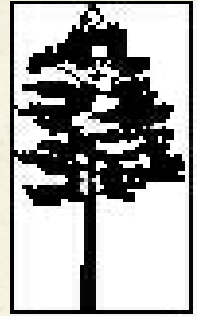


# Lost Pines Master Naturalist



Volume II, Issue 6

June 2011



## Furred Forest Flyer

*By LPMN member Louise Ridlon*

“What was that?” Sitting by the patio glass at our California mountain cabin one night, Frank described something flying quickly by the door. A quick investigation with a flash light illuminated a small furry form scooting up the cedar beside the deck: a flying squirrel! We soon discovered that this charming creature was a regular nocturnal visitor to our bird feeders. Fast forward 15 years and 1300 miles east: I learned that the Southern Flying Squirrel is indigenous to the Lost Pines of Bastrop County, with sightings in the state parks and McKinney Roughs. But I don’t spend much time in the

pinos, so didn’t think my chances of seeing one were very great.

The Southern (or Eastern) Flying Squirrel, *Glaucomys volans*, ranges across the eastern third of Texas. Bastrop County is at the extreme western edge of its range. Weighing in at 3 ounces, this petite glider prefers wooded areas that provide an abundance of seeds and nuts, as well as cavities for den sites. Eight to ten inches in length, it can easily occupy a woodpecker’s nest. If no cavities are available, it will



construct a nest of twigs and leaves. Spanish moss is a preferred bedding material, if available.

The Flying Squirrel's body is essentially an air foil, with about 50 square inches of excess skin stretching between its ankles and wrists. Its furry, flattened tail is an efficient rudder. The squirrel will climb to a high point in a tree, scrunch its body together, then launch itself toward a landing target. Covering up to 150 feet in a single glide, it is able to execute 90-degree turns as it maneuvers through the woods, enabling it to evade predators such as owls.

Social animals by nature, several flying squirrels will nest together in winter, sharing body heat. They do not hibernate, but do store nuts and acorns in the fall. Two to three blind, helpless young are born in spring or summer. Their eyes open after three weeks, and they begin gliding lessons shortly thereafter. After being weaned at about six to eight weeks of age, they soon are enjoying an omnivorous diet of nuts, grubs, moths, tender buds, and berries. Life expectancy is five to six years in the wild.



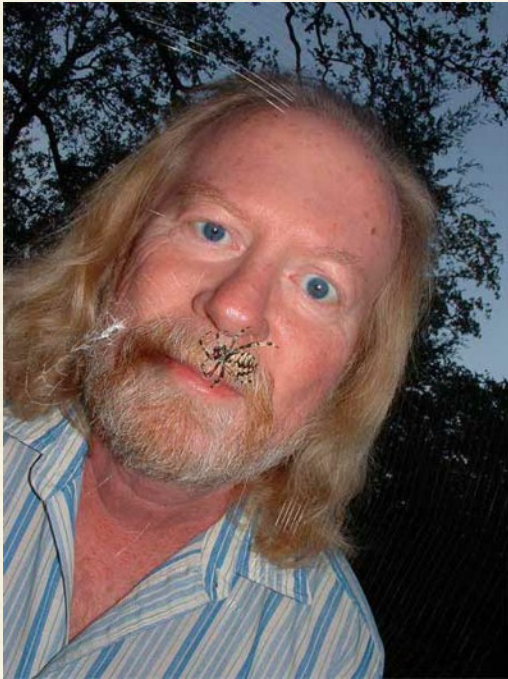
By most accounts, human/flying squirrel encounters are rare. So I feel especially blessed to have been in the right place at the right time one March morning. Susan Crone and I, along with Priscilla Jarvis of Bastrop County Audubon, were helping Carrie Knox of Pines and Prairies Land Trust do a bird survey of her property in the sandhills of Red Rock.

Carrie told us she manages for small mammals and songbirds, and we checked a number of nest boxes placed around the acreage. She had recently found a Cotton Rat occupying one. As she opened another box, she declared, "Oh, there's a rat in this one; I see his beady eyes!" The creature turned around, revealing a very fuzzy tail. Huge black eyes and that "webbed" appearance identified it as a flying squirrel. As we celebrated with excitement, "Rocky" scooted up the pole above the nest box and deftly glided out of sight into the trees. Carrie was able to snap a few pictures before it took flight, but the sight of that unique little mammal will remain with us for a long time.



# Meet Bill Brooks

By LPMN member Rik Martinez



Many of you probably have already met Bill Brooks through one of many channels - perhaps as he was teaching the Master Naturalist course on Herpetiles; or maybe through his associations with McKinney Roughs where he is employed as a Naturalist, or the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's 'Learn to Fish' program that teaches youth fishing basics, or perhaps even a Prairies and Pines Land Trust sponsored Home School education program -- for these are just a few of the many things Bill has been involved in over the past 40+ years. It seems that Bill, a proud and native Texan who has lived in Central Texas his whole life, was called to share what he knows at quite a young age, studying reptiles and giving talks since the 1960s when he was a teenager.

In fact, Bill believes that he grew up in an idyllic home in San Antonio, Texas, where he received the very best education and experiences any child could. His parents took vacations every summer and by the time he graduated from High School in 1970, he had set foot in every state in the contiguous U.S. plus Hawaii! His family also had a canoe and they paddled all the central Texas rivers!

Even as a youth Bill was an active naturalist; he became the second head of the Junior Membership program at the Witte Museum and taught the very first summer youth programs at the museum. Then in 1970 - The summer after he graduated from high school, the family went to Florida where he visited William Haast's Miami Serpenterium, the Ross Allen Reptile Institute, and met Dr. Peter Prichard, the turtle expert. While in Florida, Bill also scuba dived at Florida's Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

The fall of 1970 Bill entered the University of Texas; from 1970 to 1973 Bill had a blast... so much fun, in fact, that he forgot to graduate. From 1973 to 1998, after a few years of working state jobs, Bill settled into being a staffer for UT's Biopsychology Department where he worked for over 25 years, retiring in 2004.

As a young man Bill loved traveling with his parents and later took many trips on his own; For example, in 1991 Bill and his brother led a group of friends on a paddle trip through Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend.

After this, he was convinced he should take a National Aquatic Safety course at the Thunder River ride in Astroworld which led to being captain of his brother's first Texas River Safari trip in 1992. Then in 1995 he took a commercial raft trip through the Grand Canyon and hiked the Paria River Slot Canyons in Utah. In 1996 he attended the National Speleological Society's Convention in Colorado and then drove to the coast of California and paddled the sea caves of Santa Cruz Island. This was followed by a 1997 tour of Costa Rica where he visited Dr. Larry Gilbert's (of U.T.) study site in the Oso Peninsula to help with frog research. And in 1999 he visited the Monarch Butterfly's over-wintering site in Mexico with Monarch expert, Bill Calvert.

Bill's wanderlust never died, but travel is just a small piece of this man's life -- Bill likes to 'get involved'. In 1987 Bill began a long association with the Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve in Austin; he started giving monthly reptile talks there. From 1996-1999 he lived at the preserve as the evening manager; this association allowed him to host the Horned Lizard Art Show in Feb. of 2006.

In 1990 Bart Cox called the first gathering of concerned people to the Zilker Park Club House, which led to the formation of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society (HLCS) -- and Bill was there. In 2001 Bill was elected National President. After that he served as the Texas Chapter President. At the end his term as Texas President, he made an excellent decisions to recruit a friend, a TPWD employee, and the head of the TPWD Horned Lizard Watch Program, Lee Ann Linam. She was elected Texas Chapter President, and later became the National President. Bill is still active with the HLCS serving as the merchandise head.

Bill's work life was almost as colorful; whether working for income or as a volunteer, it always seems to involve the outdoors! Bill was a land manager living in the Wild Basin Preserve in Austin before he moved to Bastrop at the end of 1999. In 2003 he started working with Nature Quest, an eco-tourism event near Garner State Park. He gave Horned Lizard talks, reptile talks, nature study classes, fishing and kayak classes among others. He was already familiar with the CAMN and liked the philosophy of the MN program, but he wanted to learn about the area where he lived, so after retiring in 2004, he took the LPMN class in 2005. In 2007 he went to help the Arizona Game and Fish Department spot-light, trap, and pit tag the endangered Black-footed Ferret. On this trip he also visited the sky walk above the Grand Canyon, the Paria River Slot Canyons, the Wave of Utah, and he also visited Tom McCain -- the artist who makes the best Horned Lizard replicas you can buy (re-member, Bill is a reptile fanatic!).

And even though Bill is a 'reptile person' he was still able to be elected president of the Lost Pines Native Plant Society in 2008 (the society has since disbanded). He says "How a reptile person got this job, I'll never know." I suspect it is because he has such a wide breadth of naturalist experience!

Bill has also written a few stories for the Lost Pines Chapter newsletter. He is the Historian, and, as mentioned earlier, has taught the reptile section of the Master Naturalist classes for many MN groups and would identify reptiles and amphibians for our members who send him photos.

By the way, besides travel and reptiles, Bill loves reading, photography, kayaking, and teaching. In 1978 Bill took his first paddle trip to Caddo Lake with his brother Bob, fell in love with the place, and has gone back over 20 times since then!

And regarding teaching, Bill says "Learning is incredibly fun to me. Teaching kids to appreciate nature is the best hope for the future of our planet. No matter what we save now, it won't be preserved (funded) in the future unless future adults learn to love and value it."



# Hands Off!

By LPMN member Liz Pullman

Among the many thorny, spiky, prickly and other well armed plants of Texas one innocuous looking little plant stands out because of its ability to invite all plant goobers to bend over and take a closer look. We grasp the flower stem to check it out then OUCH, OUCH, OUCH. We have identified a Stinging Nettle (*Urtica chamaedryoides*). The lesson is learned quickly and we keep away from this plant as well as Clearweed (*Pilea pumila*) and False Nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), their look-alike but touchable cousins. A microscopic examination of the stems and leaves shows numerous glassy spikes. These break off when touched and “inject” themselves into the skin and release a strong irritant that causes intense burning then settles down into intense itching – for several hours. (It even has a name – Contact Urticaria.)

As we suffer through the pain of encounter, a question comes to mind – of what earthly use is this plant? Several uses, actually, one of these being FOOD. Careful harvesting of the new growth in the spring (well-gloved) will supply a good source of edible greens.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Urtica\\_dioica\\_hairs.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Urtica_dioica_hairs.jpg)

Boiling removes the irritating substance and a bit of seasoning makes them a substitute for garden greens.

## Recipe:

Cover the nettles with water and simmer until tender. Drain and save the pot liquor. Season the greens with butter or oil and lemon juice or vinegar. Use the liquid as a tea with lemon and sugar or use as a soup broth. To make a classier soup, puree 2 cups of cooked greens through a sieve or blender, reheat with seasonings, and simmer for 10 minutes after adding 1/4 cup light cream and black pepper.

The pot liquor is also a milk coagulant similar to rennet for junket pudding but no recipe is given for extraction. All parts of the plant are high in Vitamins A and C, protein and minerals.

Herbalists have used a tea made from the seeds of nettles for a gamut of problems from baldness to tuberculosis. The leaves have been used in a poultice as a counter-irritant to alleviate the pain of arthritis and gout, the healing principle being that the burning sensation while in contact with the skin will irritate the problem area and bring a flow of blood which alleviates the underlying pain. (Sounds as though you can choose your pain!) A dose of dry powdered leaf is said to cure nosebleed although an alternative is offered – place a leaf on the tongue and push it to the roof of the mouth.



In 1607, Sir John Harrington wrote this rhyme while listing the uses of nettles:

*“The Nettles stinke; yet they make recompense,*

*If your Belly by the Collicke pain endures*

*Against the Collicke Nettle-seed and honey*

*As Physick: better none is bad for money.*

*It bringeth sleep, staies vomit, fleam doth soften,*

*It helps him of the Gowte that eats it often.*

A more logical use of the plant stems is as a source of fiber. Stinging Nettles were once cultivated in Scotland to use in making cordage and rope and for spinning (probably with wool) to weave into a linen-like fabric. Indians of the Missouri River Region either crumpled the dry stalks by hand or gently pounded them (my choice of a method) to release the fiber from the woody stalks. A close cousin of Stinging Nettles, China Grass (*Boehmeria nivea*), is the source of Ramie, a commonly used flax-like fiber for fabrics allegedly “as cool as linen”.

## References:

Coffey, Timothy. The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers. 1993

Diggs, George, Barney Lipscomb, Robert O’Kennon. Illustrated flora of North Central Texas. 1999

Dobelis, Inge (Readers Digest Project Editor). Magic and Medicine of Plants. 1986

Elias, Thomas. Peter Dykeman. Field Guide to North American Edible Wild Plants. 1982.

Peterson, Lee. Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants. 1977





# Nature Lessons

By LPMN member Susan Crone

This spring many home schoolers have eagerly participated in the Nature Lessons sponsored by Pines and Prairies Land Trust. We have learned what animals do in the winter, studied the pine forest ecosystem, transplanted pine trees at Bastrop State Park, learned about spiders from Spider Joe, tried our hand at painting the Colorado River landscape, taken hikes at the Colorado River Refuge, and explored the Colorado River.

Upcoming lessons will include food chains and food webs and the river's ecology. These lessons were conceived and taught by a dedicated group of people including several from LPMN-- Bill Brooks, Anna Stalcup, Carol Reidy, Louise Ridlon and Susan Crone. We will be wrapping up our spring lessons on May 5 at the Colorado River Refuge. We will begin planning for fall lessons in August.



And... in a separate event:

Bill Brooks led this lesson focusing on water quality of the river as indicated by water insects. Steve Box helped out with some water testing too! Of course with Bill, the kids had a chance to learn to cast with a fishing rod and "catch" a fish!

# New Timekeeper for LPMN

Scott Moore has agreed to take on the duties of "keeper of the hours" for our Texas Master Naturalist chapter. Marsha Elrod has had this position for the past five years (at least!) and is ready for a break! Scott will assume the position effective July 1; after that date, please send your monthly activity reports to him at [lpmnhours@gmail.com](mailto:lpmnhours@gmail.com), or by snail mail:

Scott Moore  
415 Patton Cove  
Bastrop, TX 78602

If you need to reach Scott with questions, etc., his cell number is 512-589-3098. Marsha will still be available to answer questions regarding volunteer and advanced training hours, and to assist Scott until he feels secure with the position. Our heartfelt thanks to both Scott and Marsha for providing this service to our chapter members!



# Volunteer Opportunities & Advanced

## New Volunteer Activities

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

**Alum Creek Interpretive Hikes. Bastrop State Park.** 2 pm Saturday, May 21. 2.6 mile hike that includes great dogwood groves and lots of wildflowers. Contact Andy Butler at : [abutler@mac.com](mailto:abutler@mac.com).

**Go Fish!** It's time to teach the kiddos how to fish! No fishing experience is needed. Dates are June 18 and July 9 and 16 at Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. For more information, contact Bill Brooks at : [Bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:Bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu)

**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 1, 15 and 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](mailto: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 Natu-

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

**Hornsby Bend – Ecological Literacy Days –** Last Saturday of every month, 9 am - 1 pm. Combining volunteer work with learning about local ecology, the Ecological Literacy Day at Hornsby Bend begins with several hours of outdoor work - ranging from trail maintenance to habitat restoration to work in the native plant nursery - and ends with at least an hour of learning about local ecology - birds, bugs and more! Wear boots and work clothing and bring your binoculars. For more information, contact Kevin Anderson at [coordinator@hornsbybend.org](mailto:coordinator@hornsbybend.org) or 512-972-1960.

**Hornsby Bend – Monthly Bird Survey –** Second Saturday of each month. Meet at the Center for Environmental Research at 7 am for the morning survey (coffee and donuts at 6:30 am) and 4 pm for the afternoon survey. All levels of birders are welcome - the survey is a great way to improve your skills since we form teams matching experienced and novice birders. For more information, contact Eric Carpenter at [ecarpe@gmail.com](mailto:ecarpe@gmail.com).

## 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](http://www.advancedecology.com)

**Pipevines and the Butterflies that Love them.** June 27, 7 pm. Zilcher Botanical Center. Austin. Dan Hardy is presenting on the fascinating ecological relationship between this group of butterflies and the unusual plants they use as caterpillar food plants will be explored. Monthly meeting of the Austin Butterfly Forums.

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

**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 - Bees. June 30, 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 7 - Wildlife Tracking

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

Stay up to date on Bluebirds in Texas! Join the Texas Bluebird Facebook Fan page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/TexasBluebirdSociety>

**Pines and Prairie Land Trust** - we have members of the LPMN family in pictures in their spring 2011 newsletter! To see who is famous, go to: <http://www.pinesandprairieslandtrust.org/>

Thanks to LPMN member Miriam Hall for the submission!

**Stargazing at the Roughs.** June 24, 9:30 - 11:00 pm. Fourth Friday of the month through August. Explore the galaxy together as our astronomer takes you on a tour of the Milky Way that's truly out of this world! Learn about the constellations and marvel at the beauty and mystery of the universe in this spectacular **free** program for the whole family. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

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

**Family Nature Quest** - McKinney Roughs. July 2 and August 6, 10-1 pm. Guided hike (pre-registration required) and nature crafts and activities.

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

**"The Nature Principal"**, the newest book by Richard Louv, is out. Now we have the reasons we adults need to get out and play! But as Master Naturalists you already know that! In his best-selling book, **"Last Child in the Woods"**, Richard Louv sparked a national debate that spawned an international movement to reconnect kids and nature. He coined the term nature-deficit disorder; influenced national policy; and helped inspire campaigns in over eighty cities, states, and provinces throughout North America. In **The Nature Principle**, Louv delivers another powerful call to action-this time for adults.

**Buprestidae Beetles of Texas.** Buprestids or metallic wood-boring beetles are one of the few groups of beetles that are large, showy and commonly encountered on flowers. Those in the genus *Acmaeodera* are particularly common on flwrs. Use the following page (which has pix of over half of Texas' 300 plus spp.) to facilitate their identification:

<http://www.texasento.net/TXBuprestidae.htm>



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Larvae\\_and\\_adult.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Larvae_and_adult.png)

## Cactus Moth

The Cactus moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum* Berg), is an insect that eats prickly pear. It was introduced to the US in Florida and is quickly spreading up the Gulf coast and is now found as far west as Louisiana. The cactus moths quickly destroys a stand of prickly pear, and is a threat to natural bio-diversity, horticulture, and forage in the southwestern United States and Mexico. (The moth is widely used as a biological control agent of prickly pear cactus in Australia and South Africa, where the cactus is invasive and not native.)

Beyond ecological concerns, a very large economic concern looms too - for both the US and Mexico. The estimated combined economic value of prickly pear as a food crop (syrup/jam and nopalitos) and cattle forage/landscape plant in the US/Mexico is \$120-170 million per year.

Volunteers are needed to help monitor native and ornamental prickly pear populations and to report on locations of sizable populations in the south here in Texas. For more information, including ways to help, go to:

<http://www.gri.msstate.edu/research/cmdmn/>



# President's Column

By Louise Ridlon

It seems that the arrival of June brings a collective sigh—the end to the busyness of spring, the school term, and many mild-weather activities. Summer invites us to relax a bit, often out of necessity (unless you've a heat-lover!). The natural world reflects the change of pace; wildflower blooms become seed-heads, bird migration is complete, and many animals are releasing their young to become independent. So it's an apt time to reflect on the year so far, and plan for the months ahead.

A special "Thank you!" goes out to class organizer Paulette Boudreaux and her committee for another outstanding training class! The 2011 interns have completed their instruction, and many are well on the way to receiving their initial certification. I wouldn't be surprised if many double-certify this year and receive a Horned Toad pin as well as the dragonfly! I've been encouraged by the number of them who signed up to serve on committees and have chosen volunteer projects on which to work. Some have indicated a willingness to participate in chapter leadership, as well.

I hope the general membership will follow their

lead and become more involved in the workings of the chapter. Besides leadership positions, there is always a need for fresh ideas for volunteer projects, training activities, and organizational improvements, as well as social opportunities and group outings.

The state organization has asked chapter leaders for input regarding member retention. A couple of the examples they listed, conducting member surveys and developing member directories, are already in the works for our chapter. What would increase the likelihood of your remaining active in our group? I'd love to hear your suggestions!

Looking ahead to fall, mark your calendars for the weekend of October 21-23 at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas, for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Master Naturalist state meeting. I hope to attend this year, and it would be great if a number of our members could join me! Besides outstanding Advanced Training opportunities, the chance to share experiences and ideas with TMN members all over the state would be so enriching! Registration information will be forthcoming.

Our annual summer picnic will be held on Saturday, June 18, at 1:00 p.m., at the McMahan Community Center. There will be no speaker or business meeting; this is just a fun opportunity to socialize and enjoy the renowned cuisine of the Lost Pines Master Naturalists! Bring your favorite potluck dish to share, along with serving utensils. The chapter will provide beverages and paper products. If you're unsure of what to bring, I'd suggest this breakdown:

Last names beginning with:

A-E: snacks (chips, dips, hors d'ouvres)  
F-L: main dishes  
M-R: salads  
S-Z: desserts.

Or if you have a specialty, bring that! The building will be available at noon. Meanwhile, stay cool, and thanks for all your hard work over the last few months!





# Lost Pines Master Naturalist Monthly Meeting Schedule

June 18, 2011. 1 pm - ? McMahan Community Center. Annual Chapter Picnic.

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".

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu); (512) 398-3122.

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

**Bastrop/Caldwell Co. TPWD Wildlife Biologist:** Meredith Longoria, 804 Pecan, Bastrop,  
[Meredith.Longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Meredith.Longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us); (512) 332-7280.



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