

# Lost Pines Master Naturalists



[www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org](http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org)

Volume 12, Issue 7

September 2012

*Thanks to all that voted for Bastrop State Park  
to win a grant from Coca-Cola during its National  
"America Is Your Park" promotion!*



*The Park came in 12<sup>th</sup> with 661,565 votes;  
and will receive a \$10,000 grant from Coca-Cola.*



# Bastrop State Park

It's been a year since the unforgettable Labor Day Weekend's Fires ripped through Bastrop State Park and Bastrop community areas. Like 9-11, most in this area can tell you where they were, and what they were doing when the reality set in that this was much more than the local fire trucks rushing off to the usual grass fire. Days after, I recall the unbelievable devastation; and within the weeks ahead, followed the news that the fires were to be recorded as the ***worst in Texas history***.

The fires destroyed 96 percent of the 6,600-acres of [Bastrop State Park](#). However, I urge all to visit the park to witness the strong comeback made in the year since the nightmare of last Labor Day weekend. Several events and activities were held over the past 2012 Labor Day weekend to show appreciation for the tremendous and continual support received from people and companies towards the park's recovery.

In September, Texas Parks and Wildlife reported: *"The \$10,000 Coca-Cola grant will be used to underwrite the continued building of new park trails."* And that, *"more than \$200,000 in donations for Bastrop State Park recovery have come from a variety of sources."*

***Please continue to show your support!*** On the following pages are some upcoming events/workshops and links to ways ***You Can Help Bastrop State Park Recover:***

*Thanks Again,*

*Bonnie Shimek, LPMN Newsletter Editor*





# Bastrop State Park Recovery:



## Request for Volunteers & Booths

8/31/12 Email From:

**Meredith Longoria, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife**

*Hello LPMN Folks!*

*The Lost Pines Recovery Team is planning a landowner workshop (Lost Pines Land Stewardship & Restoration Workshop) to address habitat restoration practices that would be beneficial to the recovery landscape after fire and drought. I was hoping we might be able to arrange for several volunteers to help with registration, directing people to vendor/exhibitor booths and demonstration stations, and possibly setup and cleanup. I've ~~attached the flyer~~ (next page) for the workshop and the press release below. This would probably qualify for advanced training hours for folks as well, but you'd have to clear that with Ronnie Lanier (a "Yes" from Ronnie). This may be a great place to recruit new folks to sign up for your upcoming 2013 class. I'm also working with Carrie McDonald to see if the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center might be able to coordinate volunteers to run a booth on invasive species. Invasive species are a big concern on a recovering landscape, and we want people to be informed of what to look for. I've copied Carrie to this email as well. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to another chance to work with you!!*

### **Lost Pines Land Stewardship & Restoration Workshop**

The Lost Pines Recovery Team (Partnership between Bastrop County, Texas Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Agrilife Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Texas Commission for Environmental Quality, Lower Colorado River Authority, Bastrop Soil & Water Conservation District, Texas State University, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will provide a **free** educational program for landowners affected by the 2011 Bastrop County Complex Fire as well as others living in the Lost Pines who would like to know more about recovering the landscape post-fire as well as post-drought.

This workshop will consist of presentations on burn severity differences and potential scenarios, setting expectations for recovering the landscape, Web Soil Survey overview, information on the Pine Seedling Distribution plan, and information about cost-share assistance available to landowners. The afternoon will consist of visiting demonstration stations on erosion control, soil building, seeding and establishing herbaceous cover, tree planting, chemical brush treatment, mechanical brush treatment, firewise landscaping and sustainable planting. Two CEUs will be offered (1 in General, and 1 in IPM) for pesticide applicators (TDA).

This workshop will take place **Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 5pm**, with registration and time to visit vendors starting at 8:00am, at the LCRA Lost Pines Scout Reservation (785 FM 1441, Bastrop, TX 78602). Attendees will have a chance to visit with a variety of vendors including seed companies, native plant nurseries, tree services, erosion control companies, equipment dealers, and operators and more as well as visit with staff from natural resource agencies and companies.

There is no cost to attend this workshop (it is a brown-bag affair, so bring your own lunch and drink). Please **reserve your space** by registering online at [Bastroprecovery.org](http://Bastroprecovery.org) or by contacting Daniel Lewis with the Texas Forest Service at 979-968-5556 or [dlewis@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:dlewis@tfs.tamu.edu). For more information you may contact Meredith Longoria with Texas Parks and Wildlife at 512-332-7280 or [meredith.longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:meredith.longoria@tpwd.state.tx.us).

## ➤ LOST PINES LAND STEWARDSHIP & RESTORATION WORKSHOP



**When?** Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00am - 5:00pm

**Where?** LCRA-Lost Pines Scout Reservation

785 FM 1441, Bastrop, TX 78602 (Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/sLVB>)

**Cost?** Free (Bring your own Brown Bag Lunch & Water)

**CEUs?** 2 CEUs will be offered (1 General & 1 IPM) for Pesticide Applicators, TDA.

Please **RSVP by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 14th** at [Bastroprecovery.org](http://Bastroprecovery.org) or by contacting Daniel Lewis with Texas Forest Service at (979) 968-5556.

### AGENDA

8:00 Check-in & Visit with Vendors/Exhibitors

9:00 Welcome - Introduction & Overview – *Daniel Lewis, Texas Forest Service*

9:10 Burn Severity Differences and Potential Scenarios – *Greg Creacy,*  
*Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*

9:40 Setting Expectations for the Recovery Process – *Jill Nokes*

10:10 Break

10:20 Web Soil Survey Overview – *Richard Williams,*  
*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

10:50 Pine Seedling Distribution Plan – *Jim Rooni, Texas Forest Service*

11:10 Cost-share Assistance Available to Landowners – *Meredith Longoria,*  
*Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*

11:30 Lunch & Visit with Vendors/Exhibitors

1:00 Demonstration Station Rotations –

Visit stations in assigned group rotations, spending 25 minutes at each station with 5 minutes in between each. If you wish to skip a particular station you may visit vendors/exhibitors until your next scheduled station of interest. Please stick to your assigned station schedule. Demonstration Stations will include the following: Erosion Control, Soil Building, Seeding and Establishing Herbaceous Cover, Tree Planting, Chemical Brush Treatment, Mechanical Brush Treatment, Firewise Landscaping & Sustainable Planting



***REMINDER: No food or drink will be provided.***

***Thank you to our sponsors, LCRA and the  
Boy Scouts of America Capital Area Council!***



# BSP Recovery (Continued):

## ➤ [Rediscover Bastrop State Park](#)

- \* Things to do: Biking, Scenic Drives, Fishing, Golf
- \* Ranger Programs
- \* Area Attractions

3005 Hwy. 21 East  
Bastrop, TX 78602

[View map and directions](#)

(512) 321-2101

## ➤ [Learn more about the Bastrop wildfire and how you can help the park.](#)

- \* Life After Wildlife: The Future of Bastrop State Park
- \* A Long Road to Recovery
- \* Unfunded Aspects of Recovery
- \* How You Can Help Bastrop State Park

## ➤ [Friends of Lost Pines State Parks website](#)



**Volunteer Information:** For information on volunteer opportunities at the park contact the volunteer coordinator at **(512) 237-2241**.

**Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks:** Was organized to assist in the promotion, interpretation and operation of Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. As a fund raising and service group, the goal of the friends is to help in the overall operation of the park through sponsoring events, helping fund projects and raising the awareness of Bastrop and Buescher state parks as assets to the community and surrounding areas.

## ➤ Texas Parks Wildlife

News Release: [Campaign Launched to Restore Lost Pines Forest...](#)

Video: [Bastrop Wildlife Anniversary – Arbor Day Foundation to raise money to plant millions of loblolly pines](#)



## ➤ State agencies along with the Arbor Day Foundation launched [The Lost Pines Forest Recovery Campaign](#).



*This effort will replant  
more than 4 million new loblolly pine trees  
on public and private lands in Bastrop, Texas.  
With everyone's help, the Lost Pines will be restored  
to be enjoyed by present and future generations.*

*Hope To See You Helping, Bonnie*

# Conversations With A Witch

## *Submitted by Larry Gfeller:*

*This article was originally submitted in August, 2011 but never saw print because of the Bastrop County Complex wildfires. We were visited by more of these unusual creatures in July, 2012, so it's only fitting to try again.*

Just for a moment, experience with me one of the planet's most significant biological events. Imagine yourself a Monarch Butterfly. You are a member of the "super generation" (those with the longest life) who has migrated all the way from the upper United States to Mexico to escape the cold. For the last several months you have been spending your time clinging to a tree in a quiet stupor. After wintering in the Oyamel forests of Western Mexico, a voice inside told you it was time to move on. You've now left your winter home and after a perilous and difficult flight over the Gulf of Mexico, you are relieved to see South Texas, find some Milkweed, make some babies, and enjoy a much deserved retirement (sounds good to me!).



Then you look over to your left. . . on that mesquite bush. . . what the hell! The largest winged insect you've ever seen! It cries out, "Hey, mize preety, I fell like 500 miles bad road, how b'out ju?" After acknowledging the travails of your flight, you can't but help blurt out: "Who are you. . . *What* are you?" With a sigh, "Oh, don't mind me amigo, I am Zarita, a *Black Witch Moth* from Brazilia. Not as flashy as ju Monarchs—we've got less time to make woopee, so we leeve life wize ze flair. Been flying all night from my stop in Mexico. Saw all ju Monarchs at lower altitude as we pass over de Panama Canal. Cooler flying up high, ju know. Cool iz important. . . dat's why we only fly at night. I catch some Z's in de shade, den as dusk comes, I make my way to Bastrop by nightfall. Enjoy jor rest, La senorita."



Okay, camera fades, fantasy over. . . fast-forward to Bastrop. To native Americans, the buffalo was common fare, but that first white man must have been dumbfounded when encountering something totally new to his universe. Now you know how I felt! On a quiet July evening recently, my wife came into the office to ask that I follow her outside. Dusk was quickly consuming the forest. She pointed to the outside of our screen porch and I was stopped dead in my tracks . . . it was right out of Jurassic Park! There resting on the screen was the absolute biggest moth I have ever seen in my life. At first glance I thought it was a bat, but closer inspection confirmed it was an insect. The wingspan was five inches, it was intricately tattooed and it was sculptured like a delta-winged B-1 stealth bomber. What on earth was something like this doing here? What does it eat: rats, mice. . . my little dogs, perhaps? This thing creeped me out! We snapped several photos and hurried inside, as it was nearly dark. I didn't know it at the time, but I had made my first ever encounter with that Black Witch Moth who "lives life wize ze flair."

With the help of fellow naturalists Robert and Miriam Vaughn, my mystery creature was eventually verified as a Black Witch moth—in fact, Robert made that guess without even seeing the picture (what a moth-er!). After the positive I.D., Internet research turned up the busy lives these moths lead. I had been vaguely aware of the annual migration of the storied Monarch butterflies, but I was astonished to



learn the Black Witch Moth also was an immigrant from Central America, just over-wintering in the warm climates of South Texas, Louisiana and Southern Florida. I discovered these moths were draped in a rich veil of superstition, mystery and intrigue. More on that later, but first a little biography is in order.

Of course “Black Witch” is the common name; *Ascalapha oderata* is the scientific name. But over the centuries there have been many names in different languages and the insect is generally considered the harbinger of death in Mexican and Caribbean folklore. It has been known in Mexico by the Indians since Aztec times as *mariposa de la muerte* (butterfly of death). It is a nocturnal moth with wingspans that can reach 7 inches. The diagnostic marking is a small spot on each wing shaped like a number 9 or like a comma. The Moth originates from throughout Central America, extending from Brazil to the Southern United States. It is the largest *noctuid* moth (family *Noctuidae*) found in the continental United States—in truth, it may be the largest insect found here. Despite its imposing appearance, the Black Witch does not bite, sting or carry diseases. It has only a straw-like proboscis or tongue used to feed on flower nectar. It’s perfectly harmless (never been known to eat little dogs). Like most moths, it rests during the day and flies at night. Some of the more frequently reported daytime roosts are in people’s garages, car ports or under eaves. This particular family of moths is especially attracted to light—so it cannot, by definition, be a vampire (I’m so glad). They also come to tree sap, rotting fruit and alcohol. If you are trying to attract one of these moths, you could try setting out ripe bananas and a rum and coke (in Austin, this would doubtless attract college students too).



All creatures have predators, right? In my mind, I’m thinking bobcats, coyotes and timber rattlers could take on a moth this size. Turns out, the Black Witch is lunch for Northern Cardinals, House Sparrows, Purple Martins and an occasional wolf spider (that must be *some* spider!).



The Black Witch can migrate great distances over open water and has a taste for international travel. They have been reported on oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Louisiana, 2,000 miles east of South America, the African continent, and have



made their way to all the islands of Hawaii. Unlike Monarchs, Black Witches are believed to breed year round in overlapping generations. Their adult life stage is thought to last 3 or 4 weeks. The moths that fly out of Mexico and South Texas in June are primarily in fresh condition, though some are worn to quite worn (known as “rags” because that’s what their wings look like). They migrate north out of Mexico in a broad swath. The greatest documented push northward occurred in 2004 when they were found in the Great Plains states of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. Pretty amazing critters, huh?

Not only is the common name suggestive of the dark side of the moon, but so is the folklore surrounding this moth. In many cultures, a Black Witch found flying into someone’s home is considered extremely bad luck. For example, in Mexico, when there is sickness in the house and this moth enters, it is believed the sick person will die. A variation on this theme, found in the lower Rio Grande valley, states that death can only occur if the moth flies in your home and visits all four corners of the house—at least this offers a fighting chance of survival! In Jamaica, under the name



*Duppy Bat*, the Black Witch is seen as the embodiment of a lost soul at rest. The word *duppie* or *duppy* generally means “ghost” in some West Indian countries. In Hawaiian Black Witch mythology, though associated with death, the belief carries a happier note in that, if a loved one has recently died, the moth is that person’s soul come back to say “goodbye.” In some parts of Mexico people joke that if a Black Witch flies over your head, you will lose your hair.

Not all of the superstitions are about bad luck. On Cat Island, Bahamas, where they are known as Money Moths or Money Bats, the legend is that if they land on you, you will become rich. In South Texas, they believe that if a Black Witch lands above your door and stays there awhile, you will win the lottery. I’m not sick, not ready to die and already bald. The thought of a Black Witch landing on my person still freaks me out, so I’d prefer to win the lottery as my chosen method of becoming rich. I do what I can to influence the outcome. I’ve already bought my lottery ticket, I’m currently building a platform (near my front door) for rotting fruit, and I’ll fill the bird bath with booze. With a little luck, perhaps this will qualify as a new activity in my wildlife management plan!



*Ascalapha odorata* (“Black Witch”)



Male



Female



# *Lost Pines Master Naturalists Volunteering*

## **White-tailed Deer Spotlight Surveys:**

Each year in the month of August my husband and I enjoy joining local Red Rock Wildlife Management Association (RRWMA) members and other volunteers, like Texas Master Naturalists, in conducting Annual White-tailed Deer Spotlight Surveys for the Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD). Meredith Longoria (2<sup>nd</sup> from the left in below picture), our area TPWD Wildlife Biologist, joined us for RRWMA's August 25<sup>th</sup> survey. Meredith works with area [Wildlife Management Associations](#) (WMA) in getting these surveys conducted and data collected for review by TPWD.



**A few of the Volunteers (including some Lost Pines Master Naturalists) who participated in the annual Texas Parks & Wildlife surveys.**

Here's a link to a very informative article I found on TPWD's website on how to and benefits of "[Conducting White-tailed Deer Spotlight Surveys in Central Texas](#)" (by Steve Jester, Wildlife Biologist - Decatur and Jim Dillard, Technical Guidance Biologist - Mineral Wells).

*Thanks to All who helped with the 2012 Surveys,*

*Bonnie*



# Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities

## Fall Interpretative Hikes at Bastrop State Park

9/2/12 Email from Larry Gfeller ([larrydggfeller@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydggfeller@yahoo.com))

### **Bastrop State Park (BSP) Hike Leaders,**

Steve Moredock and I had an opportunity to lead three hikes at BSP over the Labor Day weekend supporting a special open house event to show progress from the wildfires of a year ago. . . the level of interest and hunger for information from the public was incredible! There must have been a total of 60 or so people (15 kids?) who braved the hot Texas sun, and most of them were active, engaged participants. Of the hikers I questioned, only one was actually from Bastrop; people came from Houston, San Antonio and, of course, Austin. My takeaway: There is a very real love and emotional commitment to BSP from the public at large.

Review the "final" Fall hike manifest for 2012. I believe we have managed to accommodate everyone's wants/needs and I thank all of you for your willingness to do this. . . there obviously is a demand and I'm sure you will find the experience especially rewarding. As mentioned previously, the **Practice Hike is scheduled for Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am**. Meet in the parking lot by the picnic area. Just show your TMN nametag at the entrance and explain what you have come for, and park staff will allow you in on a free pass. As for a second **Make-Up Practice Hike, it is now set for 4:00 pm on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Looking forward to meeting y'all (some for the very first time) at the first practice hike @ 10:00am on 9/15.

*Larry*



## Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

### ● THE TEXAS NATURE TRACKER

The fall issue of the [Texas Nature Tracker](#) is now available.

In this new issue, volunteers and TPWD staff describe plans to track the flight of whooping cranes and the plight of the bumblebee, which plays a critical role in agriculture and natural ecosystems. Trained volunteers help staff biologists expand Mussel Watch and Amphibian Watch to collect vital data on these species. *Read more about how to help with these tracking programs.*



#### ■ Texas Bumblebee Watch

Visit <http://www.texasbumblebees.com> to learn more about this endeavor.

#### ■ No Tarpon Drought Here

To learn more about tarpon and submit an observation, go to

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/tarpon/>.





# Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities (Continued):

## TPWD (Continued):



### ■ Texas Amphibian Watch



For information on amphibians and mussels visit [Texas Nature Trackers](http://www.texasnaturetrackers.org).

*Including an article on our local:*

### ■ Houston Toads Impacted by Bastrop Fire

The smoke may be gone but the Bastrop fires of Labor Day weekend are still a smoldering concern for biologists. They're keeping tabs on the Houston Toad. And with only an estimated 2,000 left in Texas, this endangered species is facing its next challenge as the drought continues. More on Houston toads at <http://www.houstonzoo.org/HoustonToad/>



### ■ Frogs Are Calling, Are You Listening? Frog Club

### ■ Texas Mussel Watch

Wildlife Diversity Program  
Science for Stewardship

**Texas Nature Trackers:  
Texas Mussel Watch**

Wildlife Diversity Program  
Science for Stewardship

**Join the Texas Mussel Watch**

**Get Involved**

- Become a Texas Mussel Watch Volunteer

**Learn More**

- Freshwater Mussel Biology
- Texas Mussel Watch Program Resources

**Downloads**

- Texas Mussel Watch Survey Data Sheet (PDF 374 KB)
- Private Lands Access Form (PDF 264 KB)
- Request for Donation of Field or Wildlife Resources (PDF 264 KB)

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There will be more discussion on this new society at the second annual Texas Freshwater Mussel Symposium scheduled to be held in **San Marcos on Friday, March 15, 2013**. If you are interested in attending the symposium in San Marcos or would like to receive a copy of the abstracts from the 2012 symposium, please email Marsha May, TPWD at [marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us).



# Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities (Continued):

## TPWD (Continued):



### ■ Texas Hummingbird Roundup MARK KLYM, TPWD

*Everybody loves hummingbirds. ...Texas scientists have been tracking hummingbirds for 16 years, but they **need your help**. Why not help science while enjoying a favorite pass time?*



The Texas Hummingbird Roundup offers three ways to participate:

1) The traditional way was to order a Hummingbird Roundup kit by mailing \$6.00 to the below address.

For this donation, you receive a kit that includes the survey forms, information on maintaining hummingbird feeders, a quick reference guide to hummingbirds, and a packet of "Lady in Red Sage" or "Tropical Sage" (*Salvia coccinea*), one of the hummingbirds favorite plants in Texas.

Keep track of your survey kit because when you send it back in January, if there are at least 5 data points on it (not hard at all in Texas), we will send you a pin of one of our Texas hummingbirds.

- 2) Some people want the kit in their hand right now, so they can download the forms from the web at [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife\\_diversity/texas\\_nature\\_trackers/hummingbird\\_roundup/survey/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/hummingbird_roundup/survey/). By going this route you do not get the salvia seed or the quick reference guide to hummingbirds, but you do still hold on to the forms for a year and send them back in January.
- 3) If you do not want to try to keep track of a piece of paper for a year, you can send an email to [mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us) and ask for the electronic data submission forms for the hummingbird roundup. These forms are sent as fillable PDFs, one that has to be filled out once a year and sent back, the other that is filled out weekly and sent in.

So, there is a way for everyone to participate in the Texas Hummingbird Roundup.

For more information, contact:

[mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us)

Texas Hummingbird Roundup

4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744



# Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities (Continued):

## Prescribed Burn

8/19/12 Email From: Larry Gfeller <[larrydggfeller@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydggfeller@yahoo.com)>


One of our TMN members, Roxanne Hernandez, is in line to do a prescribed burn on her property. The exact date is, of course, not known for certain but is expected to be sometime in October. She and her husband, Elvis, have been preparing their property for much of the summer cutting fire breaks, stacking fuels and diking demarcation lines around their property (I think they have 60 acres). **Part of preparing for this event is to line up "helpers" to do specific little tasks on the day of the burn.** The Austin American Statesman is supposed to cover the event as well.

The bottom line is this: If anyone is interested in being a "helper" or an "observer," please let me know and I will contact you once we have a date. The burn is being supervised by the burn association that covers the central Texas region (as part of a larger state-wide burn association), and these guys specialize in doing prescribed burns on private property (something that is not easy to get accomplished).

Cheers,

*Larry*

## Email Updates from Larry:

- 8/20/12: Traditionally we get **about 5 days "warning"**, and then, if the actual day measures up to expectations, we get a day or two advance "confirmation" of the burn date. . . not much response time.
- 9/6/12: Here's a little update on the current state of planning for this burn, which is being done by the [South Central Texas Prescribed Burn Association](#):
  - 1) Target window for the burn is between **November 15th through January 15th**. The timing is such that we will get about **5-days "heads up"** when the SCTPB likes the weather forecast. Then, if everything stays on track, we'll get only **24 hours notice** for the actual burn event.
  - 2) Property to be burned belongs to Elvis and Roxanne Hernandez, near McDade (644 Herron Trail, McDade).
  - 3) Burn plan details are still being worked out, both for SCTPB (technicals, notifications, approvals, etc.) and the Hernandez's (property insurance, land preparation, etc.), but the expectation is that those of us who hope to assist should come with: sturdy shoes, water, gloves, hat, bandana/towel, ATV's with sprayers (if anyone is so equipped). Other useful items: chain saws, leaf blowers, two-cycle fuel, binoculars, GPS, blade, dozer, tractor & plow.
  - 4) Some of the roles that are needed are: weather monitors, spotters, and flappers (fire putter-outer, not 1920's dancers!).
  - 5) Burn boss will be James Robinson, so that means WHAT HE SAYS GOES. So far, what he says is, *"In general, our position is that we welcome anyone who is an adult or even minors accompanied and directly supervised by an adult. The Master Naturalists are especially good to have there since they understand the importance of fire in the ecosystem. Their direct participation makes them better at explaining it to others who may be unaware of the process. They can help even if just providing an extra pair of eyes to watch for an escaped ember. They just need to be sensitive to safety issues and bring whatever tools they might have. However, this is not a social event. Everyone will need to pay attention and take his or her job appropriately seriously."*
  - 6) There is also some good information at <https://sites.google.com/site/sctpb2011/members/welcome-letter>.
  - 7) I have attached a copy (PDF) of the general burn plan (email [Larry](#) if you want this PDF). I will try to update everyone about once per month.



## Volunteer Reminders & Opportunities (Continued):

### **LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park**

([http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed\\_parks/mckinney\\_roughs.html](http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/mckinney_roughs.html))



Need more information? Call (512) 303-5073 or send an email to [outdoorprograms@lcra.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@lcra.org).

#### ■ **Clean the Colorado**

Sunday, **November 4<sup>th</sup>**

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., FREE, Adults

Various locations on the river below Austin

*Enjoy the beautiful Austin-Bastrop River corridor while helping to keep this pristine section of the Texas Colorado clean and healthy. Bring your own boat and gear or use the boats and safety equipment provided by LCRA. Come along for a free ride and do a good deed at the same time. You will need to bring your own lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. Long pants and shirts are recommended.*

***Preregistration is required.***





## Featured Website



(<http://www.lostpinesmasternaturalist.org/>)

*Yes, Why not feature our Lost Pines Chapter – Texas Master Naturalist website?  
(A review or reminder for some of you, and a natural resources reference website for others)*

Master Naturalist volunteers help manage our local natural resources. The Lost Pines Chapter (LPC) serves primarily Bastrop and Caldwell Counties of Central Texas. These counties are predominantly in the Post Oak Savannah and Blackland Prairie Ecoregions. In addition, our area includes the unique "island forest" of the Lost Pines, the western most extension of the loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), separated by about 100 miles from the pine forests of East Texas.

Indexed quick [links](#) to the following:

### ➤ [Home](#)

- Notice of Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist Meetings
- Notice of Advanced Training
- Lost Pines Chapter Officers for 2012
- Links to reporting LPC Volunteer Activity Report form
- Bastrop and Caldwell County Plant Lists

**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.

### ➤ [Our Chapter](#)

- Program Overview
- Lost Pines Chapter Volunteer Training
- Chapter Meetings
- Chapter Documents:
  - [Chapter By-laws](#)
  - [Chapter Handbook](#)
  - Links to Reporting & Approval Forms
  - [Activity Reporting FAQ](#)
  - [Generally approved Advanced Training](#)
  - [Links to Texas Master Naturalist Guidelines](#)
- Our Officers
- Committees

- How to Contact Us:  
Contact one of our listed Officers  
[or](#) send an email to [naturaltx@mac.com](mailto:naturaltx@mac.com)
- Lost Pines Master Naturalist Yahoo Group:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LPMN/>  
To join this discussion group, send an email to  
[LPMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LPMN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
- Statewide Texas Master Naturalist Program:  
<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/>
- Join the TMN Mailing List: [Join here](#)
- Our Sponsors

### ➤ [Newsletters](#)

The newsletters are PDF files, which require the Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 plug-in for your Web browser. The current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader (free) can be [obtained here](#).



### ➤ [Archives](#)

Lost Pines Master Naturalist Archives and Older Articles



## Featured Website (Continued)

### ➤ [Volunteer](#)

- Reporting Forms
- Guidelines
  - [Volunteer Service Guidelines](#)
  - [Volunteer & Advanced Training FAQ](#)
- (Pre-Approved Volunteer) Opportunities

### ➤ [Training](#)

- Basic & Advanced Training Opportunities
- Reporting Forms
- [Download](#) a list of "Generally Approved" Advanced Training and Sponsors
- [Advanced Training Approval](#) form

### ➤ [Resources](#)

Categorized [links](#) to Natural History Resources for the Lost Pines and Adjacent Areas:

- General
- Birds
- Butterflies, Dragonflies,  
Other Insects and Arachnids



- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Mammals
- Wildflowers
- Grasses
- Trees & Shrubs
- Fungi and lichen
- Soils and Ecoregions



### ➤ [Natural Areas](#)

The Lost Pines area of Central Texas has numerous great locations to observe and enjoy nature. [Links](#) to a few of the best! The Lost Pines Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program makes use of several of these natural areas for our Volunteer Training Classes and our volunteer activities.

- [Bastrop State Park](#)
- [Buescher State Park](#)
- [Colorado River Refuge](#)
- [Lockhart State Park](#)
- [McKinney Roughs](#)
- [M.O. Neasloney Wildlife Management Area](#)
- [Palmetto State Park](#)

### ➤ [Bastrop State Park Hikes](#)

Discover the Lost Pines Interpretive Walks at Bastrop State Park, 10 AM Saturdays during the Spring (March - June) and Fall (October - December)

*Discover regrowth in Bastrop State Park. Learn which plants are growing, just months after the Bastrop Complex wildfire. **The park is a different place, but full of nature, as always!***

- [Official Bastrop State Park facilities map](#)
- [New Official Bastrop State Park Lost Pines Hiking Trail map](#)  
(shows color-coded trails; points of interest)



### ➤ [Plants](#) of Bastrop and Caldwell Counties

- Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines
- Annuals and Perennials
- Monocots
- Grasses of Bastrop County

### ➤ Click to subscribe to the [LPMN Yahoo Group!](#)

### ➤ [Visit our Lost Pines Group Calendar](#)

(Yahoo Group membership required)





# **Texas Master Naturalist**

## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Advanced Training**

**October 26-28, 2012**      **Camp Allen**      **Navasota Texas**

*If you haven't registered ...better do so soon*

*Link from our webpage or below*

**Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> Midnight**

Go to the [Website](#) to Register and get Additional Detail:

Program, Registration and Scholarship questions:

Contact Michelle Haggerty

Phone: 830-896-2504

Email: [mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu)



➤ [Summary](#)      [Lodging](#)      [Agenda](#)      [Advanced Training](#)

### **Welcome Texas Master Naturalists!**

We are pleased to extend an invitation to ALL Master Naturalist program participants to attend our 13th Annual Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training. All Master Naturalist affiliates are invited to attend. This includes those certified, in training, administrators and advisors of local chapters, and your local chapter partners, sponsors, or special guests.

The 2012 Annual Meeting and Advanced Training will offer new opportunities and incorporates many of your suggestions and ideas provided during our previous events. This year's gathering has several chapter enhancement and Advanced Training topics to choose from. Our social and chapter project fair showcase and roundtable discussions will offer great opportunities to meet your fellow Master Naturalist peers from our 44 chapters across the state and share new ideas from the past year. Hear what projects your peers are contributing their volunteer time towards and make new acquaintances all at the same time. The Master Naturalist store and other surprises are also on the agenda. So, come out for a week-end filled with fun, fellowship, and learning in a beautiful setting.

### **New and Continuing Favorite Features of our Meeting**

- **Returning this year--"Super-Saver Bunkhouse Lodging Special"**
- **Scholarships**
- **The Master Naturalist Store**
- **Returning this year... Presidents Breakfast**
- **Project Fair & Guidelines this year**  
Find Project Fair guidelines and information on the TMN website at <http://txmn.org>.
- **Photo & Art Contest \*\*NEW\*\* RULES THIS YEAR**
- **Returning this Year—A Fund Raiser Silent Auction**  
Contact George McBride, at [imaccordion@aol.com](mailto:imaccordion@aol.com) to list your donation for the silent auction.
- **Chapter Scrapbook, Newsletter and NEW Brochure Contest**

### **What to Bring**

#### **Annual Meeting Volunteer Service Project**

#### **Volunteers Needed at the Annual Meeting**

Numerous opportunities to help at the Annual Meeting are available. If interested in any of the following opportunities please sign up for a spot when registering on-line.



# Trainings / Workshops / Conferences / Webinars / Etc.

\* Denotes Advanced Training Approved

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

\* **Austin Butterfly Forum, Inc.** (<http://austinbutterflies.org/>):

Meet at the [Zilker Botanical Garden Center](#) at **7:00 pm** on the **4th Monday of every month** except for December. Meetings are free and open to the public. *(The building will be open even if there is a "Closed" sign on the door. Please come on in.)*



For details on events and upcoming meetings and field trips, see:

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

- **Monday, Sept 24:** Topic to be announced. Speaker: Nichole Bennett, PhD Candidate, Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Texas at Austin.
- **Monday, Oct 22:** Landscaping for Butterflies: How to Turn Your Yard into a Butterfly Sanctuary, Jeff Keverline.
- **Monday, Nov 26:** Show and Tell meeting.

\* **Austin Water Utilities (AWU) – Center for Environmental Research (CER)**  
**Lunchtime Lectures Twice Each Month!**

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

*First Tuesday of the Month* at Austin Water Headquarters Downtown

*(Waller Center Room 104, 625 East 10<sup>th</sup> 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]:

- **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 AgriLife Extension Service**



- **Natural Resource Webinars:**  
(<http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/>)
  - **October 4**, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST: [Working with Aerial Applicators](#)  
*0.5 Ag. Pesticide CEU (Gen.) 0.5 Drift Min • Dr. Charles R. Hart*

- \* **Texas Watershed Steward – Plum Creek Watershed:**



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

**September 11, 2012**; 8:00 am - 4 pm

First Lockhart Baptist Church, 315 West Prairie Lea Lockhart, TX 78644

The Texas Watershed Steward program is a free, one-day educational workshop designed to help watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by getting involved in local watershed protection and management activities.

The workshop will provide an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. It will primarily focus on water quality issues in the Plum Creek watershed as well as efforts by the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, Guadalupe- Blanco River Authority, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and area residents to help improve water resources and the health of the surrounding watersheds.

**Pre-register** for the workshop by going to: <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/workshops/online-registration>  
or call 979.862.8070

### **For more News and Notes visit the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership website:**

(<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!”*

- [August 2012 Partnership Meeting Powerpoint Presentation](#)
- [TCEQ and CAPCOG approve grant to fund four FY12-13 Community Collection Events for Caldwell County!](#)
- [Caldwell County approves feral hog bounty program for Fall 2012!](#)
- [Quarterly Progress Reports now available in our Library](#)
- [View the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan Update](#)
- [Join us at upcoming events in the watershed!](#)



## Trainings / ... continued:

### Texas Parks & Wildlife

#### \* **Flying Wild Educator Workshop**

Lockhart State Park

Saturday, **September 29**

9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Fee \$20 (includes Educators Manual)



#### **CELEBRATE BIRDS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

*Take away a wealth of activities that teach your students about birds, bird migration, and what people can do to help birds and their habitats ...*



- Get kids outside—learning by exploring nature
- Enhance classroom lessons in science, math, language arts, and more
- Set up service learning projects
- Bring the school and the community together with a common focus

#### **Educators Earn 6 CPE Hours**

Pre-paid Reservation Required

Contact Cibolo Nature Center:

**830-249-4616 (ask for Cindy)**



For more information contact Patsy Inglet: 210-698-8445 or [tpinglet@satx.rr.com](mailto:tpinglet@satx.rr.com)  
or Liz Palfini at the Park: (512) 398-3479

Flying WILD is presented in conjunction with the

Council for Environmental Education and the Cibolo Nature Center,

Flying WILD City Partner for San Antonio



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



#### ▪ **15th Annual Capital Area**

#### **Texas Interagency Wildfire & Interagency Management Academy**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, Camp Swift**

Email from Larry Gfeller ([larrydgfeller@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydgfeller@yahoo.com)):

*The 15th Annual Capital Area Interagency Wildfire & Interagency Management Academy is being held at Camp Swift from Oct 12th-25th. **Course number S-130/S-190 is a prerequisite for every other course.** It's not inexpensive (\$275 for the five day course), but its a great learning and training opportunity (which, with proper prior approval, I'm sure would qualify for Master Naturalist advanced training) for folks interested in learning more about fire behavior. The academy is focused on wildfires, but the theory and methods of wildland fire behavior informs the what, when and how of prescribed burning. If you are interested in signing up for this or other courses, you can register at <https://tiwa.tamu.edu/RegSysStudent/Home/Home.aspx>.*

**Early registration ends 9/26/2012 12:00 AM**

**Registration closes 10/25/2012 at 12:00 AM**



## *Trainings / ... continued:*

### **Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWA):**

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



#### **\* Wildlife for Lunch Online Webinar Series:**

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

To sign on, simply point your browser to <https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> on the day of the webinar and click to join the **Wildlife for Lunch** webinar. Each web based seminar is fully interactive and allows you to engage the experts, make comments, and ask questions during the course of the presentation. If you cannot make the live webinar, each webinar is archived and available for viewing following the initial air date at

<http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/webcasts/category/webinars/>.

(Webinars thru December Hosted By: TWA and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.)

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

### **From: Michelle Haggerty:**

**Texas Master Naturalist – State Coordinator**

Phone: 830-896-2504

Email: [mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu)



#### **▪ Feral Hog Community of Practice Webinar Series:**

For Questions Please Contact:

Jared Timmons @ [jbtimmons@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jbtimmons@ag.tamu.edu) or 254-458-4886



Attending the webinar is as easy as going to <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/feralhog>  
All webinars will be held from **12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.** Central Standard Time

- **September 18, 2012** *The History and Biology of Feral Hogs in the United States*  
John J. Mayer, Ph.D. - Manager, Environmental Sciences, Savannah River National Laboratory, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LLC
- **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.*



## *Trainings / ... continued:*

### **From: Michelle Haggerty (Cont'd):**

#### ■ **Bracken Bat Cave -- BatsLIVE: September 18**

Greetings Bat Friends,

Join us for a live adventure on **September 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time** from **Bracken Bat Cave**, which is the summer home of the world's largest bat colony. The emergence of these millions of bats, as they spiral out of the cave at dusk for their nightly insect hunt, is an unforgettable sight.

Watching and participating in the program is easy! Just click on the webcast link that will be on the homepage: <http://BatsLIVE.pwnet.org>. Send us your questions during the program at [pwninfo@aol.com](mailto:pwninfo@aol.com). If you can't watch the program live, it will be archived on the web site approximately a week later (on September 25) and available as streaming video.

With millions of Mexican free-tailed bats living in the cave from March through October, Bracken holds one of the largest concentrations of mammals on earth. The emergence of these millions of bats, as they spiral out of the cave at dusk for their nightly insect hunt, is an unforgettable sight.

Learn about the special features of bats, such as echolocation, the importance of bats for pest control, why we need to help bats, threats to bats including White-nose Syndrome and loss of habitat, and what you can do to help these special creatures. Bats are vital to healthy ecosystems and human economies worldwide. As primary predators of night-flying insects, bats consume enormous quantities of agricultural pests and reduce the need for chemical pesticides. Yet these wonderfully diverse and beneficial creatures are among the least studied and most misunderstood of animals.

➤ The program will be webcast from:

- ❖ 7 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time
- ❖ 6 – 7:30 p.m. Central Time
- ❖ 5 – 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time
- ❖ 4 – 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time
- ❖ 3 – 4:30 p.m. Alaska Time



Also as part of [BatsLIVE](http://BatsLIVE.pwnet.org), a webinar about cave and karst topography will be held on **October 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time** in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation. The webinar is for teachers, non-formal educators, and others. For more information, go to <http://batslive.pwnet.org/resource/webinars.php>.

Questions? Contact Kristy Liercke at [lierckkx@pwcs.edu](mailto:lierckkx@pwcs.edu) or by calling (800) 609-2680. [BatsLIVE](http://BatsLIVE.pwnet.org) is brought to you by the USDA Forest Service, Bat Conservation International, Prince William Network, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and many other sponsors and partners.

#### ■ **WETLANDSLive -- Wading into Wetlands October 10, 2012**

What exactly is a wetland? How does it function to benefit wildlife and people? We'll visit some special wetlands on the east and west coast to learn about wetland ecology, watersheds, their importance to migrating fish and birds, and much more.



## *Trainings / ... continued:*

**From: Michelle Haggerty (Cont'd):**

### **Texas Master Volunteer Entomology Specialists**



**\* Master Gardening Entomology Specialists' Volunteer Training**

**September 24 - 28, 2012**

College Station

Ecology and Natural Resources Teaching Area (Range Area)

(<https://essm.tamu.edu/facilities/ecology-and-natural-resources-teaching-area/>)

**Register online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>**

Registration for this event is being handled by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Conference Services. Although we will not close the registration, **please try to register by Friday September 14th** so we can order your materials on time.

Keyword Search: Entomology

**Register by phone: 979-845-2604**

For more information about the conference, please contact Brayla Leighton ([bleighton@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:bleighton@ag.tamu.edu) or 979-845-6800). For questions about registration or payment, please contact Extension Conference Services ([agriliferegister@tamu.edu](mailto:agriliferegister@tamu.edu) or 979-845-2604).

The course will take place in College Station starting after noon (1:00 PM) on Monday September 24 and finish by noon on Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Registration details and agenda are forthcoming and will be posted at our website at: <http://agrilife.org/insectspecialist/>.

Thank you in advance!

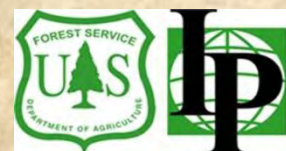
Carlos E. Bográn, PhD  
Associate Professor & Extension Specialist  
Entomology; Plant Pathology & Microbiology  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
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3100 State Hwy. 47, Bld. 4431, Rm. 137  
Bryan, TX 77807  
Office: 979-458-3036  
Fax: 979-845-6501  
Email: [c-bogran@tamu.edu](mailto:c-bogran@tamu.edu)



- **Migratory Dragonfly Short Course -- Austin, TX Sept 29th**  
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
[Lake Austin Centre - Brackenridge Field Lab](#)  
3001 Lake Austin Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78703



Dragonfly migration occurs on every continent except Antarctica. In North America, huge numbers of dragonflies can be seen flying south in fall along both coasts and through the Midwest, but these migrations are still poorly understood. The [Migratory Dragonfly Partnership](#) (MDP), [Xerces Society](#), and [U.S. Forest Service International Programs](#) are pleased to announce an upcoming Migratory Dragonfly Short Course in Texas. This full day training will provide an overview of dragonfly life history, ecology, and migratory behavior, and train participants to identify key migratory species and contribute data to ongoing MDP citizen science research projects.



### SHORT COURSE DETAILS

#### Intended audience:

This course is intended for anyone interested in dragonflies and in contributing to our growing knowledge about dragonfly migration in North America. Whether you are a novice or a pro when it comes to dragonflies, please join us for this fun and informative event **to become a volunteer monitor** and help us explore the amazing but understudied phenomenon of dragonfly migration!

#### Agenda:

This course will cover the topics of dragonfly life history, ecology, migratory behavior, and citizen science monitoring and will include both a morning classroom and afternoon field component. [Click here](#) for a detailed agenda and more information about this course.

#### Cost: Free

Morning snacks will be provided. Lunch is not included; please plan on bringing a sack lunch.

#### Registration:

Registration is **required** for this course. [Click here](#) to register online. Hurry; space is limited!

**Contact:** Alexa Carleton, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, [alexa@xerces.org](mailto:alexa@xerces.org).

#### LEAD INSTRUCTOR:

**John Abbott**, University of Texas at Austin, Vice-chair, MDP

#### ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS:

**Celeste Mazzacano**  
Aquatic Program Director,  
Xerces Society  
Project Coordinator, MDP



For information about the MDP, visit [www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org/](http://www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org/) or contact [dragonfly@xerces.org](mailto:dragonfly@xerces.org).



## *Trainings / ... continued:*

### **From: Michelle Haggerty (Cont'd):**

- **LONE STAR WATER FORUM PRESENTS  
—THE SCIENCE AND POLITICS OF WATER  
October 13**

The Lone Star Water Forum, a group of volunteers that has been bringing outstanding speakers and exhibitors to the Washington County area since 2009, will present “The Science and Politics of Water” on **Saturday, October 13, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**. The event will be at the **Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 East Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, TX**. The Lone Star Water Forum encourages community understanding and involvement in finding solutions for the problems created by diminishing fresh water supplies as the state’s population increases.

The Texas State Climatologist, John Nielsen-Gammon, PhD.; Brazos River Authority’s Brad Brunett and Texas Water Development Board’s Larry French will present the “Science” part of the program. The “Politics” of the event will include Texas State Senator Craig Estes, Co-Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee; Burleson County Judge Mike Sutherland who will add the counties’ perspective; and Save Our Springs, Executive Director Bill Bunch, will speak for citizens and wildlife.

The Forum has joint sponsorship and support of AgriLife Extension, Texas Parks and Wildlife, City of Brenham, Gideon Lincecum Master Naturalists, Bluebonnet Master Gardeners, Capital Farm Credit, Discount Trees of Brenham, Frontier Land and Wildlife Management, Sutherlands, Lube-Rite, Bank of Brenham, LCRA, and the Big Read of Washington County among others.

The cost of the conference is **\$25.00 for registrations before October 1**, and **\$35.00 after and at the door**. The price includes lunch. Net proceeds will be donated to the B.I.S.D. Outdoor Classroom Project. **Registration** is by mail to Lone Star Water Forum, c/o WCWS, 1305 East Blue Bell Rd., Suite 104, Brenham, TX 77833 or online at [wcwildlife.org](http://wcwildlife.org). **For information call 979-277-6212.**



- **State of the Prairie Conference  
December 6-9, 2012  
Kingsville, Texas**



### **Registration for the State of the Prairie Conference is now open.**

Welcome to this year's State of the Prairie Conference! We have a wonderful set of presentations and field experiences planned and we want you to be part of this year's activities.

Please go to <http://prairiepartner.org/page/2012-conference> to learn more about the conference, sponsorships and poster session.

For more information please contact Cheryl Sedivec at [cheryl\\_sedivec@comcast.net](mailto:cheryl_sedivec@comcast.net)

Thank you for your support,

Cheryl Sedivec



*Trainings / ... continued:*



\*

**3rd Annual  
Central Texas Water Forum  
Tuesday, September 18, 2012**

**6:00 p.m. at Performing Arts Center**

**1401 Cedar St., Bastrop**

**5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Networking and Hor d'oeuvre**

***Keynote Speaker***

**Todd Staples**

**Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture**

**Please RSVP**

**to Linda at [lnietsche@aquawsc.com](mailto:lnietsche@aquawsc.com) or call 512-581-0705**

- Presentations to clarify understanding of the water issue confronting Central Texas
- Q&A Session

*News from Aqua Water Supply (8/29/12):*

**A Message From the General Manager  
AQUA WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION**

**William Loven**

- ❖ The purpose of the forum is to foster expert presentations on issues regarding water in Texas, and particularly, in central Texas including Bastrop County and the surrounding counties.
- ❖ This year our keynote speaker will be **Todd Staples**: ...has a keen interest in Texas water and its role in agriculture coupled with our state financial well-being. With the Colorado River running right through the heart of Bastrop County, our members are keenly aware of the up-river and down-river competing interests along with the tensions brought on by the continuing drought. Come and hear Commissioner Staples share his insights and experience related to agriculture and the future of water in Texas.
- ❖ Our second featured speaker will be **George Bomar**, State Meteorologist, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Mr. Bomar's career has focused on the development and use of weather-modification (cloud-seeding) technologies to help Texas meet the growing demand for fresh water. As a native Texan from McKinney, he obtained both under-graduate and graduate degrees in Meteorology from Texas A&M University. His graduate thesis focused on the "Effects of Cloud Seeding Activities on the Distribution of Rainfall in the Texas High Plains." He was instrumental in helping the Texas Legislature establish a statewide rain-enhancement program. Today, Texas' rain-enhancement program is the largest in the nation and one of the most active in the world.
- ❖ Our third featured speaker will be **Joe Cooper**, General Manager, of the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District. As many of our members already know, Lost Pines has been in the crosshairs of several water marketers who want to export Bastrop & Lee County water to the San Marcos area. More recently, the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) that Lost Pines submitted to the Texas Water Development Board were contested by two separate parties, one that contended Lost Pines was permitting too much water and another that argued just the opposite! Come and hear Mr. Cooper give the latest update on the situation at the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.
- ❖ There is **no charge to attend**, but please RSVP to Linda Nietsche (above) so that we may plan accordingly.

**Click below to Join Aqua Water Supply Mailing List**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



## *Trainings / ... continued:*

### **\* Houston Toad – FREE Educator Workshop:**

**September 29, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park**

(1884 Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek, TX 78612)

Optional Field Program at Bastrop State Park  
from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.



Male and female Houston toads

*Dear Teachers and Environmental Educators,*

*Have you ever heard of the Houston toad? With less than 100 individuals remaining in the wild, it is actually one of the most endangered animals in North America. This is not your garden-variety toad. Adapted for a tough environment, unique to the Lone Star State, and willing to fight for survival, they are TOAD-ally Texan!*

*We need to spread the word about this amazing amphibian, and therefore several organizations are teaming up, including the Houston Zoo, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, LCRA, and Amphibian Ark to offer **the first ever Houston Toad Teacher Workshop on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012** at McKinney Roughs Nature Park in Cedar Creek, Texas. This workshop and education program is designed so you can get all of the facts, resources and activities you need to teach about amphibians, and the Houston toad in the classroom, or with the public.*

#### **Perks of this FREE workshop include:**

- ❖ Receiving up to 4 state continuing education teacher credits from the Houston Zoo.
- ❖ A free flash drive which will include an educator's guide, video clips, frog & toad calls, & tons of activities & resources, & info about a FREE Trunk Loan program.
- ❖ A chance to win some toad-ally awesome raffle prizes from the Houston Zoo.
- ❖ An interpreter-led field trip to a Bastrop State Park toad pond.
- ❖ Meet a live ambassador Houston toad.
- ❖ Take part in activity stations led by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department interpretive staff & amphibian biologists from the Houston Zoo & Amphibian Ark.

***Reserve your spot soon, space is limited!*** To register, email [rachel@amphibianark.org](mailto:rachel@amphibianark.org). When you register please provide your full name, email address, school or organization, and county you teach in.

**NOTE:** Registration will ONLY be open to formal teachers and environmental educators from the following counties: **Bastrop, Austin, Colorado, Lee, Milam, Burleson, Robertson, & Leon counties** through August 25<sup>th</sup>. Starting August 25<sup>th</sup>, registration will open to home school teachers and those outside of the current range of the Houston toad.

*We look forward to seeing you on September 29th! Best,*



***Rachel E. Rommel***  
***Community Education Officer***  
[rachel@amphibianark.org](mailto:rachel@amphibianark.org)



## *Trainings / ... continued:*

### ▪ **Soil Health Workshops:**

*Clips from Forwarded Email Attachment:*

**September 5, 2012**



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Farming for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Learn How To Farm in Nature's Image to reduce Costly Inputs**

### **The Soil Health Workshops will be held:**

Tuesday, **September 18** in **Seguin** at the Big Red Barn

Wednesday, **September 19** at Blacklands Research Center in **Temple**

Friday, **September 21** at the Taylor County Expo Center in **Abilene**

Tuesday, **September 25** at the Chillicothe Research Station in **Chillicothe**

Wednesday, **September 26** at North Central Texas College in **Gainesville**

...“By learning how to farm in nature’s image we can improve soil health function,” says Conservation Agronomists Ray Archuleta and Willie Durham of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). “When we understand the different components that contribute to soil health, we can increase infiltration rate and add organic matter, all of which can affect your bottom line.”

The pair invites land managers and conservationists across the state to attend **one of five** Soil Health Workshops they will be holding across Texas **starting September 18**.

Both men have worked with top producers and scientists in the country. They will teach principles of Agroecology, basic soil function, ecosystem processes and adaptive nutrient management plus adaptive grazing principles. The theme of the Soil Health Workshops is to facilitate a holistic understanding on how the soil functions to Texas agricultural producers.

“Healthy soils are productive soils,” says Durham. “We want to introduce people to soil health management systems that concentrate on improving the soil’s ability to function which ultimately leads to sustainability and increases in their bottom line. Through demonstrations and hands-on activities in the field, the workshops will showcase how an effective soil health management system can improve overall land production, among other benefits. Attendees will learn how these management principles can be applied through minimum soil disturbance, diverse crop rotations, planting diverse cover crops and armoring the soil with crop residue. Producers will learn, if they will dig a little, they will learn a lot from the soil.”

The Soil Health Workshops will be held ... *(see above)*.

This is a unique opportunity to learn about scientific advances that can affect the future of land management operations.

**For questions or more information visit  
the [Texas NRCS](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov) website at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov)  
or call Willie Durham at 254.231.1258 or email him at [willie.durham@tx.usda.gov](mailto:willie.durham@tx.usda.gov).**

## *Trainings / ... continued:*

### \* **32nd Annual Native Plant Society Of Texas (NPSOT) Fall Symposium** ***“The Texas Hill Country – a Changing Landscape”***



**Thursday, October 4 – Sunday, October 7, 2012**

YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center in Kerrville Texas

Symposium 2012 explores the history of the Edwards Plateau eco-region, highlights the factors that have influenced its transformation, and debates the issues that we face today in conserving our native plants and habitats. Our speakers will share their research and best practices on how we might positively influence the future evolution of the landscape, improve stewardship of our natural resources, and preserve unspoiled natural habitats in the Edwards Plateau. Field trips to diverse locales will showcase beautiful examples of endemic habitats and efforts to restore or preserve endangered areas. *Do not miss this opportunity to enhance your awareness and knowledge of our Texas Hill Country – A Changing Landscape!*

Symposium 2012 is open to anyone interested in the role that native habitats play in our daily lives and offers a tremendous opportunity to learn how to restore and preserve our state's rich and diverse native plant communities.

*In an effort to attract more students & educators, we will offer scholarships to qualified applicants:*  
Scholarship Rates <http://npsot.org/wp/symposium2012/scholarship-rates/>.

- [Registration](#)
  - [Accommodations](#)
  - [Speakers](#)
  - [Schedule](#)
  - Thursday, October 4, [Field Trips](#)
  - Saturday [Break-out Session Schedule](#)
  - [Silent Auction](#)
  - [Photo Contest](#)
  - [Plant Arrangement Contest](#)
  - [Exhibitors, Vendors and Sponsors:](#)
- Deadline for applications is  
September 15, 2012**

Contact for more information:

Email: [symposium@npsot.org](mailto:symposium@npsot.org), Phone: (830) 997-9272

Mail: NPSOT, P.O. Box 3017, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

### **LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park:**

[http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed\\_parks/mckinney\\_roughs.html](http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/mckinney_roughs.html)

1884 Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek, TX 78612

E-mail: [outdoorprograms@lcra.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@lcra.org)

Phone: (512) 303-5073 or (800) 776-LCRA Ext. 8021



### ■ **Bird Identification Workshops**

Sat., Nov. 17 and Dec. 1

Brush up on birding skills and learn new tricks for identifying birds common to Bastrop County. This workshop will help birders, both novice and experienced, by presenting the results of the Bastrop area bird count from the last ten years. 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. Get ready to share your birding experiences and focus in on those hard to identify birds that are most likely to be found in Bastrop County. ***Pre-registration required.***



## Websites – Local Area Nature Activities (And possible opportunities for some Volunteer Hours)



- **Central Texas Gardener (CTG):** (<http://www.klru.org/ctg/>)  
Informative thirty minute weekly TV shows on gardening in our central Texas area (KLRU 18, Austin), website for viewing missed episodes and resource referencing.



- **Visit the Colorado River Trail is on Facebook**



- **Invasivore.org:** (<http://invasivore.org/>)  
A site dedicated to fighting invasive species by eating them.



- **LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park:**  
[http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed\\_parks/mckinney\\_roughs.html](http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/mckinney_roughs.html)  
E-mail: [outdoorprograms@lcra.org](mailto: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.  
Use the [community program calendar](#) to plan your next weekend adventure



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



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



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



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



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



- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:** <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>
  - [Find a State Park](#) near you
  - **Outdoor Activity of the Month:** October - [Geocaching](#): *What is geocaching? It's a fun way to find hidden "caches" (prize-filled containers) placed by people all over the world using Global Positioning System (GPS) Devices based on satellites. The GPS Device shows you the latitude and longitude of where the cache is hidden. There are hundreds of caches in Texas State Parks waiting for your discovery! Visit [www.texasstateparks.org/geocache](http://www.texasstateparks.org/geocache) for more information and to find coordinates. Practice now to prepare for the statewide Texas State Parks Geocache Challenge, starting October 1, 2012!*

### RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



From TWD: *Dear Educators,*

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

## Websites ... (continued):



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



- **Austin Butterfly Forum, Inc.:** <http://austinbutterflies.org/>

**Austin, Texas** is home to about 170 species of butterflies. It is also the home of the Austin Butterfly Forum, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to butterfly conservation and to enriching people's lives through butterflies.

The Austin Butterfly Forum is a butterfly club that holds field trips, conducts butterfly counts, promotes butterfly gardening, performs conservation activities, and meets monthly for an educational presentation. We are a community of butterfly enthusiasts who also enjoy dragonflies and other bugs.

  - The Austin Butterfly Forum meets at the [Zilker Botanical Garden Center](#) at **7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of every month** except for December. Meetings are free and open to the public. (The building will be open even if there is a "Closed" sign on the door. Please come on in.)
  - Each meeting features an educational program, but we like to socialize a bit beforehand. Sometimes members will bring caterpillars or collections for display, and sometimes we have special opportunities such as plant giveaways. The meetings are also a good place to hear special announcements and learn about new events.
  - Link to a [calendar](#) of Austin Butterfly Forum events and other events that may be of interest to members. For a more complete listing of events outside Austin, visit Mike Quinn's page of [Texas entomological events](#).
- **Bastrop County Audubon Society:** <http://www.bastropcountyaudubon.org/news.htm>



## Upcoming Area Events

### **LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park:**

1884 Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek, TX 78612

Need more information?

Call (512) 303-5073 or (800) 776-LCRA Ext. 8021

or send an email to [outdoorprograms@lcra.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@lcra.org).



[Learn more](#) about below Community Programs.

#### **Monthly Programs**

##### ▪ **Walk on the Wild Side!**

**Second Saturday in Oct., Dec., Feb.**

**10 a.m.-noon**, \$4/adult, children 12 and under are free, adults and children ages 8 and up

Enjoy an interpretive hike as a park naturalist brings together a unique blend of human and natural history to tell the story of the Colorado River. Discover how the river influences animal, plant and human life along its banks. After your hike, visit McKinney Roughs' Visitor's Center gift shop with live native Texas animals and interactive exhibits. Bring a picnic lunch and make it a nature day! Hike is limited to the first 20 participants. Clubs or groups of more than five people should schedule a private hike. *Pre-registration is required*

##### ▪ **Stargazing at the Roughs**

**9-10:30 p.m.**, FREE, All ages

- **Sat., Oct. 20** (Astronomy Day/Orionids Meteor Shower),
- **Fri., Dec. 7** (Stories in the Stars),
- **Dec. 14** (Geminids Meteor Shower),
- **Feb. 8** (Stories in the Stars)

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! Behold the wonder of the cosmos through our Dobsonian telescopes and venture beyond the boundaries of our planet. Learn about the constellations and marvel at the beauty and mystery of the universe in this spectacular free program for the whole family. Bring lawn chairs, refreshments and blankets for comfort and enjoy this family event. *Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. No registration Required.*

#### **Recreation Programs**

##### ▪ **Kayak the Colorado**

**Sat., Sept. 15, and Nov. 3**

**9 a.m.-noon**, \$40 per person

Adults and children 14 and up in solo boats, ages 10-13 in tandem boat with adult

There's no better way to usher in your weekend than with a serene and refreshing morning on the water. Listen for the salute of waterfowl greeting the day, catch a glimpse of the waking wildlife along the river banks and bask in the breathtaking scenery. Relax and recharge as you kayak the Colorado. This trip is great for all skill levels. *Preregistration is required.*

##### ▪ **Light o' the Moon Float Trip**

**Sat., Sept. 29, and Oct. 27**

**7-11 p.m.**, \$50 per person, Ages 7 and up

Beat the heat and enjoy the river in a whole new way! Floating by the light of the moon, you'll be serenaded under the stars by the nocturnal creatures of the river corridor. Take in the beauty of the sun setting on the Colorado and the cool comfort of the night air as your raft is gently guided down a stretch of tranquil river. *Participants must be able to swim. Preregistration is required.*

## Upcoming Area Events (Continued)

### **LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park:**

[Learn more](#) about below Community Programs.



#### ■ **TOAD – Texas Outdoor Adventure Day**

Sat., Dec. 8

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.**, \$50 per person, Adults and children ages 7 up  
Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Like the first explorers of Texas, we will travel down the Colorado River, navigate through the woods and climb to great heights. Meet at McKinney Roughs for a day of excitement and adventure. The day begins at the challenge course where we will get vertical on the rock-climbing wall and zip line. Next, everyone becomes an explorer as we use Global Positioning System (GPS) units to navigate the McKinney Roughs hiking trails. We will top it off with a splash -- a raft trip down the Colorado River where getting wet is guaranteed. Bring a bag lunch. *Preregistration is required.*

#### Education Programs

#### ■ **Wonders of Wildlife – Homeschool Day**

Thurs., Oct .18

**9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**, \$20 per child, Ages 6-16

This exciting day will be filled with live animals, fishing, tracking, and insects collecting. Get up close and personal with a live alligator, snakes, turtles, toads, and salamanders to discover the adaptations that enable them to thrive in and around the Colorado River. Students will learn the secrets of identifying elusive animals through tracks and signs. Using animal bio-facts, students will match the animal with the sign it left behind, then go on a tracking hike to test their observation skills. Get some hands-on experience with a rod & reel while students practice casting for plastic fish. Unravel the mysteries of the nine fish senses and their peculiar behavior in an underwater world. Then it's time to catch and examine some amazing insects. Investigate the anatomy and behavioral characteristics of different insect orders.

This is a combination of our four most popular wildlife programs that involve students with hands-on science and live animals, with an outdoor learning experience. Children should bring a sack lunch, bottle of water, sunscreen and dress for the outdoors. This is a drop-off program but parents may stay and observe programs at the park if they choose. Please find an alternative activity for siblings younger than the minimum age. *Pre-registration is required.*

### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

#### **From TPWD News Digest:**



#### ■ [Texas State Parks Announce Fall Camping Workshops for Outdoor Families](#)

AUSTIN – [Texas Outdoor Family](#), a [Texas State Park](#) family camping program, announces [26 new workshops](#) at state parks across Texas to teach families the basics of camping and enjoying the great outdoors. The program offers low-cost weekends to help families “unplug” and reconnect with nature and one-another.

- **September 29, Bastrop State Park:** ...has reopened since the historic fires of Labor Day 2011. Join us at the park 1 year later to spend an overnight among nature as the park recovers. We will spend an overnight among the pines that survived the fire and get an up close and personal look at how the landscape has changed.
- For schedules at other parks: [Texas Outdoor Family Workshops](#).



## Chapter Business / Reminders:



### Chapter Treasurer Vacancy:

Rik Martinez, our Chapter Treasurer, is moving. A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to Rik for his dedicated volunteer service in this position. If you are interested in this future vacancy, please contact one of the Executive Officers:

President	<a href="#">Grace Pratt</a> ( <a href="mailto:graciela@moonandback.org">graciela@moonandback.org</a> ) or ( <a href="mailto:graciela@austin.utexas.edu">graciela@austin.utexas.edu</a> )	512-633-0164
Vice-President	<a href="#">Ronnie Lanier</a> ( <a href="mailto:nxplgr@wildblue.net">nxplgr@wildblue.net</a> )	512-581-8117
Secretary	<a href="#">Joan Estes</a> ( <a href="mailto:joan.estes@earthlink.net">joan.estes@earthlink.net</a> )	512-620-0322
Treasurer	<a href="#">Rik Martinez</a> ( <a href="mailto:martinez_rik@hotmail.com">martinez_rik@hotmail.com</a> )	979-236-0994
Past President	<a href="#">Louise Ridlon</a> ( <a href="mailto:flridlon@hotmail.com">flridlon@hotmail.com</a> )	512-985-5064

### Membership List / Email Distributions / Newsletter Contributions:

The Membership List and your provided contact information (email address, phone number, address) is kept by [Jan Walter](#). If you are not getting general chapter emails (minutes, training announcements, etc.) and wish to, please let Jan know to add you to the Chapter Email Distribution List: [jlwalter11056@att.net](mailto:jlwalter11056@att.net), phone 512-620-0032.

#### Monthly Newsletter Contributions:

*"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."*  
*Bonnie*

If you have mission-relevant information that **needs to be distributed before posting of the next monthly newsletter**: First get an "OK" from any of the above Executive Officers, and then route it with the approval to Jan for distribution.

To All,

*If you have questions about the Lost Pines Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program, would like to be added to our mailing list, or have comments about our website, please contact one of our officers, listed above, or send a request to [naturaltx@mac.com](mailto:naturaltx@mac.com). Members: may use this email address to update your address, phone number or e-mail contact information.*

## Chapter Business / Reminders (Continued):

### Chapter Newsletter:

✓ ***I need your vote!*** Which of the following month's [Chapter Newsletters](#) do you wish to submit in the Newsletter Completion at the Annual Meeting in October: **June, July, August, or September?** (If our October Newsletter is finished by October 15<sup>th</sup>, I'll add it to the vote as well -- With a vote between the winner of June - September or October.) Please email me with your choice **by September 30<sup>th</sup>**. 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, Bonnie

### Stay Connected! Join the TMN Mailing List:

This is a low volume, **state-wide** E-mail list that allows Master Naturalists throughout Texas to communicate with one another, and to receive news and updates from the State Coordinator's Office. [Join here](https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=tmn&A=1) (<https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=tmn&A=1>).



[LISTSERV](#)

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### Members: Take Credit For Your Volunteer Hours!

Please report your volunteer and advanced training hours **each month**, using the [Activity Report](#) form. This is how Scott Moore knows who is to get awards/recognition.

*Congratulations to the following recent awarded Chapter Members:*

#### **May/June:**

##### Initial Certification

Julia Akin  
Shorty Butler  
Rob Sutherland  
Andrey Ambrose  
Joan Estes

##### 2012 Certification

Anna Stalcup  
Larry Gfeller  
Judy Turner  
Rik Johnson

##### Milestone 250 Hrs

Ronnie Lanier  
Judy Turner  
Shorty Butler  
Grace Pratt

##### Milestone 500 Hrs

Liz Pullman

#### **July:**

##### Initial Certification

Bonnie Shimek

##### Milestones 250 Hrs

Larry Gfeller

### This Month's Chapter Meeting

**September 17, 6:30 PM**

Lockhart State Park

Speaker: *Wildlife Tracking* by Dave Scott





## *Chapter Business / Reminders (Continued):*

### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):**



- **Special Offer On Your Next Hotel Stay**

When you book your next hotel stay at this La Quinta Inns & Suites® [promotional link](http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/TXPWD-473efb) (<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/TXPWD-473efb>), 10% of your room stay will be donated to Texas State Parks for travel completed by **September 30, 2012**. To take advantage of this offer, book your room with the “[Help Texas State Parks](#)” link.

- **[Covering Texas Conservation History — Resources for News Media](#)**

TPWD has posted on its website a trove of historic photos, magazine articles, and research reports that yield a fascinating look at hunting, fishing and fish and wildlife conservation in the early to mid-1900s. For those willing to look back, these show how things have changed, but also how many of the same pressing issues are still with us today.

### **Texas Wildlife Association (TWA):**



- **Natural Resource Scholarships Available To College Freshmen**

The Texas Wildlife Association Foundation and the San Antonio Livestock Exposition have joined forces to offer five \$10,000 Natural Resource-Excellence in Education Scholarships in the fall of 2012. The scholarships will be awarded to five freshmen at Texas universities who are majoring in natural resource related field such as agricultural science, wildlife science, forestry, range science, or similar majors. For more information: [Scholarships Available for College Students](#).

- **[Texas Wildlife](#) (September 2012)  
Magazine of the TWA**

As we approach the Fall season, I found TWA's September issue of [Texas Wildlife](#) noteworthy reading. The brief one page article on „Habitat Management Tips' for September was of special interest. As articles are copyrighted, I can't give you the full tips; so knowing there are tips on the following wildlife, may intrigue your interest:

- Mourning Doves: Continue ... add some ... Do not ...
- Feral Hogs: If ... a problem, intensify ...
- Deer: Continue with ... If you use ... If there is enough ...
- Fish: Continue ... If you use ... Keep ... Do not ...
- Turkeys: Cool-season plantings of ...
- Quail: Conduct ... Repeat ...
- Ducks: Continue to catch ...
- Management Tip of the Month: ...

*Bonnie*

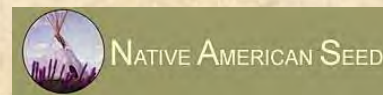
For a printed copy of *Texas Wildlife*, contact the TWA at (800) 839-9453; or you can receive a 12-month subscription (like me) by [joining](#) the TWA organization.

## Chapter Business / Reminders (Continued):

### **Forwarded from Michelle Haggerty:**

- **Seed Grants**

Fall is a great time to plant a wildflower meadow! The [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#) in partnership with [Native American Seed](#) awards grants of seed (Seed Grants) to Texas schools (K-12) that support the Wildflower Center's mission to



increase the sustainable use and conservation of native wildflowers, plants and landscapes. Seed grants can be used to establish wildflower demonstration areas, to enhance existing wildflower sites, or in other educationally directed projects. Seed Grant recipients will receive a gift certificate of "Seed Money" to purchase seed from Native American Seed valued at \$50.00.

For more information visit: <http://www.wildflower.org/wildflowers/>.

*Many thanks!*

Alice Nance  
Education Manager  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
4801 La Crosse Avenue  
Austin, TX, 78739  
512-232-0122  
[anance@wildflower.org](mailto:anance@wildflower.org)

- **Nature Play at Home Guide**

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University are pleased to announce the release of our Nature Play at Home guide. This free publication shows families how to create simple and affordable nature play spaces in domestic outdoor spaces. The guide can be downloaded at [www.nwf.org/natureplay](http://www.nwf.org/natureplay).



Jaime Matyas  
Chief Operations Officer  
National Wildlife Federation  
[www.beoutthere.org](http://www.beoutthere.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.

- **September 17**, 6:30 pm, Lockhart State Park,  
Speaker: Dave Scott

## Newsletter Deadline:

### For Next Issue September 30<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:jbshimek@cs.com),  
if not possible mail to: 2233 FM 20,  
Red Rock, TX 78662

## State Program Contacts:

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

State Coordinator: Michelle Haggerty,  
[mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu)  
(979) 458-2034

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

### Sponsor Contacts:

Bastrop County Extension Office  
Rachel Bauer

[Bastroptx@tamu.edu](mailto:Bastroptx@tamu.edu), (512) 581-7186

Caldwell County Extension Office  
Michael Haynes

[Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:Caldwell-tx@tamu.edu), (512) 398-3122

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

**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.

## Officers

### President - Grace Pratt

512-633-0164

[graciela@moonandback.org](mailto:graciela@moonandback.org) or  
[graciela@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:graciela@austin.utexas.edu)

### Vice President - Ronnie Lanier

512-581-8117

[nxplgr@wildblue.net](mailto:nxplgr@wildblue.net)

### Secretary - Joan Estes

512-620-0322

[joan.estes@earthlink.net](mailto:joan.estes@earthlink.net)

### Treasurer - Rik Martinez

979-236-0994

[martinez\\_rik@hotmail.com](mailto:martinez_rik@hotmail.com)

### State Representative - Marsha Elrod

512-284-7400

[melrod1@earthlink.net](mailto:melrod1@earthlink.net)

## Committees:

Hospitality	Caroline Easley <a href="mailto:carilb708@hotmail.com">carilb708@hotmail.com</a>	512-988-1708
Volunteer	Scott Moore <a href="mailto:lpnhours@gmail.com">lpnhours@gmail.com</a>	512-589-3098
Newsletter	Bonnie Shimek <a href="mailto:jbshimek@cs.com">jbshimek@cs.com</a>	512-581-2625
Web Page Communi- cations	Andy Butler <a href="mailto:abutler@mac.com">abutler@mac.com</a>	512-581-1470
Basic Training	Louise Ridlon <a href="mailto:lrldlon@hotmail.com">lrldlon@hotmail.com</a>	512-985-5064
Advanced Training	Ronnie Lanier <a href="mailto:nxplgr@wildblue.net">nxplgr@wildblue.net</a>	512-581-8117
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## Lost Pines Chapter



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