

Lost Pines Master Naturalists



www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org

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July 2012

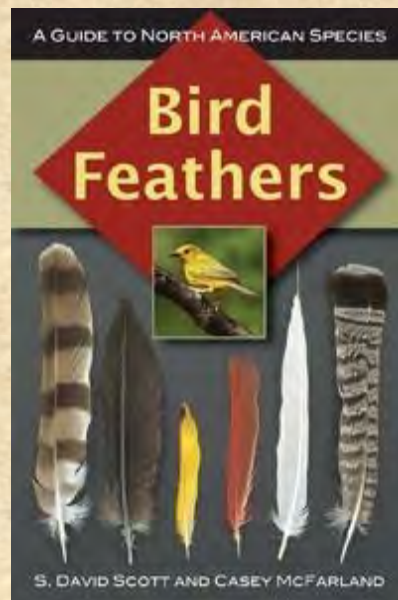
Dave Scott - Speaker at July's Meeting



Dave Scott, Program Director and Lead Instructor at Earth Native Wilderness School will be the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist speaker at this month's meeting;
to be held on **July 16, 6:30 pm at the Bastrop State Park Refectory.**

Dave Scott – July 16th Speaker:

After spending 5 years in the US Army, Dave began pursuing his true passions full time, studying wilderness survival, wildlife tracking, youth and adult mentoring, naturalist studies, and sustainable living skills at wilderness schools across the country. Dave has been involved in Environmental Education since 2003 and, in addition to Earth Native Wilderness School, has instructed at several wilderness schools across the country including the Wilderness Awareness School and Alderleaf Wilderness College. Dave is currently one of only 15 individuals in North America qualified as a Track and Sign Specialist through the Cybertracker Conservation evaluation system, an international standard for gauging and enhancing in-field knowledge of wildlife behavior and track and sign identification. He is currently working toward his Master's Degree in Environmental Education. As an educator, Dave's passion is to help his students reconnect with the natural world through wildlife tracking, increased sensory awareness, wilderness survival skills, and the development of a strong sense of place.



Dave is the co-author of
Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species
(<http://www.earthnativeschool.com/store.html>)

Dave's speech will be followed by a short break and the monthly business meeting.

Lost Pines Master Naturalists Volunteering

What's that purple box hanging in that tree?

Have you seen any of the **purple** triangular box traps hanging in ash trees in Bastrop and Caldwell counties? Well hopefully you have. They were hung by two teams of LPMN volunteers in their quest to assist the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Forest Service, US Forest Service, and USDA Plant & Animal Inspection Service in trying to determine whether the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (“EAB”) has made its way to Texas. On the Bastrop county team is Robert Vaughn, Shorty Butler, Ronnie Lanier, and me (Bonnie Shimek). On the Caldwell county team is Marcy Youngman, Walt Elson, and Jim Estes.

Members received training in March, and were charged with hanging traps in the two counties by the end of April. The Bastrop team hung 19 traps throughout the wide county area: Elgin to Rosanky (north to south), Smithville to Cedar Creek (east to west), and areas between (Bastrop, Shiloh, Red Rock, Rockne, Bateman). The Caldwell team deployed 12 traps in their county: Luling, Lytton Springs, Lockhart City Park, Lockhart State Park, and other locations in the Lockhart area. In joining forces with the above mentioned state and federal agencies and other cooperative groups (like us) more than 1,700 EAB traps will be installed throughout Texas in 2012.

So, what is the Emerald Ash Borer and where is it found?

The EAB, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an exotic metallic green colored wood-boring beetle (native to Asia) that only infects ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). The adult beetles (about 1/2-inch long) nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Adults leave a D-shaped exit hole in the bark when they emerge in spring. As woodpeckers like EAB larvae, heavy woodpecker damage on ash trees may be a sign of infestation.

The EAB was first detected attacking ash in Michigan in the summer of 2002. This non-native insect is well established in 15 states and in Canada – and unfortunately, is expected to eventually arrive in our treasured Lone Star State. Texas is home to at least six (6) native species of ash: Green, White, Carolina, Texas, Water, Berlandier; and **Arizona ash** (often planted in Central & West Texas). Since its discovery, the EAB has: killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Illinois, Indiana,



Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

How does it work?

Research has shown that the EAB is attracted to the **purple** color and shape of the trap. The trap includes an attractive bait (manuca oil) to lure in any EABs flying in the area. The surface is coated with sticky material to which the flying insects adhere. **Both the sticky material and the bait are non-toxic.**

How long will it be there?

The traps were placed in or near ash tree in March and April, before the EAB's flight season began. They were checked in June for the presence of EABs (or beetle lookalikes); re-baited, and then any suspicious looking beetles were collected in a vial with solvent and sent to the Texas Forest Service in Lufkin. *We are anxiously awaiting news of the results from our collections.* The traps will be checked again, removed and disposed in August, after the flight season ends.



Ronnie Lanier re-baiting a trap set in Bastrop County

Will the trap bring EAB into the area?

No, the trap will only attract EABs that emerge from nearby infested trees. It will simply help officials determine if it already is present.

Where can I get more information on Emerald Ash Borer?

Visit www.emeraldashborer.info or www.texasinvasives.org. At EAB's „About EAB’ section you'll find: How to Identify Emerald Ash Borer, How to Identify Ash Trees, Signs & Symptoms of EAB; and reference the „Publications/Resources’ section for: Webinars, Preparedness Plans, Educational, Media Contacts, Photos, and Videos.

Volunteering continued:

See some our LPMNs at work and having fun volunteering:

Link to this You Tube video produced for the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC) featuring some of our local LPMN's volunteer service project on the Colorado River Refuge: <http://youtu.be/oYrHpGpb0I>. Enjoy!

Volunteer Reminders

Bastrop State Park:

- **Fall Interpretative Hikes**

If you're interested in joining the volunteer group to do interpretative hikes for the Patrons of the Bastrop State Park to begin in October, contact: **Larry Gfeller** by email at larrydgfeller@yahoo.com or by phone at 512-294-6662.



Hi Everyone,

This last weekend I sat down with Katie Raney from BSP and we chatted about many of the activities going on at the park. . . my, that is one busy place! It seems the folks who loved the park before love it even more now that most of it has burned. . . call it loyalty or what you will.

*I jotted down a few notes to cover the highlights of some of the things we discussed and those notes are attached for your information. As you can read for yourself, the Fall hike schedule will **begin on Saturday, October 6th at 10:00 am, and run each and every Saturday thereafter through December 15th.** So this is your que to email me for what Saturday you would like to lead (please do this by the end of July). Note that it is permissible to have two hike leaders for each hike, so don't worry about overlapping requests. I will tally and record the results to date and feed them back to you next month. When I send those results to you in August, there will be room to make adjustments, arguments for or against, or completely change your mind or whatever needs to be done. **I will ask that any subsequent requests for adjustment be back to me by email by the end of August.** Then, sometime in September, I will provide you each with the final schedule. I will be counting on you to do what that final schedule commits you to do (note: this is not to say we have no flexibility to make changes after September, but there certainly will be less sympathy for planning failures by then).*

*I also have a printed hike leaders' guide that I will provide to each of you later. We will tentatively schedule an **orientation hike in September and one again in October.** At these orientations we can hopefully answer questions and sort out any remaining mysteries.*

Let me know your questions, if any, and don't forget to give me your initial preference(s) by the end of July. Enjoy your summer.

Volunteer Reminders (Continued):

Go Fish! A Learn-to-Fish Event

Volunteers Needed!

July 14 Bastrop State Park and **July 21** Buescher State Park

Contact Bill Brooks: b.brooks@utexas.edu or 512-581-0377



We've had a great community response to our two June classes attracting 111 and 79 attendees. I hope this worthwhile program finishes off in July with a bang!

I could use just a few more helpers for Bastrop's July 14th class. I have a large group of Angler Instructors, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists from Bell County coming to teach the kids.

I could really use some help on July 21st at the pond in Buescher State Park, Smithville. Few have offered to help this Saturday.

*Entrance fees are waived for volunteers, but park staff wants everyone to stop by the office and get a park pass. We will **set-up and do training at the pond from 8 am until 9 am**, when the public starts arriving. (Knowing how to fish is not a requirement for this program.) Volunteers should bring what they normally bring for a morning outside: water, sun block, and wear a hat and closed-toe shoes. I will call in the fishing gear at **noon** and we are all **done after the kids raffle ends by 12:30 pm**.*

Thanks to all who have given their time and support to this much needed program. Please drop me an email or call if you can help. Best Fishes, Bill!

Texas Parks & Wildlife:

Want to go fishing or take your kids fishing, but don't know where to start?

Special learn-to-fish classes are being held at selected state parks.

See the link below for dates, places and contacts for more information about these special events. In addition, some sites are offering classes in fly fishing and other special topics, so check it out.

We'll see you and yours catch a fish and make some memories!

- No fishing licenses necessary in Texas State Parks.
- Some loaner rods and reels available.
- Bait provided.
- Fun, hands-on learning for ages 5 and up.
- Door prizes.
- Bring hats, sunglasses, water and be ready for a good time.

[Go Fish! Calendar of Events](#)
[State Park Fishing Information](#)

Volunteering at McKinney Roughs:

For the time you volunteer at the LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park (1884 Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek), our Chapter gets free/discounted use of their facilities. Grace Pratt has been coordinating some scheduled dates and times; you can contact her by email (graciela@moonandback.org or graciela@austin.utexas.edu) or by phone (512-633-0164).



Colorado River Watch Network - CRWN:

If you are interested in forming a CRWN group to “watch” the new location that LCRA wants to add in Bastrop, in the Tahitian Village - Lost Pines Nature Trails area (ref. http://www.lcra.org/water/quality/crwn/get_involved.html for more detail) contact: Bonnie Shimek at jbshimek@cs.com or 512/581-2625.





Stargazing

by Grace Pratt, LPCMN President

I was out recently with some friends at Canyon of the Eagles to attend the public viewing of the night time stars sponsored by the Austin Astronomical Society. It was really quite an experience. The stars are constantly changing as the months go by so you can always capture something new to see. While there are plenty of avid astronomers imagine my surprise to arrive and see a field full of telescopes easily over 30 or more. Large, medium, and small telescopes. There were even high powered binoculars mounted on an unusual stand that moved in all directions. Not to mention the two telescopes that are housed out at the observatory. The roof retracts for night time viewing.

I had been out to Canyon of the Eagles many times for night time viewing, but never on a public view night. It was incredible. The evening was breezy and warm. The temperature was just right. We arrived there about 7:30 p.m. just in time to see the sun set. Even with the sun setting there was a great deal of activity. We were able to see satellites flying by.

Before the evening was over we were able see the space station, Venus, Saturn, Mars, Jupiter, the Milky Way, the Hubble telescope, more satellites, Vega, Pollux, Castor, Altair, Libra and all the usual suspects like Big Dipper (Ursa Major), Little Dipper (Ursa Minor), Cassiopeia, the northern start (Polaris), etc.

I know that most of us are suffering with the intense heat currently lurking in our area, but don't forget there are other activities like stargazing that remind us of how really, really small we are in the grand scheme of things. I often rush around so focused on only the things in front of me that I forget to look up. On that day and at that time I took the time to stop and look up. It made me feel apart of something far greater than myself that was wonderful and incredible. As we proceed through life we are reminded life outdoors was meant to be enjoyed.

See you in the great outdoors,

Grace

Habitat Recovery-The Early Days

Submitted by Larry Gfeller:

Our little piece of the Lost Pines did, indeed, appear to be lost. The ash-dusted sand lay bleak and fallow. Then, like some obscure ocean-bottom species adapted for extreme survival, a pink fungus appeared as the first vestige of life. It was soon replaced by barely perceptible sprigs of green. Here, amidst the blackened loblolly skeletons and the expanse of grey, powdery ash, came the pioneers. The baby Wafer Ash pushed up through the sand, small splashes of Rosette Grass spread in the sunlight, and the sticky tangles of Southern Dewberry dotted the ground. Yucca plants randomly punctuated the bareness. These, it turns out, were the early settlers in what was to become a *great new land rush*. Just a month after the fire, the race had officially begun. These first humble signs of life were astonishing, and powerful mood changers. From nothingness, these leaders appeared, asserting their will to exist, claiming their space, and warming the heart of the most hardened pessimist. Other plants would follow in the days to come. Within the compass of five small acres, I was about to witness a miracle. Life was on the march. It would vanquish the void and transform the landscape.

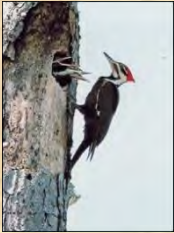


"New Growth – April 2012"

And while such a fire can cleanse and rejuvenate the timberland, it brings only destruction for animals and man. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, our community of wildlife had been destroyed or driven away. For some uncanny reason, wooden bird feeders suspended from two Sheppard's hooks survived the flames, so I filled them with seed and put clean water in the in-ground trough and—voila! All the common visitors returned within a day or two, seemingly relieved that dependable meals were once again being served. And why not? Protective trees were still abundant, even if they were burned. And, to be sure, there are advantages to the gift of flight in the face of an advancing blaze. I found the charred remains of one of our squirrels on the forest floor, just 100 feet from the melted squirrel feeders. I never told my wife. I'm sure the squirrel would have given anything to be able to fly that day.



We are used to sharing our space with Whitetail Deer. We enjoyed the acquaintance of several families and singles who visited on a regular basis, searching for a nibble of carelessly spilled squirrel corn, or a cool drink of water. They felt comfortable and protected here. Mothers would browse while fawns explored the edge of the forest. We could watch their confidence in life grow stronger from our back porch. Ever careful not to visit simultaneously, the clans rotated through our property routinely. Now, with the exception of a lone doe, sickly and confused, who rested for a few nights in a soft patch of grass near our home, the deer are gone. There has been only one fleeting observation since the fire. My wife was able to snatch a photograph of two Whitetails passing through on their way to healthy woodlands. The buck was virile and muscled, the doe svelte and graceful. If they ever saw the fire at all, they were none the worse for it. Adonis and Aphrodite! The future is secure.



Our avian population has improved since the fire. Variety has noticeably increased. Of course it didn't hurt that we managed to replace all our nest boxes by the end of February. Northern Cardinals, American Crows, Chipping Sparrows, Tufted Titmice, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Carolina & Bewick's Wrens, Carolina Chickadees, Blue Jays and . . . as they migrated through—Pine Warblers have all made an appearance. Some are more gregarious, but whether we see them but occasionally or feeding together, we could not ask for a more joyous group of regulars! We even saw a couple of Eastern Bluebirds recently—the first for us. The forest is not their preferred habitat, but the forbs and grasses are teeming with insects now and, without significant foliage, what we have hardly qualifies as a forest. Glad to see them! Not so welcome, however, is the Brown-Headed Cowbird. This is the only parasitic bird in the state and I saw two of them at the feeders recently. They have the irresponsible habit of laying their eggs in the nests of other birds, expecting them to foster their young. Even so, they're here and they're alive; who am I to judge them?



Male Brown-Headed Cowbird

As the weeks and months have passed, the magic continues to reveal itself, but it's tough getting beyond the initial panorama of devastation and disturbance. How ironic that, half a year later, the drudgery of man is more prominent than the healing of nature. Vast expanses of sterilized sand, bestrewn with charred stumps, provide visible testimonials to FEMA, numerous volunteer workforces, and the power of the chainsaw. Only a few pines survive. Scattered oaks are so stressed that new foliage grows directly from the trunk line and heavier boughs, avoiding the smaller branches where the scorched remains of last year's leaves still lay, clinched in their death grip. The severely burned oaks sprout green only from the ground. Razed and slashed, by now most of the dead trees are gone and the yaupon tops have been carried away. It appears a true wasteland. In their place, wooden stakes with strips of psychedelic engineer tape sway and wave in the breeze to mark newly planted trees and wildflowers. The gravel driveway has been enlarged and erosion barriers have been installed. Around our back yard a new privacy fence subsidizes what the forest once provided for free. At first glance, the place looks like a construction site. But don't be misled . . . it is the future that is under construction here.



We have been allotted more than our fair share of rainfall recently and the land has answered in kind. Nature is more sophisticated than any of her individual creations. Upon close examination, little green colonies grace the nooks and crannies of the forest floor. Some of the greatest wonders can be found in the smallest things. New neighborhoods have sprouted from the stark barrenness. Spiderwort, Common Sunflower and Fall Witch Grass have joined us, as well as a surprising variety of wildflowers and native plants. Some Crocuses I planted in the forest several seasons ago have managed to burst into bloom. Optimists! Even my more rowdy friends are coming back. Greenbrier,

one of my least favorite plants after yaupon, has reappeared. I occasionally see the greedy tendrils from the corner of my eye, snaking their way around anything that can provide a boost higher. With expert help we have completed a plant survey throughout the property. So far, no pests, no parasites. To my delight, what I feared was Chickweed turned out to be Rabbit Tobacco—a valuable food source for certain larvae and other critters. In fact, the butterflies have exploded. Pipevines, Red Admirals, Questionmarks, Painted Ladies—they all clamor and jostle amid a blizzard of color, working off excess energy, inspired by the sheer joy of living.



But what if it had turned out to be Chickweed after all? Would that have been more loathsome than five acres of Yaupon? The Yaupon has not been destroyed by the fire. It is surging with life just below the surface and will soon mount a mortal offensive against the land. With lives measured in weeks, are butterflies somehow more deserving than Cinch Bugs? Do not Cinch Bugs have a purpose in the great scheme of things? Greenbrier may be viewed as undesirable, while the Texas Dandelion is considered cute. Truth be known, they can both serve as food if necessary. The Cardinal is welcomed, but the Cowbird is vilified. Perhaps we do not really understand. In looking deeply at what has been happening on this property since September, 2011, it is clear that struggles and competitions occur continuously, complete with winners and losers. Succession will occur whether or not we choose sides. One man's weeds are another's beneficial plants. The breadth and diversity of plants thus far has been stunning. Almost all of them represent food for some insect, caterpillar, bird or animal. The stage is being set for a fury of activity. The insects will attract birds, amphibians and reptiles. The deer, the opossum and the cottontail will eventually return. This is not just the preliminary stand of plants, this is the complex web of life I am witnessing—this is the new ecosystem in its infancy. More miracles lie before us. Whether it's a dramatic epiphany or a quiet moment of wonder, I take comfort from this awe-inspiring quality of nature to rejuvenate herself. It's pretty clear to me what's going on here. . . . if we help nature heal the land, while vowing to do no harm, she will return the favor.

Featured Website

Central Texas Gardner (CTG):



(<http://www.klru.org/ctg/>)

I tape these informative thirty minute weekly TV shows on gardening in our central Texas area (KLRU 18, Austin); and then watch them at my leisure. There is also an excellent website for viewing missed episodes and resource referencing:

- [Past Shows](#): Browse episodes by date, includes a topic description
- [Resources](#): Select from a dropdown topic list and browse by
 - [Address](#), [Article](#), or [Book](#)
 - [Events](#): A calendar of Central Texas Gardening Events
 - View videos segments of current and past weekly [Featured](#) Gardens and [Gardeners](#)
 - [Links](#) to featured topics
 - [Plant Lists](#) of aired plant group topics (includes scientific and common names, and quick links to Related Episodes and Related Gardeners)
 - [Plant of the Week](#): Browse Plants by photos or list, and click for planting info/tips and quick links to Related Episodes
 - [Tips](#): Browse for gardening “Monthly things to do” or by Episode for “to do this Week”
- A CTG [Blog](#) page
- [Watch](#): Reference [TV](#) for times and channels when CTG airs, and [Online](#) for video shows viewing

Trainings / Workshops / Conferences / Webinars / Etc.

- * Denotes Advanced Training Approved
- To request approval for a new advanced training opportunity, not denoted below or which has not previously been approved by the Chapter, submit a Request for Advanced Training Approval form found on our website: ([Fillable Word doc](#)) or ([PDF format](#)). For a list of activities and sponsors pre-approved for advanced training events not explicitly announced as approved by the Chapter reference: [Generally approved Advanced Training](#) also found on our webpage.

* **Austin Water Utilities (AWU) – Center for Environmental Research (CER)**

Lunchtime Lectures Twice Each Month!

2012 A Year of Natural History: Origins, Practices, and Examples

*First Tuesday of the Month at Austin Water Headquarters Downtown
(Waller Center Room 104, 625 East 10th Street – between I-35 & Red River)*

or Same Lecture Repeated Each Month on a Tuesday

at City Hall Boards & Commissions Room 1101

Each lecture begins AT NOON

Free and Open to the Public – bring a lunch and learn

CER website - <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>, Phone (512) 972-1960

Natural History & Ecological Change – Americas, Texas, & Austin [May – July]:

- **July 17** at City Hall - The Natural History of Austin: Biological Context & Urbanization

Unnatural History – Urban Natural History [August – December]:

- **August 7** at Waller Center - Urban Natural History: Life in the City
- **August 28** at City Hall - Urban Natural History: Life in the City
- **September 4** at Waller Center - The Natural History of an Urban Creek: Waller Creek
- **September 18** at City Hall - The Natural History of an Urban Creek: Waller Creek
- **October 2** at Waller Center - The Natural History of an Urban Vacant Lot:
Tannehill Urban Wild Woodland
- **October 23** at City Hall - The Natural History of an Urban Vacant Lot:
Tannehill Urban Wild Woodland
- **November 6** at Waller Center - The Natural History of an Urban Wasteland:
Hornsby Bend
- **November 20** at City Hall - The Natural History of an Urban Wasteland: Hornsby Bend
- **December 4** at Waller Center - Natural and Unnatural History: the Path Forward
- **December 18** at City Hall - Natural and Unnatural History: the Path Forward

▪ **Texas Bat Symposium**

August 11, Saturday

The Bat World Sanctuary (BWS) & The Botanical Research Institute Of Texas (Brit) have teamed up to offer this One-Day Bat Symposium

Register at BWS <https://www.batworld.org/shop/brit-sign-up/> or BRIT <http://www.brit.org/>

From: Carrie McLaughlin, Texas Master Naturalist, carrie.mclaughlin58@gmail.com, 682-459-1684

Trainings / ... continued:

* Texas AgriLife Extension Service

■ Natural Resource Webinars:

(<http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/>)

- **August 2, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST**

[Aquatic Vegetation Management](#)

0.5 Ag. Pesticide CEU (Gen.) 0.5 Ag. Pesticide CEU (L&R) • Dr. Michael Masser

Scheduled to begin at **12:00 pm**

You may enter the room 30 minutes before the start time.

***Registration Cost: \$10.00

- **September 6, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST**

[Reckoning with Range Management: Laws & Regulations for Rangeland Chemicals](#)

1 Ag. Pesticide CEU (L&R) • Dr. Barron Rector

*****Registration** is only required for licensed agricultural pesticide applicators, if you are seeking TDA CEUs. You may watch the webinar without registering if you are not seeking CEUs.



■ Texas Parks & Wildlife:

(visit „All Events’ at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/all-events>)



- **July 21, 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m., TPWD- North Texas Education Center,**
5411 Robinson Road, Grand Prairie TX

[Angler Education Instructor Workshop](#)

This **free** workshop is open to anyone 18 or older interested in teaching the basics of fishing in their communities. The program provides the curriculum, equipment, materials and support to help volunteers successfully introduce youth and their families to fishing. Ideal for teachers, youth group leaders, afterschool or camp staff. SBEC credit available for teachers. Participants should wear comfortable clothing for outdoor activities, wear hat, sunglasses and bring a water bottle.

Pre-registration required, contact Steve Campbell, ph: Metro (972) 263-0427 or

Steve.Campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us

- **July 21 & August 11, Buescher State Park, Smithville TX:** [Stargazing at the Lake](#)
*Discover the stars above! Drop in anytime between **8:30 pm and 10:00 pm** to see the drama unfold overhead. We’ll even have a telescope trained on some of the wonders of the night sky. At the lake, on the dam – look for our red lights. At the **August 11** program, you’ll be in a prime spot to observe the Perseids meteor shower. Free after park entry fees.*
Contact Phone: (512) 237-2241.

- **July 25, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Westcave Preserve, 24814 Hamilton Pool Road,**
Round Mountain, TX

[Project WILD Workshop](#)

Enjoy a fun and educational day learning how to teach hands-on multi-disciplinary activities which focus on wildlife and natural resources. The curriculum is suitable for grades K-12 as well as youth programs and is TEKS-aligned. SBEC and TEEAC continuing education credit. Bring a sack lunch. Fee: \$30

To Register: send an email to info@westcave.org or call 830-825-3442

Trainings / ... continued:



■ Texas Parks & Wildlife (Continued):

(visit 'All Events' at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/all-events>)

➤ **July 28, Bastrop State Park**

[Frog and Toad Watch](#)

Help monitor Bastrop State Park's amphibians. You will learn how to identify these frogs and toads by sound and sight and then conduct a survey at a nearby pond. No experience required! Bring water and insect repellent. Personal vehicles may be needed to drive to listening site. Meet at the picnic area by the pool. Free after park entry fees.
Contact Phone: (512) 321-2101

➤ **August 3, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Kerr Wildlife Management Area**

[First Friday Tours on the Kerr Wildlife Management Area; Part 1 of a 3 part series: "Elements of Wildlife Habitat"](#)

"Elements in Wildlife Habitat", 1st seminar of 3 will deliver the central components in management of any wildlife species: food, water and cover. Join us for programs addressing the diets of native and exotic species, water use, development strategies and cover requirements. Outdoor tour of sites at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area will follow demonstrating topics covered indoors.

Contact the Kerr Wildlife Management Area office for more details, (830) 238-4483.

➤ **August 4, 8:30pm-9:30pm, Buescher State Park, Smithville TX:**

[Paddle by Moonlight](#): *Kayak and explore the calm waters of the Buescher State Park lake by twilight. Bring your own kayak or borrow one of ours. Paddles and PFDs included. No children under the age of 16. **Reservations required**: call 512-718-0211 or email katie.raney@tpwd.state.tx.us. Free after park entry fees.* Contact Phone: (512) 237-2241.

➤ **August 11, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Inks Lake State Park**

[Junior Angler Education](#)

The Junior Angler Education program provides the curriculum, equipment, materials and support to introduce youth and their families to fishing for children ages 5 and up. Participants should wear comfortable clothing for outdoor activities, and bring a water bottle. Kids completing the program will receive a Junior Angler Certificate and pin. Come early to register your child at the North Fishing Pier by 9:30AM. Free. Park entrance fee apply.
Contact Phone: (512) 793-4689

➤ **August 16 9:00 AM-4:00 PM to August 17 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Bentsen RGV**

State Park, 2800 S. Bentsen Palm Dr., Mission

[Project WILD/Project WILD Aquatic Combo Workshop](#)

Learn how to teach young people about terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and ecosystems using fun, hands-on educational activities. During the ten-hour training workshop participants will sample activities and receive both curriculum guides. Activities are adaptable for all grade levels, integrated with core subject curricula and aligned to the TEKS. SBEC credit available for teachers. Program is designed for nature-site staff, volunteers, as well as any formal or informal educators who work with K-12 audience and fulfills the prerequisite for the Project WILD Facilitator certification training.

\$38 preregistration required, **deadline August 2, 2012.**

Contact Loni Salinas at LoSalinas@CityofEdinburg.com or call (956) 381-9222

Trainings / ... continued:



■ **Texas Parks & Wildlife (Continued):**

- **August 17** 9:00 AM-5:00 PM to **August 18** 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, Caldwell Zoo, 2203 Martin Luther King Blvd, Tyler

[Project WILD Facilitator Training](#)

Join the corps of volunteer Facilitators who lead the suite of Project WILD workshops. By attending this two day workshop, participants will be certified to facilitate Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Science and Civics, and Growing Up WILD professional development workshops to formal and informal educators. Must have previously attended a Project WILD or Project WILD Aquatic workshop and be willing to lead one workshop per year. SBEC and TEEAC credit available for teachers. \$10 Pre-registration required.

To register contact: Linda Kunze lkunze@caldwellzoo.org or 903-593-0121 ext 228.

■ **Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWA)**

<http://www.texas-wildlife.org/>



■ **Wildlife for Lunch Online Webinar Series:**

Questions, contact Courtney Brittain at cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org or call the Main Office at (210) 826-2904.

To sign on, simply point your browser to <https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> on the day of the webinar and click to join the **Wildlife for Lunch** webinar. Each web based seminar is fully interactive and allows you to engage the experts, make comments, and ask questions during the course of the presentation. If you cannot make the live webinar, each webinar is archived and available for viewing following the initial air date at <http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/webcasts/category/webinars/>. (Webinars thru December Hosted By: TWA and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.)

- **July 19th**, Noon-1:00pm CST
[Wildlife for Lunch Webinar: Pronghorn in Peril](#)
- **August 16**, Noon to 1:00pm CST
[Wildlife for Lunch Webinar: Rainwater Harvesting for Wildlife](#)
- **September 20**, Noon to 1:00pm CST
[Wildlife for Lunch Webinar: Deer Nutritional Requirements and Management Implications](#)
- **October 18**, Noon to 1:00pm CST
[Wildlife for Lunch Webinar: Native Prairie Restoration](#)
- **November 15**, Noon to 1:00pm CST
[Wildlife for Lunch Webinar: Market Based Conservation and Managing for Endangered Species](#)
- **December 20**, Noon to 1:00pm CST
[Wildlife for Lunch Webinar: Forest Management and Wildlife on Private Land in Eastern Texas](#)

Trainings / ... continued:



■ **Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (*Continued*):**

■ **Learning Across New Dimensions in Science (L.A.N.D.S.)**

Outreach Teacher Workshops:

Classroom curricula, special presentations, field trips, necropsies, learning modules, and interactive video conferencing programs are readily available to teachers and students across Texas as part of our L.A.N.D.S. youth stewardship initiative.

For more information about L.A.N.D.S., contact Koy Coffey at 830-792-3070 or

kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org

August 1 - Harris County Dept of Education

August 6 - Sheldon ISD

August 15 - Crosby ISD

August 17 - Goose Creek ISD

August 20-23 (TBD) - Hempstead ISD

■ **Trans-Pecos Wildlife Conference**

When: **August 2-3, 2012**

Where: Morgan University Center, Sul Ross University, Alpine, TX

Hosted By: TWA, TPWD, Borderlands Research Institute, Texas AgriLife Extension, USDA-NRCS

Who: All are welcome!

Website: <http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/events/trans-pecos-wildlife-conference>

Schedule: (subject to change)

Thursday, August 2:

Friday, August 3:

Session I - Climate, Drought, Fire & Water

Ranch Tour - location TBD

Session II - Habitat Management

Session III - Nongame Management

Session IV - Big Game Management

Evening Social sponsored by TWA
(refreshments provided)

Websites – Local Area Nature Activities

(And possible opportunities for some Volunteer Hours)



- **Texas AgriLife Extension Service:** <http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/>



- **LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park:**
http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/mckinney_roughs.html
 E-mail: outdoorprograms@lcra.org
 Phone: (512) 303-5073 or (800) 776-LCRA Ext. 8021
 Hours: Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun. Noon - 5 p.m.



- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin:** <http://www.wildflower.org/>



- **Nature Rocks - Lets Go Explore Austin:** <http://www.naturerocksaustin.org/>



- **Nature Rocks - Texas:** <http://naturerockstexas.org/>
"Now, it's easier than ever to get your family out to explore. Click on the Nature Rocks Texas cities (Dallas/Austin/San Antonio) on the map to find nature-based places, activities & events."



- **Texas Brigades:** <http://www.texasbrigades.org/>
 High-energy "boot camps" on quail, deer, turkey, & fisheries management



- **Texas Children in Nature:** <http://txcinc.wordpress.com/>
 Why Kids Need Nature - Healthier, Happier, Smarter.



- **Texas Parks and Wildlife:** <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>
 - **Outdoor Kids:** *Get Out!, Wild Things, Fun Stuff, Learn about Texas, Explore* and links for [Parents & Teachers](#), [Junior Naturalist](#), & [Outdoor Learning](#)
 - **State Park Guide - Summer Edition:** online [State Park Guide](#) or [Digital version](#)
 - **Outdoor Activity of the Month: July - Paddling:**
Go kayaking or canoeing on one of the many [Texas Paddling Trails](#).

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



From TWD: *Dear Educators,*

- "We are excited to present to you **"Keep Texas Wild"** – a magazine section for kids. Our kid-friendly, four-page sections include fun facts presented with a lively writing style, eye-popping photos and a creative, whimsical design. The topics are Texas-specific, with special attention to conservation issues." Includes hands-on activities that cross the spectrum of curriculum (including art, math, science and social studies) and a call to action that encourages students to get outdoors and get involved. (Available in printable PDF format)



- **Texas Wildlife Association:** <http://www.texas-wildlife.org>
 - [Land Manager Field Days, Workshops, and Symposia](#)
 - [Teacher and Volunteer Resources](#)
 - [Women of the Land](#)
 - [Wildlife Ambassador Training](#)
 - [Conservation Initiatives](#)
 - Youth Education: [Outreach Programs - Discovery Trunks, Distance Learning & Wildlife by Design](#)
[Learning Across New Dimensions in Science \(L.A.N.D.S.\)](#)
[Texas Children in Nature](#)

Websites ... (continued):

Some websites from William ("Bill") G Brooks (b.brooks@utexas.edu):

- Invasivore.org: A site dedicated to fighting invasive species by eating them.
"Making ecological restoration downright tasty."
- Underwatersculpture.com: Site of eco-sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor.
His remarkable environmentally friendly underwater museums double as artificial reefs.
- [Texas Bumblebees](http://TexasBumblebees.com): This site is devoted to the decline of our native bumblebees.
There is a picture id key to the 9 species found in Texas.
- In print...**Susan Wittig Albert** is the author of the popular **China Bayles Mysteries**. China Bayles owns an herb shop in the Texas hill country. In the newest Summer issue of "Wildflowers", the publication of the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](http://LadyBirdJohnsonWildflowerCenter.com), Susan wrote a great article, "**Medicinal Purpose, Plants that Heal**".

Upcoming Area Events

- **July 19 – Bats:** How many mosquitoes can a bat eat in one night? Are bats really blind? Become a bat expert at Austin's International Year of the Bat event hosted in partnership with [Bat Conservation International](http://BatConservationInternational.com). Discover the mysterious life of bats through guided walks with bat experts & a fun scavenger hunt, see a live African Straw-colored Flying Fox & Mexican Free-tailed bats in an interesting presentation on amazing bats & experience what it's like to be a bat scientist. Hear a story about **Ding Bat & His Happy Flying Friends** from the authors [Evalen & John Cruzan](http://Evalen.com). There will be bat themed crafts including one from the [Teenage Ecowarriors](http://TeenageEcowarriors.com) and other hands-on educational activities to teach you all about the Masters of the Night.
 - 6:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m., Hikes with BCI, meet in the Courtyard
 - 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. -Storytelling in Little House
 - 7:00- 8:00p.m.- BCI Bat Presentation with Live Bats in the Auditorium
- **July 26 – Snakes:** Snakes may get a bad rap, but they do very important things for us and the environment. Get up close and personal with a live snake exhibit from [Austin Reptile Service](http://AustinReptileService.com). Learn about common Central Texas snakes and just how few of them are actually venomous from Travis LaDuc, Ph.D., assistant curator of herpetology for [The University of Texas at Austin Natural Science Center](http://TheUniversityofTexasatAustinNaturalScienceCenter.com). Make and take a snake craft for your room. Meet Nathan Jensen, Illustrator of **Rattlesnake Rules**, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the store. What's so special about snake eyes? Come join us and discover the answer for yourself.
 - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Live Snakes Exhibit, Austin Reptile Service in the Visitors Gallery
 - 7:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. - Common Central Texas Snakes Presentation, Travis LaDuc, Ph.D. in the Auditorium



Chapter Business / Reminders:



Committees & Projects Signup:

If you are interested in signing up for any of the below Committees and Projects, let the noted ("Chair/Leader") know or send an email to the LPMN contact: <http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/chapter.html#contact>.

- **Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities -**

(These have all been pre-approved for volunteer service)

- Colorado River Refuge: "Bridge Maniacs", trail building and maintenance. Also nature education classes for homeschoolers fall and spring, teach or assist. (Nick Nichols nickatnite44@att.net or Jim Estes jestes@ionet.net)
- Lockhart State Park: 5th Grade outdoor science classes fall and spring, classes for homeschoolers, trail maintenance.
- Bastrop State Park Interpretive Hikes: Saturdays at 10:00 am. Lead or assist. (Larry Gfeller: larrydgyfeller@yahoo.com, 512-294-6662)
- Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Survey: Second Saturday of each month, 7:00 am. (*Chair/Leader: Please send me your contact info, Bonnie*)
- Go Fish: Youth fishing clinics at Bastrop and Buescher State Parks, selected Saturdays during the summer. (Bill Brooks: b.brooks@utexas.edu, 512-581-0377)
- McKinney Roughs Nature Park: Weeding and garden maintenance; bio-surveys. (Grace Pratt: graciela@moonandback.org or graciela@austin.utexas.edu, 512-633-0164)
- Citizen Science programs, including Amphibian Watch, Mussel Watch, Project Feeder Watch, Great Backyard Bird Count, Texas Hummingbird Roundup.
- Plus Chapter Activities including Outreach booths, newsletter contributions, committee work, leadership, hospitality...

- **Standing Committees -**

(See last page „Committees’ for Chair contact info)

- 1. Training Committee
- 2. Membership Committee
- 3. Outreach Committee
- 4. Volunteer Service Projects Committee
- 5. Advanced Training/Program Committee
- 6. Newsletter Communications Committee
- 7. Historian
- 8. Hospitality Committee

Chapter Business / Reminders (Continued):

August Chapter Meeting:

The August 20th meeting will be held at **Buescher State Park** with a talk by **Lynne and Jim Weber**, authors of *Nature Watch Austin: Guide to the Seasons in an Urban Wildland*. The authors identify month-by-month the plants, animals, insects and other natural phenomena that are particularly noteworthy in Central Texas throughout the year. Both Lynne and Jim are certified Texas Master Naturalists, and Lynne is past President of the Capital Area Master Naturalists chapter. The Webers conduct bird surveys, monitor and map invasive species, write nature columns for neighborhood newsletters, and lead nature hikes among their many outdoor activities.

Printing the Newsletter:

Bill, Thanks for the email regarding using a lot of tan ink when printing the Newsletter. It's the background; and is an easy fix. I'm going to send Andy a "Print Friendly" version for posting for those of you like Bill that prefer reading from a printed paper version.

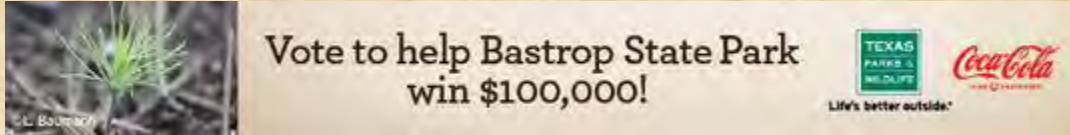
Bonnie

P.S. Here's Bill's closing email, worthy of some thought:

"Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it now. We might as well make peace with the landlord." (Tom Eisner, former president of the Xerces Society).

Friendly Reminders:

Help Bastrop State Park Win \$100,000:



(www.livepositively.com/parks)

Please remember to keep voting for Bastrop State Park (BSP) to win a grant from Coca-Cola during its national "America Is Your Park" promotion. **Voting ends just before midnight on July 15th**; so there's still plenty of time to vote. Vote online at www.livepositively.com/parks; there's also a link from our LPMN home page. *There's no limit on the number of times you can vote online!* So please vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote...!

Better yet, if you're a **Foursquare user**, visit BSP, be sure to "checkin", and then vote from there. Each time you do, your vote will count as **100 votes!** You can "check-in" as often as Foursquare allows until the deadline of July 15th.

Local Recycling - Email from Ronnie Lanier:

Lone Star Disposal, a Bastrop owned and operated company, has relocated to their new facility just south of Shiloh Road on the east side of FM 20. This is a great place because they offer recycling drop off for glass bottles/jars and all numbered plastic. They accept the normal #1 & #2 plastic, aluminum (cans & clean foil), metal cans, coated wire, car batteries, car radiators, corrugated cardboard, and paper. Now, you don't have to save glass and odd plastics until you go to La Grange or Austin. They ask donators to rinse out containers and do not bring Styrofoam, oil containers, plastic bags, or wet/moldy donations.



Special Offer On Your Next Hotel Stay - Email from TPW:

Last year's devastating wildfires, record heat and continued drought have created a critical situation for Texas State Parks. La Quinta Inns & Suites® is stepping up to help by offering a special online promotion. When you book at this [promotional link](http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/TXPWD-473efb) (<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/TXPWD-473efb>), 10% of your room stay will be donated to Texas State Parks. To take advantage of this offer, book your room with the "[Help Texas State Parks](#)" link.



What's Eating You?

From a June 2012 issue of *Parade*:



Stay Healthy

← A BROWN RECLUSE, one of the few species of venomous spiders found in the U.S.

What's Eating You?

Been bitten this summer? Don't panic—just follow our guide.

SPIDER BITE

DO: Wash with soap and water, then dab on an over-the-counter antibiotic cream, which will heal most bites within a week. The exceptions: bites from black widow or brown recluse spiders, which require medical care.

DON'T: Worry if you don't recognize these creatures (the former is shiny with a red hourglass mark on its belly; the latter sports a violin-shaped design near its head)—your doctor can identify the symptoms caused by their venom: nausea, cramping, and severe abdominal pain (widow) or fever and an agonizing wound (recluse).

SNAKE BITE

DO: Try to remember the snake's appearance. The vast majority are harmless, but if you don't know for sure what kind you encountered, head to the ER—you may need antivenom.

DON'T: Apply a tourniquet or ice, cut the wound, or suck out the venom, says Eric Lavonas, M.D., associate director of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug

Center in Denver. "Just clean the wound, then seek medical care."

TICK BITE

DO: Grasp the tick firmly with your fingers or tweezers and pull it straight out, then snap a

treatment if you develop a bull's-eye rash or headache and fever, which can signal Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

DOG BITE

DO: See a doctor if the bite is on your face, ears, hands, or other highly visible place. Stitches can improve a scar's appearance, and hand infections can be serious. Otherwise, you may not need medical care. Though the pain and bruising may be severe, canine bites don't typically create a big gash, says Lavonas.

DON'T: Hesitate to head to the ER if the dog acted sick or strange. Rabies is rare, but the four-dose vaccine must be started ASAP if there is any doubt. (Note: The shots today are less painful than they used to be.) And be sure to get a tetanus booster if you're not up to date. —Meryl Davids Landau

BY THE NUMBERS

1.5

MILLION

NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO VISIT THE ER FOR BITES AND STINGS EACH YEAR

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

cell phone photo (in case your doctor needs to determine the type of tick that bit you).

DON'T: Forget to check yourself and your kids after a hike or other outdoor activity. Ticks need several days of feeding to transmit disease, so as long as you spot them early on, you should be fine, says Kathleen Clem, M.D., chair of emergency medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. Seek

Test your summer health smarts at Parade.com/safesummer

Monthly Meeting Schedule:

Chapter meetings generally alternate between the Bastrop State Park Refectory, Red Rock Community Center, & the Lockhart State Park, and are at **6:30 PM on the third Monday of each month**. Most meetings feature an educational program (**Advanced Training** unless otherwise noted), and are open to members, prospective members, and the general public.

- **July 16**, 6:30 PM, Bastrop State Park Refectory, Dave Scott - Program Director & Lead Instructor at Earth Native Wilderness School
- **August 20**, 6:30 PM, Buescher State Park Recreation Hall, Lynne & Jim Weber

Newsletter Deadline:

For Next Issue July 31st

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 **Bonnie Shimek**, prefer email to: jbshimek@cs.com, if not possible mail to: 2233 FM 20, Red Rock, TX 78662

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 & Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Sponsor Contacts:

Bastrop County Extension Office
Rachel Bauer
Bastroptx@tamu.edu, (512) 581-7186

Caldwell County Extension Office
Michael Haynes
Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu, (512) 398-3122

Bastrop/Caldwell Cty's TPWD Wildlife Biologist
Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop
Meredith.Longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us
(512) 332-7280

Officers

President - Grace Pratt

512-633-0164

graciela@moonandback.org or
graciela@austin.utexas.edu

Vice President - Ronnie Lanier

512-581-8117

nxplgr@wildblue.net

Secretary - Joan Estes

512-620-0322

joan.estes@earthlink.net

Treasurer - Rik Martinez

979-236-0994

martinez_rik@hotmail.com

State Representative - Marsha Elrod

512-284-7400

melrod1@earthlink.net

Committees:

Hospitality	Caroline Easley carilb708@hotmail.com	512-988-1708
Volunteer	Scott Moore lpmnhours@gmail.com	512-589-3098
Newsletter	Bonnie Shimek jbshimek@cs.com	512-581-2625
Web Page Communications	Andy Butler abutler@mac.com	512-581-1470
Basic Training	Louise Ridlon flridlon@hotmail.com	512-985-5064
Advanced Training	Ronnie Lanier nxplgr@wildblue.net	512-581-8117
Membership	Gene Moulden GeneorMarie@austin.rr.com	512-985-5823
Outreach	Jim Estes jestes@ionet.net	512-620-0322
Chapter History	William (Bill) Brooks b.brooks@utexas.edu	512-581-0377

Lost Pines Chapter



www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org