



Rendezvous 2019 Announcement

The Louisiana Master Naturalist Association (LMNA) is pleased to announce the 4th Annual *Rendezvous*, a statewide meeting of the seven master naturalist chapters in Louisiana, including Acadiana (Lafayette), Central Louisiana (Alexandria), Greater Baton Rouge, Greater New Orleans, Northeast Louisiana (Monroe), Northwest Louisiana (Shreveport/Bossier) and Southwest Louisiana (Lake Charles). More information about LMNA and our chapters can be found at our website: [LMNA](#)

WHAT: *Rendezvous 2019* will include presentations on a variety of natural history subjects, guided naturalist hikes, volunteer opportunities, silent auction, swap table, nature identification table, naturalist library, book sales, and time to befriend other master naturalists. Our Keynote Speaker is Zack Lemann, Curator of Animal Programs at Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium in New Orleans. Lemann's presentation to the LMNA has a working title of "The Importance of Conserving Insects."¹ Lemann is well known to the members of the Greater New Orleans chapter. He is a dynamic, engaging speaker who manages to entertain while sharing encyclopedic knowledge about insects, their environs, and their role in our ecosystem.

WHEN: *Rendezvous 2019* will take place from Friday afternoon, March 15, 2019 through Sunday, March 17, 2019 at noon. You may register for *Rendezvous 2019* beginning on January 23, 2019 by using the *Rendezvous 2019* Registration found here: [UPDATED LINK Rendezvous 2019 Online Registration](#)

WHY: *Rendezvous 2019* should be an exciting, fun, educational, and noteworthy event. *Rendezvous 2019* will include many hours of education, fun and fellowship. You can earn 8–10 Continuing Education Hours and many Volunteer Hours in a single weekend. You will also meet other master naturalists from all areas of the State of Louisiana. This is a great opportunity to make new friends while learning about the natural beauty of Louisiana.

WHO: The event is open to Certified Louisiana Master Naturalists, those who have completed or are enrolled in courses, and the board/leadership of developing chapters, as well as guests of master naturalists, if space permits. As the Louisiana Master Naturalist Association has seven chapters in various stages of development, we want to ensure that all chapters have the opportunity to be fairly represented at *Rendezvous 2019*. The Board has established three phases of registration to allow priority registration to master naturalists from all chapters while permitting guests to also attend *Rendezvous 2019*, if space permits. During Phase I, we will allocate spaces for each chapter and only members of that chapter may register for the allocated spaces. During Phase II, the remaining spaces will be open to members from any chapter. In

¹ In the event that this topic sounds "dry" or "academic", you probably have not met Lemann.

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Phase III, guests of naturalists may register for any remaining spaces. The registrations for guests will be processed as they are received, until the 100 total available beds are filled. There will be a limited number of additional spaces for participants who do not need sleeping accommodations, but there are space restrictions for the meeting rooms and dining rooms.

Participants must be 18 years old. While we understand the importance of including our children in naturalist activities, *Rendezvous 2019* is intended for adults only. We are looking at ways to include children in future activities, so please contact us with any suggestions.

To recap, we will have three phases of registration as set forth below. Don't worry about figuring out the details, just register as soon as you can.

Phase 1: January 23, 2019 to February 2, 2019

Registrations will be accepted from Certified Louisiana Master Naturalists, those who have completed or are enrolled in courses, and the board/leadership of developing chapters, subject to an allocation for each chapter.

Phase 2: February 3, 2019 to February 12, 2019

Registrations will be accepted from all master naturalists, regardless of home chapter, subject to space restrictions.

Phase 3: February 13, 2019 to February 28, 2019

Registrations will be accepted from guests of master naturalists, subject to space restrictions.

WHERE: Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville, Louisiana. [Fontainebleau State Park](#)² The park is located approximately five (5) miles from the Causeway Bridge on the Northshore. (Directions will be sent to registrants before the event.)

Fontainebleau State Park
62883 LA-1089
Mandeville, LA 70471
(985) 624-4443

ACCOMMODATIONS: We have rented Group Camp #1 at Fontainebleau State Park.³ The rental of the Group Camp includes two dorms that sleep fifty (50) each. As the rental of Group Camp #1 includes the use of the Group Dorms, naturalists are invited to sleep in one of the Group Dorms at no additional charge. There will be one dorm for the men and a separate dorm for the women. The kitchen/dining area is between the two dorms. The Group Camp is raised approximately twenty (20) feet off the ground, with concrete steps to enter these buildings. There is a catwalk connecting the buildings, so it is not necessary to climb the steps to travel

² We have attached most of the information contained in the links as a pdf that accompanies this Announcement.

³ Our rental does not include Group Camp #3 which has a separate entrance outside of the Park. Please do not enter Group Camp #3, as it is rented by another organization.

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between these buildings. An elevator is available for individuals requiring assistance, as well as for freight. Group Camp #1 is deemed handicapped accessible by Fontainebleau State Park. If you have a mobility issue, please contact Maryann Hoskins at chip1201@hotmail.com. We will attempt to accommodate your needs if given ten (10) days' notice.

Fontainebleau State Park offers a variety of other accommodations in addition to Group Camp #1, including tent camping and RV camping. Please click on the following link to obtain additional information about the accommodations. [Fontainebleau State Park accommodations](#)

The private cabins at Fontainebleau State Park are not available for the weekend of *Rendezvous 2019*, as they have already reserved. These cabins are typically reserved nearly a year in advance.

If you prefer to stay somewhere other than Fontainebleau State Park, there are numerous hotels in the Mandeville/Covington, Louisiana area.

MEALS: Six meals are included in the cost of your registration: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and Sunday lunch. All of the meals will be catered, so that naturalists can enjoy as many of the events as possible. If you have a dietary restriction, please indicate it in your Registration. We will attempt to accommodate reasonable requests, provided that it is indicated in your Registration and received at least ten (10) days in advance of the event. We are seeking to provide well-balanced, tasty and nutritious meals (with options for vegetarians) within the scope of our budget. A menu will be provided in the near future, so that you may supplement the catered meals, if desired.

BYO: Bring Your Own Non-Disposable Plates and Utensils We are making a conscious effort to minimize the waste during *Rendezvous 2019*. Accordingly, we ask that you bring non-disposable plates, utensils, and cups from home. We will have an area for you to wash your items after each meal. We will have some disposable plates and utensils for anyone who needs them, but as a naturalist organization, we should avoid single-use disposable items.

HOW TO REGISTER: If you would like to register for *Rendezvous 2019*, please fill out the [UPDATED LINK Rendezvous 2019 Online Registration](#) and pay the \$80 fee. Registration requires both a completed Registration and the payment of registration fees. Completed Registrations (with a completed online registration and payment received by LMNA) are processed as they are received. If you prefer to register manually, rather than online, please contact Maryann Hoskins for assistance at Chip1201@hotmail.com. (Not sure about how this online registration process works? Give it a try, it is very easy! Just click the link and fill in the blanks. Or, just contact Maryann for assistance.)

HOW MUCH/HOW TO PAY:

Registration Fee for 3-Day Event, including Space in Group Dorm \$80 includes all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch, plus accommodations in the Group Dorm for Friday and Saturday evenings. There is no additional charge to sleep in one of the Group Dorms, as they were included in the facility rental.

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Payments for *Rendezvous 2019* may be made via PayPal, check or money order.

PayPal

The PayPal button is located on the webpage for the Louisiana Master Naturalist Association under the Rendezvous page: [LMNA PayPal link](#)

Check/Money Order

Checks/money orders should be made payable to LMNA and mailed to: Joe Baucum, P. O. Box 168, Barataria, LA 70036. Please consider making an additional donation to support the mission of LMNA, as well. Please indicate *Rendezvous 2019* and the name of the master naturalist in the “memo” section of your check, so that we can properly credit the payment, particularly if the account is in a different name than the master naturalist.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed for many additional tasks, so please indicate your interest in volunteering in the Registration. Please use this link to volunteer at Rendezvous. [Volunteer SignUp](#) If you are not familiar with SignUp, please give it a try, as it is very simple. Otherwise, please contact Maryann Hoskins at chip1201@hotmail.com for assistance.

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING:

- Bedding for a bunk bed or a sleeping bag, including pillows. The Group Dorms do not provide bedding.
- Towels, shampoo, etc. (The Group Dorms do not have the amenities of a hotel.)
- Journal, binoculars, field guides, flashlight, insect repellent, sunscreen
- Items for the Naturalist Swap Table (Free/Barter with other Naturalists)
- Mystery items for the Nature ID Table (leaves, bones, flowers, nests, shells, etc.)
- Favorite field guides or nature books for temporary use at the Naturalist Library (write your name/contact info in it)
- Cash or checks for book sales and silent auction
- Reusable water bottle/coffee mug, etc.
- Reusable plate, cup, and utensils, etc.
- Any snacks, beverages, musical instruments you desire

LMNA WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- All meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch
- Continuing education hours
- Volunteer hours available
- A host of excellent programs, speakers, and other natural history activities

MISCELLANEOUS: Fontainebleau State Park does not permit smoking or pets in any of its buildings.

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WANT MORE INFO? Additional information will be forwarded to the chapter representatives as it is obtained. We will also post information on the LMNA website, so please check that site occasionally.

The best way to stay in touch with LMNA and Rendezvous is to sign up for the newly created Google Groups for the LMNA. By signing up for the LMNA Google Group, you will receive notice of items of general interest to naturalists. Don't worry, we will not inundate you with emails, as very few people will be able to send emails to the Group. You can opt out of Google Groups at any time. If you would like to join Google Groups, please click here to be added to the group: [LMNA Google Groups Subscription](#) This Group is limited to Certified Louisiana Master Naturalists, those who have completed or are enrolled in courses, and the board/leadership of developing chapters.

Update! Rendezvous has its very own Facebook page at "LMNA Rendezvous." We will periodically update the Facebook page, so please be sure to "like" the page.

Additional Information about Fontainebleau State Park

Gate Opening Times:

Sunday through Thursday: open at 6 a.m., close at 9 p.m.

Friday, Saturday and days preceding holidays: open at 6 a.m., close at 10 p.m.

Entrance Station Hours:

Sunday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, Saturday and days preceding holidays: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Do not pay the entrance fee, as our rental of the Group Camp includes admission to the park.

Link to park map: [Fontainebleau State Park map](#)

Link to Park Accommodations: [Fontainebleau State Park accommodations](#)

GOT QUESTIONS????

For Questions about Registration or Payment:

- Maryann Hoskins chip1201@hotmail.com; (504) 908-2296
- Joe Baucum theanchorage@att.net
- Janell Simpson Simpson.janell@gmail.com

For Questions or Comments about Accommodations:

- Maryann Hoskins chip1201@hotmail.com; (504) 908-2296

For Questions about Earning Volunteer Hours at Rendezvous:

- Your chapter leader or Janell Simpson Simpson.janell@gmail.com
- Go to the Volunteer Signup [Volunteer SignUp](#)

To Volunteer as a Speaker, Presenter or a Workshop Leader:

- Bob Thomas rathomas@loyno.edu

For Questions about Publicity:

- Micha Petty michapetty@gmail.com

For Questions about the Silent Auction:

- Bette Kauffman bjkauffman@gmail.com

For Questions about Meals/Kitchen Committee:

- Amber King amber.king@me.com
- Janie Braud mjsbraud@yahoo.com

For Questions about the Photo Contest:

- Charles Paxton contest@thewebcat.biz

For Questions about Bioblitz:

- Micha Petty michapetty@gmail.com

For Questions about Swap/Giveaway Table:

- Tom Goleman tgoldy@hotmail.com

For Questions about the ID Table:

- Larry Raymond lrraymond@aol.com

For Questions about the Naturalist Bookstore:

- Sonny Trammell trammells@suddenlink.net

For Questions about Anything Else:

- Maryann Hoskins chip1201@hotmail.com; (504) 908-2296