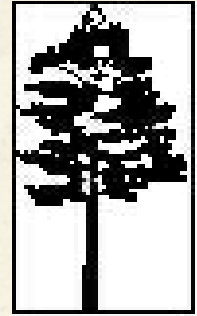


Lost Pines Master Naturalist



Volume II, Issue I

January 2011

edited by Jeannie Jessup



Making a List and Checking it *ad infinitum*

By LPMN member Liz Pullman

Last August, Jeannie Jessup and I met and were discussing various Newsletter possibilities when the conversation veered off course to "Wouldn't it be great if there existed separate vascular flora lists for Bastrop and Caldwell Counties so that when the Biocensus hikers and other folks come across a puzzling plant, they can scan through a list of all known plants in either county for ID possibilities without having to start at square one". With such a project foremost in my mind, I was off and running and looking for sources that already had lists. In Bastrop County, the Bastrop/Buescher State Parks sent a list and Stengl Research Laboratory had a list in the Lady Bird Wildflower Center website. McKinney Roughs also maintains an ongoing

list for the biocensus work. In Caldwell, only Lockhart State Park (LSP) had any sort of list in existence. Next, when I checked the Wildflower Center website, I could not find a way to search by county. Fortunately, the Plant Resource Center (PRC) at UT could be searched by county. Their lists were simply lists of specimens collected in the county and only indicated the scientific name with date collected (some as recent as 1937!). However, PRC became the main source I used. I began sorting through the PRC list (many species had multiple specimens for various times and places within the county) and came up with a basic list to which I added common names. In mid-October, along came Judy Turner with an offer to help me. She accessed the USDA

PLANTS file and although there were many duplicate records, she found many not in the PRC files. The combined list now included the PRC lists, the USDA lists, the state parks lists, Stengl and McKinney Roughs: approximately 500 for Caldwell and 1000 for Bastrop. After many permutations, we now have lists ordered as Woody Plants (Trees, Shrubs and Vines), Monocots (including all the sedges and grasses) and as the largest component, Annuals and Perennials (self explanatory).for both counties. Judy has manipulated lists I sent to her and turned them into PDF files suitable for inclusion in the LPMN Website. She also has created a Lockhart State Park checklist in a form suitable for field work (final format is pending approval from LSP staff).

Why do all this? We three - Jeannie, Judy and I, hope that these lists will help Lost Pines Master Naturalist members to identify new species and/or verify old ones. Then we can move forward to actually collecting and contributing to the PRC's collections. It is not difficult to collect and preserve plant specimens in some sort of plant press, adding place and date. The Caldwell collection in particular needs to be augmented according to Tom Wendt, curator for the PRC herbarium. Obviously, Caldwell County provides an extraordinary opportunity for new species with the underlying hope of plants new and rare being found there (the dream of all plant goobers). As time goes by, it is hoped that the various natural communities within each county can be delineated by GPS mapping of the location of indicator plant species. More work !! OR more fun!!

Plant Pressing and Collecting Class

Do you like plants? Did you take the Invaders of Texas Plants workshop? Do you have an interest in how botanists collect and preserve plants and what they do with them? Liz Pullman and Jeannie Jessup are wanting to determine interest in a plant press making and plant collecting weekend workshop. If there is enough interest, they might host a class sometime in the March or April time frame. If you want to be included in any future class, please contact Liz at pullmans@aol.com or Jeannie at magicgenie@gmail.com.

Top left picture: Grass ID workshop class on Dec. 4, 2010 standing in Little Bluestem, *Andropogon scoparius*.

Meet Master Naturalist - Rik Martinez

By LPMN member Rik Martinez

This is all kind of new to me. I joined the Cradle of Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists in the Spring of 2009, completed my training, certi-

fied, and then transferred to the Lost Pines Chapter this past summer. So I was just getting to know my old group and be a productive contributor when I relocated to the Bastrop area; seems like that

is how things have been going for me lately -- lots of changes as I start a new chapter of my life. The last time I changed my life like this was a 'lifetime ago' -- some 30+ years -- when I first moved to the Brazosport area (on the coast, just south of Galveston) to work for The Dow Chemical Company. I started out as a Chemical Technician in the Research Group, running lab experiments and mini-plants with chemists and engineers, but, with time and more education, moved into Information Technology, completing my career as an Information Security Specialist. During that period I never forgot my love for the outdoors; I had majored in Aquatic Biology at (then) Southwest Texas State University and was only able to land the job at Dow because I minored in Chemistry. When I graduated from SWTSU I could not find work as a Biologist, and in order to support myself, I joined some of my college colleagues at Dow.

While raising a family in Lake Jackson, I continued to try and stay engaged with the outdoors -- hunting and fishing whenever I could. My

wife, Maridel, and I were blessed with four children -- three girls and a boy, and my wife and each of my daughters was involved with Girl Scouts when they were



young. I was able to coach my son into joining Cub Scouts, and later Boy Scouts, and I too became involved as Committee Chair for our troop and participating in many outdoor adventures including High Adventure trips to Philmont, Northern Tier, and Seabase. It is true that 'all good things must end' and when I retired from Dow, my son achieved Eagle Scout, and graduated from High School, I knew it was time to move on.

While a Master Naturalist for the Cradle of Texas Chapter I volunteered as a docent for the Discovery Environmental Educational Program (DEEP) sponsored by US Fish & Wildlife Service to engage 4th and 7th graders in an outdoor laboratory, sparking interest in water quality, reptiles, ornithology, fishing, and a host of other topics. It was rewarding to see their faces as we talked about how venomous snakes take their prey. The COT chapter, located on gulf coast, offered a bounty of opportunities for involvement, and I was able to volunteer for several, including the Migration Celebration, a Springtime event focused on the tremendous migratory flyway through the riparian river bottoms -- a natural concentrator for literally hundreds of species of coastal as well as inland birds.

Meet Master Naturalist - Martha Mobley

By LPMN member Rik Martinez

Martha Mobley joined the Lost Pines Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists during the Spring training session of 2009; it didn't take her long to get involved! She has been an active volunteer in plant surveys at McKinney Roughs, working with Kathy McAleese to identify re-growth after the fire there; cleanup and trail-building work with Dale and Rodney on the Colorado River



Refuge (even before the Dragonfly Trail was first envisioned); water quality surveys at Beuscher State Park; and Fishing Clinics for youth groups. As if that wasn't enough to keep her busy, she has also served as Chair to the Hospitality Committee for our chapter for the last year and a half, ensuring that we have goodies at our meetings and making all arrangements for workshop lunches, snacks and drinks.

Martha is retired now (if you can call all the volunteering work above retirement) but, prior to retirement, worked full time as a retail manager. She was headquartered in Austin since 1968, but the 'winds of good fortune' brought her here, to the Bastrop area, about 3 years ago. Part of that transition included meeting her current husband, Lee, on the internet!

Martha has traveled extensively around the United States; when first out of college, and married to her first husband, who worked as an engineer for the Highway Administration office, they hiked the Rockies, Smokies, and Ozark mountains. They camped extensively and thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors. It is likely that those early days provided the foundation for her love of the outdoors and her commitment to nature conservation.

Her most memorable trip was a hike to through Havasupai canyon, an arm of the Grand Canyon, still owned by the Supai Indian tribe. The term 'Havasupai' means 'land of blue-green water' and as you might guess, the landscape is breathtaking; Martha highly recommends that anyone who has an opportunity to take that hike, should do so.



For the Love of Bluebirds

By LPMN member
Susan Smith

If you build it, they will come. That is so true for bluebirds. Place a nest box in the proper location and you can expect to see bluebirds.

Bluebirds are favorites of mine. Bluebirds are fun birds to watch as they flash brilliant blues with their red breasts. Bluebirds are voracious insect eaters, skillfully hovering in place to catch beetles and grasshoppers or catching moths on the wing.

For those of you who love birds, consider attracting bluebirds. Bluebirds, however, do require a bit of attention to their most basic needs: Bluebirds are drawn to nest boxes. A nest box can be bought or built. The box does not have a perch.

Mount nest boxes on 8 foot steel T posts along a fence line. Bluebirds like a "fly in" free of brush along the fence line. (An occasional tree is okay as it will be used as a perch.) Place boxes 300 feet apart, because bluebirds are territorial among their own kind. Also, nest box entrance holes should not face the late afternoon sun.

In February, before spring arrives, nest boxes **must** be in place. Bluebirds are migratory birds. Males typically arrive ahead of females. A male bluebird will select several nesting boxes. He will decorate the boxes with strands of pine straw, hoping his mate will settle for one.

Once the female chooses a nest box, she will begin building her tidy, cup-shaped nest, layer by layer, with pine straw if the nesting site is near pine trees.

Typically, bluebirds lay five blue eggs. Often, 2 - 3 clutches of eggs will be laid in a single breeding season, February - July.

Incubation lasts from 12 to 18 days. Nestlings are small and naked. Both parents feed their young. Baby bluebirds fledge when they are about 17 days old. Parents continue to feed their young once they leave the nest.

An important note: Bluebird boxes should be monitored

weekly. By mid-summer wasps will often build nests above the heads of nestlings. Bluebird parents may abandon the nest. Our policy is to knock the wasp nest out of the blue-



bird box without killing the wasps. Wasps are beneficial, too. They can nest elsewhere. Also, if you notice a problem with hungry predators - either snakes or raccoons, you can baffle the poles to discourage them.

On a personal note: Faced with inexperience and some "how to" notes taken from the Texas Blue Bird Society, we originally mounted seven boxes along our fences in February, 2006. Imagine our surprise. Two weeks later, the boxes were fully occupied! For more information, check out www2.texasbluebirdsociety.org

Left image - Eastern Bluebird.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluebird>

Right image from Susan Smith.

Are you aware that there is a Texas Master Naturalist Listserv? Get the most up-to-date information about what is going on in the state program! To join the mailing list, send an email to listserv@tamu.edu. No "Subject" is required. You do not need to include your email address in your message; LISTSERV automatically uses the address from your email. Simply type "subscribe tmn" in the body of the message. You will receive a response asking you to confirm the request, giving a web and email option for confirming the subscription. You can choose to receive individual messages, or a digest format. The listserve is moderated to eliminate spam.

Volunteer Opportunities

New Volunteer Activities

Earth Day Volunteers. April 16, 2011. Volunteers needed to assist the McKinney Roughs staff in the festival activities. Details to come. If interested, contact Erin Barker at (512)303-5073, Ext. 8013 or by email at Erin.Barker@lcra.org.

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



The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

Ongoing Volunteer Activities

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

Questions about advanced training and volunteer opportunities hours reporting? Not sure who to ask? To answer all of your questions, our hours keeper, Marsha Elrod, has compiled a [PDF document](#) that answers everything and provides the links to appropriate forms.

Check it out and report your hours monthly!

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.

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 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.



Advanced Training

Stargazing at the Roughs. McKinney Roughs. Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, 9 pm and second Friday of every month through February. Free. Don't miss this opportunity for the whole family to explore the galaxy together as our astronomer takes you on a tour of the Milky Way that's truly out of this world! Behold the wonder of the cosmos through our Dobsonian telescopes and venture beyond the boundaries of our planet Earth. Learn about the constellations and marvel at the beauty and mystery of the universe in this spectacular free program for the whole family. Bring lawn chairs, refreshments and blankets for comfort and enjoy this family event. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Registration is not required.

Ranger in the Roughs. Jan. 20, Feb. 17, 7-8 pm. FREE, for all ages. McKinney Roughs. Bring the family, sit at our amphitheater under the night sky and learn about the ecosystems of the Colorado River. This series will look at the varying natural resources, plants and wildlife of the different eco-regions along the Colorado River as it winds its way from the

Panhandle Plains, through the Texas Hill Country, to the Gulf Coast. Our naturalist will focus on the history, composition and ecology of one particular region each month. Registration is not required. Topics covered will be: January - Gulf Coast Plains and Marshes -Wetlands, Migratory Birds, Rice fields and Shrimp; February - The River Through Time - Comanches, Camels, Cattle Drives and Dynamite www.lcra.org/mckinneyroughs

Gardening Workshop - Creating Sustainable Gardens and Landscapes. February 26. 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 for more information.

Purple Martin Workshop, January 22, 1-4 pm. This class will focus on the life cycle of Purple Martins and how you can participate as a Purple Martin landlord or helper. You will learn the maintenance routine recommended by the Purple Martin Conservation

Association. You will also learn how to record and send in nesting data that is compiled nationally. We will also include hands-on nest preparation and discussion at the Hornsby Bend colony. \$20 class fee. To register, contact Lynn Hill via email at s-lynn-hill@sbcglobal.net or by calling 512 371 1254. Registration cut off date will be January 15, 2011.

Tree Talk and Winter Walk. January 22, 9 am to 5:00 pm. Free Admission. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Our annual Tree Talk Winter Walk is a perfect time to explore the beauty and benefits of native trees and shrubs. Get tips on landscape design and tree maintenance and learn about native species with walks and talks led by local tree experts. Talks start at 11 am and continue on the hour until 2 pm. There will be a select group of Texas native trees and shrubs for sale. Registration not required. <http://wildflower.org/ttw/>

Native Plant Spring Symposium—Grasses: They're not just for mowing! Feb. 19. An overview of Texas native grasses and how they can enhance the beauty of your landscape. Visit www.wildflower.org for information and registration. \$75 per person. Saturday, February 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The 2011 Master Naturalist training class is set to begin the end of January! With many new speakers and lots of interesting things to learn and see, this is a great chance to get your friends involved. For more information, go to our website at: <http://tinyurl.com/48594bn> or contact Paulette at: pboudreaux@eccwireless.com

Picture of the 2010 training class.

Advanced Training

Bamberger Ranch Tours and Workshops - additional information for all programs at the ranch can be found at <http://www.bambergerranch.org/tours/#tour>

Public Tours. March 12 and April 2. Cost \$15 per person. This tour fills up quickly - be sure to register early to get a spot! On this 3 1/2 hour tour of the ranch you will see the results of 37 years of habitat restoration. You may also see dinosaur tracks, fossil beds, a herd of endangered Scimitar-horned Oryx, the "Chiroptorium" which is a man made bat cave designed to hold a million Mexican Free-tailed bats.

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 management, tree planting, endangered species and water. Cost \$100 per person .

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.

Overnight Birding Workshop. May 13-14. More than 210 species of birds have been documented year-round at the ranch, including many endangered species. Arrive Friday evening for a nice meal and overview of bird physiology and an introduction to bird calls. Night hike to find screech owls and other nocturnal critters. Lodging will be at the Center. Cost - \$150 per person.

Rocky Mountain Rambles for Butterflies by Ron Martin. Jan 24. 7:00 pm at the Zilker Botanical Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd. An overview of the butterflies encountered during trips into the Rocky Mountains in the

last six years. The emphasis will be on the butterflies and localities easily accessed at higher elevations in several states.

<http://www.austinbutterflies.org/calendar>

Travis Audubon Field trip to Bastrop/Buescher State Parks. January 18th - 7am to early afternoon. Explore the lost pines of Bastrop County, looking for Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers, Pine Warbler, and other eastern species that are rare in Travis County. Limited to 15 people. Contact [Terry Banks](#) to register and for meet up location.

<http://www.trisaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html>

**Burn Ban
Bastrop County**
Effective Jan 10, 2011 and lasting at least 30 days. For more information
<http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/site/news/35>

Year-end Survey

We took a quick survey at the last meeting... if you'd like to add your views, you can jot down your responses and bring them to the January meeting, or email them to me at flridlon@hotmail.com. We shared the responses to the first question as we chose our exchange gifts; it was good to hear which projects from the past year stuck in people's minds .

1. In 2010, what two things did you do or see someone else do that you felt were really important to the organization and natural resource community we serve?
2. For 2011, what two things would help you to be even more successful in your work here?

We'll address some of your responses to #2 at the January meeting. Thanks for your input!

Wildlife Lunch Webinars

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.

If you have not yet participated in a webinar then please go to www.elluminate.com/support for instructions on setting up your computer. You should do this at least 24 hours in advance of a webinar.

Just a note - I have asked the state rep, Sonny Arnold, about these webinars counting as advanced training hours. As written, the rules of TMN say that these do not count. However, Sonny and others think that they could - and this requires approval from the TMN State Committee. As of right now, the request to the state committee has been made and they are waiting for word on the decision. I'll send an email out to the group when we get a decision.

- Jeannie

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

January 20 – Wildlife Tax Valuation, Jim Cathey

February 17 – Nutrition: The Pros and Cons of Supplemental Feed, Dave Hewitt

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.

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.

Austin Nature and Science Center has a wonderful facility in Zilker Park. Dino Pit, trails and Wildlife Exhibits are part of the fun.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc/>

Texas Bug Pictures

-submitted by Mike Quinn

http://www.texasento.net/TX_Bug_Pix.html

http://www.texasento.net/TX_Homoptera.html

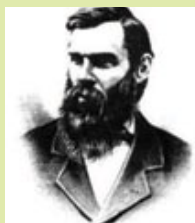


[Picture from wikipedia.](#)

Reverchon Naturalist Newsletter

This newsletter is seeking all plant geeks! They are looking for interesting photos of native plants and stories within the North Central Texas area and articles of 350-500 words.

The goal of this newsletter is to share interesting photos, sightings, and experiences within the area of the Eastern Rolling Plains, Cross Timbers and Prairies, Blackland Prairie, and western Clay Pan Prairie areas of North Central Texas. Anyone who has items of interest related to native plants, animals and the great outdoors should submit them with a brief story or explanation. Please send submissions to: Ricky Linx or Randall Henry to be published in The Reverchon Naturalist newsletter.



<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/bio/reverchon.html>

Nature Rocks Austin is a website portal that lists many family friendly activities in the Austin area. "The Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin is a new private/public partnership non-profit organization dedicated to creating social change so that kids throughout Central Texas have easy and frequent connections to our natural world." Check out their website for fun things to do with your family. <http://www.naturerocksaustin.org/>

President's Column

By Louise Ridlon

x



Here we are at the threshold of another new year. I have the honor of serving as your president for one more year; as the Nominating Committee noted, it takes nearly a year to "learn the ropes" of the chapter organization, so another year will give me a chance to better apply what I've learned! I always welcome and appreciate input, suggestions, and constructive corrections from the membership. Our collective knowledge and wisdom benefits us all! I'm looking forward to working with the new and returning officers: Vice President Walt Elson, Secretary Susan Crone, and Treasurer Rik Martinez. Thanks to Liz Pullman and Carole O'Toole for their service during the past year.

I'm not one for making New Year's Resolutions; follow-through has never been one of my strong points. However, I'd like to set a few goals for myself and our chapter for 2011:

Become more familiar with the bylaws and chapter operating manual. As our chapter grows, it behooves us to follow established guidelines and become more conscientious in regards to policy.

Become more familiar with the membership of our chapter. I've become ac-

quainted with a good number of you during the past year, but there are many names I need to put with faces, and get to know your interests, talents, and preferred activities.

Attend class sessions of the 2011 Training group. As new trainees join our program, we can engage them and make them feel a part of the organization by interacting with them and answering their questions as they go through the Master Naturalist training.

Involve more members in leadership via committees and the Board of Directors. We were able to get a number of committees functioning this past year, thanks to those who stepped up to help in Outreach, Membership, and Advanced Training. This year, I'd like to focus on Communication and Hospitality (Martha is ready for a break!). Bill Brooks has also indicated that he'd be willing to have someone else take on the position of Historian.

Lest all work and no play make us all dull, plan more field trips for the general membership. Last year's trip to Canyon Lake Gorge was a success. In the past we've visited Bracken Cave and gone kayaking on the Colorado. I'm sure members can come up with other ideas for group outings and adventures.

Perhaps having these goals in writing will help me be more accountable in accomplishing them!

The new year also means it's time to pay our annual dues of \$10.00. Our treasurer, Rik Martinez, will be happy to collect them at any chapter meeting. Payment of dues ensures your status as a voting member of the chapter.

Remember to submit all of your volunteer hours and Advanced Training time to Marsha Elrod as soon as possible. Our annual reports are due to the state organization on January 16, and volunteer hours are important to the state and sponsoring organizations in procuring grants to fund TMN.

Our January chapter meeting will feature Nicholas Cowey sharing techniques for identifying mammal skulls, tracks, and scat. We meet at Lockhart State Park's Recreation hall on January 17 at 6:30.

x

Lost Pines Master Naturalist Monthly Meeting Schedule

Jan. 17, 2011; 6:30 PM, Lockhart State Park Recreation Hall. The speaker will be Nicholas Cowey on identifying features of mammal skulls (being able to determine not only species, but gender, age, etc.), as well as tracks and scat.

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 **Jan. 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.

STATE PROGRAM CONTACTS

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

State Coordinator: Michelle Haggerty,
mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu; (979) 458-2034.

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;
Bastroptx@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.



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Interesting Animal Group Names

- by LPMN member Carol Reidy

Implausibility	Starlings
Murmuration	Bees
Lounge	Boars
Souder	Gnus
Swarm	Doves
Cloud	Lizards
Piteousness	Tadpoles

Whether you had a troop or a swarm or a mob or the whole clan this holiday season, I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday.

Implausibility of Gnus
Murmuration of starlings
Lounge of lizards
Souder of boars
Swarm of bees
Cloud of tadpoles
Piteousness of doves

Answer Key: