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TAEX Changes Name

By Michelle Haggerty, mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service, statewide co-sponsor of the Master Naturalist program, is changing its name to **Texas Cooperative Extension**. At your earliest convenience, please start using the new name in your chapter materials such as newsletters, websites and other communication tools.

New logo files in color and black and white are available. I strongly encourage you to use them in your next newsletters, webpage updates, signs, etc. as your statewide Master Naturalist program sponsors.

Please let me know if there are any questions.



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Editor's note: We'll be back with a full Newsletter edition in September. Remember, we're always interested in your submissions!

State Coordinator's Notes

By Michelle Haggerty, mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu

As we set out to begin the latest round of Master Naturalist training across the state that will enlist almost 200 new volunteers, I send this note on a VERY important subject within the Master Naturalist program that has a need to be re-iterated again and again. Please share it with other members of your local Master Naturalist Chapter and especially with your new volunteers through their initial Master Naturalist training.

Everyday, Master Naturalist volunteers may be tempted to apply their Master Naturalist training and Certification as credentials or justification for personal endeavors such as: showing their support for or against any given political issue; or using the Texas Master Naturalist name in advertising their place of business (to name a couple of examples). Please understand that the Master Naturalist title is a trademark of the Texas Master Naturalist program and should only be used while

conducting unpaid volunteer service through the program. Any violation of this policy is a serious matter and is subject to review by your state sponsors of Texas Parks & Wildlife and the Texas Cooperative Extension (formerly Texas Agricultural Extension Service) as well as the Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Advisory Committee. The mostly likely action in such cases is removal of the volunteer's certification, participation as a member and even possible removal of the local chapter charter in which the member was involved.

I bring this to your attention after the review of cases of misuse and the review of our recent pre-survey of Master Naturalists conducted by our Graduate Student, Laura Bonneau. Through the survey, members from various areas of the state indicated that they would like to gain benefit professionally and/or begin attending city council (or other meetings) to advocate native plants, wildscaping, organic pest/weed control and generally "getting environmental related ordinances passed" as part of their involvement in the program. I'm ecstatic with the fact that we are building better, more environmentally aware citizens who want to make things happen in their community and I don't want to discourage you from making things happen. However, I must discourage you from doing so as part of your volunteer service and/or in association with the Master Naturalist program. As volunteers you are doing great things and making a tremendous impact in your local community and I don't want anything to hinder those efforts or the recognition you're continually receiving for those efforts.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo 2001—October 6 and 7, 2001, 9 AM to 5 PM daily. **Expo** is an outdoor experience where visitors fish, shoot, kayak, rock climb, mountain bike, see and touch wildlife. Texas Master Naturalists and other outdoor-oriented groups will be looking for volunteers to help out this weekend. See <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/> for details.

Lone Star Legacy Weekend—October 20 and 21. The State Parks are open free of admission for this weekend, and will feature special events for all ages. For information about specific parks, check http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/sp1_region.htm

Annual Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training—October 26-28, 2001 at Camp Balcones Springs in Marble Falls. This event will have a number of advanced training opportunities. Watch the September newsletter for more details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

AUGUST CLASS

Tour Freeman Ranch (Note: this class will be in lieu of the August meeting)

August 27, 2001 (Monday)

6:00 AM-9 PM

Watershed management and conservation through brush management; demonstration of good vs. destructive land use, and successional stages.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Rockne Church

Sept 24 2001

6:00 PM

Class—Debbie Reid, Friedrich Nature Preserve Coordinator, will speak on taxonomy and botany. Bill McPherson, NRCS (retired) Melba Sexton and Marcie Youngman will discuss Interpretation and Communication with landowners, communicating with your audience, and promotion of the TMN program.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sept 10, 2001. Send information to Andy Butler (butler@mdanderson.org). 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.