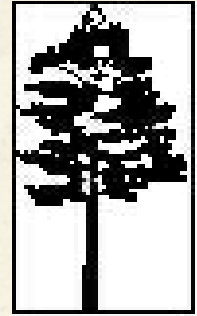


# Lost Pines Master Naturalist



Volume II, Issue 2

February 2011

edited by Jeannie Jessup



## 2011 Training Class

### Class Schedule

**Feb. 19** - McKinney Roughs 9 am - 1 pm. Post Oak Savannah Ecosystem.

**Feb. 21** - Red Rock Community Center. 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Texas Wildscapes - Urban Landscapes (chapter meeting).

**Feb. 28** - Lockhart State Park. 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Ornithology.

**March 7** - Red Rock Community Center. 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Ecological Regions of Texas.

**March 19** - Bastrop State Park Refectory. 9:00 am - 1 pm. Lost Pines Ecosystem Interpretation and Hike.

The 2011 training class met for the first time on January 31 at the Red Rock Community Center. Speakers were Rachel Bauer, our local Ag Extension rep and Sonny Arnold, the Texas Master Naturalist rep.

Like all first classes, notebooks were handed out and questions asked regarding the great adventure that they are joining us on.

The group seems great and enthusiastic! Our only confusion was their apparent lack of appetite!

We hope that all members take a chance to get to know these folks at the next meeting on Feb. 21!

*Image of first class for 2011. Taken by Jeannie Jessup.*



## Meet Master Naturalist - Paulette Boudreaux

By LPMN member Rik Martinez

Paulette was born and raised on a cattle farm in Lafayette, LA. Her family raised registered Charolais and Paulette was very active in 4H as a kid and was also taught at an early age to do community service. In High School she started the Carencro Caring Company, which was a service organization for High School kids to give back to their community by way of giving of their time.

Paulette received her B.S. from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. While she was attending school there she was very involved in CKI (Circle K International) which is the college version of the Kiwanis Club. She served as President for two years and her club received the Outstanding College Chapter Award both years that she was President.

After graduating college she embarked on two career paths: one in the IT field as an IT Lab Manager and the other in the Environmental Field as a field tech, lab tech, and storm water inspector. She currently has her own web-based company and pet sitting business.

Paulette has a passion for the outdoors; this passion was inherited from both her grandfather, who was a school teacher, and her father, who was a banker. Her father also taught her the farming business, and instilled in her a passion for horses. More importantly, he taught her the importance of passing knowledge on to others -- as a result, Paulette embraces opportunities to spend time teaching both kids and adults

about nature. For example, in 2010, she started the Bastrop Chapter of a non-profit organization called TOWN (Texas Outdoors Woman Network). They are an extension of BOW



(Becoming an Outdoors Woman) where their mission is to provide all women the opportunity to learn and experience outdoor activities in natural surroundings through a safe and supportive environment. They had 64 outdoor outings last year, and in March, Paulette is taking 13 women to Big Bend for a week; for ten of these women it will be there first-time experiencing the area.

Paulette is also a Project Wild Facilitator and Angler Education Instructor through TPWD; and she is in her second year as the Educational Coordinator for the LPMN Class. She finds all this work quite rewarding!

Paulette joined our chapter with the TMN class of 2009; she learned of our group from Sue Arcy, who sent her an email asking her if she would be interested. Paulette had been through the Master Gardener program in 2005 and received certification and she thought this would be just as much fun -- in fact, it has proved to be more fun than she expected! So besides her love of the outdoors, educating people about nature, and giving back to her community, Paulette also enjoys a pastime of riding her horse 'Chisholm', kayak fishing, hiking and camping

## Meet Master Naturalist - Andy Butler

By LPMN member Rik Martinez

Andy Butler and his wife Sue Fischer are founding members of the Lost Pines Chapter. They were in the class of 2000 and played a critical role in the formative years of the chapter; they remain very active and influential in shaping the 'character' of our chapter. We will learn more about Sue in another column, but now, let's get to know Andy a littler better.

Andy attended Oregon State University to receive his undergraduate degree in Chemistry, and then moved to the University of Oregon to acquire a PhD in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. I was surprised to learn that he came from a rural setting — Mayville, Oregon, on the dry side of the Cascades where his family raised wheat and cattle. Andy learned the value of conservation from his Dad, who also ran a general store, gas station, local post office, and still made time to chair the County Fair each year. Conservation was a key theme at the fair since Mayville is on the dry side of the Cascades where precipitation is minimal and conservation of all resources is imperative.

Andy did Post Doc research at the Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee. He met Sue at Oak Ridge and they married.



Soon after, Sue and Andy were invited to come to the University of Texas MD Anderson Science Park near Smithville to continue cancer research studies — that was 28 years ago. With grants, research projects

and faculty roles, Andy and Sue conducted research and taught graduate students for almost three decades; Andy described some fascinating work with cell cultures of tropical fish which developed melanoma as a result of genetic crossbreeding. Cancer research really is complex and challenging.

So how did our chapter get so lucky to capture their interest? Well, as his educational background may suggest, Andy has a passion for learning and seeing others learn. The idea of a nature-related training program and opportunities to teach via interpretive walks in State Parks brought him 'on Board' (literally), because Andy not only joined the group, but also has played key leadership roles in the past — including President (in 2007), Vice President (2 years), webmaster (9 years) and newsletter editor (6 years). Credit must also be attributed to Rachel Bauer, one of our sponsors, who set up the first training classes and was influential in recruiting Andy.

In addition to his activities with our Chapter, Andy and Sue still enjoy hiking and backpacking, making an annual trip with friends from Tennessee to the Red Rock canyons of southern Utah where they enjoy Anasazi ruins, pictographs, and a chance to explore the wilderness. Andy has another passion — nature photography. You may see him on one of our outings with his camera — working the light and background to capture just the right shot of a fossil, flower, or other natural subject that caught his attention, immortalizing the moment so that others can enjoy and learn from it.



**A Rose is  
is a rose,**

**By LPMN member**

Guys, since February is the month of Valentines you need to find a rose for your sweetie. Further, as a Master Naturalist, the rose ought to be a native although a native rose cannot be blooming in February.

A bit of research yields the information that roses native to Texas are few and far between and even worse, none have been recorded in Bastrop or Caldwell Counties! A search through the whole state yielded only three native species: Arkansas or Prairie Rose (*Rosa arkansana*) which can be found in a few northern Texas counties, Climbing Rose (*Rosa setigera*) found in NE Texas plus one isolated county down toward the Valley and finally Carolina Rose (*Rosa carolina*) which is found in a few scattered counties with the closest being Gillespie and Kerr. The invasive McCartney's Rose (*Rosa bracteata*) which escaped from cultivation has been found in Bastrop, not in Caldwell county. This is not to say these native roses are totally absent, just they have not been recorded and if anyone finds a wild rose, let me know about it. Even the while McCartney Rose needs to be documented since it carries the label "Invader of Texas".

In general, I would have to conclude that the soils and climate of Texas are incompatible with rose culture. Here is a clue! Check out all the "extras" that are recommended for maintaining cultivated roses - special soil, special fertilizers etc. In the booklet "Native and Adapted Landscape Plants" published by the City of Austin and Agrilife Extension there are a dozen recommended cultivated rose species, one of them actually called "Nearly Wild" Rose which closely resembles the Carolina Rose.

Before really looking closely, I had no idea that native roses are so rare in Texas and absent in the LPMN vicinity. This being the case, I would suggest that you refrain from promising your sweetie a Wild Texas Rose. Head for the

nearest place that sells cut flowers and buy a few long-stemmed red ones for her.

Query: Just what  
is the Yellow Rose  
of Texas?

**a rose,  
is a rose...**

**Elizabeth Pullman**



© Larry Allain



# Wildlife Right of Ways

By LPMN member Susan Smith

In the January 2011 issue of National Wildlife an article, entitled, "Freedom of Movement," captivated my attention. Have you read it?

As Texas Master Naturalists, we know that habitat fragmentation is a serious problem for wildlife. Human barriers, such as roads, railroads, pipelines, and power lines segment habitat. Of this list, roads are the most dead-

ly. In a recent drive along Hwy. 71, I saw six white-tailed does and one fawn (*Odocoileus virginianus*) dead by the roadside. Also, laying dead was a scattering of opossums, skunks, squirrels and raccoons. This sight is familiar to you as well.

Wildlife cross and re-cross roads for several reasons - to reach water, food, mates and shelter. Life is especially tough during drought conditions of which we are personally familiar. The wanton loss of wildlife across Texas and the nation as a whole must be staggering. Road kills significantly impact threatened populations. Wildlife populations are reduced to smaller and smaller numbers which leads to extirpation if the gene pool is not varied enough.

What about the human side of this? Wildlife-vehicle collisions have created huge economic costs to humans. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that nation-wide there are about 1.5 million car collisions with deer every year. These collisions cost \$1 billion in vehicle damage. A significant additional hazard are the reported 150 human deaths and 10,000 injuries. Texas ranks as #9 on total claims filed against auto insurers. On average in Texas, 6,000 deer-vehicle collisions are reported each year with 1,200 injuries and 15-23 fatalities.

An idea not yet born in Texas, but alive and well elsewhere, is the building of underpass tunnels and vegetated overpasses (called ecoducts in Europe) for large animals to cross human barriers, such as freeways. For smaller animals, amphibian tunnels and culverts work. This exciting new approach is now in use in Europe, Canada and here in the United States, namely California, Colorado, Montana, Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Maine and Florida. Why not build them here in Texas?

Considering the economic burden of building underpasses and overpasses, do they work? Do animals really use them? In



Banff National Park, Canada, for example, surveillance cameras were set up to answer those questions. What was observed at the 24 underpasses and two overpasses was that a total of 37,507 animals used the structures. Most notably, the carnivores captured on camera were cougars, bears, wolves and coyotes. Of the ungulates, deer, moose and pronghorn sheep were the most common. A surprise to everyone was that even owls, pheasants and partridges were seen flying over or through the man-made structures as well. The

goal, of course, was to design safe passageways above and below roads to afford wildlife a connection to wilderness without the element of danger to passing motorists or to the animals, themselves.

To enhance conservation efforts, Montana began erecting wing fencing up to a quarter mile to their overpasses to guide wildlife to safe right-of-ways. A targeted species were mountain goats. In California, along Route 58, culverts were erected to give protection to the Desert Tortoise. Reports indicate that tortoise deaths declined by 93%. Another successful example in Florida were the crossings built targeting the Florida panther, the most endangered, large carnivore on our continent. The combination of fences along the corridors of overpasses and underpasses on Hwy 75 also benefited deer, raccoons and bobcats as well. Quite happily, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reported that since 2007, no panthers were killed along this one stretch of highway in Florida.

Among Master Naturalists, the idea of building structures that protect both wildlife and motorists makes good sense. However, raising public awareness is ultimately the biggest challenge and that, in and of itself, is in keeping with the Texas Master Naturalist's Code of Ethics - "...to promote understanding of and appreciation for the values of our natural resources." Certainly, the indigenous wildlife - a treasure within itself, and our fellow motorists deserve a new approach to safety.

More information on the topic of wildlife right-of-ways can be found at [www.ourpubliclands.org](http://www.ourpubliclands.org) and [www.umass.edu/waldenpassage/](http://www.umass.edu/waldenpassage/)

Image: Florida State Route 46 was elevated over this underpass. Notice the channeling fences on either side of the crossing. From Wikipedia at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife\\_crossing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_crossing)



# Bastrop Springs Rehabilitation

By Steve Box, Environmental Stewardship



Did you know that there is a natural spring along the river in down town Bastrop? Currently, there is an initiative to clean up and beautify the springs area, restore the native vegetation and to educate the public on the importance of this spring both to the environment and to the creation of the city of Bastrop. This initiative is being led by Steve Box of the Environmental Stewardship group in Bastrop and is currently making its way through the city regulatory and funding process.

The educational dimension of the project will inform visitors about the importance of groundwater and surface water interaction and especially the importance of the Colorado River and Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer to the Lost Pines Region (including the City of Bastrop and Bastrop County).

## Future location of Bastrop Historical Museum, River overlook, and Bastrop Spring.

The Bastrop Springs Interpretive Area – The proposed Bastrop Springs educational features will further enhance the Bastrop Historical Museum & Visitor Center as a destination for visitors. With the recent decision to relocate the museum and visitor center to the current City Hall site, the City has established a third anchor point to complement the Convention Center/City Hall and Library/Opera House anchor points in the Main-Chestnut street corridor. As envisioned, the Bastrop Springs will provide educational enticements to/from the museum area.



## History Museum “River Room” -

As envisioned, a future phase of the museum would include a “River Room” with a view (window or balcony) overlooking the Colorado River. After learning historical aspects of the Colorado River at the museum, visitors would be invited to enjoy the river and learn more through an interpretive trail from the museum to the springs on the banks of the river.

River Overlook - A first stop would be an overlook site at the edge of the current parking lot located between the museum/visitor center and the riverwalk. This site would have signage pointing out features such as the lower Colorado River, Old Iron Bridge, Bastrop Springs, Fisherman’s Park, Riverwalk, Bastrop State Park and Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, as well as other springs and important natural and cultural features in the area.

## Bastrop Springs & Educational Interpretive Area

– Down the steps from the River Overlook would be the restored Bastrop Springs and wetland area which would include a restored interpretive pier (existing), a new boardwalk over the wetlands/spring area, and a new down-river interpretive pier. The piers and boardwalk will have interpretive signage about the history of the springs and the river, their importance in the cultural development of Bastrop, and their importance in the ecology of the groundwater – river system. There would be benches where visitors, pedestrian walkers, and bicyclists could rest and enjoy while seeing, hearing and learning about the springs/wetland habitat.

The spring interpretive area will be located along the current segment of the Riverwalk from the existing pier down river from the Old Iron Bridge, onward down river for several hundred feet.

The hillside terrace above Bastrop Spring is currently over-run by non-native invasive species that choke the spring and decrease the water that is available for wetland habitat. As recommended by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (and under their watchful eye) the invasive species will be removed and replaced with native plants that are characteristic spring plants found at Hoppy Springs, which is a similar seepage bog at Bastrop State Park.

It may take several years for the restoration of the spring habitat to take hold and be effective in increasing the yield of the spring to the flow levels documented by Gunner M. Brune in his book Springs of Texas, first published in 1981.

The restored hillside terrace and spring will supply water to a restored wetland habitat between the current sidewalk and the river. Local accounts confirm that, prior to installing the concrete sidewalk, the area below the spring was a wetland habitat. In restoring the spring, a “bridge” feature will be developed to allow water to flow under the sidewalk and into the restored wetland habitat. Care will be taken to ensure the sidewalk remains accessible in accordance with the American Disability Act requirements and is safe for pedestrians, walkers, and joggers.

Left image - Bastrop Springs - Steve Box

Right image - Trail Crew talking to Steve Box about the springs project. - Paulette Boudreaux



*Chorioactis geaster* - Have you seen this fungus? It is an extremely rare fungus only found in a few parts of Texas and also Japan. In this area, it grows on cedar elm stumps. While not having been reported officially in our counties, it is in neighboring counties and very likely found here, too. Please let us know if you happen to see it around! For more information, go to:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chorioactis>

Picture is from the wikipedia site listed above.



# Volunteer Opportunities

## New Volunteer Activities

### Colorado River Rec Trails/Canoe

#### Take Out Spring Clean Up.

**March 26 and 27.** Work opportunities include maintenance on the Dragonfly Trail, sign work and plotting of new trail with GPS, and removal of Bermuda Grass and Poison Ivy. Primitive camping is available or come for only a day. Contact Dale Morrison at 512-629-3345.P

**Interpretive Hikes.** Bastrop State Park. Saturdays, starting Feb. 26 through June. The spring 2011 series of Saturday morning interpretive hikes has been led by our chapter since 2000 and TPWD depends on us to do this. The hike starts at 10 am, is about 1 mile long (a loop) and takes about an hour. Demo hike (to learn the ropes or as a refresher course) is on Feb. 26. Please contact Sue Fischer at [smfischer@mdanderson.org](mailto:smfischer@mdanderson.org).

**Alum Creek Interpretive Hikes.** Bastrop State Park. 2 pm Saturdays, March 12, April 30, May 7, and May

21. 2. 6 mile hike that includes great dogwood groves and lots of wildflowers. Contact Andy Butler at : [abutler@mac.com](mailto:abutler@mac.com).

**Clean the Colorado River - LCRA.** March 6, 9 - 4 pm. Enjoy the beautiful Austin-Bastrop River corridor while helping to keep this pristine section of the Texas Colorado clean and healthy. Bring your own boat and gear or use the boats and safety equipment provided by LCRA. Pre-registration is required. Call Pat Olsen at (512) 303-5073 or send e-mail to [patrick.olsen@lcra.org](mailto:patrick.olsen@lcra.org).

**Earth Day Volunteers.** April 16, 2011. Volunteers needed to assist the McKinney Roughs staff in the festival activities. Details to come. If interested, contact Lynette Holtz at [lynette.holtz@lcra.org](mailto:lynette.holtz@lcra.org).

## Ongoing Volunteer Activities

**Native Plant Garden - Kerr Community Center, Bastrop.** There is a small native garden which has a sign depicting the species planted there. Most of the plants have died or are in poor condition. Upon speaking to Linda Greene who lives across the street and is keeper of the keys, I learned that they would be

happy to have Master Naturalist volunteers come and plant some new natives there. Maybe a butterfly garden.? They have quite a bit of land in that neighborhood so we might be able to do more planting on the property. Please let me know if you are interested in pursuing this project. Carol Reidy [reidycarol@yahoo.com](mailto:reidycarol@yahoo.com)

**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](mailto:kmcaleese@austin.rr.com) if you are interested in leading or participating in either weekday or weekend surveys, or both.

**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](mailto:coordinator@hornsbybend.org) or 512-972-1960.

**Hornsby Bend – Monthly Bird Survey** – Second Saturday of each month. Meet at the Center for Environmental Research at 7 am for the morning survey (coffee and donuts at 6:30 am) and 4 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](mailto:ecarpe@gmail.com).

## Your Opinion Counts

Should you decide to voice your opinion to national or state legislators, please know that you have the right to do so as a private citizen but **not** in the name of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. Lobbying for or against legislation as a Master Naturalist or a chapter is against the TMN Program's bylaws, code of ethics, and standards of conduct and could result in dismissal from the program. As a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer you are representing the state agencies that sponsor you. Therefore, as a Master Naturalist representative you can't lobby. As an informed or concerned citizen you are representing your own personal views and can lobby for or against whatever you choose.



# Advanced Training

Science Under the Stars - Coral Reefs. March 10, 7:30 pm. FREE. Brackenridge Field Laboratory, Austin.  
<http://sites.google.com/site/scienceunderthestarsaustin/>.

Gardening Workshop - Creating Sustainable Gardens and Landscapes. April 16. 10:30 to noon. Lockhart State Park. Taught by Tommie Clayton, Certified Master Gardener. Registration not required. \$2 park entrance fee per adult. Contact  
[Liz.Larue@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Liz.Larue@tpwd.state.tx.us) for more information.

Feral Hog Management Workshop. February 23rd, 8am to 3:30 pm. Luling Foundation. Registration required. Call 512-398-3122 or email  
[jwwatts@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jwwatts@ag.tamu.edu).

Project Wild Workshop. Bryan. Feb. 23-24. 6 - 9 pm. Learn how to teach young people about ecology and wildlife using fun, hands-on educational activities. During the six-hour training,

workshop participants will sample activities and receive a curriculum and activity guide. Held at Blinn College Aquatic Education Center. Fee \$5 for food and drinks; pre-registration required. [amanda.chau@blinn.edu](mailto:amanda.chau@blinn.edu)

Project Wild Workshop - Boerne March 5 and 12, 9 am to 12 pm. Details same as above. Contact:  
<http://tinyurl.com/4bwcv9l>

Woodsy Walk. Feb. 19, 1:00 - 2:30 pm. Buescher State Park. Take a hike through the pine and oak forest of the park while exploring the habitat that many different plants and animals call home. Meet at the trailhead for this easy, one- to two-mile hike. (512) 237-2241.

Bastrop Bird Watch. Bastrop State Park. Feb. 26, 8:30 - 10:00 am. Look for birds in several different habitats and learn about the species that call this park home. Bring your own binoculars and field guide or borrow some of ours. Meet at

the lake. (512) 237-2241.  
<http://tinyurl.com/6byk7zp>

Native Texas Wildscapes. LCRA - McKinney Roughs. March 26, 9 - 12 pm. Save natural resources and money using water-wise landscaping plants suitable for the Central Texas climate. Learn how to select and place native plants for a water conserving landscape. Focus on plant choices right for your site, attracting wildlife, harvesting rainwater and use of dry creeks for slowing down water runoff and erosion.  
[http://www.lcra.org/parks/parks\\_calendar.html](http://www.lcra.org/parks/parks_calendar.html)

Native Edible and Medicinal Plants. LCRA McKinney Roughs. April 9, 9 - 12 pm. Edible wild plants are everywhere, abundant, local, free, and a sustainable source of variety in the diet. Learn about the many common, renewable, edible and medicinal wild plants growing in your neighborhood. There are thousands of species of edible and medicinal plants in the world, yet fewer than 20 species provide 90 percent of our food. There are hundreds of less well-known delicious and nutritious edible plants that live in our back yards and fields. FREE. Registration required.  
[http://www.lcra.org/parks/parks\\_calendar.html](http://www.lcra.org/parks/parks_calendar.html)



## Injured in the Line of Duty

LPMN member Sherryl King sustained a mild head injury (cut on forehead) in early February while performing acts of invasive plant removal. She stated that a cedar tree, which was robbing water from a group of Black Jack oak trees, viciously attacked her while she was removing some of its branches. The attacking tree has since been removed.



# Advanced Training

**Bamberger Ranch Tours and Workshops - Public Tour - April 13, 9 - 12:30.** This fills up fast, register now. additional information for all programs at the ranch can be found at <http://www.bambergerranch.org/tours/#tour>

**Overnight Birding Workshop.** May 13-14. Ranch biologist, Steven Fulton, will lead this overnight workshop on the birds of Selah. Night hike to find screech owls and other nocturnal critters. Lodging will be at the Center. Rise early on Saturday for a birding tour that will cover several important habitat types. Space is limited to 20 participants, so register early. Cost - \$150 per person. <http://www.bambergerranch.org/tours/#overnight>

**Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop.** April 16. 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. This eight hour, outdoor workshop will cover topics including cedar man-

agement, tree planting, endangered species and water. Cost \$100 per person . <http://www.bambergerranch.org/tours/#steward>

**Water Workshop.** May 22. Visit 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. Cost - \$100 per person. <http://www.bambergerranch.org/tours/#water>

**Wildlife for Lunch webinars** provide sound, science-based wildlife management options delivered by experts to you in the comfort of your own home or office. It's Easy! All you need is a modern computer with a quality Internet connection and a bag lunch. Just point your browser to <http://forestrywebinars.net>, click on the "Wildlife for Lunch" link in the "Upcoming Webinars"

section, and follow the instructions.

**Dates** (all times are Noon to 1:00 pm Central Time)

**March 24** – Waterfowl Management, Jim Cathey

**April 21** – Aquatic Weed Control, Billy Higginbotham

**May 19** – Dove Management, Dale Rollins

The other topics and dates are listed on the website listed to the left.

**Update.** These programs HAVE been approved for advanced training both from the state level and our local chapter. Go forth and webinar!

## Wildflower Photo Contest!

March 15 - June 15.  
Sponsored by Ladybird Johnson  
Wildflower Center.

<http://www.wildflower.org/photocontest/>

## Member Awards!

**Initial certification--** Jeannie Jessup

**2010 certification -** Al Hoerig, Frank Ridlon, Nick Nichols, Ronnie Lanier, Dale Morrison, Judy Turner, Miriam Hall  
**250 hour pin -** Liz Pullman

**1000 hour pin -** Dale Morrison (pictured at right)

Congrats to Dale - our chapter's first 1000 hour member!





# Just For Fun

Join the fun Friday evenings this spring at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. [Nature Nights](#) are fun explorations of plants, animals, and the ecology of Central Texas. Each evening features interactive presentations, hikes with experts in their fields, and nature crafting for kids of all ages. Cost, \$1 per person. March 4: Astronomy, April 1: Wildflowers & Pollinators.

**Geocaching 101.** Feb. 26. 2:00 - 3:30 pm. Buescher State Park. Learn to use a GPS unit to hunt for treasure in the woods. Discover the basics of geocaching and seek out your first cache on the park's hiking trail. Bring your own GPS or borrow one of ours. Advance reservation for GPS units recommended. Meet in the field in front of Lakeview Campground. <http://tinyurl.com/5upfhj9>

**Zilker Botanical Garden Festival.** March 26 and 27. \$7 entrance fee. <http://tinyurl.com/4kegwmc>

**Zilker Kite Festival.** March 6 10 am - 5 pm. Free. <http://www.zilkerkitefestival.com/>

**Stargazing at the Roughs.** March 25, 9:30 - 11:00 pm. Fourth Friday of the month through August. Explore the galaxy together as our astronomer takes you on a tour of the Milky Way that's truly out of this world! Learn about the constellations and marvel at the beauty and mystery of the universe in this spectacular free program for the whole family. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

[http://www.lcra.org/parks/parks\\_calendar.html](http://www.lcra.org/parks/parks_calendar.html)

## Cedar Creek Park Butterfly Discovery Garden

By LPMN member Louise Ridlon



Plans are underway to develop a Discovery Butterfly Garden at the new Cedar Creek Park on FM 535 near SH 21 in Cedar Creek. The Lost Pines Master Naturalists have been asked to help with the planting phase of the garden. Plans are for a dedication ceremony on Sunday, April 10, so the planting should be completed by March 27. Park Administrator Rick Breare shared the plans and his vision for the development of the garden. He anticipates having students from Cedar Creek Elementary and Cedar Creek Middle Schools come to help with

the planting, thereby giving them ownership and a stake in seeing the garden thrive. The garden will include a sitting area with center table, a couple of small courtyard areas, a large entry sculpture, an Insectary where the metamorphosis process can be observed, and plaques identifying common native species of butterflies.

Susan Crone, Anna Stalcup, and Louise Ridlon met with Rick and garden landscape engineer Marshall Smith and his wife Shriley to develop a timeline and planting schedule. Plants will be purchased with grant funds. The beds are prepped and a trail surfaced with decomposed granite is in place. Scheduled dates for planting will be February 18 and 19 (Friday and Saturday of a 4-day weekend for students), and Saturdays March 5, 12, and 19. We will also add some weekdays when student and/or scout groups are available. Volunteers are needed for planting and for supervising groups of students who will be coming to help plant the gardens. LPMN members will provide input regarding native plant species to add to the garden.

If you are interested and available to help, please contact Louise Ridlon, [flridlon@hotmail.com](mailto:flridlon@hotmail.com), (512) 985-5064.

For more information about the park and the garden plans, check out the park association's website at

<http://cedarcreekpark.org>.



### Native Plant Sale

April 8 - 9. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. At the Wildflower Center's Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival you can choose from over 300 species of Texas native plants. The event also features artists and authors signing their works in the store, guided walks and talks and tips for your garden from experts. Admission is \$8 for non-members. <http://wildflower.org/plantsale/>



# President's Column

By Louise Ridlon

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I'm writing this just prior to the first session of our 2011 training class. With 21 applicants to date, it's notable that we continue to have enough interest in our organization to be able to offer training every year for the last three years. I'm looking forward to meeting our new interns, and hope many of you will attend one or more class sessions and offer your advice and support. One of the best suggestions in our December survey was that members buddy up with new trainees, kind of a mentoring situation. So take advantage of this opportunity to share your experience with one of our new members. Don't forget, if you were in the 2010 class and you missed one of the sessions in your own training, you can make it up by attending this year. Others can always come for refreshers; the schedule is on our website.

At present, the Lost Pines chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists is involved in a number of projects. Remember that the TMN program was formed by Texas Parks and Wildlife as an extension of their own

program. Volunteers are able to do much of the work entrusted to TPWD, and that work is vital to extending the mission of TPWD. Currently as a chapter we have committed to these projects: **Colorado River Refuge** trail building and maintenance, nature education

programs, and (in the future) wetlands restoration and maintenance; **Bastrop State Park** interpretive hikes each Saturday spring and fall, bimonthly hikes in the Alum Creek tract, and maintenance of the Copperas Creek area interpretive trail; **Lockhart State Park** fifth grade science outdoor labs and other educational outreach, and establishment and maintenance of interpretive trails; **McKinney Roughs** biosurveys, garden and trail maintenance, and participation in the annual Earth Day Festival.

We have a couple of potential new projects: supporters of the new **Cedar Creek Park** have asked us to participate in projects there; and **NatureFest**, a Bastrop celebration of the wealth of outdoor recreation available to us in Bastrop County. NatureFest was organized to coincide with the opening of the Camino Real section of the Texas Paddling Trail running through Bastrop, and it drew large numbers of organizations and visitors. Last year, it was not held due to lack of leadership. This fits into the mission of our organization, if we could generate a committee of folks willing to organize and make it happen again.

As we honor our first recipient of the 1000-hour milestone, Dale Morrison, perhaps many of us will be challenged to grab hold of one of these projects and commit even more of our time and talents to make an impact on the environment and community in which we live.

Our February meeting, to be held in Red Rock, will feature Mark Klym presenting the class curriculum on Texas Wildscapes. This qualifies as Advanced Training for all members. See you there!

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# Lost Pines Master Naturalist Monthly Meeting Schedule

Feb. 21, 2011; 6:30 PM, location TBA. Mark Klym will speak about the Texas Wildscape program and urban landscapes (joint meeting with 2011 training class).

Mar. 21, 2011; 6:30 PM, Lockhart State Park Recreation Hall. Paul Yura will speak about weather and climate (joint meeting with 2011 training class).

## Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **Feb. 27, 2010**. 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 Jeannie Jessup: [magicgenie@gmail.com](mailto:magicgenie@gmail.com).

## STATE PROGRAM CONTACTS

**Website:** <http://txmn.org/>

**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;  
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**Bastrop Co. Extension Office:** Rachel Bauer, CEA-AG/NR; [Bastroptx@tamu.edu](mailto:Bastroptx@tamu.edu); (512) 581-7186.

**Bastrop/Caldwell Co. TPWD Wildlife Biologist:** Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop,  
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## LOGY TRIVIA MATCH-UP

By LPMN member Carol Reidy

Plant ecology	Study of reptiles and amphibians
Ichthyology	Study of major plant systems, concentrating on interactions between plants and their environments
Herpetology	Collection and analysis of geological data and application to problems created by human use of the environment
Meteorology	Study of bodies of fresh water, such as lakes and ponds
Environmental geology	Study of fishes
Entomology	Study of birds
Sociobiology	Science concerned with social interactions within a given species - traits, heredity, culture
Limnology	Branch of natural science dealing with processes and patterns in the natural environment like biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, lithosphere
Ornithology	Study of insects
Archeology	Science dealing with the atmosphere and its phenomena, including weather and climate
Physical geography	Study of dragonflies and damselflies
Odonatology	Study of growth rings in trees to examine age-related phenomena
Mammalogy	Study of past human species, primarily through recovery of artifacts, materials, data, etc.
Dendrochronology	Study of mammals