

Lost Pines Master Naturalists



Volume 12, Issue 4

June 2012

Meet the 2012 Master Naturalists



Back row: Sherri Ray, Barbara Carstens, Carroll Moore, Craig Stalcup, Russell Schmidt, Bonnie Shimek, Catherine Sherwood, Laura Trotter, Rick Gast, Jerry Baugh.

Row 2: Audrey Ambrose, Patty Deak, Julia Akin, Maureen Costell, Holly Sutherland, Julie Erlon, Mike Barrett, Beverly Trotter-Low.

Row 1: Cat May, Kelly Alecci, Laura Clancy, Rob Sutherland, Shorty Butler, Honey Butler, Steve Moredock, Karen Mahoney-Woods.

Not pictured: Jeffery Haller, Frank May, Braden Stewart.

New Newsletter Editor & 2012 Graduating Class:

Hi, I'm Bonnie Shimek, your new Lost Pines Chapter Newsletter Editor. I'm pictured with the other newly certified 2012 Lost Pines Master Naturalists on the front page (6th on the back row in the pink shirt). Twenty-eight of us (or 29, if you include Honey, Shorty's pictured dog that often attended our training classes) proudly graduated at a celebration on May 21st held at McKinney Roughs. It was so exiting to hear each name called, and then be presented with our certified name badge and *A Sand County Almanac*. It was intriguing to meet so many Bastrop and Caldwell locals with common naturalist interests and specialists from wide across the vast regions of Texas. Even better yet, many of us became new friends over our past four of months of certification. Looking forward to working with all of you veteran TMN's.

P.S. Red is probably jealous to have not been pictured. However, Shorty will tell you that Red is a little too rambunctious for the indoor training classes; but look to see him at most of the outdoor field trips and volunteer events.

P.S.S. I need a background picture/clipart for the newsletter's front page, and border or corner for the following pages. If any of you have some you can share, I'd appreciate you emailing them to me (jbshimek@cs.com).



From Texas Parks & Wildlife: Hunter Education Instructors Wanted



Save lives. Pass on a legacy. Share your love of conservation. Hunter education instructors wear an orange vest and many hats. Become a hunter education instructor by following the 5 easy steps on the [TPWD website](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instruct.phtml?utm_campaign=june2012&utm_medium=email&utm_source=LBO)

(http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instruct.phtml?utm_campaign=june2012&utm_medium=email&utm_source=LBO).

The [Hunter Education Program](#) provides instruction in Texas hunting regulations, wildlife management and identification, conservation, ethics, firearm and hunting safety and responsibility and outdoor skills. The program goals are to reduce hunting-related accidents and violations; promote safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunting; and enhance hunting traditions and values. Every Texas hunter **born on or after September 2, 1971**, must successfully complete a hunter education course.

"Now is the time to become involved, so let us know if you are interested in becoming an instructor," notes Robert Ramirez, hunter education specialist with TPWD. My husband, Jerry Shimek, is a TPWD Hunter Ed Instructor; so, I know there is a real need for instructors in our area.

Lost Pines Master Naturalists Volunteering

Bastrop County Water Fair:



LPMNs participated in a Water Fair held for 122 third graders at Red Rock Elementary on May 21st. The six interesting presentations and fun illustrations included:

- 1) Water Sheds and Pollution by Rachel Bauer, LPMN Advisor and Bastrop County Extension Agent - Ag & Natural Resources;
- 2) Water...The Beverage of Life by Sarah Stribling, Bastrop County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences;
- 3) Aquifers by Dwight Sexton, Gonzales County Agent and Gonzales County Groundwater Conservation District;
- 4) The Incredible Journey (the Water Cycle) by Carissa Wilhelm, Caldwell County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences;
- 5) Indoor/Outdoor Conservation by Michael Haynes, LPMN Advisor and Caldwell County Extension Agent - Ag & Natural Resources; and
- 6) Rainfall Simulator by Jim Estes, LPMN member (master trail builder and rain simulator guru!).

Members, Susan Crone and Bonnie Shimek, also volunteered their assistance with the presentations.

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. If you can please put in some volunteer time at this nature park, it will be greatly appreciated. You'll need to first fill out some Volunteer forms, which you can get at the Visitors Center. Be sure to check in at the Visitors Center each time you volunteer, so your time gets counted for the LPMN Chapter. Grace Pratt has been coordinating some scheduled dates and times via email. If you're interested, send her an email (graciela@austin.utexas.edu), and she'll add you to her distribution list.

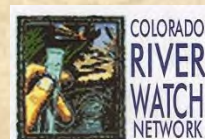
To reach LCRA McKinney Roughs -

Web: 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.



Texas Watershed Stewart Program - CRWN:

Myself (Bonnie Shimek) and some other fellow LPMN's attended the Texas Watershed Stewart Program training at Smithville on June 12th. Wow, we learned so much about **water**, that I (and I'm sure several others) came out with "brain overload"!

Along with LCRA's "*responsibility for protecting the waters of the lower Colorado River basin*", the Colorado River Watch Network (CRWN) was started in 1988 by a group of citizen that were also concerned about water quality. In keeping with its role as caretaker of the Colorado River basin, the LCRA assumed full responsibility for managing the CRWN in 1992. CRWN is the first and largest regional volunteer network of water quality monitors in Texas. The program has grown into a sophisticated system of more than 120 certified volunteers spread across the basin; with a mission to: "*support community-based environmental stewardship by providing volunteers with the information, resources, and training necessary to monitor and protect the waterways of the lower Colorado River watershed.*"

A new location in **Bastrop**, in the Tahitian Village area down the **Lost Pines Nature Trails**, is in need of CRWN volunteer(s). Brief details: Must be willing to sample in all weather conditions and at the same time each month. The volunteer position requires a two year commitment and a six-hour training conducted in three phases (ref. http://www.lcra.org/water/quality/crwn/get_involved.html for more detail). Some of us LPNMs at the 6/12 training discussed forming a group. If you're interested, drop me an email jbshimek@cs.com or call 512/581-2625.

BSP Interpretative Hikes:

Got the following email from Larry Gfeller, and thought some more of you LPMN's may be interested in joining this Bastrop State Park volunteer group. You can reach Larry by:
email larrydgfeller@yahoo.com or phone 512-294-6662.



Hello everyone,

I want to thank you for signing up to do interpretative hikes for the patrons of Bastrop State Park. I also want to thank Sue Fischer for her commitment to excellence in maintaining a very high standard for hike leaders in the past. Sue has directed this program for a very long time and will be leaving our chapter in August 2013. She has been steadfast in ensuring that a hike has been led by a Lost Pines Master Naturalist on every scheduled weekend; even if it meant giving up her personal plans to make sure it happened on time and well. I must admit that I am also impressed by the newest class of naturalists--you guys rock! Absolutely no hesitation in getting out there and getting involved. I believe you will find this experience very rewarding. While it is still early, it appears that the public is more interested than ever in visiting BSP. And we have quite a story to tell.

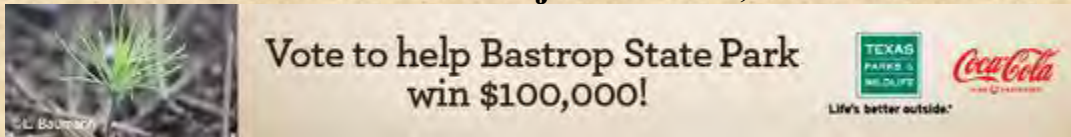
The hike season is in Summer recess currently, but will start up again in October. I intend to meet with Katie Raney (the park's official interpreter and volunteer coordinator) this month to get her guidance and to work out a hike schedule for the Fall. Once I have done that, I will ask you all to state preferences for particular dates and, subsequently, I will publish a first draft schedule for comment/adjustment. The bottom line is, after the final schedule is set, you are committed. . . a lot of people will depend on you to show up on time to show our patrons the beauty and mystery of this ecotone. Some of you have done this before; some of you have not. All of us should have been given exposure to the route and the basics of doing an interpretative hike as part of our MN training. Typically, our hikes begin at 10:00 am on Saturday mornings and last anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half. Later this Summer I intend to get to each of you an electronic outline of potential discussion points. As we get closer to the Fall start-up, I will do a demo hike to lay out what we are trying to achieve, how we intend to do it, and then we will walk the route together with plenty of time to ask questions and discuss items of interest.

In the meantime, if you have questions, wish to remove yourself from the list, have knowledge of others in our chapter who are interested in joining our group, or just want to clarify expectations, please don't hesitate to contact me by the email address above or by phone (512-294-6662). Things you can be doing/thinking about to better prepare yourselves for the Fall --include:

- Do acquire a Texas Master Naturalist monogrammed shirt, if you don't already have one.*
- Do acquire comfortable walking shoes, hat, some form of fannie pack or tote capable of carrying water, towel and simple first aid kit (as a minimum).*
- Do study (as time allows) Loblolly pines, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the history of BSP, the Houston Toad, the circumstances and statistics of our epic wildfire and the geology of the Lost Pines ecotone. Everything's out there waiting for you on the Internet.*
- Do not worry about a flashy presentation. . . our job is to show off the park and the ecotone, not impress people with how many facts we can regurgitate.*
- Do not hesitate to review your personal weekend commitments on Saturdays from October through December, so you have a good idea which Saturdays are available to you and which are not during that quarter.*

Thanks once again for expressing an interest in doing this important volunteer service. I will be in touch with you again soon.

While we're on the subject of BSP, remember:



(www.livepositively.com/parks)

Hopefully you've already been voting for Bastrop State Park (BSP); but if you haven't, please take a few minutes to do so each day. If this is the first time you're hearing about this grant, here's the scoop:

Coca-Cola will provide a \$100,000 grant to the park that receives the most votes during its national "America Is Your Park" promotion. A quote from a TPW email:

Bastrop State Park is making a strong comeback after last Labor Day Weekend's horrific wildfire that burned most of the park, but an additional \$100,000 would give a huge boost to help this beloved and iconic state park rise from the ashes. While all of our state parks would benefit from the \$100,000 grant, rallying around hard-hit Bastrop State Park will give Texas State Parks the best chance to win the cash in this national voting competition.

This voting competition began May 23rd and 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!*** Yes this is true, so please vote as many times as you like between now and July 15th. 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.

Also please tell your family and friends to vote, too, and post a link to the www.livepositively.com/parks on your Facebook and other social media accounts. If we all rally together we can win this for Bastrop State Park!

A 6/7/12 email update from TPWD:

Bastrop State Park running in second place in Coca-Cola grant competition

"Bastrop State Park, still recovering from the devastating Labor Day weekend wildfire, is in second place in a national competition for a \$100,000 grant sponsored by Coca-Cola. So far, the park has received 2,756,829 votes."

Submitted by Larry Gfeller:
(One of our Bridge Maniacs)



Volunteerism

This article was originally written for another purpose, so the original version has been “touched up” to make it a better fit for Master Naturalist readership. Hopefully, the re-engineering works!

A Great Egret, ever lithe and graceful, enjoys a little private time in the early morning sun. Upstream, turtles jostle for places on a shard of protruding old log, like delegates to an important convention. The Colorado bids a sleepy hello to the day as it gently glides by, on its unhurried way to a greater destiny. Overhead a red-tailed hawk alights a snag on the opposite bank, scattering a frenzied blizzard of crows. These are but a few of the delights snatched in a moment's glance—completely casual and unpremeditated. With a little time, a comfortable chair and a pair of binoculars, the day will express more of Great Nature's bounty along this mighty river. . . .no tickets required, no traffic, no standing in line. This parcel is an under-appreciated sanctuary, even as more and more people are drawn by its natural beauty. But denying myself the pleasure, today I cannot dawdle; I have another purpose. I am part of an informal but dedicated group of volunteers who come to the Colorado River Refuge often to work. I wanted to tell you why I do this important work.

I've barely marked my first anniversary with this group, unceremoniously referred to as the *Bridge Maniacs*. I know not by whom this indecorous title was coined. We're an eclectic collection of mostly grizzled old men (and several ladies to add elegance and charm) who share a love of nature and who, for the most part, have too much time on their hands. Currently we are all Texas Master Naturalists, but we are open to anyone who is enthusiastic, reliable, and who can enjoy the camaraderie and fraternity of the experience. We all long to be outdoors. We often confuse the difference between a *work* group and a *tour* group. Although we have accomplished much, we don't let our work ethic get in the way of having fun. In fact, some work sessions degenerate into interpretative hikes along the river and through the upland woods of the Dragonfly Trail noticing wildflowers, identifying trees and telling lies. This we call reconnaissance. We love this place! It is not uncommon for a work session to terminate around a noon-day plate of barbeque.

When we do work, it's generally not for more than three hours at a time, in the morning. We realize we're mostly codgers, and we have long ago made our peace with Texas weather. Moreover, we are pampered and spoiled by PPLT grant money, which provides an ample collection of power equipment, stump pullers, brush mowers and just about anything else we might need as tools. It's like Christmas in a hardware store—what more could folks of this ilk desire? We've almost cut more trails than we can maintain. When we do focus on work, we spend our time grubbing stumps, maintaining trails, installing signs, constructing new trails, building benches, re-vegetating native plants, installing hand rails, designing irrigation systems and. . .yes. . . building bridges. Fully four of the existing bridges at the Colorado River Refuge today were constructed by our group. They started off simple—made from live cedar taken from the landscape—and then evolved into semi-elaborate structures spanning 30ft or more, made with 2 x12's and synthetic Trax decking. But that hardly qualifies us as *maniacs*, does it?

As in most informal groups, routines, habits and common conventions eventually sprout into hierarchy, structure and specialization. Our backgrounds are a virtual smorgasbord: oil business entrepreneur, production manager, mathematician, hospital administrator, career military, quality control engineer,

national book chain manager, state government, education and an incorrigible trail builder with experience covering much of our national wilderness over 40+ years. All are retired but me. As to hierarchy, there is the master mind (a curmudgeon optimist who envisions encircling the world with hand-cut trails), the boss/construction engineer (a man of long experience and no fear), the carpenter (measure twice and cut once), the concrete guru, the chainsaw fanatic and various assorted helpers and roustabouts. We probably have an axe murderer or two in the group, but it takes time for these skills to surface. Together we can overcome all obstacles—to include brush so thick snakes look for an alternate route.

If you want something accomplished, just tell us it can't be done. Somewhat surprisingly, as wizened old folks, we thoroughly embrace advanced technology. Smart phone apps are routinely used to identify plants, animal tracks, plot the slope of a trail or to locate ourselves real-time by satellite. This is particularly helpful when working near commercial housing lots backed up against the wilderness. We freely exchange a lifetime of accumulated knowledge and share a thirst for learning. In all kinds of weather and work conditions, never have I heard a cross word among members. Good natured banter is incessant. Care and concern for one another constantly manifests in the form of instantly administered first aid, shared water and provisions, mandatory work breaks and checking on everyone after the Labor Day wildfires. We look out for one another's welfare when we are not together. We thoroughly enjoy each others' company.

As you know, the Refuge is an astonishing fusion of riparian habitat and upland woods, all sewn together by a tangle of vines, understory and wildflowers, now accessible by a labyrinth of trails. It is the confluence of ancient geological forces and eternal life bursting forth over the eons of time, nurtured by far away waters. Take a minute. Settle on a secluded bench along the Colorado and listen to the life-affirming message of the current; watch the everyday goings on of the animals that live there—you feel your connection with all life. Nothing could be more natural. This space is a gem to be cherished and protected from the nursery importations, barbered lawns, hedges precisely clipped and other formal ornamentations that would surely otherwise litter up this stretch of native woodland. Many groups recognize these truths and regularly come to enjoy and appreciate what it represents. It already has a sizeable following of local residents who walk the trails, enjoy the scenery or simply look for a little quiet time alone. We run into them all the time.

One set of regulars is a weekend collection of young people, some married, some not. They bring their kids to swim and splash in the flats. They float the Colorado, they fish and they camp for the weekend. Yes, they enjoy good music and a few brewskies during their weekend, but these are not hooligans. They take care of the public picnic areas, keep each other safe and make voluntary improvements to the refuge. They do a lot of work on their own without being asked. They care about keeping this land natural and healthy. I dunno—you get to thinking that the world is going to hell, but then you can visit with some of these young people, and they are very respectful, very mannerly, and they look you in the eye. And it kinda gives you hope for the world. Yes, Virginia, there are conservation-minded young people out there—you just can't see them from the highway. These are the people we need to encourage, to support and entice into our fold, be it through the *Bridge Maniacs*, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Bastrop Outdoor Women, Bastrop Audubon, the PPLT or other groups. People need to be shown the wonders of the wildlands; once properly exposed, they *cannot* forget. Volunteerism begins as a commitment and, with sufficient repetition and the right experiences, it morphs into a maternal dedication. But in its mature state it becomes a need to advocate for the connectedness of all life. I am proud to be a *Bridge Maniac*. It certainly beats sitting around the general store pitching washers or playing dominoes.

Featured Website

As you likely know, you can “search the net” for most any information and research that you’re trying to find; and I’ve found many sites quite useful to us TMN’s. So, I thought I’d feature some “naturalists” type websites, that I often frequent, in the next several monthly newsletters. Hope you’ll find them useful.

Bonnie Shimek

Texas Wildlife Association (TWA):

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

My husband, Jerry, and I are members of the TWA; and have found this wildlife website very informative and educational, especially the „Resources’ and „Program Areas’ sections/tabs:



“The Texas Wildlife Association is a statewide membership organization that serves Texas wildlife and its habitat, while protecting property rights, hunting heritage, and the conservation efforts of those who value and steward wildlife resources.”

1) Resources

- Webcasts:
- **Webinars**: To spark your interest here are some of the topics: Aquatic (riparian areas, pond and lake management, weed control, attracting waterfowl, farm and ranch ponds for largemouth bass), wild pigs/feral hogs control options, prescribed burning for wildlife, natural tourism, deer (management, aging, scoring, survey methods, lease), Birds/Fowl (dove, wild turkey, and a whole webpage devoted to quail), pros and cons of supplemental feeding, wildlife tax valuation (check it out, this has been mentioned in several of this year’s TMN trainings; also go to the „Program Areas’ tab for more detail/information), cameras in wildlife managements.
- **Videos**: Prescribed fires and about L.A.N.D.S. (learning across new dimensions and science).
- Publications: Wildlife, Land Stewardship, Water, Legal and Tax Resources, Critter Connections (an educational, interactive, newsletter targeted for youth ages 13 and younger), TWA Magazines
- Wildlife associated News and Events
- Other Resources: Links to several other wildlife, natural resources, and conservation resources.

2) Program Areas

- Conservation Legacy: Educational materials/information and programs in TWA’s efforts “to immerse both youth and adults in the marvels of natural Texas”.
- Issues and Advocacy: Ag and Wildlife Tax Valuations, Water, Hunting Heritage, Wind Energy, Property Rights.
- Hunting Heritage: Texas Big Game Awards, Texas Youth Hunting Program

If you’re a teacher or involved in youth education, take a look at the LANDS video, Discovery Trunks and Distance Learning („Youth Education’) programs. TWA wants to “Help incorporate natural resources into classrooms statewide”; and better yet, “All at No Cost!”

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.

* **AWU-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]:

- **June 19** at City Hall - The Natural History of Texas: Biological Survey
& Ecological Change
- **July 3** at Waller Center - The Natural History of Austin: Biological Context
& Urbanization
- **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

Trainings / ... continued:



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

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

- **Wildlife for Lunch Online Webinar Series**

TWA's next webinar is: *Ranch Photography for Fun & Profit*

Thursday, **June 21**, 12:00 to 1:00pm

Questions, contact Courtney Brittain at cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org

or call the Main Office at (210) 826-2904.

To view future webinars Ctrl+Click: [Wildlife for Lunch Flyer](#)

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/>.

- **TWA's Annual Convention - WildLife 2012**

When: **June 28-July 1, 2012**

Where: JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa, San Antonio, TX

Registration form & details: [Click here](#)

- **TWA Foundation Luncheon at WildLife 2012**

Speaker John Cain Carter discussing "*Sharing the Culture of Conservation*"

When: **June 29, 2012**

Where: JW Marriott Hill Country Resort and Spa, San Antonio

Who: All are welcome!

- **Cows & Quail Workshop**

Creating healthy environments for land, people, wildlife, and livestock

July 13-14, 2012

Circle Ranch & Hotel El Capitan, Van Horn, Texas

To register/details, go to <http://holisticmanagement.org/training/cows-quail-workshop/>

- **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:

Session I - Climate, Drought, Fire & Water

Session II - Habitat Management

Session III - Nongame Management

Session IV - Big Game Management

Evening Social sponsored by TWA

(refreshments provided)

Friday, August 3:

Ranch Tour - location TBD

Trainings / ... continued:

- **Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWA) Continued:**

- **L.A.N.D.S. Outreach Teacher Workshops**

(Teaching program mentioned in „Featured Website”; reference TWA’s website for more detail and contact info.)

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

- **Texas Parks & Wildlife:**

(visit calendar section at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/>)



- **Hummingbirds Nature Night**

June 28, 6–9 p.m., Free

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin

(512) 232-0100, www.wildflower.org/nature

Families can discover the world of hummingbirds through hikes in the gardens with bird experts, learn how to attract hummingbirds to your yard, go on a scavenger hunt to discover interesting hummingbird facts and spend time coloring the most common hummingbird species. Hands-on educational activities and displays for kids and adults of all ages.

- **Birds of Prey Nature Night**

July 12, 6-9 p.m., Free

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin

(512) 232-0100, www.wildflower.org/nature

Come see live birds of prey including owls and hawks. Take walks in the gardens with bird experts to learn about prime bird of prey habitat and how to spot birds flying above. Scavenger hunt, crafts and educational displays for the entire family.

- * **Texas AgriLife Extension Service:**

- **Rangeland Ecology**

<http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/archive/>



If any of you missed the Rangeland Ecology course, above is a website for some makeup options from Rachel Bauer; or for Advanced Training, too! There are several topics to pick from, based on your interest (Invasive Plants of Rangelands, Brush Sculpting for Wildlife, Weed Management or Online Resources for Plant ID and Management). You might have to take two courses as they are only one hour long to make up for the class you missed. There’s also an icon for upcoming webinars on the right if you want to view those.

Trainings / ... continued:

* **Texas AgriLife Extension Service *Continued*:**

- **Ecosystem Management**

Following is the PowerPoint presentation that Dr. Robert K. Lyons, Professor and Extension Range Specialist - Texas AgriLife Extension Service, gave at the Rangeland Ecology & Management training on April 23rd:

([Ecosystem_Range_Mgt_Caldwell_12_compressed2_FromDrLyons_051812.pptx](#)).

Looking for some fun Nature activities to do with or for the Kidos this summer; check out these websites: (And possible opportunities for some Volunteer Hours)



Nature Rocks Texas: <http://www.naturerocksaustin.org/>. Also, plenty of opportunities to get some volunteers hours.



Texas Parks and Wildlife - Fun Ideas for Kids:

- Outdoor Kids links to:

Get Out!, Wild Things, Fun Stuff, Learn about Texas, Explore

(<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/>);

and links for [Parents & Teachers](#), [Junior Naturalist](#), & [Outdoor Learning](#)

- Can you identify these tracks?: [Animal Trackers Game](#)
- [Geocaching](#): Discover hidden items while revealing exciting facts and stories about Texas State Parks.
- State Park Guide - Summer Edition:
Link to the updated edition online: [State Park Guide](#).
Or for a cool new page turner try the: [Digital version](#).



[McKinney Roughs Nature Park:](#)

(http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/mckinney_roughs.html)

- **Summer Nature Camps:** Eight weekly age grouped themed sessions that begin June 11th and end the August 6th week. Visit www.LCRA.org/naturecamp or call (512) 303-5073 for more information.
 - **Kids on the Colorado:** Youth learn boater safety and stewardship of the Colorado River while experiencing the excitement of a raft trip and discovering the river's flora and fauna. Each raft is captained by a trained guide. Youths ages 7 – 18.
 - **Raft or Kayak the Colorado:** "Enjoy a serene and refreshing river trip on the Colorado River in a raft or kayak led by experienced guides." Adults and youths ages 7 & up.
 - **Light 'o the Moon Float Trip:** "Enjoy the Colorado River by the light of the full moon. Begin the raft trip with a sunset, watch night fall and relax in the cool night air." Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. Adults and youths ages 7 and up. Trips are available between March and October.
 - Monthly:
 - Family Nature Quest**
 - » First Saturday of each month through August
 - » 10 a.m.-1 p.m., FREE, All ages
 - » Hikes are one hour and leave from Visitors' Center at 10 a.m. and noon
 - Stargazing at the Roughs**
 - » Fourth Friday of each month through August
 - » 9:30–11 p.m., FREE, All ages
- "Don't miss this opportunity for the whole family to explore the galaxy together as our astronomer takes you on a tour of the Milky Way that's truly out of this world!" Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather."

Chapter Business / Reminders:



Summer Picnic

Join us for the Lost Pines Chapter Master Naturalist summer picnic: **Saturday, June 23, 2012, 11:30 AM -2:00 PM, at Buescher State Park Recreation Center.** Guests are welcome! This will be a Potluck dinner; please let Caroline Easley (carib708@hotmail.com) know what you will bring to share; if you are uncertain what to bring, Caroline can make a suggestion. The Lost Pines TMN will furnish drinks, ice and paper-goods. *Hope to see you there!*

LPC-TMN Shirts:

If you want to order Lost Pines Chapter Texas Master Naturalist logo shirts, be on the lookout for upcoming emails and/or website postings with more detail. Most likely, this will also be discussed at our next Chapter Meeting/Summer Picnic on Saturday, June 23rd.



Friendly Reminders:

From the Texas AgriLife Extension,

As the clock ticks toward summer, disease-spreading bugs abound:



Unusually mild temperatures and precipitation over much of the state this past winter after a hot and dry summer and fall have created the perfect conditions for an explosion of tick activity this season according to Texas AgriLife Extension research. Ticks can carry disease like lime disease. To reduce the risk of tick and tick-borne disease, consider avoiding areas where ticks are plentiful, wear long pants tucked or taped into boots, wash clothes that may have been exposed to ticks, use repellents containing DEET to prevent tick attachment, conduct regular tick checks of yourself, children and pets and remove ticks properly if they do attach to your skin. If possible you want to save the tick by placing it on a damp paper towel in a container in the refrigerator so you can then [submit it for testing](#). There is also a [tick app](#) available for your smart phone.

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.

- **Saturday, June 23, 2012**; our Summer Picnic 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Buescher State Park Recreation Center
- **July 16**, 6:30 PM, Bastrop State Park Refectory, Topic and speaker TBA
- **August 20**, 6:30 PM, Buescher State Park Recreation Hall, Topic and speaker TBA

Newsletter Deadline:

For Next Issue June 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

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The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service & Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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Lost Pines Chapter

