

Lost Pines Master Naturalists



www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org

Volume 12, Issue 8

October 2012 Update



Bluebirds are a target species for the Wildlife Exemption
on my land outside of Bastrop, says LPMN Susan Smith – see next page article.

Birding: the Noun

By LPMN Member Susan Smith

Birding, n. A hobby in which a person studies birds, makes lists, or participates in other activities regarding bird life.

Birder, n. A person who seriously takes up the hobby of birding.

Birdwatching, v. As a recreation, the study and observation of birds with the naked eye or with binoculars.

Among birders here in the US, the word used for searching for a rare bird is “chasing.” Its English counterpart is “twitching.” Searching for a rare, or possibly extinct, bird, like the Ivory-billed woodpecker, is an example of a much-sought-after specimen that was “chased,” and last seen in Louisiana in the 1950’s. Many birders are willing to travel long distances in order to check off a bird in either a field guide or on a species’ list they carry with them.



Birdwatching, the verb, has evolved since the 1800’s. The thinking in that era was that a bird had to be shot dead first in order to study it. Shooting birds was a popular pastime. The leap from shooting to observing as a recreation activity was augmented by the 1918 Migratory Bird Act between the United States and Canada. From a conservationist’s view, progress had been made. This Act’s intent was to put a stop to the exploitation of migratory birds. The Act protects “feathers, eggs and nests. The statute makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill or sell birds listed therein (‘migratory birds’).” Once migratory birds came under federal protection, birdwatching evolved one step further: bird feeding. In 1994, Congress declared February to be National Bird-Feeding Month.

Our Southern winters are not so hard; but our droughts are unrelenting. Whether the climate is cold or hot, our feathered friends can use our help. The US Fish & Wildlife Service’s 2006 report, entitled “Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis,” tells us that 48 million birders have taken up this hobby which works out to be 1 in 5 citizens. The majority is Southerners; 54% are women, mostly over the age of 50. To supplement the diet of wild birds, American birders willingly spend \$2.7 billion on birdfeed and another \$800million on feeders, baths and bird houses every year.

Birdfeeders and bird baths do provide a lifeline during harsh conditions. However, dirty and infected birdfeeders and bird baths can be a deathtrap, as well. Here’s how:



A large concentration of birds at a feeder or bird bath means higher exposure should one of those birds be sick. Through fecal droppings, regurgitated food and drooling saliva, food and water become contaminated. Also, through contact with other birds, flocking species like White-winged doves can contract a number of diseases. One example is salmonella, a bacterial infection. Salmonella spp. inflames the intestines, causing diarrhea. Birds shiver and huddle, lose weight and become weak. Death follows.

An epidemic that recently moved through the Eastern states is *mycoplasma conjunctivitis*, more commonly called House Finch Eye Disease. A parasite invades the upper respiratory-tract of these birds and spreads when birds congregate at feeders. Symptoms are: Birds droop and huddle listlessly. Their eyes are “red, swollen, watery or crusty.” They may appear “tame” simply because they can no longer see. A bird affected by this disease usually dies from starvation or predation, rather than from the disease itself.

Birding: the Noun . . .

At communal feeders and baths, doves, pigeons, and the raptors who feed on them are at risk of contracting a parasite known as *Trichomonas gallinae*. Trich affects the upper digestive tract. This illness is called frounce in raptors and canker in doves and pigeons. Its symptoms are: great difficulty in swallowing food, labored breathing, lethargy, and plumped-up plumage. Death is common.

Sources say that birds can contract over sixty known diseases, along with another half-dozen ectoparasites. Many diseases and parasites are avian-specific, but some, like West Nile Encephalitis, can find its way to humans through mosquito bites; the mosquito having first bitten an infected bird.

Prevention works: Keep birdfeeders and bird baths clean. A solution of water and 10% bleach 2-3 times a week is effective in destroying most parasites and bacteria. Clean areas below feeders as well. Let feeders air dry so that seed doesn't become moldy. Food should be refreshed often. The rule for healthy, hygienic maintenance is: Clean. Rinse. Dry. Often.

By the way, fellow birders, protect your own health as well. Wear gloves and wash thoroughly after handling birdfeeders and bird baths.

Birding is truly a popular hobby with an enthusiastic following. We can watch and learn about birds native to this region or about those that are transient and passing through. Regardless, birding creates a bridge to the outdoors for all of us. By practicing sensible hygiene, we can insure good health for those birds that live here and a safe journey for those who visit.



Building and installing customized bird houses provides homes for cavity nesters, such as these bluebirds (http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/nonpwdpubs/introducing_birds/bird_houses/)

Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities

From Friends Of The Lost Pines State Parks:

Saturday **November 10th, 2012**; 8:30am – 4pm
Buescher State Park



*We are happy to announce one upcoming trail construction workday, with the possibility of more being scheduled in the future. This project will involve constructing a ½ mile reroute along the **Main Trail at Buescher State Park**. Volunteers will work under the direction of the Central Texas Trail Tamers and park staff to construct the trail tread of this new route. The work is considered moderate and will involve bending, swinging, carrying and using hand tools, and possibly walking long distances. Ages 14 and up only, please.*

*You **MUST RSVP** for this workday. Space is extremely limited, so the workday will fill up fast. Please RSVP by emailing me, Reagan Faught at reagan.faught@tpwd.state.tx.us, or call me at (512) 718-7425 to make your reservation. Only RSVP if you are sure you can make it. We will also accept volunteers for the waiting list.*

Volunteers should wear close-toed shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. They should also bring work gloves, eye protection, a sack lunch, and water. Mosquito repellent and sunscreen is also an option. All other equipment, including hardhats and hand tools, will be provided.

Fall Interpretative Hikes at Bastrop State Park (BSP):



BSP Hike Leaders:

*Reminder: The BSP Fall Hikes will **begin on Saturday, October 6th at 10:00 am**, and run each and every Saturday thereafter through December 15th. As Larry reminds us, “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.” Questions, etc. contact Larry Gfeller, LPC-*

TMN Project Coordinator by email at larrydgfeller@yahoo.com or phone 512-294-6662.

Here's a quick email Review Checklist to better prepare yourselves:

- 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.

Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities (Continued):

Texas Master Naturalist
Lost Pines Chapter
Bastrop-Caldwell County Area



2013 LPMN Training Class:

Hello Master Naturalists,

I've got a wonderful volunteer service project for you; guaranteed to get you plenty of hours this calendar year and next without too much effort! The board of the Lost Pines Master Naturalists has approved holding a training class in the early months of 2013. In the past we've found that February is a good time to begin the classes. In order to provide trainees with a quality class, we need to start planning as soon as possible.

I'm looking for some dedicated, willing volunteers to serve on the *ad hoc* Training Committee. I'd like to get a committee formed before the end of this month, so we can get started booking meeting sites and lining up speakers. Last year our advisor Rachel Bauer was sooooo helpful, so we'll be looking to her for support again.

If you can spare some time and energy, are good with organizing schedules and/or contacting people, designing flyers and other publicity, I **NEED YOU!**

If you're willing to serve on this committee, or would like more information, please contact me! Also, if you know someone who is interested in the training, send me their contact information (name, email address, phone number).

Thank you so much in advance!

Louise Ridlon

flridlon@hotmail.com

512 985-5064 (home)

909 262-3429 (cell)

Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities (Continued):

Recycled Material for Lockhart State Park (LSP):

Homemade Christmas Program

Saturday, **December 15th**; 11 am to 2 pm

Lockhart State Park



Master Naturalists:

*We will be hosting a "Homemade Christmas" program on **Saturday, December 15th** from 11 am to 2 pm here at **Lockhart State Park**. In this time, we will be inviting guests to make homemade Christmas ornaments and bird feeders and bird houses out of recycled materials. We will also be having an old-fashioned taffy pull at 1 pm. This email is to ask you to please help us collect as much recycled material as possible for use in our homemade items.*

***Materials needed include:** plastic bottles, milk jugs (paper and plastic), empty toilet paper & paper towel rolls, used incandescent light bulbs, cereal and other pressed paper boxes, popsicle sticks, old CDs, old greeting cards, bottle caps, egg crates/cartons, string, yarn, ribbon, etc...*

***We will also need some volunteers** for this event to help guests through the process and provide information about winter wildlife. If you are interested in volunteering that day, please just let me know whenever you can. If you could also pass the word along about our need for recycled materials to the rest of your chapter, we would greatly appreciate it!*

See everyone next Friday, October 12th at 8:30 am for Bluebonnet Elementary's 5th grade day!

Thanks everyone!

Josh Oyer

Park Interpreter/Pool Manager

Lockhart State Park

Phone: 512-398-3479

Email: josh.oyer@tpwd.state.tx.us

Trainings / Workshops / Conferences / Webinars / Etc.

Updates

- * Denotes Advanced Training (AT) 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.

*The below are Updates / New Trainings;
reference the September Newsletter for previous listed Trainings/Workshops/etc.*

▪ **Texas Riparian Associations Annual Meeting in Bastrop** **"Riparian Resilience and Recovery"** **October 26 and 27, 2012**

Forwarded Email From:

Kevin M. Anderson Ph.D. <Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov>

Austin Water Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend

Please join us for the Texas Riparian Association's Annual Meeting and Field Day "Riparian Resilience and Recovery" to be held on **Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27, 2012**.

The TRA Annual Meeting begins with a day of presentations about riparian ecology and the Bastrop fire at the LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park on Friday October 26th and a field day on Saturday October 27th at the Bastrop State Park and Griffith Lee Boy Scout Ranch to explore the riparian resilience and recovery of this area after the devastating wild fire.

Please RSVP by email to Nikki Dictson at n-dictson@tamu.edu if you plan to attend and if you will need a room.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ○ Early Bird Registration: \$95 (Students \$80) | ○ Early bird registration ends October 15 |
| ○ Late Registration: \$115 (Students \$100) | ○ Add \$20 after October 15th |
| ○ 1 night stay at LCRA McKinney Roughs \$25.00 | |

Payment for meeting registration is due by October 23, 2012.

Please make checks payable to:

Texas Riparian Association

& mail with form to:

Texas Riparian Association
C/O: Nikki Dictson
6858 Palomino Road
College Station, TX 77845

For more information about the meeting or
about TRA membership, contact

Georgianne Moore at:
gwmooore@tamu.edu, (979)845-3765.



Log onto the TRA website for additional information: www.texasriparian.org

Trainings / ... continued:

* **Annual Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count – Call for Volunteers**

Dec. 29, 2012; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(<http://www.visitlostpines.com/Hyatt-Lost-Pines/Activities/Christmas-bird-count.aspx>)

(A chance for AT and Volunteer Hours!)



Hello Fellow Birders! Please mark your calendars once again for the Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count on **Sat., Dec. 29, 2012 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

As you know, this year marks the 113th CBC and the 2nd year for a new regional count area – the Lost Pines (LOPI) CBC. This count is a collaborative effort between the [Lower Colorado River Authority's McKinney Roughs Nature Park](#), its neighbor the [Hyatt Lost Pines Resort](#), [Bastrop County Audubon Society](#), and the [Lost Pines Master Naturalists](#).

The count will encompass McKinney Roughs Nature Park; Hyatt Lost Pines; the towns of Webberville and Uteley; numerous rural areas around Elgin; and many area county roads and neighborhoods that include Crystal Lake, Bluebonnet Acres, Wilbarger Bend, Union Chapel, and Young's Prairie Road. The count also encompasses 35 miles of the lower Colorado River.

You can't do it without you and other "friends of a feather". Please let us know if you will be able to volunteer for this year's Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count. We are in need of birders of all skill levels, including advanced birders who will serve as team leaders. This year, we are offering two free birding workshops — in Nov. and early Dec. to help brush up on birding skills and learn new tricks for identifying birds common to Bastrop County (**see below Bird ID Workshops**). These workshops will help birders of all experience levels learn to identify various local species in preparation for the Annual Christmas Bird Count. Birding beyond the use of field marks, we will explore other clues like habitat, foraging behavior, flight patterns, silhouettes and vocalizations. [Register online](#) for one of the free birding workshops.

In addition to a daylong birding adventure and a post-event chili and cornbread supper countdown with fellow birders, participants have the opportunity to book an exclusive discounted rate on Hyatt Lost Pines accommodations for the Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count. Participants will also have the occasion to enjoy complimentary expert-led birding workshops. Registration for the Count is inexpensive and easy. [Sign up now online!](#)

And pass this along to fellow "bird brains" and then let us know how you would like to be involved in the CBC this year. Let's collaborate and see how many volunteers we can "flock together"!



1884 Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek, TX 78612
Phone: 512/303-5073 or 800/776-LCRA Ext. 8021

Best wishes,

Nicholas Cowey (Nicholas.Cowey@LCRA.ORG)

& Erin Barker (Erin.Barker@LCRA.ORG)

Park Program Coordinators
McKinney Roughs Nature Park

* **Bird Identification Workshops**

Sat., Nov. 17 and Dec. 1

9 a.m. - Noon, FREE, Adults 18 years and older

[Pre-registration required](#)

Additional Event Details on the Next Page

Trainings / ... continued:

Second Annual Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count



In addition to a daylong birding adventure and a post-event chili and cornbread supper countdown with fellow birders, participants have the opportunity to book an exclusive discounted rate on [Hyatt Lost Pines accommodations](#) (Special Offer Code: BIRDS) for the Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count. Participants will also have the occasion to enjoy expert-led birding workshops and activities at Hyatt Lost Pines before and after the event, including:

Friday, Dec. 28, 2012

- ❖ Hummingbird facts and folklore presentation with hummingbird enthusiast and author [Jeanette Larson](#)
- ❖ Notes from the Natural World with Texas nature author/artist [Margie Crisp](#) (complimentary)
- ❖ 4:30 p.m. - Birds of Prey with Sallie Delahoussaye (complimentary)
- ❖ 6:30 p.m. - An evening with Texas Master Naturalist, instructor at Rice University and expert birder/photographer [Glenn Olsen](#) and Bastrop Audubon Society President and Texas artist/author [Margie Crisp](#). This special event includes dinner and presentations by these nature-lovers, as well as a multi-course plated dinner (\$35 per person)
- ❖ 9 p.m. - Night Owls Outing



Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012

- ❖ 6 a.m. - Bird Count Registration in Hyatt Lost Pines Lobby
- ❖ 7 a.m. - Depart for Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count
- ❖ 4 p.m. - Bird Calling with Marsha May (complimentary)
- ❖ 5 p.m. - Chili and cornbread supper and post-count countdown (included in Lost Pines registration fee or \$15 at the door)



[Click here](#) to register for the Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count through LCRA and McKinney Roughs!

[Click here to book your room!](#) Special Offer Code: BIRDS

Birding in the Lost Pines Region



The 405-acre luxury Texas wilderness escape of Hyatt Lost Pines and the adjoining 1,100-acre McKinney Roughs Nature Park are not only special to resort guests and park visitors, but also to the creatures that make their homes here, specifically our feathered friends. More than 250 species of winged wonders consider Central Texas to be their preferred destination, among them the cardinal, hummingbird, Eastern bluebird, Carolina chickadee, Carolina wren, tufted titmouse, wood duck, Eastern screech owl and the American bald eagle, to name a few. Among the great spots to watch birds include Hyatt Lost Pines terraces, balconies and seating areas, Wolfdancer Golf Club, the Spa Django patio, the Lower Colorado River (on foot beside it or on kayaks and floats), 18 miles of trails connecting and winding through the resort and McKinney Roughs and more.

Trainings / ... continued:

Texas Parks & Wildlife



* Flying Wild Educator Workshop

Lockhart State Park

Saturday, **January 26th, 2013** 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. Fee \$20 (includes Educators Manual)

Email Update From:

Josh Oyer <Josh.Oyer@tpwd.state.tx.us>

Park Interpreter/Pool Manager

Lockhart State Park

Phone: 512-398-3479

The “Flying WILD” workshop out here at Lockhart State Park that was scheduled for Saturday, September 29th will be **RESCHEDULED for Saturday, January 26th, 2013**. It will be held indoors at the Recreation Hall in Lockhart State Park. This is an opportunity for teachers to receive 6 CPE hours for only \$20 (which includes the Educators Manual). The workshop will run from 9 am to 4 pm, RAIN OR SHINE.



RESCHEDULED

Flying WILD Educator Workshop



Are you a classroom teacher or environmental educator?

Do you work or volunteer for a local nature or conservation organization or group?

Do you facilitate other environmental education programs?

Then the Flying WILD Program is for YOU!

Flying WILD makes it easy to educate students about **conservation** using **birds** as the vehicle.

Help **reconnect kids with nature** and **build science skills**.

To Register for this Workshop -

Contact: Cindy @ Cibolo Nature Center 830-249-4616

For more information, contact Patsy Inglet <tpinglet@satx.rr.com> 210-698-8445

- **Flying WILD** provides **interdisciplinary activities** and **environmental education** for educators to help students excel academically with a program that engages students in real inquiry while meeting national science standards.
- **Flying WILD** materials provide interactive, interdisciplinary, standards-based activities to help students understand the importance of migratory birds and their conservation.
- Educators learn how to conduct **WILD** lessons and participate in hands-on activities from the activity guide, which teaches basic biology, identification, ecology, bird conservation, and service learning activities.
- Formal educators receive 6 CEU credits



[Flying WILD](#) is presented in conjunction with the

[Council for Environmental Education](#)

and the [Cibolo Nature Center](#),

Flying WILD City Partner for San Antonio

www.flyingwild.org



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

Trainings / ... continued:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service:



*** Texas Watershed Steward – Plum Creek Watershed:** (<http://pcwp.tamu.edu>)



“The Plum Creek Watershed Partnership has developed a Watershed Protection Plan as a proactive approach to cleaning up and protecting Plum Creek in Caldwell and Hays Counties in South Central Texas. The watershed planning process led to key recommendations including public outreach and a variety of management practices. Through focused local effort throughout the watershed, implementation is underway to address water quality issues, including E. coli bacteria and nutrient levels. Browse the website to find out more and get involved as we move forward with watershed management in Texas!”

➤ **Feral Hog Educational Workshop**

October 16th, 2012

Luling Foundation Farm - Luling, Texas

5:15 pm – 8:30 pm

Cost: \$20 (includes meal, handouts and entry for door prize drawing!)

3 Hours TDA CEU's for Commercial, Non-Commercial & Private Applicators

(2 hours General, 1 hour Laws and Regulations.)

Please **PRE-REGISTER** by **October 12th** with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Caldwell County at 1403 Blackjack St., Ste. B in Lockhart (512-398-3122, 512-398-3867 FAX), to ensure an accurate count for the meal and handouts. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Extension office two days prior to the event so accommodations can be made.

For those participating in the Caldwell County Hog Out Program, doors will open at 5 p.m. and volunteers will be on hand to **accept feral hogs tails**. For more information on Hog Out and the environmental impacts of feral hog activity, please visit the [Plum Creek Watershed Partnership](http://pcwp.tamu.edu) website (<http://pcwp.tamu.edu>) or find them on Facebook.

- For a list of locations to claim your share of the Caldwell County or Hays County Feral Hog Bounty and qualify for **end-of-year prizes**, [click here](#).

NOTE: For the health and safety of participants and volunteers, *ONLY feral hog tails in a sealed, transparent plastic baggie will be accepted.*

- Cabela's to offer **GRAND PRIZE** for the top participant in each county! [Click here](#) for a running list of sponsors and prizes to be offered for **Hog Out** participants in Hays County / Caldwell County.
- For additional details on **Hog Out activities in Caldwell County**, [click here](#).
- FY 2013, TDA Hog Out County Grants Programs - [OFFICIAL GUIDELINES](#)
- [TCEQ and CAPCOG approve grant to fund four FY12-13 Community Collection Events for Caldwell County!](#)
- [View the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan Update](#)
- [Join us at upcoming events in the watershed!](#)

Trainings / ... continued:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Continued):



*** Feral Hog Community of Practice Webinar Series**

All webinars will be held from **12:00P.M.-1:00 P.M.** Central Standard Time

Attending webinars is as easy as going to <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/feralhog>

- **October 23, 2012** *Control Techniques and Managing Feral Hog Populations*
Billy Higginbotham, Ph.D. - Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- **November 20, 2012** *Feral Hog Disease Issues*
Joseph Corn, Ph.D. - Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia
- **December 18, 2012** *Current and Future Feral Hog Research*
Tyler Campbell, Ph.D. – Feral Swine Project Leader, USDA APHIS, National Wildlife Research Center, Florida Field Station

On the day of the webinar you can interact with experts and view the entire webinar from anywhere with internet access.

For Questions Please Contact:

Jared Timmons @ jbtimmons@ag.tamu.edu or 254-485-4886

Trainings / ... continued:

From: Michelle Haggerty:



Texas Master Naturalist – State Coordinator

Phone: 830-896-2504

Email: mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu



<http://www.wildflower.org>

512/232-0200

*** Volunteers Wanted for Fall Vegetation Surveys At the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (AT and Volunteer Hours)**

4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, TX 78739

Want a fun way to learn the Native Grasses and Wildflowers of Central Texas?

We are training volunteers to help in our on-site land management studies, where plots are burned or mowed at different times of the year to examine the effects on plant communities.

Every experience level is welcome, so do not be timid. The surveys will be conducted in small teams, with staff members nearby at all times. **New participants in the surveys will attend one four-hour training class, and commit to work at least two four-hour field sessions.** *Training is optional for those of you who have volunteered in the past.*

- **Training** sessions are available:
 - ❖ October 3 from 1:00PM to 5:00PM
 - ❖ October 4 from 1:00PM to 5:00 PM
 - ❖ October 5 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM
 - ❖ October 6 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM
- **Surveys** will begin on Tuesday, October 16 and continue Tuesdays through Saturdays until completed, usually about two to three weeks.
- Morning (9:00-1:00) and Afternoon (2:00-6:00) **shifts** are available each day.

To sign up

1. If you are not already registered as a volunteer, complete a volunteer application here:
<http://wild.its.utexas.edu/volonlineapps/>
2. Our volunteer coordinator will contact you once your application has been processed
3. You can then sign up for training or shifts here:
<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll?FROM=23383>

Meeting Place: Volunteer room in Administration building 108

We will provide: Water, snacks, plant ID manual, some kneeling pads, pencils, datasheets

Please bring/wear: Long pants, closed toed shoes; Optional, but suggested: Personal water bottle, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, kneeling pad or knee pads

Activity: Volunteers and staff will work in small teams to identify many, many, plants. We'll help you learn to recognize our plants, so don't worry if you don't know many, or any, plants now. We will be walking from plot to plot and spending a great deal of time kneeling down, often in tall grass. So, please come prepared for 4 hours spent outside.

Contacts:

Carrie McDonald

cmcdonald@wildflower.org

512.232.0102

Michelle Bertelsen

mbertelsen@wildflower.org

512.232.0171

Trainings / ... continued:

From: Michelle Haggerty (Cont'd):

Trainings / Events at the Cibolo Nature Center --



Located about 30 miles northwest of San Antonio, the Cibolo Nature Center is 100 acres of Hill Country trails and wilderness.

[Directions and Hours](#)

Calendar for other trainings/events:

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

■ **Monarch Biology, Ecology & Research**

Oct 12, 2012

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: CNC Auditorium

Come learn from the top monarch educators in Texas as they explore the fascinating biology, ecology and behavior of monarch butterflies. Examine live specimens as you study the monarch's lifecycle from egg to larvae, to chrysalis, to butterfly. Follow multiple generations as they embark on a fantastic annual migration from Mexico to the farthest reaches of North America. Learn about the predators and threats to monarch habitats that threaten the existence of this unique and wonderful butterfly. Get up to date on the latest monarch research and realize how you too can contribute to scientific research and monarch conservation.

Presenters: Mary Kennedy, Kip Kiphart, Cathy Downs

Tuition: Free, but suggested donation is \$16.00.

[Register here.](#)

■ **"MLMP@CNC" The Monarch Larval Monitoring Project**

Oct 13, 2012

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: CNC Auditorium

Join us for indepth training on Monarch Larval Monitoring. This workshop is hands on, exploring tools and techniques for monitoring monarch larvae and monarch habitat. After reviewing monarch life stages, participants will visit the CNC's "Monarch Research Area" to perform a habitat assessment and monitor monarch density.

Presenters: Mary Kennedy, Kip Kiphart, Cathy Downs

Tuition: Free, suggested donation is \$8.

[Register here.](#)

Trainings / ... continued:

■ **National Fossil Day Observance Oct 20th**

Saturday, October 20

Fannin County, Ladonia TX

From Doug Franklin, Texas Master Naturalist:

*“The Bois d' Arc Chapter of TMN will be partnering in a National Fossil Day observance on **Saturday, October 20th**, and all are invited to come to Fannin County to join in the learning and fun.”*

*Contact me if you have questions,
Doug Franklin (903-456-2687)*



Local News - By City of Ladonia (Oct 2, 2012):

Ladonia -- A Fossil Workshop will be Fannin County's contribution to National Fossil Day this year. The event will be held in Ladonia on Saturday, October 20 and will focus on fossil and artifact hunting in the North Sulphur River.



An annual event organized by the National Park Service and held during National Earth Science Week each October, the local event is sponsored by partners including the City of Ladonia, Bois d' Arc Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, and the Dallas Paleontological Society.

The Fannin County event centers on findings at Ladonia Fossil Park, located at North Sulphur River north of Ladonia. The location yields Cretaceous Period and Ice Age fossils found in the beds and banks of the river.

Ladonia Mayor Jan Cooper said visitors and residents are encouraged to explore the river and learn more about fossils and artifacts during National Earth Science Week. The local event will be headed by Ladonia fossil and artifact authority PK Kirkpatrick.

The workshop will be held at **Fannindel School Gymnasium** in Ladonia with **registration starting at 8:00 a.m.** on Saturday, October 20, and presentations starting at 9am. There will be guided exploration at Ladonia Fossil Park starting at 10:30 a.m. The workshop is open to all who have an interest in fossils and artifact hunting and there is no charge for participation.

More information may be obtained by calling **City of Ladonia at 903-367-7011.**

Link for Details: http://ntxe-news.com/artman/publish/article_78702.shtml.

Upcoming Area Events

Horned Lizard Documentary Showing Wimberley -- October 13

From: Leeann Linam <Leeann.Linam@TPWD.STATE.TX.US>



CENTRAL TEXAS PREMIERE OF "WHERE DID THE HORNY TOAD GO"

The Horned Lizard Conservation Society invites you to join us for the Central Texas premiere of "Where Did the Horny Toad Go?", a full-length documentary directed by Stephanie Leland, Jar of Grasshoppers Productions. This engaging film explores people's experiences with Texas horned lizards and investigates the declines that have occurred in much of the species range.

The showing will be held **on October 13 at The Corral outdoor theater in Wimberley, Texas**, locally famous for its "stars under the stars." *An HLCS business meeting will be held at 5:30, and a fundraiser chili dinner will start at 6:30. The movie will start at 7:30*, to be followed by a Question and Answer period featuring some of the participants in the movie. A **\$5 admission fee** will go to support some of the Society's conservation grants programs.



For more information regarding the local **showing** contact **Lee Ann Linam** at lainam@txwinet.com. For more information on the **movie**, visit jarofgrasshoppers.com/. For more information on the **Corral Theatre**, including directions, visit www.corraltheatre.com/. For more information on the **Horned Lizard Conservation Society**, visit www.hornedlizards.org.

Chapter Business / Reminders:



Chapter Treasurer Vacancy:

THANKS goes out to **Holly Hallmark** for volunteering to step in as our new LPMN Treasurer! In the next month or so, Holly will be working with Rik Martinez to transition into this Executive Office position. Again, a huge **THANK YOU** to Rik for his dedicated volunteer service in this position!

Chapter Newsletter:



The Winner is September.** So I'm prepping last month's LPMN Newsletter for submission in the Newsletter Completion at the TMN Annual Meeting. The vote at the Annual Meeting is by popular vote of the attendees and a selected committee; **so if you like ours best, please give us a vote!

Thanks for Voting,

Bonnie Shimek

LPMN Chapter Editor

Monthly Chapter Meetings:

October 15, 6:30 PM

Bastrop State Park Refectory

Speaker: Michal Hubbard



Topic: *Landowner survey to analyze Wildfire risk.* Attendees should bring plats, pictures, measurements, and information about house and surroundings to potential fire fuel and proximity to dwelling.

November 19, 6:30 PM

Buescher State Park Rec Hall

Speaker: *Wildlife Tracking* by Dave Scott



Forwarded from Michelle Haggerty:

Signs of Drought are Underground

Shared by Kip Kiphart

Very interesting NASA map showing surface soil moisture, root zone soil moisture and ground water storage: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=79228>.

Chapter Business / Reminders (Continued):

Photos Requested for Annual Meeting Slide Show:

From Donna Cole, Blackland Prairie Chapter:

Once again, we are looking for photos from your chapter for the annual Texas Master Naturalist slide show. We currently have over 40 chapters, yet every year we only receive photos from a few chapters - this year my goal is to get something from EVERY chapter! Chapter Presidents/Historians – please make sure someone from your chapter sends me photos!

PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 14, 2012!!!

- **Format:** I'm not super picky on the format or size, but I do need the resolution to be high enough for the photo to be clear on a screen. Generally, most digital cameras over 2 mega-pixels produce photos that will be just fine, even on the lowest resolution setting, as long as you're sending the original image. Cropping is fine, photos resized for web pages or email might not work. If you're not sure, email me a photo and I'll let you know. Most cameras produce .jpg files (photos), but other graphics formats are acceptable. Bitmaps (.bmp) might not work but again, I'll try them.
- **Subject:** Anything that represents your chapter is great! Local flora and fauna is always fun, but we definitely want to see your chapter members, too. TMN'ers on field trips, doing outreach, doing service projects - that's what we're all about.
- **Captions:** I would love to add captions for you but it's simply not possible except in rare cases. If you'd like to add a caption or overlay text feel free to do that! The option is available on a lot of software (definitely on clunky old MS Office Publisher). If you're unsure you can email or call me and I'll walk you through it.
- **Delivery:** You can either mail me a CD or email your photos to: donna@donna2112.com (Note: new email address for me). If you are sending just a few photos email is fine; if you're sending a bunch you'll need to split them up into multiple emails and tell me how many total photos you're sending. If you send a CD, be sure to include an email address so I can let you know it made it. Please mail the CD before the October 14th Deadline to: Donna Cole, 5020 Lakeshore Blvd, The Colony TX 75056.
- **Number of photos: Please read this carefully...** the number of photos I can use per chapter depends entirely on the number of chapters that send photos. Helpful, right? I would love for each chapter to send me your TOP 10 photos, and then your next favorite 10 photos as well. If you send me a disc with 100 photos I will be forced to choose them myself and I might just take the first 10-20 on the disc. Honestly, if every chapter sends 10 photos and there are over 40 chapters and each photo is on the screen for 3 seconds plus chapter titles we already have over a 20 minute show - but I'll take that chance!
- **Songs:** If you have an idea for background music please let me know! Every year I try to add something new, but I'm running out of new material. I try to include different genres in each show. As always - if you have a question, email me or call me at 214-538-4444. I will do my best to respond ASAP!

*Thanks - Donna Cole, Blackland Prairie Chapter, donna@donna2112.com,
Phone: 214-538-4444.*

10/3/12 UPDATE: So far I have only received photos from the following chapters, so if you're not on this list PLEASE send photos ASAP! We only have 9 out of 42 chapters represented right now... help! (Chapters: Alamo Area, Bois d'Arc, Blackland Prairie, Brazos Valley, Cradle of Texas, Gideon Lincecum, Heartwood, Highland Lakes, Indian Trail)

Chapter Business / Reminders (Continued):

From: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):
Life's Better Outside – Fall Edition 2012



■ Make a Date with Some Birds



Texas is a very birdy place. From hawks to hummers, fall brings a parade of migrating birds for our enjoyment. To find out where to see them, read [“Fall Feathers”](#) in the August/September issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine.

The Texas coast is a birding hot spot from August through November, and [state parks](#) are excellent places to take your binoculars for a birding workout.

Need help identifying the birds? State park staff and volunteers host frequent birding activities from recurring walks and talks to special events. See the online calendar for [“Birds, Bats & More”](#) to find a listing of all of the wonderful bird walks, owl prowls, bird identification classes and more offered at state parks, including the World Birding Centers.

■ Itty Bitty Wildlife: Know Your Ants

Take a really close up look at the Texas landscape and see ... ants. The red harvester ant, seen at work in this [video](#), is easy to love. They're best known as the primary food for the iconic native and increasingly rare Texas horned lizard.



Photographer: USDA APHIS PPQ Archive
Source: USDA APHIS PPQ

The all-too-familiar [red imported fire ant](#) inflicts a memorable bite and can destroy songbird eggs and young wildlife.

A recent arrival under close watch is the [Raspberry crazy ant](#) which has only been found in the state of Texas since 2002. Its story in this country is still unfolding. But in other countries they are a devastating pest, aggravating and displacing all other ant species, song birds and small animal species. These ants are even displacing red imported fire ants in areas of heavy infestation.

Read more about the Raspberry crazy ant in this [brochure](#).



Photographer: Bastiaan Drees
Source: Texas A&M University

INVASIVES DATABASE

TEXASINVASIVES.ORG

Monthly Meeting Schedule:

Chapter meetings generally alternate between the Bastrop State Park Refectory, Buescher State Park, and 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.

- **October 15**, 6:30 pm, Bastrop State Park Refectory, Speaker: Michal Hubbard
- **November 19**, 6:30 pm, Buescher State Park Rec Hall, Speaker: Dave Scott

Newsletter Deadline:

For Next Issue Monday, October 29th

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

State Coordinator: Michelle Haggerty,
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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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Bastrop/Caldwell Cty's TPWD Wildlife Biologist
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Our Mission:
To develop a corps
of well-informed volunteers
to provide education, outreach,
and service dedicated to the
beneficial management of
natural resources and natural areas
within our communities.

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Lost Pines Chapter



www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org