 * Tuesday * 6-9 PM Rockne	History and Pioneer Naturalists— History of the Blackland Prairie/Post Oak Savanna. Soil characteristics of Bastrop & Caldwell Counties and how to use soil surveys. Taking field notes and journal entries. Plant identification.	Bill McPherson, Retired Soil Conservationist, Bastrop Co.; Caldwell Co. Soil Conservationist; Delbert Bassett, Hays Co. Master Naturalist.
June TBA McKinney Roughs	McKinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center tour— Native plant identification & native landscaping. Woodland and grass ecosystems of ecological areas. History and geology of McKinney Roughs	Lin Poor, LCRA, Rachel Bauer & Lytel Arche, CEA's; Len Polasek, TPWD Wildlife Biologist.
June 25, 2001 Monday 6-9:00 PM Rockne	Managing for wildlife on large and small acreage— Wildlife management plans-writing and implementing plans for different species. Wildlife management and proposition 11. Local wildlife management associations. Tax exemption issues.	Len Polasek, Wildlife Biologist, TPWD
June 30, 2001 Saturday 9 AM-1 PM Neasloney Wildlife Area, Nixon	Tour Neasloney Wildlife Management Area— Wildlife management, habitat and food plots for different species of wildlife—deer, quail, birds. Habitat management, erosion control, ponds and wetlands, predator control, supplemental food and water, plant identification.	Jeff Bonner, TPWD, Manager
July 23, 2001 Monday 6-9 PM Rockne	Botany & Taxonomy; Ornithology	Debbie Reid, Friedrich Nature Preserve Coordinator; Mark Klemm, TPWD specialist.
July / August (TBA) Saturday 9 AM-1 PM Cooper Farm, Waldeck	Tour-LCRA Cooper Farm— Plant Succession and prescribed burning. Backyard wildscape design. Demonstrate conversion of farming entity into wildlife habitat. Cowbird trapping. Urban forestry and reforestation. Plant identification.	Len Polasek, Wildlife Biologist, TPWD; Lee Fritsch, Cooper Farm Manager; Terry Turney, TPWD; Kelly Bender, TPWD; Daniel Lewis, Texas Forest Service, LaGrange.
August 27, 2001 Monday 6- 9 PM SWT Freeman Ranch, San Marcos	Rainwater harvesting— Watershed management & conservation through brush management. Plants-demonstrating good / destructive land use, successional stages. Native grass & plant identification.	David Baker, Wimberley Valley Watershed Association; Brian, Freeman Ranch Manager.
Sept. 24, 2001 Monday 6-9 PM Rockne	Interpretation and communication with landowners— The human dimension-who is your audience? Communicating with your audience. Promoting the TMN program.	Bill McPherson, NRCS retired conservationist; Melba Sexton and Marcie Youngman, Lost Pines Master Naturalist.
October 22, 2001 Monday 6-9 PM Rockne	Educational opportunities for youth and adults— Volunteer projects-group presentations. Course content evaluation & skills assessment. Certification guidelines. Graduation.	Rick Johnson, TMN members, Rachel Bauer, Lytle Arche and Len Polasek.

## Bastrop State Park Field Trip with Dr. Barron Rector



**Miniature ecosystems make good examples!**

**Let's look at plants!**

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*In short, for every kind of organism that we lose because of our indifference or lack of attention, we deny to our children the ability to enrich and improve their lives by using those organisms as elements in their management of the global ecosystem.*

—Peter Raven, 1987

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

Regular meetings of the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, are the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

#### APRIL MEETING

Rockne Church

April 23, 2001

6:00 PM

Program— We will have an outstanding program on wildflower identification by **Megan Lowery**, a renowned local botanist. Bring a few flowers you would like identified - this is a timely opportunity for up close and personal learning about our spectacular spring flowers!

#### MAY ADVANCED TRAINING

May 12, 2001

1:00 p.m.

Bamberger Ranch (Selah). Selah is a 5500 acre ranch located near Johnson City. It has been described as the largest habitat restoration project on private land in Texas; owner J. David Bamberger has spent 30 years reclaiming and restoring what was once an over-grazed ranch. It now serves as a wonderful demonstration project to promote conservation and land stewardship.

Sign-up is **required** for this trip: either at the April 23 meeting, or if you can't attend but plan to go to Bamberger, please notify Muriel Lem **before** April 23 at (512) 398-9427. This trip is open to spouses and friends; there is a \$10 fee per person. A map is included; lets carpool if we can.

#### MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**May 10, 2001.** Send information to Andy Butler ([butler@mdanderson.org](mailto:butler@mdanderson.org)) or Doyle Kolle ([kolle@totalaccess.net](mailto:kolle@totalaccess.net)). We welcome relevant contributions, photos, announcements or other material relating to the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program, particularly those pertaining to the Lost Pines area.