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2000-2001

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## From the Desk of the President

We are down to only two more class meetings for our new class and I hope to see all of them attending. This sure has been a summer and I know we have all had to deal with various things but it is important that we get everyone's feedback to improve our organization. We expect to hear any day now on the 501c3 non-profit status we applied for. We are ready to open a bank account but have no money (very interesting).

See everyone September 24!

*Rick Johnson*



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## Second Annual Statewide Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training

The 2001 statewide meeting will again be held at Camp Balcones Springs, near Marble Falls, on October 26-28. This year's gathering will have more time for Advanced Training, with nearly 20 topics to choose from. A social and Chapter display showcase will be a good opportunity to meet fellow Master Naturalists from around Texas. There will also be some time just to explore, and other surprises on the agenda. Another new feature this year will be the Master Naturalist Store, featuring various items with the Master Naturalist logo, and other vendors, such as Native American Seed and Naturally Curious. A complete agenda and registration forms are available from the state Master Naturalist web site (<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>), or by E-mail from Michelle Haggerty ([mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu))



## Fall Monarch Migration

### Mike Quinn, TPWD

This year's monarch butterfly migration has been unusually early, numerous and spread further west than usual. Progress of the migration can be followed by each week's successive map from Journey North:

As of September 13:

[http://www.learner.org/jnorth/images/graphics/monarch/monarch\\_map091301.html](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/images/graphics/monarch/monarch_map091301.html)

The Aug. 23 map compared favorably with the historical Monarch passage through Texas:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/education/tracker/monarch/monarch2.htm>. Please send me your first sightings and notes on any significant movements you may observe. E-mail: [Mike.Quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Mike.Quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us). Texas Parks & Wildlife has a Monitoring Packet and Calendars if you would like to participate in Texas Monarch Watch.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

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

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Rockne Church

Sept 24 2001

6:00 PM

Program— "Water Quality." Danny Apodaca of the LCRA will discuss how water quality is monitored, what kinds of measurements are made, and what these measurements mean to us.

Class— Debbie Reid will speak on Taxonomy and Botany. Master Naturalists Melba Sexton and Marcie Youngman and NRCS Conservationist Bill McPherson will speak on communications and promotion of the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

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*The time when you need to do something is when no one else is willing to do it, when people are saying that it can't be done*

—Mary Frances Berry

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### Texas Butterfly Festival

The 6th Annual Texas Butterfly Festival in Mission, TX will be held October 18-21, Paul Opler, Ann Swengel, Ro Wauer and Phil Schappert will be among this year's speakers and field trip leaders. Late October is the time of greatest abundance and diversity of butterflies in the Rio Grande Valley.

More species of butterflies have been recorded in south-most Texas than all of eastern North America combined! Lots of Red-bordered Pixies, Mexican Bluewings, Guava Skippers and Blue Metalmarks should be seen:

<http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabast/bmetal.html>

Please consider yourself invited to come enjoy the fun!

### OCTOBER MEETING

Joan Russell's home

Oct 22, 2001

6:00 PM

Class— Educational and volunteer opportunities; graduation.

### STATEWIDE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST MEETING

Camp Balcones Springs, Marble Falls

October 26-28

See Page 1 for details.

### OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**October 8, 2001.** Send information to Andy Butler ([butler@mdanderson.org](mailto: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.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## McKinney Roughs Volunteer Opportunities

For information about our Chapter's McKinney Roughs projects, contact Rick Johnson, 512-398-2357. For more information about volunteering at McKinney Roughs, call 512-303-5073, ext. 8040 (Bastrop Area) or toll-free, 800-776-5272, ext. 8040. Here are some current opportunities at McKinney Roughs.

- **Trails and Parks support**—Activities include monitoring trail activities, ecological restoration, trail maintenance & construction projects data collecting on native plants and wildlife
- **Education activities**—Serve as guides for student groups, give orientations, assist in preparation for student & teacher groups.

## Lockhart Demonstration Garden

- Usual work days are Saturdays from 8 AM to 11 AM. Contact Lytle Arche at 512-398-3122 or by E-mail [l-arche@tamu.edu](mailto:l-arche@tamu.edu) for specific details.

## Lockhart State Park Nature Trail

- Help extend and develop the Park's Nature Trail. Contact Rick Johnson at 512-398-2357 or by E-mail at [rojoh@thrifty.net](mailto:rojoh@thrifty.net) for details.

## Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- Maintaining trails, watering gardens, collecting seeds, helping in the store. Contact Megan Murphy, Director of Volunteer Services, at (512) 292-4200 to arrange for a volunteer interview, or E-mail [megan@wildflower.org](mailto:megan@wildflower.org)

## Wild Basin Preserve

- Trail Maintenance—Volunteers welcome. Help repair portions of trails, control erosion, and make our trails safer for everyone to enjoy. 9 A.M to Noon; scheduled dates include October 13 and November 10. For information, call (512) 327-7622 or E-mail [hike@wildbasin.org](mailto:hike@wildbasin.org)

## Other Opportunities

- **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 outdoors oriented groups will be looking for volunteers to help out this weekend. See <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/> for details. Contact Michelle Haggerty to volunteer for the Texas Master

Naturalist booth (E-mail: [mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu))

- **Bamberger Fall Bird Count**—October 13 and 14. Join birders for a count of the birds at Bamberger Ranch. Birders are welcome to spend the night at the ranch to permit an early start on October 14. For information, contact Marsha Reimer, with the Texas Nature Trackers project (Phone 512-912-7062, or E-mail [Marsha.Reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Marsha.Reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us))

## Texas Nature Trackers

Projects coordinated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or partner organizations.

- **Texas Horned Lizard Watch**—provides maps and instructions for surveying the Texas state reptile on your property or on public areas. Data sent from volunteers in the first year have already helped biologists suggest possible relationships between fire ant distributions and the distribution of Texas horned lizards. Each year, more volunteers are needed from all over the state to increase our knowledge about Texas horned lizards. For information, contact the Wildlife Diversity program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Texas Mussel Watch**—volunteers are helping us document the presence or absence of native freshwater mussel species. To volunteer for Texas Mussel Watch, call the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Texas Monarch Watch**—monitor the spring and fall migration of this familiar butterfly on your own property or public lands. Volunteers can call the Monarch Watch hotline at 1-800-468-9710 (in Austin, 326-2231) to report sightings of monarchs or hear a recorded message about the status of the migration in Texas. For more information about Texas Monarch Watch or to receive monitoring kit, call the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Hummingbird Roundup**—provides instructions for monitoring hummingbirds, along with suggestions and supplies for improving hummingbird habitat on your property in Texas. For information, call the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4644.
- **Texas Amphibian Watch**—a partner with the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program. Texans involved in this project will use field guides, web sites and audio tapes to learn to identify the various species of frogs and toads native to their area by sight and by listening to their calls. For more information about Texas Amphibian Watch or about related workshops, contact the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.

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## Safety Fair Volunteer Opportunity

From Rachel Bauer,

Bastrop County CEA

We are looking for volunteers to help out at the county safety fair, to be held at Wal-Mart in Bastrop on October 13. Volunteers will distribute information regarding the safe use of pesticides, and are needed from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. If you can help out, please call Rachel at 512-332-7286 or send E-mail to [r-bauer@tamu.edu](mailto:r-bauer@tamu.edu).

## Advanced Training

Please obtain prior approval for advanced training, and don't forget to record your hours! (Events listed in chronological order).

- **Creating a Schoolyard Habitat**—September 29 and 30, 2001, at The Wildflower Center. Sponsored by The National Wildlife Federation. Wish you had more hands-on projects for your students? Would you like to brighten up that patch of dead grass outside your classroom? Learn how to create a native plant landscape for your schoolyard. Your native plant garden will help students learn about plants, ecology, and the local environment. This workshop will introduce you to site planning and design, choosing the right native plants, installation of the garden, irrigation, and maintenance. \$65/person (includes planning guide and other materials) For registration information contact Marya Fowler at 512-476-9805 or email: [fowler@nwf.org](mailto:fowler@nwf.org)
- **Bamberger Ranch workshops**— Several workshops described below will be held at David Bamberger's Selah Ranch, near Johnson City, this fall. As a reminder, Bamberger Ranch is continuing to offer their workshops to all Master Naturalists at half off the listed price. More info about these workshops, and registration forms, can be found on their web site at: [www.bambergeranch.org](http://www.bambergeranch.org), or call 830-868-7303.
- **Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop**— September 29, 8:30am-4:30pm, at Bamberger Ranch. A day on the Ranch with emphasis on "Stewardship" for the large or small landowner or anyone considering buying land, who wants to know how to improve land for all plant and animal species. Transportation is on the Bluebonnet. This eight hour, outdoor workshop will be conducted by our experienced ranch personnel. \$90/person. 8-hour workshop includes a short hike, coffee breaks and lunch. Dress for the weather.

- **Project Prairie Birds**—Answer questions about Texas' wintering sparrows and their avian grassland neighbors. Project Prairie Birds can be conducted in any temperate grassland site. For more information, contact Cliff Shackelford, 512-912-7045 or by E-mail: [clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us).
- **Adopt-A-Species Projects**—Takes place on public properties that support populations of rare Texas plants or animals. Learn monitoring techniques. Volunteers agree to continue monitoring for a set period of time. Suitable for schools, club or civic groups. (Not available in all parts of the state). Contact the Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 7011.
- **Remember**—Get approval before you begin a project for volunteer credit. Report your volunteer service to Gerri Martinez (512-303-5936). Documenting your service hours helps you to become certified, and helps the Master Naturalist Program to justify support received from our sponsors.

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*To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival.*

—Wendell Berry

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## Reminder-Volunteer Service Reports

It's time to submit your quarterly volunteer service/advanced training reports to Gerri Martinez. Bring the sheets to the Sept. 24 meeting, or send to Gerri. Include date, location, a description of the activity, contact person and number of hours. Remember to indicate volunteer hours or advanced training. If possible, give an estimate of the number of people each volunteer activity reached.

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- **Water Workshop**—October 6, 8:30am-4:30pm, at Bamberger Ranch. How to Get Water on Your Land Without Drilling a Well. Leroy Petri and other ranch personnel will show and explain Selah water development projects. Visit our lakes and dams and learn about their design and function, and how they were constructed. Identify soils, and learn their potential use in dam and pond construction, and also how to identify sites on your land that can hold water when ponds are properly constructed. Inexpensive projects, some that you can do yourself, to help you develop hidden water resources. \$90/person. 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch, dress for the weather.
- **Grasses Workshop-Range Management and Conservation**—October 13, 8:30 am-4:40 pm, at Bamberger Ranch. An outdoor workshop at Selah learning about grasses. The importance of grasses in conservation cannot be overstated, because they protect and build soils as well as improve water infiltration and aquifer recharge. Whether you have springs, a well, or simply want a variety of healthy plants and trees growing on your land, grasses are your ally. We will be examining different rangesites, and ecological niches and discuss the role that grasses play in them. When you know grasses you can "read the landscape". Grasses can be the indicators of hidden seeps, springs, and deep soils. We will have demonstrations, "hands-on" collecting and identifying common grasses. A packet of information to take home, and some additional sources for help and information will also be provided. Don't take grasses for granted. They are the cheapest, fastest and best form of conservation you have for improving your land and its quality, and your quality of life. \$90/person. 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch, dress for the weather.
- **Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training**—October 13, 2001 at McKinney Roughs. This is a training session to become certified as a Facilitator of Project Learning, developed by the American Forest Foundation. This program uses the forests as a "window on the world." Participants learn hands-on activities for the classroom or outdoors to increase students' understanding of our complex environment. LUNCH IS INCLUDED. Call (512) 303-5073 for more information and registration. Time: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Cost: \$40 (includes Educational Activity Guide)
- **Trees and Shrubs Workshop**—October 20, 8:30 am-4:40 pm, at Bamberger Ranch. Learn how to identify trees and shrubs using the leaf form and leaf attachment as key characteristics. To insure that you have information to take home, you'll collect leaves in a notebook for future reference. Diversity of trees and shrubs is important for the health of your land and your

wildlife. Selecting the best plants for soil and range site is important. 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch. Dress for the weather. \$90/person. 8-hour workshop includes some hiking, coffee breaks and lunch, dress for the weather.

- **Advanced Grasses Field Day**—October 27, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, at Bamberger Ranch. A day with Dr. Lew Hunnicutt and others looking at grasses and range-sites at Selah. This day should reinforce the grasses learned in the Grasses Workshop, and provide an opportunity to learn new ones. We will learn some of the characteristics that will help you identify them during the seasons when there are no characteristic blooms or seed heads. Buddy will talk about management of rangeland and how to read the effects of cattle on range grasses. Establishing grasses from seed, restoring damaged fields to native grasses, and improving grasslands through proper management will also be covered. How to use livestock as a management tool, and methods of controlling brush will be discussed. \$60/person; 7-hour field day includes some hiking, breaks and lunch break. Dress for the weather.
- **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. See the article on page one for details.
- **Water for Wildlife Workshop**—Saturday, November 3, 9am to 3pm, at The Wildflower Center. Wildlife needs water too! Let the National Wildlife Federation show you how you can attract more creatures like toads, salamanders, turtles, and unique birds to your yard by adding a simple water feature or two. The emphasis of this workshop is on incorporating water resources for wildlife such as ponds, bogs, and seeps into your yard to make a complete wildlife habitat. Learn how you can harvest rainwater to keep your water sources full and flowing. You will explore the beautiful hill country spring and stream, container water garden, and songbird pond that are all found on the Wildflower Center grounds. Plan to take a field trip to nearby backyard wildlife habitats. \$25 per person; bring your own lunch. For registration information contact Alice Nance at 512-476-9805 or email: [nance@nwf.org](mailto:nance@nwf.org)

