

From: "Betty Watkins" <bwatkins1@austin.rr.com>
To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>
Date: 11/4/03 7:55PM
Subject: Master Naturalist November Newsletter

Hays County Master Naturalist Newsletter
November 2003

Class Meeting: November 4, 2003 @ the extension office

Class discussion will be all about Graduation: Place, Menu, Shirts, Certificates, Guests, etc.

Graduation is Tuesday November 11. Congratulations to all of you.

CHAPTER MEETING: Wednesday, November 19th at the Extension Office

6:30 Pot Luck/Take Out Supper 7:00 PM Meeting.

Items on the agenda will include election of officers for 2004, reports from the Annual Conference, and Chapter Volunteer Projects for 2004.

OOOOPS: We forgot to add the Insurance Waiver to the Annual membership form. If you have already sent in your membership form, please print off this section of the Newsletter and sign and return the waiver. I will also be sending an e-mail of a new version of the Membership form that includes the waiver. If you have not returned your form, please use the new version. Thanks. For your information I have also included the information from Michelle Haggerty at the State MN office about the insurance.
Betty Watkins, Secretary, Hays County MN

I understand that in consideration of being accepted as a participant in the Texas Master (Initials) Naturalist volunteer program ("") I hereby release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless the program and its sponsoring state agencies, their agents, employees, officers and successors, from and against the program and sponsoring state agencies, their successors, employees, or officers for all personal injuries (including death), known and unknown or damage to property caused by or arising out of activities performed under the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

_____ Yes, I will be able to comply with the requirements listed above.
(Initials)

_____ No, I cannot comply with the above policies and understand that I cannot be certified as a (Initials) Texas Master Naturalist.

Volunteer Pledge:

I understand and agree to uphold the above statements of the Texas Master Naturalist Program:

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (please print) _____

Chapter Affiliation _____

Volunteer Liability Insurance

Texas Parks & Wildlife carries, for Master Naturalist volunteers and all other TPWD volunteers, \$1 million Personal Liability Insurance Coverage

- This insurance is Excess Volunteer Insurance. It is in addition to a program participant's personal insurance (homeowners insurance) and it IS NOT co-insurance.

What it does and doesn't cover:

- It does cover a TMN volunteer in the event that they hurt someone or damage property only through the act of performing TMN approved volunteer service.
- It does cover a volunteer in transit to and from the area where the approved TMN volunteer service is conducted.
- It does NOT cover vehicle collision, personal injury or accidents)
- It does NOT cover criminal acts.
- It does NOT cover a volunteer when working on a project where TPWD is not a partner in.
- It does not cover anyone performing restitution of any sort.

Newsorthy:

Let there be light! The Master Naturalist Chapter has donated \$200.00 to the Extension Service for outdoor lights to be installed at the Extension Building. No more groping our way to our cars at night!

The BRIT lecture is this Friday at the Wildflower Center:

Friday, November 7, 2003, 7:00 pm

East Texas as a Unique Ecosystem: From Big D to the Big Thicket

Speaker: George Diggs

Member of the faculty at Austin College and lead author, Illustrated Flora of East Texas and Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas.

Here's an excellent opportunity to learn about the health of a prairie/savannah eco-system, if you have the time to make the long drive. The price is certainly right. See you Tuesday, Joe

Saturday November 22, 2003, 10am-4pm - Workshop on Field Evaluation of a Prairie Site, with Emphasis on Determining and Assessing Health. Conducted by James Alderson, Plant Materials Specialist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), previously known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). James is also Past President of the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT), and the chair of the Maddin Prairie Committee. The Maddin Prairie is NPAT's prairie in Colorado City, Mitchell County.

The workshop location is at Judith Sear property in Johnson County near Cleburne. She is a NPAT member, Texas Master Naturalist, and on the Board of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT).

Learn about assessing prairie health. As the workshop implies, you will learn how to understand and interpret a soil survey, how to use a soil survey to identify range sites, and how to understand and use range site descriptions. From there, you'll learn how you can determine the current condition of your prairie, and how to predict the future health of it.

The habitat can be described as Cross Timbers forests and savannahs, with woodlands and scattered prairie. Approximately 300 plant species have been recorded.

Please contact Jeff Quayle at 817-738-1322 hm, 817-729-0283 cell, or priarielover@ev1.net to register for this workshop. A RSVP is required. The cost is free. Bring your notepads, lunch or snacks, water or drinks, insect repellent, and appropriate clothing.

Directions are from I-35 W, south of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex:

From Fort Worth, take I-35W south through Ft. Worth past Burleson. Take exit 30 for FM 917 to go to Joshua and Alvarado. Go west on FM 917 for 2 miles to County Road 807, immediately past the RR tracks. Turn left and continue for 1.7 miles on CR 807, and then turn left on CR 707. Judith's house is about a 0.5 mile on the left. Look for a Victorian style house at 4301 CR 707. Her property is past her house on the right. Look for a gate. I will also have the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) signs out to mark the location of her gate to her property.

If coming from the Austin/San Antonio area, go north on I-35 north of Waco to the junction of I-35W and I-35E. Go north on I-35W to exit 30 for FM 917. Follow directions above. For other directions, please contact Jeff Quayle.

To all the 2002 MN volunteers, I give a Texas -size THANK for all your help with the 2003 class suppers, field trips, site visits, newsletters, and support.

Melissa Brooks

MN class 2002