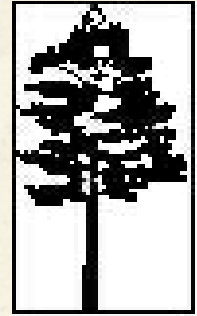


Lost Pines Master Naturalist



Volume II, Issue 7

July 2011

DRAGONFLY TRAIL Colorado River Refuge

By LPMN member Liz Pullman

Following is a report of two excursions along the newly established Dragonfly Trail. On May 25 Joan Estes, Thelma Garcia-Erwin and I made an initial foray down the trail. Joan and I took a second trip June 1. The northern trailhead at Lamaloa Street was the May 25 starting point and as we started walking our initial impression was that the first one-fourth of the trail went through evenly aged saplings of Cedar Elms with only a few mature trees noticeable. We discussed why this was so and thought perhaps it was the result of either a burn-off or a clear-cut. Along the western edge we looked down into a ravine (dry, of course!) and soon we crossed a cedar log bridge (#1) before continuing through the dense elm thicket. The ground cover was sparse – Virginia Wildrye and Giant Ragweed. We began to notice a few different trees (apparently we walked right by a Bodark or Osage Orange), vines and perennials including a Yaupon, Flame Sumac, Milkweed-vine, Turk's Cap, Western Soapberry, Texas Persimmon, Gum Bumelia, and Hoptree. At a dip in the trail we found several quite large mature trees; we believe these are Cedar Elms although the canopy was so high that we could not take samples. Soon we found a fork in the trail and headed down the



Drawing by LPMN member Susan Whitton

one that declared a meadow ahead. There were open areas in several places along the trail and in a wetter spring the wildflowers would have been diverse and plentiful. On May 25, sparse described the vegetation. Some remnants of the 2010 season were still identifiable and a few perennials showed blossoms which were all smaller than normal and the plants themselves were about half their usual height. From the Aster Family were Firewheels, Mexican Hats, Texas Thistle, Skeleton Plant and Frostweed. There were also a few scattered Prairie Bluets, Beebalm, Square-bud Day Primrose, Bull Thistle and two Verbenas – Slender and Prairie. A couple of Rain Lilies were a welcome surprise and the greenest grasses were Wildrye and Johnsongrass. When we came to a gully we did not

care to cross, we turned around and retraced our steps back along the trail and did not check out the other spurs so we missed Bridge # 2. Next time.

On June 1, Joan Estes and I took a second trip starting at the southern end of Dragonfly and heading north up to the end point of Trip # 1. At the trailhead we immediately came upon a new plant – Buffalo Gourd was trailing along the ground. Before long a small tree was noted and scrutinized. With neither blooms nor fruit I could not ID it but ventured a guess of Mexican Buckeye. We walked on along and found more, then more of these and finally, a tree large enough to have the distinctive buckeyes dangling from the branches. Yes! We realized that much of the vegetation we were seeing was a repeat of the first trip at the other end of Dragonfly Trail. New were a Yellow Passionflower vine, a couple of teeny little Pollyprims (right in the middle of the dusty trail), quite a few Square-bud Day Primroses, a couple of Texas Greeneyes and Fleabane and an obscure little stick-to-you plant with a magenta blob of teeny flowers at the end of the trailing stem which I later found to be Scarlet Spiderling. Several times along the trail we had a good view down into a ravine whose bottom showed bare rock in horizontal ledges. There were colonies of Wood Oats and several blooming Trumpet Creepers along the steep sides of the ravine. Then we found a “Mystery Tree”. It had shiny thin bark resem-

bling a Black Cherry, alternate serrate leaves which resembled Red Mulberry and the real problem – there seemed to be thorns on some of the higher branches. It remains a mystery!

Finally we came upon Bridge #2 with a towering Pecan tree and even better, a bench where we could take a break. Soon afterwards we headed on along and found an open area with a sandy “cliff” and some different plants – two morning glory types – one pink and one white and some very strange “weeds” (Crabweed) of which I collected a sample. We deduced that there was an old roadbed on top of the “cliff” and were soon proven correct. Very shortly we found our mid-point and both of us voted to return by simply retracing our steps (mostly in shade). As we trekked back to the car, I took a large sample of the Live Oak to make sure it is Escarpment Live Oak and our final ID attempt was at a brown and brittle patch of false foxglove leftover from last fall.

An interesting sidelight of the second trip. There are railroad tracks running south to north along the eastern side of the trail area and when a train comes through, the whistle sounds because of a grade crossing at Lamaloe Street. Such an event happened on the second trip. After the whistle sounded Joan looked at me and said “Listen”. Coyotes were “answering” the train whistle!!!

Much more biocensusing should be undertaken at this trail but we need to wait for better conditions - rain or cooler weather or both.



Lonicera Sempervirens
Caprifoliaceae family

Frequents streams, woods, and thickets. A smooth, twining evergreen vine bearing dark shiny green leaves which are white on the lower surface. The upper pair of leaves are fused together just below the flower cluster. The tubular or trumpet shaped corolla occurs in whorls of four to six blossoms. They are usually red outside and orange inside. Red to green twining stems fade to grey with a shreddy texture when mature. Clusters of red berries mature September to October. Blooms attract pollinating hummingbirds, bees, butterflies

Coral Honeysuckle

By LPMN member Susan Whitton



As The Crow Flies

By LPMN member Larry Gfeller

The affairs of men are, in the end, determined by the course of Great Nature. And nature is a stern but honest judge. No matter how we try to spin the truth, embellish it, obscure it, or try to prevent it from getting out—at the end of the day, the truth wins. Not too long ago, I would have argued that a crow is nothing like a titmouse. A crow certainly is no northern cardinal, nor carolina wren. . . a crow is an irksome and useless bird—a crow is just a damned crow! I would have been wrong. The truth is, with the fullness of time, I have come to respect these intelligent and enterprising birds. I doubt the crows have such a generous view of me.

Where I come from (Kansas), crows were considered pests—noisy nuisances and the arch enemy of gardeners. Generations of mothers in my family have fought them off their gardens using everything from the most elaborate humanoid scare crows to a well-oiled .22 and plenty of bird-shot. But those were harsher times when the loss of a half-row of tomatoes translated into a vacant spot on your supper plate or one less jar put up for the winter. Therefore, my experience with crows has been tainted. You could say I grew

up with a crow bias. But today I'm much more liberal and find myself in different circumstances. Today, I live in a forest in drought-stricken Texas, where vegetables don't have a fighting chance anyway. In this forest I have many new neighbors. One of the most interesting of which is my old nemesis, the American Crow. I have to admit I was surprised to find crows living here. If nothing else, these birds are a part of the inexhaustible entertainment which the forest offers.

What shall I learn of crows or crows of me? I have an edge—I have the Internet. A little research turned up some interesting facts. Though humans cannot generally tell individual crows apart, crows have been shown to have the ability to visually recognize individual humans, and to transmit information about “bad” humans by squawking. To my knowledge, I have yet to be the subject of such squawking—at least to my face. Inquisitive and sometimes mischievous, crows are good learners and problem solvers. They are smart and very social. In many ways they are much like us. For example, a recent Cornell study suggests that crows can recognize the voices of their relatives. Female crows have higher pitched calls than males. Lots of crows end up breeding in the neighborhood they grew up in. The female builds a platform nest high in the tree, unequivocally rules the roost, and has only one brood a year. She often re-uses the same nest and likes to collect bright, shiny things in her nest. She is an excellent shopper. In fact, goes to the market daily. Both the male and female faithfully raise their young until they leave the nest. Unlike us, however, this happens within 28-35 days and there is no university education to fund. The wealthy ones sometimes even have nannies: unmated birds, known as “helpers,” help raise young. Crows are seldom found alone. Large extended families roost together at night, then commute the next morning as everyone goes off to make a living. Just like Austin! Crows, however, don't play golf.

So much for the research, now what about experience? What have I observed? Well, unlike many other birds that lurch and jerk and hop along the ground, crows generally have a graceful gait, except when agitated—then they hop like all the rest, while arching their wings overhead in a threatening manner. This is most likely where the term “hopping mad” is derived and it is useful during routine food fights and other scrapes. Around here, crows overpower most everything else in a food fight. Squirrels are the most worthy opponents, for they too are wiry, tenacious and cagey. But Crows are large, intimidating birds not afraid to use that stout,

sharp beak. Although I have never witnessed it, my research revealed their ability to use this beak as a spear to stab and carry off eggs to be eaten elsewhere in relative peace and quiet. They also possess a powerful, raspy voice, and a sense of entitlement rivaling urban mankind. A crow's worst nightmare? Being reincarnated as a hummingbird! Perennial survivors, crows can be gritty, hardcore, disagreeable and nasty. It is only fitting, then, that this also aptly describes their namesake, a cheap bourbon whiskey that has somehow survived for over 175 years.

I have also noticed that, despite their natural optimism, more than four crows cannot fit on a bird bath at a time. In this case, bird bath is inaccurate: for our crows, these are for drinking and soaking food; the in-ground water trough is for bathing. You never know what you will find at the bottom of their bird bath (we have two bird baths, so the all other birds get a shot). I routinely discover remnants of squirrel corn, oats, deer pellets and mystery bits when I change the water. Crows are not discriminating gourmets; they'll actually eat anything—just like a teenage boy. I'm told crows will eat baby birds. I've witnessed a crow literally skin a lizard from my home office window. Hawks, eagles and great horned owls are the major natural predators, after farmers and ranchers. In our thick forest canopy, none of these foes appear. For this environment, our crows enjoy their place atop the food chain, which explains their arrogance. I know crows are smarter than blue jays, their showy distant cousins. Every crow knows they're too big to fit on our suspension feeder perches, so they never try—blue jays never quite appear to get it. Dumb and attractive do seem to go together. I have observed that crows are excellent aviators. They gracefully swoop and glide and expertly navigate all the pine boughs to nail their landing with confidence. By comparison, human pilots in technologically advanced multimillion dollar helicopters run into each other routinely while taxiing a few feet off the ground. I don't know if crows believe in God, but they occasionally hold old time revival meetings in my neighbor's trees across the fence. There's squawking, screeching, cawing, croaking and all manner of ruckus coming from that congregation. I have no idea how many souls they've saved; I'm guessing they're Unitarians.

So what have the crows learned about me? They always keep close tabs on me. I believe they have accepted coexistence as a convenience. It hasn't been easy; crows are not quick to jump to such conclusions. However, they are also not fools. As long as I refill the feeders and replenish the water regularly, we have a truce. They may even invite their relatives. Crows know that women are inherent-



ly superior to men. When my wife slips out to fill the feeders it's usually some kind of special treat—like leftover bread, breakfast rolls or dry dog food; the really good stuff. I never do that. They accept me, but realize that I am somehow genetically impoverished. Because the gift of flight allows them to observe more than one homestead, crows also know my neighbor is totally apathetic towards them. That's why they hold revival meetings on his property—he has yet to be converted. When I work outside, it's always on particular days of the week, during the morning hours only. The crows have no doubt noticed reliance on patterns and habits as a critical part of modern human society. From our days as upright-walking Hominids in Africa, we've always relied on good, protective habits because we have few instincts to insure our survival. How strange this must seem to them! But they also know that man has bad habits too, like trying to grow vegetables during a severe drought, or surface cutting yaupon with the expectation that it will improve the landscape.

I believe I have overcome my early biases. These many years later, as I sit on my back screen porch, watching. . . I could do much worse than if I were a crow. Get a good night's sleep every evening, start each day fresh. Don't be too quick to trust. Be a productive member of the group, do your job, take care of those you love, be graceful whenever possible and a nasty S.O.B. when necessary. Politicians could learn a lot from watching crows! There's much more we yet have to learn from each other, and I look forward to it. Truth is, I like being human. For now, I'll just pour a little of their crude amber namesake into my glass and enjoy the view.

The Breath of the Dragon: Texas Drought

By LPMN member Susan Smith

To me it seems we have been in drought, more or less, for years. Drought extends from Arizona to Florida with three states in extreme drought - Louisiana at 100%, Texas at 96%, followed by New Mexico at 94%. According to the US Drought Monitor, bone-dry Bastrop County is now in the "exceptional" drought category. This winter was the driest since the 1960s. The forecast is for the heat, wind and drought to continue. The hot wind has dried out the ground and fanned fires.

What has caused this drought? The National Weather Service explained that we are in a La Nina climate pattern, which can last for two years, in which cool sea-surface temperatures fell seven degrees below normal in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and that phenomenon has shaped the climate around the earth and here at home in Bastrop County.

Out of La Nina conditions, drought creeps upon us. Tornadoes are born. A strong La Nina spawns severe Atlantic hurricanes and the season is still young. Hurricane season runs from June 1 until November 30.

For certain, this drought has shrunk ponds and has caused wide-spread changes in the ranges of our wildlife in search of water. Without rain, food and cover are quickly disappearing for wildlife. Predictions are that this spring and summer has been a disaster for quail and turkey production. Oaks produce fewer acorns for our deer. And I say, our deer, because we are reminded to be good stewards of this land. Out there in the woods and byways live our squirrels, our fox, our coyotes, our Houston toads. How can we not be connected? Land sustains wildlife and land sustains us as well. With less forage and other foods for does, raccoons and coyotes, there's less milk for their young. With less water in ponds and the river, habitat is altered for insects, river otters and fish. The repercussions are seen straight up the food chain.

Keeping in mind that we are meant to be stewards, we can embrace the idea that life is challenging during periods of sustained drought. So, what can we do? We do what we can, even in small ways.

- Keep bird baths full of clean water.
- For smaller critters - frogs, toads and insects like June bugs and bees - put out ceramic dishes with yogurt lids in each one. The lids float. The smaller critters and insects can climb onto the lids and then crawl or fly out without drowning.
- Put out buckets filled with fresh drinking water every day with a stick in them for larger wildlife.
- Ignore that armadillo searching for insects on those wet spots on your lawn, if you are still watering your grass. Watered lawns attract insects and wildlife, all of them thirsty.

After all, La Nina means "little girl," - an odd name don't you think for a drought condition that strongly affects our native wildlife, our river, and our very lives?

Volunteer Opportunities

New Volunteer Activities

Shirt Designer. Person needed to design and sell t-shirts for the LPMN chapter. Shirts will be based off of shirts made by the Kerrville chapter. Strong computer skills needed. Contact Jeannie Jessup at magicgenie@gmail.com.

Colorado River Refuge Work Group. If you like making a direct impact on improving the environment for boating, picnicking, fishing, hiking and enjoyment of the great outdoors, this will be for you. Pines and Prairies Land Trust (PPLT) owns a beautiful stretch of land along the Colorado River with contiguous property and depends on LPMN volunteers to help improve/maintain it. This is where the Home School Nature Studies sponsored by PPLT are conducted, and there is no terrain like it in Texas available to the public for free. Usage and popularity are growing as the area develops and word spreads of the breathtaking natural beauty found there. We are looking for LPMN volunteers who have interests in identification of flora and fauna; trail layout, building & maintenance; sign-making & illustration; landscaping with native plants; wetlands ecology; or just simply helping cement the relationship between man and nature. This is gratifying work, as there are no government restrictions and results are immediate and obvious. We work every Wednesday morning (except during July & August) from 9:00 o'clock till noon, so if you need volunteer hours, this can fix you up in no time. Other dates/times may be arranged, depending on the project. If interested, contact Dale Morrison (angie.morrison@studiosdallas.com, 512-629-3345), Jim Estes (jestes@ionet.net, 512-620-0322) or Robert Vaughn (vaughnrobertj@gmail.com, 512-237-1148) for details.

Colorado River Monitoring Project. First Saturday of every month. 8 am. cgmorris@flash.net

Contact Claude Morris to participate or for more information call Kevin at 972-1960. You must have your own canoe! For more information about the project, go to:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/downloads/coloradofinal2.pdf>

Night Hikes – Bastrop State Park. Interested in leading a hike when it's cooler outside and with a greater chance to see nocturnal wildlife? Katie Raney, Park Interpreter of Bastrop & Buescher State Parks, is looking for volunteers to lead night hikes again this year. She will provide leaders with an outline of topics to cover with visitors. You can join John and Gayla Stock on the June 17 hike or Katie on the June 24 hike to learn the format. Leaders are needed for July 22 and August 5, 12 and 26. The walk is about a mile and typically takes about 1 1/2 hours to complete. Contact Katie at katie.raney@tpwd.state.tx.us or 512-237-2241 if you wish to volunteer.

Ongoing Volunteer Activities

Outreach Booth Volunteer. Motivated individuals have a wonderful opportunity to meet people, discuss the Master Naturalist program, and the personal satisfaction gained by being a member. Explain the many and varied volunteer projects and the ways they support conservation, education, and recreation in our communities. Demonstrate the chapter's rainfall absorption simulator and discuss the importance of proper land cover in water conservation. Discuss the CoCoRaHS program and its benefits to science, the public, and to the individual volunteer. No previous experience is necessary. Training is available. For more information and to volunteer contact Jim Estes at jestes@ionet.net

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 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

Wetland Plant Identification Class. Advanced Ecology. Course will be in Center, Texas, traveling

to sites in East Texas, on August 11-12, 2011. Dr. Stephen Hatch from Texas A&M University, will be the instructor. Class is limited to 25 participants. Contact Courtney Greer at: 936-598-9588 ext 18 or www.advancedecology.com

Habitat Stewards Training. The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and their partners, NWF, the Travis Audubon Society, Wildlife Rescue, Inc., are offering a specialized training to teach you how to help others create and restore wildlife habitat in backyards, schoolyards, and other private and public areas. Dates of training are Thursdays and Saturdays from Sept. 8 to Oct. 6. Class fee is \$40 and includes the 30+ hours of training. Deadline to register is August 15. All classes are in Austin. Information is at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/wildlifehabitatvolunteer.htm>

True Flies - Masters of the Air - August 22. Vectors of disease, pests of livestock and humans, “worms” that damage fruits and vegetables: these are all typical associations that we have for flies. However, this group of insects also includes predators, pollinators, waste recyclers, and a key component of all terrestrial and freshwater habitats. Through vibrant photographic images, we will explore the diversity, physiology, life cycle, and survival strategies of this important order of insects. Monthly meeting of the Austin Butterfly Forums. <http://www.austinbutterflies.org/>

Nature Nights 6-9 pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Come watch bees through a transparent hive; hear the Bee Lady, Kim Lehman, tell stories about tiny treasures; meet local beekeepers with the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association; make beeswax candles and taste wildflower honey and other fun. More topics are covered each Thursday night all summer long!

July 14 - Snakes

July 21 - Fossils

July 28 - Birds of Prey

August 4 - Hummingbirds

Entrance for summer programs is FREE.

<http://wildflower.org/nature/>

Just For Fun

Rockport Hummerbird Celebration. September 15-18, 2011.

Part conference part festival, this is a jam packed event full of birding, kayaking, photography and other fun stuff for birders. Registration fees vary, the all speaker pass fee is \$40. Other classes and events are additional. Go to their website for more information and early registration:

<http://www.rockporthummingbird.com>

Stargazing at the Roughts. July 22 and August 26, 9:30 -

11:00 pm. 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

Family Nature Quest - McKinney Roughts. August 6, 10-1 pm.

Guided hike (pre-registration required) and nature crafts and activities. http://www.lcra.org/parks/parks_calendar.html

Congress Avenue Bridge Bats Have you seen the bats fly out from under the bridge? It's a great free activity here in the Austin area! For more information, go to:

<http://www.kvue.com/entertainment/i-wonder/I-Wonder-Congress-Ave-Bridge-bats-124882809.html>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. July 24. Free Admission in honor of Mrs. Johnson's 99th birthday.



Decline of the Monarch New ideas as to why the monarch butterfly is in a dramatic decline in numbers.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/12/science/12butterfly.html?_r=3

And more information as to why they're important at:

<http://citybugs.tamu.edu/2011/06/worry-about-monarchs/>

And finally, a scientific paper on the monarch decline in the past 15 years.

http://www.saynotogmos.org/ud2011/fp-content/docs/Brower_2011.pdf



Invasive Leaf Hopper This invasive leafhopper (*Balclutha rubrostriata* Melichar) is spreading across central Texas. It was found in Houston for the first time last month.

Known Texas Counties: Bandera, Bexar, Harris, Hays, Kerr, Kleberg, and Travis. Over 15,000 (!) were found along the R.O.W. of the 1604 outer loop on the west side of San Antonio during a three wk survey back in 2008. Please contact Mike Quinn at entomike@gmail.com (or post picture to BugGuide) if you find this hopper which frequently comes to lights.

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/87190>

President's Column

By Louise Ridlon

July in Central Texas....I imagine many of our members are enjoying cooler climes this month. Although I normally spend as much time as possible outdoors, in summer I find lots of excuses to stay inside. Those white cumulus clouds drifting through a bright blue sky look inviting, but a few minutes outside are enough to shatter the image. Nevertheless, some folks thrive on the heat and manage to get a lot done outdoors; for example, our intrepid Colorado River Refuge crew. Although I haven't been out there recently, I understand work is progressing on the wetlands habitat, and our chapter members will be called on to help select and plant vegetation for this area.

I'm sorry I missed the June picnic! I understand it was a success. I'll look forward to hearing reports from those who attended.

Beginning this month, Scott Moore assumes the duty of hourskeeper for our chapter. Remember to submit your activity reports to Scott at lpnmhours@gmail.com, or by snail mail: Scott Moore, 415 Patton Cove, Bastrop, TX 78602. Thanks, Scott, and Marsha for your years of service in this role.

Members have come up with some good questions recently, so I'll use this space to answer a few that would be of general interest.

Q. When we go to a park to volunteer, how do we identify ourselves so we don't have to pay the entrance fee?

A. Wear your LPMN name badge. This identifies you as a volunteer, and also gives you an outreach opportunity—you can promote our organization to any park visitors who ask about your project.

Q. What if none of the Volunteer Opportunities listed in the newsletter fits my schedule or is close to where I live? How do I get enough hours to certify?

A. You don't have to volunteer for an existing project. The state TMN program encourages chapters and individuals to design their own new projects, either to meet a need, or to explore new areas. Examples include Liz and Judy's plant database for Bastrop and Caldwell counties; developing a demonstration garden in a public area; creating an outreach program and/or website about a topic you'd like to pursue and offer to give presentations to organizations (scouts, 4-H clubs, Audubon groups, garden clubs) or venues (public library, community center, schools, etc.). Write a proposal and submit it to our volunteer committee for approval and go for it!

Q. How do I order a Master Naturalist shirt?

A. From time to time the chapter decides to submit an order for shirts when enough members request it. Orders are taken at chapter meetings, when folks can choose colors and sizes. This is usually handled by a couple of volunteers from the group, and qualifies for volunteer hours (Chapter Development). Any takers?

Q. How are chapter officers selected?

A. Each fall a nominating committee is formed, who come up with a slate of candidates for each of the leadership positions. There is usually just one nominee per position (these slots are not always easy to fill!), but there is nothing to prevent us from having two candidates per position so members have a choice. Voting takes place at the December chapter meeting. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or as an officer, please let me know and I'll pass that on to the nominating chair (this is usually the past president, or, since our former president isn't available, the nominating chair is appointed by the president).

If you have a question of general interest to the group, please call or email me or another board member and we can answer it on the website, Yahoo group, or in the newsletter.

Our next chapter meeting will be held on July 18 at Bastrop State Park. Our speaker will be Paul Yura, presenting a program on Severe Weather. It would be nice at this point to see ANY change in the weather that brought a bit of moisture, but we need to be careful what we ask for!



Lost Pines Master Naturalist Monthly Meeting Schedule

July 18, 2011. 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Red Rock Community Center. Paul Yura of the National Weather Service will give a presentation on "severe weather".

August 15, 2011. 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Bastrop State Park Refectory. Mark Klym, Information Specialist with TPWD, will talk on hummingbirds.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is **June. 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. **PLEASE send text either in an email or in doc format. I cannot open any other form! Pictures should be sent as attachments of jpgs as big as you can send them. Please do not imbed images in the email. Doing so greatly helps in the newsletter creation! Thank you!**

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: Position vacant;
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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Officers

President

Louise Ridlon
(512) 985-5064
flridlon@hotmail.com

Vice President

Walt Elson
(281) 382-5593
Walt.elson@gmail.com

Secretary

Susan Crone
(512)-303-1884
smcrone48@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rik Martinez
(979)-236-0994
martinez_rik@hotmail.com

Past President

Mark McClelland
(512) 281-5516
markmcc@prodigy.net

State Representative

Michal Hubbard
(512) 303-5976
michal_photog@yahoo.com

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