



ANROSP Newsletter

www.nralliance.org

December 2007 / January 2008

Happy New Year!

This publication is a forum for members, partners, and other interested individuals to share news, events, articles, or updates, and to stay on top of what's happening with ANROSP.

If you would like to include any significant program updates and activities in the next newsletter, please send your information to [Annabel Major](#) no later than February 15th, 2008.

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Saddle up! The ANROSP 2008 conference to be held in the beautiful Texas Hill Country!

Please mark your 2008 calendars for the 4th Annual ANROSP Conference!

When? September 8th - 11th, 2008

Where? New Braunfels, Texas and the T bar M Ranch & Conference Center. Located in central Texas Hill Country, the Center is just a 30 minute drive from the San Antonio International Airport or a 45 minutes from Austin's Bergstrom Airport. Host and current board president Michelle Haggerty said: "We're looking forward to hosting y'all here in Texas for the 4th Annual ANROSP Conference. The year of 2008 also happens to be our Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Program's 10th Anniversary year! We hope you'll come celebrate with us!"

Why Join Us? If you're thinking about starting--or have started--a natural resource volunteer program such as Master Naturalist, then this conference is for you! You'll have the opportunity to

meet with program coordinators, leaders, educators, and administrators from across the nation and learn about new tips, tools, techniques and resources to assist you no matter what stage of program development you are in! One special feature of this 4th annual meeting will be the presence of mentor teams to assist new programs in starting up or even for existing programs needing help in overcoming "mid-life" obstacles. There will be exciting presentations, abundant networking opportunities, special off-site sessions [exploring](#) the area's tremendous natural beauty and a peek behind the scenes of Texas Master Naturalist programming in San Antonio. There will even be a chance for you to kick up your heels and dance in Texas' famous music scene!

Conference details are evolving fast. A first call for presentations, posters, workshops or discussions will be out by early March. If you have ideas for this year's conference, comments, or any questions, please contact the conference chair, Robert Emanuel, robert.emanuel@oregonstate.edu, (503) 842-3433.

So mark your calendars today and plan to join us this fall in Texas!

More information will be found at: www.nralliance.org

Program Resource Committee Update

The ANROSP Program Resource Committee has reviewed their vision priorities from 2007 and will be outlining their new & improved list of action steps in early 2008. Based upon the committee discussion, the development of a mentor program and a start-up packet for new and evolving programs and creation of an electronic ANROSP Journal will be the main goals in the coming year. The committee will work closely with the strategic planning/ development committee to secure funding for these new initiatives. As we get closer to the 2008 ANROSP Conference, members will find opportunities to learn more about the new resources available to their member program!

Elizabeth Haynes
Illinois Master Naturalist Coordinator

MEMBER PROGRAM UPDATES

Announcement of Master Naturalist Program for Nebraska

A group consisting of Extension faculty, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission personnel, a Nebraska Travel & Tourism representative, and many others from partner organizations are in the process of developing a Master Naturalist program for Nebraska. Soon they will see their hard work come to fruition. The process is moving along quickly, and many are excited to see the next stage.

Over twenty-six states across the U.S. have a Master Naturalist program. This program mirrors the Master Gardener program and usually has the state's university Extension as a partner. Volunteers and interested members of the public are educated on the natural resources, ecosystems, plants, and wildlife of the state. The training is intensive and presented by experts in many disciplines (commonly university faculty).

Trained volunteers will help with Eco-tourism, assist local outfitters, provide interpretive presentations at Nature Centers and Zoos, answer inquiries at Extension centers, and other activities across the state. Master Naturalists also service as citizen scientists. They not only will promote environmental awareness, appreciation, conservation, and stewardship but also provide hundreds of hours of highly skilled volunteer time. This actuates to thousands of dollars in skilled labor for Nebraska agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Dennis Ferraro
University of Nebraska Extension
Nebraska Master Naturalist

Utah Master Naturalist Program Efforts in Learner Assessment and Program Evaluation

When designing and implementing any education program, it's important to think about how to measure (1.) the amount of knowledge the participants are gaining (i.e., assessment), and (2.) the impact that the program has over the short- and long-term (i.e., evaluation).

During the first offering of the Utah Master Naturalist Program (UMNP) Aquatic and Wetland Systems module, participant knowledge was assessed primarily with pre- and post-testing. The average score on the identical pre-tests and the post-tests were 52% (st.dev.=17%) and 87% (st.dev.=7%), respectively, which indicated that the participants were, in fact, learning and retaining the material taught in class. On average, the scores on the post-tests improved 96% (st.dev.=95%) from the pre-test. In addition, the participants who entered the UMNP with less knowledge (i.e., scored poorly on the pre-test) learned the most as indicated by the greatest percent change in score between the two tests. Therefore, it can be inferred that the UMNP, on average, not only nearly doubled the knowledge of the participants, but also resulted in a more precise set of knowledge among the entire group of participants as evidenced by the decreased variability in post-test scores.

In an effort to evaluate the UMNP, participants completed evaluation forms at the end of the final session. A series of statements were ranked on a scale of -2 (strongly disagree) to 2 (strongly agree), with 0 meaning "no opinion". On average, the participants strongly agreed with the following statements that the UMNP...

- ...has inspired me to learn more (1.9)
- ...has inspired me to explore Utah's natural world more (1.7)
- ...has introduced me to more environmental education and resource management organizations in Utah (1.7)
- ...gave me a greater understanding of Utah's aquatic and wetland systems (1.6)
- ...met my personal goals (written on the first day) (1.4)
- ...field trips helped me apply knowledge gained in class (1.4)
- ...has helped me acquire knowledge and skills that would help me be a better environmental educator (1.4)
- ...has inspired me to want to teach others (1.3)
- ...has inspired me to think more about my own use of natural resources (1.1)

In addition to the evaluation form, the participants also listed future stewardship goals for the next month, six months, and twelve months. Each participant will be contacted at these time intervals to survey their success in meeting goals as well as other accomplishments and impacts the UMNP has had on their personal and professional lives. Such information will aid in determining the long-term impacts of the UMNP.

Mark Larese-Casanova
Statewide Extension Agent

Utah Master Naturalist Program

Indiana Master Naturalist News

2007 was a busy year for the Indiana Master Naturalist program. We became more involved with ANROSP, increased our numbers, and sponsored a new event. We have big plans for 2008, with new projects, continuing events, and more.

We were fortunate enough to send a delegate to the national ANROSP conference. Sarah Schenk came back brimming with ideas and resources. We are also happy to have one of our advisory council members, Becky Pfeifer, now serving on the ANROSP board. Sarah Schenk was inspired by the ANROSP conference, and joined the ANROSP program resource committee.

We recently certified our 300th Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN). Roughly 1000 Hoosiers (and a few Kentuckians and other out-of-staters) have participated in IMN workshops. Approximately 350 have completed their twenty-four volunteer service hours (minimum), passed their exams, and attended every class in order to qualify for certification. We are pleased with our certification rate, and look forward to congratulating the 400th certified Indiana Master Naturalist later this year. New classes are popping up across the state, and we have eight classes already scheduled for January, February, and March. That is another 240 potential IMNs!

After a successful state-wide gathering of IMNs in the summer of 2007, we are excited to plan another gathering in 2008. About twenty-five IMNs gathered for walks, talks, fellowship, and more at Brown County State Park, July 12th-13th. Participants enjoyed exploring Indiana's CCC past, local natural history, John Muir, the recent adventures of Indiana's division of fish and wildlife, and more. In 2008, we'll try a new location, and different dates.

Our advisory council has a new president. We welcome Jim Floyd, and thank Becky Pfeifer for continuing to serve as secretary. Our council is working on creating curriculum guides to help our class speakers understand what concepts we want them to be sure to cover. We hope to have our guides ready for class hosts this year. We also hope to create a guide that will advise class hosts on how to qualify their classes for Continuing Education Units for teachers. This guide will be available on our website, a great place for anyone to learn more about the Indiana Master Naturalist program: www.IndianaMasterNaturalist.org.

Sarah Schenk
Stewardship Section Assistant
IDNR Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

Contributions to the ANROSP newsletter are welcomed! If you would like to share news, events, articles, or updates with our membership, please send your information to [Annabel Major](#) no later than February 15th, 2008.

If you wish to be removed from the ANROSP newsletter distribution list, please contact [Annabel Major](#).