

The banner features a scenic landscape of a river flowing through a valley with mountains in the background under a sunset sky. A large, light-colored diamond shape is overlaid on the right side, containing the event title and date. A dragonfly is positioned at the bottom center of the diamond.

TEXAS MASTER  
NATURALIST

# VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER FAIR

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2020



Our volunteers are ready to volunteer!

Our **Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers** are dedicated to natural resource conservation work, but as a result of this year's extreme circumstances our members have been severely limited in conducting many of their typical outreach, technical guidance and community stewardship service projects. Thus also severely limiting their ability to obtain their required volunteer service hours so far this year. As with everything in 2020, it was time to start thinking outside of the box!

This first ever **Texas Master Naturalist Virtual Volunteer Fair** will be an opportunity for our partnering organization, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to present volunteer service projects that need volunteers from a distance or virtually!

Join us on **September 2nd, 2020**, for this series of project presentations showcasing opportunities from across the state and across the spectrum of natural resource topics. Master Naturalists will have a chance to sign up for these projects on the spot and get back to work – from a distance of course!

Thank you to both our volunteers and our sponsoring agencies for your dedication and service to the Texas Master Naturalist Program and our state's wild things and wild places!

**Judit Green** – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – [Judit.Green@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Judit.Green@tpwd.texas.gov)

**Michelle Haggerty** – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – [Michelle.Haggerty@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Michelle.Haggerty@tpwd.texas.gov)

**Mary Pearl Meuth** – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – [mpmeuth@tamu.edu](mailto:mpmeuth@tamu.edu)

# AGENDA

Wednesday September 2nd, 2020

*9:00am - Opening Remarks, Welcome & Virtual Volunteer Fair Guidelines*

*9:15 - 9:25am – Native Plant Resources for Four Bexar County Ecoregions (San Antonio), Judit Green*

*9:25 - 9:35am – Video Interview Transcription, Olivia Schmidt*

*9:35 - 9:45am – Texas Wildscapes Website + Resources Redesign, Olivia Schmidt*

*9:45 - 9:55am – iNaturalist Social Media Content Collection + Creation, Olivia Schmidt*

***9:55 - 10:00am – 5-minute break***

*10:00 - 10:10am – Pollinator Citizen Science Project, Erfan Vafaie*

*10:10 - 10:20am – Aligning TPWD videos to the TEKS, Louisa Torrance*

*10:20 - 10:30am – Armchair Botanist: Community Scientists Transcribing Specimen Labels, Tiana Rehman*

*10:30 - 10:40am – AquaPlant Review, Brittany Chesser*

*10:40 - 10:50am – Measuring the Public's Perception about Pesticides, Janet Hurley*

*10:50 - 11:00am – Saltcedar Removal at Lake Casa Blanca International State Park, Querubi Guerra*

***11:00am - 11:05am – 5-minute break***

*11:05 - 11:15am – Social Media Short Video Series / Content (Possum Kingdom SP), David Fischer*

*11:15 - 11:25am – Guadalupe River State Park - Interpretive Programs Assistance, Holly Platz*

*11:25 - 11:35am – Guadalupe River State Park - Social Media Content Creator, Holly Platz*

*11:35 - 11:45am – Stream Team Testing--Fort Parker State Park, Amanda Zumwalt*

*11:45 - 11:55am – Plants of Texas Rangelands Virtual Herbarium, Megan Clayton*

***NOON - 1:00pm – BREAK FOR LUNCH***

*1:05 - 1:15pm – Texas Aquatic Science Teacher Guide Review, Melissa Felty*

*1:15 - 1:25pm – Adopt-A-Loop - Great Texas Wildlife Trails, Joshua Lee*

*1:25 - 1:35pm – Distance Learning Media Blitz-Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Lindsay Pannell*

*1:35 - 1:45pm – International Dark Sky Certification-Palo Duro Canyon SP, Lindsay Pannell*

*1:45 - 1:55pm --ADA trail to the Wildlife Viewing Blind-Palo Duro Canyon SP, Lindsay Pannell*

***1:55pm - 2:00pm – 5-minute break***

*2:00 - 2:10pm – Goose Island SP - Big Tree Area Hurricane Clean-up, Improvements & Maintenance, Kendall Keys*

*2:10 - 2:20pm – ‘Nature Rocks Texas’ Assistance, Sandra Williams*

*2:20 - 2:30pm – TPWD’s Texas Ecological Analytical Mapper User Testing, Wendy Anderson*

*2:30 - 2:40pm – Texas Children in Nature Stories Project, Sarah Coles*

*2:40 - 2:50pm – Project WILD Workshops, Kiki Corry*

*2:50 - 3:00 pm – Curation Assistance of Texas Nature Trackers Project, Craig Hensley*

***3:00pm - 3:05pm – 5-minute break***

*3:05 - 3:15pm – Writing for Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine, Louie Bond*

*3:15 - 3:25pm – Photo Compilation and Archive, Roy Rodriquez*

*3:25 - 3:35pm – Social Media Content Creator - San Antonio Urban Office Facebook Page, Jessica Alderson*

*3:35 - 3:45pm – Wildlife & Natural Resource Education Trunks Review & Update, Jessica Alderson*

*3:45 - 3:55pm – Develop Species/Eco Region Social Media Spotlights To Help Promote The Wildlife and Habitats That Could Benefit With Dedicated Conservation Funding, Rachel Rommel*

***3:55pm - 4:15pm – Wrap Up & Final Project Conversations***

# Virtual Volunteer Fair : Catalog of Projects

The following projects are in order of how they appear on the Agenda. They were organized by speaker availability. There are some additional projects listed at the bottom from speakers unable to participate at the Virtual Volunteer Fair. Check out ALL the projects!

Keep in mind that some State Park site-based projects may offer aspects of the project that don't require your presence at the park. If they do require your presence to assist, please make sure to consider the project's location compared to your chapter's region. Be sure projects you choose are approved by your chapter.

## Additional projects added to the Catalog that were not on the Agenda above:

- *Distinguishing Oak Tree Species-Fairfield Lake State Park, Kate Sherman*
- *Feral Hog Destruction of Natural Habitat & Increase in Invasive plant species - Fairfield Lake, Kate Sherman*
- *River Otters Informational Video – Fairfield Lake State Park, Kate Sherman*
- *Flora and Fauna Guide - Fairfield Lake State Park, Kate Sherman*
- *Crawdad Population and Varied Species Study - Fairfield Lake State Park, Kate Sherman*
- *Educational Video on our Spider Lilly Population--Fairfield Lake State Park, Kate Sherman*
- *Enchanted Rock State Natural Area Butterfly Surveys, Jessica DeBoer*
- *Enchanted Rock State Natural Area Bird Surveys, Jessica DeBoer*
- *Trail Maintenance-Dinosaur Valley State Park, Zachary Riggs*

The following State Parks have site-based projects. State Park Locations can be searched online - <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/parks-map>

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park  
Dinosaur Valley State Park  
Fairfield Lake State Park  
Fort Parker State Park  
Goose Island State Park  
Guadalupe River State Park  
Lake Casa Blanca International State Park  
Palo Duro Canyon State Park  
Possum Kingdom State Park

# Native Plant Resources for Four Bexar Co. Ecoregions (San Antonio)

Project Contact: *Judit Green, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., Judit.Green@tpwd.texas.gov*

Need volunteers able to research and add to an extensive MASTER PLANT LIST in an Excel document that can be manipulated for use on various projects needing a native plant list w/wildlife value specific to the project that can be shared w/landowners, homeowners, local partners. A template will be provided. Will require volunteers to use specific websites & publications to compile data into the MASTER PLANT LIST. This master list will be used to also create native plant PowerPoint slides (for speakers) and plant label signage (for use in public parks or public demonstration gardens). Want 2-3 volunteers to work together per eco-region to work on their section of the Excel document.

Once the MASTER PLANT LIST has been completed then the data from this list will be used to create NATIVE PLANT SLIDES in PowerPoint and NATIVE PLANT LABEL SIGNAGE in Word using existing templates. The same volunteers, or other volunteers, will assist with creating the slides and signage depending on their ability to use the various forms of Microsoft Office applications.

The NATIVE PLANT SLIDES will be created for TPWD staff and offered to local partner organizations and Master Naturalists for use in programs promoting native habitat. Volunteers will also be asked to find 3 images of a plant (not copyrighted; for public use w/photo credit) to show bloom & leaf up close, fruit, and the general growth habit of the plant. Wildlife value icons will be added to slides as well. Format will be provided to make all slides consistent in appearance. This will make it easier for staff/volunteers to deliver a consultation or presentation to various audiences on habitat enhancement/management.

NATIVE PLANT LABEL SIGNAGE (verbiage only) will be created in a Word document following a template and will be shared with any groups wanting to highlight native habitat and demonstration gardens in public areas.

Accuracy is important! Volunteers will be expected to share their work with other volunteers on this project to cross check each other's work.

## Native Plant Resources for Four Bexar Co. Ecoregions (San Antonio)

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Learn about local plants from ecoregions in their area and how they benefit local wildlife too.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Experience w/Excel, Word, and/or PowerPoint Microsoft Office Applications. Computers used must have Microsoft Office Suite.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* No

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Initial overview of project will be discussed w/volunteers via video conference. I will share templates & volunteers are expected to produce their section of project assignments on their home computers. We'll reconvene periodically to ensure consistency of the project. *What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* No hard deadline, so the job is somewhat flexible to the needs of the volunteers. Would like to get 5-10 hours per week from each volunteer, if possible.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* At least through the fall season.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Important for various audiences to learn about native plants which creates important wildlife habitat on urban & rural properties. TPWD, local partners, and Master Naturalist groups can these materials from this project to create programs intended to highlight plants beneficial for wildlife habitat, to encourage retention of these plants on land, or encourage planting them to restore habitat lost due to development.

# Video Interview Transcription

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Project Contact: *Olivia Schmidt, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov*

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We need help transcribing 12-15 video interviews over the next 9 months (through May 2021). Transcripts will help in the creation of outreach videos for a variety of topics, including:

- Creating Habitat for Native Bees
- How to Save Native Seeds
- Issues with Non-Native Waterfowl
- The Value of Small Urban Green Spaces
- Highlighting the Bird City Texas Program

Volunteer will need to view and listen to all interviews and write out written transcripts of the audio, including reference timecodes so clips can be easily located.

## Video Interview Transcription

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Interview transcription is a vital part of the video production process. Volunteers will be helping with a critical step in providing information for the public. Volunteers will also get the chance to learn from experts on the topics presented in these interviews.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

No

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

on their familiarity and experience with transcription and using the cloud

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

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*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Outreach specialist would send video files to volunteer via the cloud. Volunteer will download, watch, and listen to videos while transcribing the audio from interviews. Timecodes will be recorded frequently so clips can be located easily. Transcripts will be re-listened to and reviewed to check for errors. Transcript documents will be sent to outreach specialist via the cloud for review.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

This depends on the length of the interview, but on average, they are around 45-60 minutes long.

We estimate this could take around 30 hours total spread out over the next 6-9 months. This is flexible and all depends on how quickly volunteer and watch, listen, transcribe and review content.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting? A year or less.*

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

The Community Stewardship and Engagement Team with TPWD creates ~5 new videos per year to educate and engage with the public about wildlife issues in Texas. To save time and create a better product, we need help transcribing the interviews collected when filming these videos.

These transcripts will help us locate the best parts of the interview and ones most interesting and relevant, which will be more likely to get our message across.

# Texas Wildscapes Website + Resources Redesign

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Project Contact: *Olivia Schmidt, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.*

*olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov*

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We need help reviewing and organizing the content on the Texas Wildscapes website. This program has been on hiatus for many years, but we want to make sure the resources that we have created over the years are useful and available to the public on this site. Collect a list of ideal resources that the public would need to help create native plant gardens and wildlife habitat in their yards and communities. Review what resources on the website are useful, out of date, etc. What should stay and what should go? What native plant/wildscaping information are we missing? The volunteer will be vital in redesigning the vision of this online resource.

## Texas Wildscapes Website + Resources Redesign

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

This volunteer would play a critical role in presenting incredibly important resources for all Texans. They would be helping collect information from 20+ years of technical guidance materials, and will play a crucial role in the redesign of the website and overall program going forward.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Must be very knowledgeable about Texas native plants and the process of creating native plant/wildlife friendly gardens; Knows the tenants of the Texas Wildscapes Program; Is comfortable reviewing web content; Comfortable with web design planning; Has exp

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Maybe, depends how comfortable volunteer is with the Wildscapes Program and web design

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Outreach specialist would communicate closely via video chat or regular phone calls with volunteer. Volunteer will review web content that already exists on the Texas Wildscapes webpage. Content will be evaluated for its accuracy and helpfulness in creating a native plant/wildlife garden. Lists will be made to determine what additional resources are needed on the website to be most helpful for the public. These can be TPWD resources or partner resources. Volunteer will help with web design ideas but will not be leading the web redesign process. Volunteer will also provide input on ideas for how to better reach the public with this content.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* This project will most likely take place in Winter 2020-21. The number of hours per week is flexible, but should be around 10 hours per week for ~2-3 month period.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Winter 2020-21 (December, Jan, Feb)

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

The Texas Wildscapes Program has been instrumental in helping Texans build native plant and wildlife-friendly gardens around the state for decades. However, the program's web infrastructure is out of date and needs to be reviewed. The volunteer will be instrumental in helping create the vision for this website and determining what resources are needed and should be provided for all Texans by right in order to create a beautiful and sustainable wildlife habitat in our communities.

# iNaturalist Social Media Content Collection + Creation

Project Contact: *Olivia Schmidt, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.,  
olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov*

We need help collecting 10-12 species observations from iNaturalist per month and writing corresponding posts for social media. Observation information, species information, location data, links to observations, maps, photos, and photo credit information will be collected for each post. Publication will be on the Texas Nature Trackers and TPWD Wildlife Diversity social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram). Volunteer will need to check for appropriate photo permissions and will contact observer to inform them we are highlighting their observation. Posts/observations should be relevant and seasonally appropriate.

## iNaturalist Social Media Content Collection + Creation

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Familiarity with the iNaturalist app, making connections with users, seeing where observations are taking place across the state, where our data gaps are, etc. Sharing valuable information with the public about our native species and creating collections of beautiful, eye-catching images.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Familiarity with iNaturalist, Facebook, and Instagram; Experience writing engaging content, preferably for social media •Has experience sharing files via “the cloud”; Visually inclined and can help us locate the most eye-catching images

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* Familiarity with iNaturalist and social media platforms

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*  
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*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Volunteer would explore recent and seasonally relevant iNaturalist observations around the state. Most interesting and notable observation data, maps, and photos would be collected and downloaded from iNaturalist. Volunteer would then write up a short post caption (25-75 words) about the observation and why the public should care. Volunteer would upload photos, maps, data, and post captions to a shared cloud folder for the outreach specialist to access, reference, and post from. Ideally, this would be done at the beginning of every month so that posts can be scheduled throughout the month.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* It normally takes around 30-60 minutes to collect all the necessary information and write one post. 10-12 hours per month is a good estimate, depending on your writing speed and familiarity with the iNaturalist website. This is flexible and could vary depending on the volunteer

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

We have a wealth of images and content that are available to us via the iNaturalist platform. Due to staff schedules, we need additional help to be able to wade through the abundance of material that is available to us. We need help picking the gems out of the pile so that we can inform the public about the diversity of creatures that are found in our state.

# Pollinator Citizen Science Project

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Project Contact: *Erfan Vafaie, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*  
*erfan.vafaie@ag.tamu.edu*

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The purpose of this project is to engage citizen scientists to help collect data on the attractiveness of commercially available flowering plants. Citizen scientists are required to attend a 1.5 hr training and complete a quiz before making weekly 60-second observations on pollinator visits on flowers. Data from this project will provide resources on what plants are most attractive to different types of pollinators and serve as preliminary data for additional fundings and studies on promoting pollinator health.

## Pollinator Citizen Science Project

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will be contributing to a database on pollinator-friendly plants. Volunteers receive regular monthly updates summarizing data as it comes in.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Yes, 1.5 hr training on identifying pollinators and using the contribution form

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

1.5 hrs

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

We expect volunteers to make at least one 60-second observation weekly on a specific plant while in bloom. Volunteers are welcome to make observations on more than one species of blooming plant. Ideally, volunteers will start from the beginning of the blooming season until the end.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Time and hours are very flexible; as long as they are while pollinators are visiting (morning/early afternoon). Minimum time commitment is about 5 minutes per week (time to make one observation and enter data) up to several hours per week (if volunteers have several different plots of species of commercially available plants accessible to them).

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Extension personnel are often asked what types of flowers to plant in their garden to attract pollinators. This project was born from a great lack of data supported research on pollinator attractiveness of different flowering plants. The outcome of this project includes access to raw data for in-depth analysis of pollinator attractiveness, regular superficial summaries of the data as it is received, and finally, a compiled document with an in-depth look at pollinator-attractiveness of different flowering plants to different groups of pollinators.

# Aligning TPWD videos to the Texas Education Knowledge Standards (TEKS)

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Project Contact: *Louisa Torrance, Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*louisa.torrance@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Were you previously in the education industry or have experience with TEKS? The TPWD Distance Learning Program would love to connect with Master Naturalists who have a background in teaching! TPWD has an extensive collection of educational videos without tagged TEKS - a feature that would greatly benefit educators searching for content to build into their lesson plans.

Volunteers would be able to work remotely while analyzing videos currently uploaded to the TPWD YouTube channel for TEKS-alignment.

## Aligning TPWD videos to the TEKS

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers would be contributing to an essential component of the educational resources page available to educators by providing the associated TEKS for TPWD videos.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Teaching experience

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers would analyze TPWD YouTube videos and determine if the content aligns with TEKS (EC-12, all subject areas). If so, they would record the associated TEKS into a provided Excel document. This is an on-going project.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Ideally, volunteers would be able to contribute a minimum of 2 hours per week. The hours and time period are flexible.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

The project will support the mission of the TPWD Distance Learning Program to connect virtual EC-12 audiences with educational, conservation focused content from TPWD by providing easily searchable, TEKS-aligned videos for educators.

# Armchair Botanist: Community Scientists Transcribing Specimen Labels

Project Contact: *Tiana Rehman, Botanical Research Institute of Texas*  
*trehman@brit.org*

While more than 3 million botanical specimens exist in Texas herbaria, only a small fraction of these are digitally accessible for observation or inclusion in scientific studies. Producing images of these specimens is the first step in liberating these data for research and education. The second step requires identifying and extracting pertinent information about the collection from associated specimen labels. These label data are crucial to then map (or geo-reference: apply geocoordinates to textual locality descriptions) these specimens. We are at step 2 of our project and would welcome your time and expertise in transcribing information from images of Texas-collected botanical (herbarium) specimens that go back nearly 200 years. This activity can be done on your own schedule, with an internet-ready computer (possibly a tablet) and requires no set time-commitment. Weekly Zoom sessions (#transcriptionthursdays) are free to attend. Initial (provided) training in herbarium practices and botanical nomenclature is recommended, and a familiarity with these and Texas geographies and habitats is a bonus!

## Armchair Botanist: Community Scientists Transcribing Specimen Labels

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Project volunteers would gain an understanding of the scientific process of botanists, and a familiarity with the Texas flora and a historical perspective of the botanical exploration of our state. Individuals would be exposed to online and physical resources to expand their botanical knowledge.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

No.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

1 hour

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

This activity is available online and can be accessed at any time. A computer (possibly a tablet) with an internet connection is required.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Hours are flexible and any time contributed to this project is a help.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Texas (and Oklahoma) sits at an ecological and biological crossroads, with extreme ecological gradients and exceptional plant diversity. Digitizing herbarium specimens from this region will enable these primary data sources to contribute to data to answer such questions as those related to uncovering patterns of species richness and phylogenetic diversity, and their relationships with respect to climate and spatial gradients, as well as investigate vegetation responses to climate change, and to improve the performance of species distribution models. Access to these data will better inform land management practices and contribute to our understanding of the Texas (and world) flora.

# AquaPlant Review

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Project Contact: *Brittany Chesser, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*  
*brittany.chesser@tamu.edu*

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<https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>

The AquaPlant site is designed to help land owners identify and manage plants in their ponds. Currently there are roughly 216 aquatic plants listed on the website and there 500,000 page visits each year. Volunteers will conduct a review of AquaPlant, identifying accuracy of scientific names, photos, key characteristics, and management information. Volunteers are also encouraged to suggest plants to be added, along with the corresponding information.

## AquaPlant Review

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will familiarize themselves with scientific names of aquatic plants, key characteristics, and management options.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

The ability to read scientific keys to ensure the plants are properly identified.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

on if they attended the presentation during the virtual fair and/or have additional questions.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

Less than an hour.

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers for this project are expected to go at their own pace to ensure a quality review of the website.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Hours and time period are flexible.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

A year or less.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

This project is needed to ensure one of the top TAMU websites stays current with quality information to create well-informed AquaPlant website users, in terms of identification and management of both beneficial and invasive species.

# Measuring the Public's Perception about Pesticides

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Project Contact: *Janet Hurley, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas*  
*Entomology*  
*jahurley@ag.tamu.edu*

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In 2018, the University of Florida, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Auburn University were awarded an USDA-NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grant entitled Supporting Homeowner IPM Programs. For this project, the two main Extension components were to develop a web-based survey to measure knowledge about pesticide use and create educational ways to educate residents about how to prevent household pests and use IPM practices. The ultimate goals of this project are to 1) create public awareness and understanding of Integrated Pest Management; 2) increase adoption of science-based pest management in homes rather than selecting control methods based on advertising; 3) increase agent participation to support homeowner IPM and build Extension's capacity by engaging non-traditional change agents who will then reach a more diversified audience. Increased public knowledge of IPM can allow for fewer pesticide exposures, better management of pests, and the reduction of pests in homes. If pests are better controlled in homes, pest presence in public places such as schools and businesses may also be decreased. IPM can delay the onset of insecticide resistance that will preserve the useful life of active ingredients, preserve beneficial insects, and decrease human and environmental exposure to unnecessary pesticide use. Pest exclusion and prevention practiced by homeowners will also assist the pest control industry in fully practicing IPM. This project is scalable and has the potential to benefit anyone nationally.

Training and Expertise: Integrated pest management is a core concept for Master Naturalist training; however, how it relates to the home environment might not be as well known. The residential IPM course on AgriLife Learn <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/product?catalog=ENTO-005> can be used as a way to train volunteers. Conducting additional training with volunteers and leaders can be set up to answer additional questions or to further foster programming to benefit residents in their home county.

The Homeowner Survey [https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aben4hZHyZraFXT](https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aben4hZHyZraFXT) is a Qualtrics based survey that ask respondents specific questions regarding when, where and why they chose to do pest control themselves, rather than hire a pest control company. At the same time, for those that do conduct their pest control, we then ask them questions about products used as well. Our team realized that over the past forty years that no where do we have any data about how people use products. We all do it, we have ants, wasps, cockroaches, etc. at the house and go to the nearest store to purchase a product. But why do we do it? What products do most people choose? Are they choosing broad spectrum

killers that can harm beneficial insects as well? What about other products that can harm individuals themselves? Our goal was to get 10,000 people to take this survey to date we have had 883.

#### Volunteer Expectations:

For the Homeowner Survey project volunteers would be provided an approved email script that can be sent to members, other groups, circulated amongst national members that ask others to please take the survey. All these activities have been approved by TAMU Institutional Review Board. For the 2019 State Fair of Texas we created bookmarks to encourage people to take the survey using a QR code, I have boxes that can be distributed for use at small gatherings to help encourage participation. Finally, Qualtrics does allow for social media distribution which can also be used by volunteers.

The Residential IPM program is designed for chapters who have an interest in teaching how people can prevent pests from entering their dwellings. Training from the Specialist can be conducted virtually. At the same time, chapters can determine ways to utilize the online training with additional power points to train others in the Chapter.

#### Outcomes that could be measured:

Tracking participant data in Qualtrics can be measured especially when we know there will be an event. During the What's Bugging You webinars a slide for this survey was presented at the end of the session inviting participants to take the survey which resulted in people taking the survey that day. At the same time, if participating chapters provide a specialized email distribution list, that can be uploaded into Qualtrics and those surveys can be tallied collectively.

Volunteers who are interested will be trained to offer training to other Master Volunteers or other interested groups like home owner associations, church groups, etc. who would benefit from understanding the importance of IPM, but also how to prevent common pests from invading their home.

## Measuring the Public's Perception about Pesticides

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

The goal would be to educate others about pesticide stewardship, endangered species act, clean water, and other elements that most people do not consider when it comes to household pests and pesticide use.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Yes covering how to submit surveys and how to train others on IPM.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 1 - 3 hours depending on project chosen

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

The survey can be done at any time of year but it's best during later summer/early fall or early spring/summer. Volunteers can determine which lists they want to send the request to take the survey too.

Training on pest prevention around the home can be done any time of year. Specialist would work with Chapter volunteers to develop a program that would benefit members in the county.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Survey Initial training 1 hour will cover how to reach out to groups, additional ways to engage people to take the survey.

Compiling contact list – for internal chapter less than an hour. Sending email to distribution list another 15 to 20 minutes. If chapter decides to submit list for Qualtrics distribution building the Excel sheet can take a few minutes to days depending on data entry.

Conducting residential training on IPM practices:

Initial training 3 hours – this will cover the course using a power point presentation – will give group the voucher code to take at their own leisure. Residential IPM typically takes 1 hour to complete.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

The research goal of our this grant proposal that I'm soliciting support for is to fill data gaps that inhibit integrated, science-based recommendations for the control of perimeter pests that can then be incorporated into Extension programming and delivered to a more diversified audience. Pesticide and environmental stewardship is part of the TMN program, this project helps give members a different way to engage with the public in order to help citizens in their community.

# Saltcedar Removal at Lake Casa Blanca International State Park

Project Contact: *Querubin Guerra, Lake Casa Blanca International State Park*  
*querubin.guerra@tpwd.texas.gov*

Lake Casa Blanca water levels have been declining in the last few months. As a result, there has been an increase in Saltcedar sprouting and growing along the shoreline of the lake.

Saltcedar is considered an invasive species that can grow 5 to 25 feet tall or even higher in some areas. Saltcedar alters the ecology of the local soil by diminishing habitat quality. The leaves that are dropped from the saltcedar increase soil salinity and lessens the microbial activity in the soil. Soils generally become drier under dense saltcedar stands due to saltcedar consuming up to 200 gallons of water per plant per day. (Texas Cooperative Extension, L-5398, 1/02).

## Saltcedar Removal at Lake Casa Blanca International State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers are able to learn about invasive species and how they affect the local ecology.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

We will concentrate on physical removal of saltcedar (pulling using hands and tools)

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

The park will train on how to use the tools provided.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* n/a

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

We would like to work on completing the project in a two week period. We are in the process of ordering new tools to use for this project. Estimated start time would be in mid September.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

We are planning on working 3 -4 hours in the morning on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hours are flexible as long as there is park staff available.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* This project will greatly benefit Lake Casa Blanca. Due to the concern that saltcedar consumes up to 200 gallons of water per day/per plant, it is imperative that saltcedar is controlled to prevent consumption of water by this invasive plant. This project is right in line with the mission of the TMN Program to "Manage natural resources and natural areas within communities for the State of Texas."

# Social Media Short Video Series / Content - Possum Kingdom State Park

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Project Contact: *David Fischer, Possum Kingdom State Park*  
*david.fischer@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Possum Kingdom State Park is looking for a volunteer to come and create a short video series interpreting the parks numerous cultural and natural resources. Have fun documenting the parks flora, fauna, and history to be published on the parks social media accounts.

## Social Media Short Video Series / Content - Possum Kingdom SP

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers can gain experience in indirect public outreach, while also identifying the parks resources independently.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Videography / Photography

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

September through October

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

20 hours per week

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

During these uncertain times, traditional interpretation and public outreach is extremely limited. Thinking outside the box Possum Kingdom State Park is looking to engage the public in new ways - such as, social media content. We expect to post these videos to educate and inspire our audience to get outside and enjoy the outdoors.

# Guadalupe River State Park- Interpretive Programs Assistance

Project Contact: *Holly Platz, TPWD - Guadalupe River State Park*  
*holly.platz@tpwd.texas.gov*

We are seeking volunteers to lead regular interpretive programs for families at Guadalupe River State Park. Volunteers would lead programs monthly, bi-monthly or perhaps even weekly. All programs would be held outdoors and would include strict social distancing and other safety measures in place, such as registration required for visitors, and groups of 10 people or fewer, and no tangible/touch items. Programs could include but are certainly not limited to: nature hikes, bird walks, Junior Ranger programs, informal "roving" such as setting up a table to answer questions and show park visitors various interpretive items.

This opportunity is very flexible and is a perfect fit for volunteers who enjoy interacting with the public, both kids and adults.

The volunteer could work alone or with other volunteers.

## Guadalupe River State Park- Interpretive Programs Assistance

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

The volunteer would build on their interpretive skills, and would help connect park visitors to natural and cultural resources, creating stewards of these resources.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* The volunteer would need to be at least somewhat familiar with Guadalupe River State Park.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* Between 1-2 hours -- I would like to shadow the volunteer for at least 1 public program before they do the program on their own.

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* The volunteer(s) would work with me to chose program topic(s) and dates. For the program itself, I would be happy to work with the volunteer to make sure they feel comfortable not only with the topic but also with social distancing measures.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Time commitment would be a minimum of around 1 hour per program. Programs may be held monthly, bi-monthly or possibly weekly. Weekday programs would most likely be the best fit for this opportunity, but schedule is flexible. Time period is very flexible based on weather and the volunteer's schedule.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* At least through the fall season.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* As the Park Interpreter, I am currently offering interpretive programs, but I would like to offer more programs to the public, especially recurring programs. Having a volunteer or volunteers conduct regular programming would give the public more options to connect with the park's natural and cultural resources. This project is perfect for the TMN program because it provides education and outreach to the volunteer's community, further creating stewards of the state's natural resources.

# Guadalupe River State Park- Social Media Content Creator

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Project Contact: *Holly Platz, TPWD - Guadalupe River State Park*  
*holly.platz@tpwd.texas.gov*

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We are seeking a volunteer to assist with creating social media content for our park's Instagram and Facebook accounts. The volunteer should be creative and enjoy engaging with the public, as they will be asked to create short (4-10 sentence) social media posts or Stories highlighting plants, animals, or other topics of natural or cultural significance related to Guadalupe River State Park, including "virtual hikes". The content should be easy to read, non-technical, and of interest to people who are interested in nature but do not have a background in natural history. The content should also contain a few photos of the plant or animal being highlighted, or for social media Stories, up to 9 separate videos, photos, photo collages, or text clips. Videos are welcome as well.

For some topics, photos may be difficult to obtain, and thus do not have to be taken by the volunteer as long as the photo is used with permission and credit given to the photographer.

This would be a perfect project for a volunteer working on their own, or with another volunteer.

This is a very flexible project depending on the volunteer's experience and interest. For example, if they are most comfortable creating posts with text and photos, this is fine; if they prefer a short "virtual program" video, that's great too; if they'd like to make a virtual hike Story for our Instagram and Facebook, that's great as well. One volunteer does not need to do all types of social media content unless they wish to.

To see sample posts and Stories, check out our park's Instagram and Facebook accounts:

<http://www.instagram.com/guadalupeiverstatepark> and Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/guadalupeiverstatepark>

## Guadalupe River State Park- Social Media Content Creator

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

This project will hone the volunteer's interpretive writing, creativity and social media skills and will provide an opportunity to learn more about natural or cultural history. This project will give the satisfaction of connecting an audience to the park's natural and cultural resources.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

The volunteer would need to be familiar with the format and style of Texas State Parks' social media posts. Experience using Instagram or Facebook is preferable. Experience with Instagram Stories is a plus.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

If the volunteer is not familiar with Instagram or Facebook, they will need to spend some time familiarizing themselves with these platforms.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project? 1-3*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

The volunteers(s) would be self-motivated and would come up with their own topics for social media content. They would contact me with their idea(s) and then work on the project on their own time whenever works for them.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Hours and time period are very flexible. Each social media post might require a time commitment of 1 hour (or possibly less) to 3-5 hours, including time spent at the park, and time spent creating the content.

Volunteers could submit their content weekly, monthly, or somewhere in between.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

This is a new need that I anticipate most likely being ongoing as long as a volunteer wants to help, but need may vary depending on interest, demand, or other factors.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

As one of the park's Social Media administrators, I work to connect the public with the park and its resources via our social media accounts. Since the pandemic, we have ramped up our social media presence and content, including posting virtual interpretive programs and increasing the number of posts. This work is rewarding but requires a lot of time, and the park would reach more people if we had multiple folks creating content at the same time.

This work aligns perfectly with the TMN mission, because it allows the volunteer to provide education and outreach (virtually) to their community that will help the public better understand and thus become stewards of the natural resources in their area.

# Stream Team Testing-Fort Parker State Park

Project Contact: *Amanda Zumwalt, Fort Parker State Park*  
*amanda.zumwalt@tpwd.texas.gov*

Fort Parker State Park needs some reliable volunteers to conduct our monthly stream team testing here in the park. Equipment is available for use at the park headquarters. Need stream team monitoring training. Haven't had training? No problem! We can provide training for a small group to get you started! Only a few hours a month are needed for this project, testing at three sites in the park. Testing equipment provided.  
Training can be provided.

## Stream Team Testing - Fort Parker State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Technical skills in using scientific equipment.

Being able to be test the health of the waters in one of Texas' State Parks.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Stream Team Monitoring Training

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 4-8

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

once a month; testing completed on one day a month; weather must cooperate for successful testing

preferably when the headquarters is open so the testing equipment can be stored at the park

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

After stream team monitoring training; 4-5 hours a month

testing can be done any time of month as long as weather cooperates

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Fort Parker State Park holds three stream team testing sites to monitor the health of the natural springs in the park and the Navasota River.

The monitoring of the water's health is important to the wildlife in the park as well as humans who recreate in the water along with the town of Groesbeck drawing their drinking water from this water source

# Plants of Texas Rangelands Virtual Herbarium

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Project Contact: *Megan Clayton, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*  
*megan.clayton@ag.tamu.edu*

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The Extension Range Specialists in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M host a fantastic Texas plants database at [RangePlants.tamu.edu](http://RangePlants.tamu.edu). This website currently hosts over 400 plants in a searchable database with a short description and several pictures of plants in the field and up close plant parts. We have a lot of traffic through this novice-friendly database.

So where am I going with this? We need your plant expertise to help build on our plant list, write short descriptions, and take quality photographs! Who better than the Texas Master Naturalists? We have started a list of plants we are interested in adding, although this list can certainly be modified. Additionally, there are some plants currently in the database that are missing pictures or pictures that could be improved upon. We need volunteers who are good with plants from all regions of Texas. We are also open to training one volunteer with excellent WordPress skills to load new plant biographies into the system after they have gone through the editing process. We look forward to meeting our new rangeland plant partners!

## Plants of Texas Rangelands Virtual Herbarium

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Not only will volunteers have the opportunity to contribute to an excellent and highly used online plant resource provided by Texas A&M Extension, they will enjoy getting to know specific plants a little better as they write up short descriptions and search them out during the year for photographs.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Must love plants and be detail-oriented.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

We will have a short, virtual meeting to go over what is needed for each plant and to choose plants from the plant list.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 1 hour introductory meeting

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

There is no deadline for this project, as it is an ongoing project of Texas A&M Extension Service.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Volunteers will be allowed to select the plants they would like to work on, so they number and time commitment is flexible.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* We would like to grow our Plants of Texas Rangelands Virtual Herbarium to include more of the common plants throughout the state. This project is directly related to the mission of TMN Program - an educational opportunity for the MN as they learn more about our state's flora and an excellent opportunity to contribute to the education of all professionals and citizens who use this website for their plant identification needs. Understanding the characteristics and value of plants is critical to making sound management decisions and developing a land ethic that will pass through generations.

# Texas Aquatic Science Teacher Guide Review

Project Contact: *Melissa Felty (Alderson), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*  
*Melissa.Alderson@tpwd.texas.gov*

Texas Aquatic Science (TAS) has a wonderful TAS Teacher Guide for middle and high school level educators. The first edition was developed in 2015 and the aim of this project is to review, provide feedback, and update the activities and TEKS, and develop printable student worksheets.

## Texas Aquatic Science Teacher Guide Review

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Increase their knowledge on aquatic education and supporting activities and resources. If the volunteer is a Texas Waters Specialist, they will gain needed service hours for annual certification renewal.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Preferred knowledge in middle and high school curriculum

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Review TAS Teacher Guide, provide feedback, and develop student worksheets as a group, guided by myself. Anticipated completion date is June 2021.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

2-10 hours per month, depending on interest level, which would include at least two 1-hour virtual meetings per month, reading materials, updating TEKS, providing feedback, and/or developing student worksheets.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

A year or less.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Expected outcome: TAS Teacher Guide 2nd edition to be used by teachers/educators in their classroom, school grounds, or any Texas natural area.

Assisting with the TAS review aligns with the educational and outreach approach for TMN to engage with teachers and educators about Texas Waters.

# Adopt-A-Loop- Great Texas Wildlife Trails

Project Contact: *Joshua Lee, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*  
*joshua.lee@tpwd.texas.gov*

Adopt-a-Loop is a citizen science project by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to provide regular site evaluation and to better understand the distribution of Texas' wildlife along the Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT). By adopting a loop (or loops) on the GTWT, each TMN chapter will help collect data on our Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and wildlife in general. TMN chapters and members will assist in ensuring that site information along the GTWT is updated and accurate while performing site surveys along their adopted loop(s) throughout the year. Volunteers in each chapter will sign up to visit sites where they will observe and record wildlife using iNaturalist, check and update site information with existing printed maps and online content, and make an overall assessment of the site and its condition. This information will be used in trail updates as well as to help inform visitors on what species to look for when they are at a particular site. Each Chapter choosing to adopt a loop(s) will appoint a Project Coordinator that will be the liaison between the volunteers and TPWD.

## Adopt-A-Loop- Great Texas Wildlife Trails

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Increase awareness, appreciation and conservation of Texas's wildlife and native habitats.

Help provide site visitors with list of viewable wildlife

Build relationships with site managers

Provide TPWD and biologists with important wildlife information, especially for SGCN.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* General knowledge of Texas birds and wildlife. Experience with iNaturalist and eBird is a big plus!

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 1-2 hours of AT should be sufficient.

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Site visits will be conducted 4 times per year on a seasonal basis.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Adopt-A-Loop is a Long-Term Project! Time commitment depends on how many loops/sites are adopted. The length of time for site visits will vary for each site depending on how large the site is and how many people are going to visit it. Small sites may only take 30 minutes and sites with miles of hiking trails could take 1-4 or more hours. Hours are flexible at the discretion of the AAL Coordinator.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* Increase awareness, appreciation and conservation of Texas's wildlife and native habitats.

Wildlife data will be used by TPWD and biologists. Provide accurate, up-to-date information for the GTWT sites being visited by nature tourists. Provide wildlife viewers with list of species to find at sites. Create a new marketing tool to promote wildlife viewing and citizen science

# Distance Learning Media Blitz - Palo Duro Canyon State Park

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Project Contact: *Lindsay Pannell, Texas Parks & Wildlife*  
*lindsay.pannell@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Palo Duro Canyon State Park is dedicated to the children of the Panhandle. In a normal year, we would see thousands of children in the parks and at their schools. With the new restriction surrounding the coronavirus, we are unable to provide traditional face-to-face programming. To replace our normal interpretive programming, we will be providing quality video segments for the public. Please join our team to make memories and provide a special experience for children.

## Distance Learning Media Blitz- Palo Duro Canyon State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Gain experience creating, editing videos and creating interpretive programming. Explore the park in a whole new way by accruing new content and creating new self-guided programs.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Expertise in video equipment is preferred but not necessary.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

I will expect volunteers to be familiar with video equipment and assist with or produce interpretive segments for the public.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Flexible within a year or two.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Interpretation is sometimes the only positive connection made between people and our wild lands. It is crucial we provide the public and specifically our children, the opportunity to learn about our park's cultural and natural resources.

# International Dark Sky Certification – Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Project Contact: *Lindsay Pannell, Texas Parks & Wildlife*  
*lindsay.pannell@tpwd.texas.gov*

The dark and twinkling night sky is one of the fastest resources disappearing in our modern age. With expanding cities and modern LED lighting, our night sky quality is ever diminishing. State Parks are dark sky havens in Texas and must be protected. Palo Duro Canyon State Park is hoping to be certified as a dark sky park! Join our team to help educate local communities and keep the Milky Way shining bright above the canyon.

## International Dark Sky Certification – Palo Duro Canyon State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

- Learn about IDA friendly lighting,
- Reach out to local communities about changing their lighting systems,
- Assist with lighting inventory and IDA reqs in the park.
- Formulate Distance Learning videos on the night sky and it's importance.
- Attend AT training in Interp 101 or Interp them writing.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Willingness to learn about Dark Skies!

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Most of the services would be finished within a year. However, the process for IDA certification can take up to three years. I would like the TMN volunteer to know they may help in each portion of the step.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

The hours and time are flexible. Depending on the number of dedicated volunteers and their availability.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

We are rescuing our dark skies from encroaching light. By doing so we are helping to conserve our cultural and natural resources of Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

# ADA Trail to the Wildlife Viewing Blind – Palo Duro Canyon State Park

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Project Contact: *Lindsay Pannell, Texas Parks & Wildlife*  
*lindsay.pannell@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Access to nature is a right for all. Palo Duro Canyon State Park is fortunate to have one of the few roads leading into a canyon in the United States. Our team is always striving to find ways to make our natural and cultural resources more accessible to the public.

One of the most treasured spots in our park, the Wildlife Viewing Blind is getting an ADA compliant trail leading from the sidewalk at the Trading Post to the blind behind the building. Come join us and make our blind a spot for everyone to enjoy!

## ADA trail to the Wildlife Viewing Blind- Palo Duro Canyon State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers would be trimming back trees, bushes, and other flora to widen the trail, clearing and leveling the trail, working on signage, and more. Volunteers will receive an overview of ADA and potential projects for the park.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

None, just enthusiasm!

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers will help with one to two days of trail assistance. They will clear brush and widen/level the short trail to the Wildlife View Blind. We will then have an ADA accessible trail in our park!

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

One or possibly two days of commitment.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

No more than a month.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

We need more accessible trails in the park so everyone can enjoy the Wildlife Viewing Blind.

# Goose Island State Park – Big Tree Area Hurricane Clean-up, Improvements and Maintenance

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Project Contact: *Kendal Keyes, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*  
*Kendal.keyes@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Volunteers are needed to conduct several different tasks at the area immediately around The Big Tree at Goose Island State Park. The area requires regular gardening-type maintenance as well as some specialized care. Care could be provided by a few dedicated individuals and might also include occasional small-group work events.

The area is on the north side of 12th St. in Lamar at Goose Island State Park. It is heavily visited and is not within the gated portion of the park. The soil type is sand. The site is easily accessible and level and there is a concrete sidewalk. It is located about 1000 feet from St. Charles Bay. Whooping cranes regularly fly overhead when they are present during the winter months. The park is one of the birdiest parks in the State! If you enjoy gardening and some light manual labor this could be a very rewarding long-term opportunity.

The Big Tree itself was not damaged by Hurricane Harvey but the surroundings were very severely impacted. Downed wood throughout the area, salt and wind damage to vegetation, and constant demands on staff throughout the other portions of the park due to reconstruction, now compounded by demands from COVID-19 have left the area looking ragged. The Big Tree itself is healthy and very well cared for, but the surrounding area is in need of attention. The intent of this project is to restore natural beauty to the area and provide on-going care and maintenance.

The area around The Big Tree encompasses about 6 acres and is divided into 3 separate zones. The most intensely managed area is immediately around The Big Tree, under the canopy. This area is mowed regularly by park staff, invasive Guineagrass (which can rapidly grow to 6 feet tall and spread) is removed by hand, compost and mulch are applied annually, and an irrigation system for the tree requires monthly check-ups and occasional maintenance, which can be contracted out if necessary. The system is used occasionally during drought and water quality testing is conducted every 6 months. Testing can either be done by volunteers or water samples can be sent to Agrilife. In addition, a natural log fence and signs in the area require occasional attention and maintenance with replacement of broken wood, bolts etc. All of these tasks could be conducted by volunteers or the park staff could continue to do the mowing and volunteers could conduct the other tasks.

The next zone surrounding the tree is a garden-like area that is regularly mowed and managed for wildflowers with human use and aesthetic beauty and photography in mind. Guineagrass in this area is removed either by hand or with occasional targeted use of herbicide. Trees are regularly checked for dead wood and removal is conducted by a contractor or park staff annually. This zone is the public-use area and includes the parking area. Litter is picked up here by park staff daily. As with the previous zone, all of these tasks could be conducted by volunteers or the park staff could continue to do the mowing and litter pick-up and volunteers could conduct the other tasks.

The largest zone is the outer area which is about 5 acres. This area is managed as a wild area, but one which is groomed and managed to provide a backdrop for The Big Tree. Proper management requires seasonal mowing with a bagger to catch Guineagrass seed, removal of existing Guineagrass and prevention of future re-infestation, management of grapevine and other invasive native species using targeted applications of herbicide to cut stumps, and occasional litter collection. Hurricane Harvey caused significant tree damage in this area and tons of dead wood remain on the ground. The dead wood and vines pose a fire hazard to the area and are currently making mowing impossible. Approximately 75% of the wood should be removed in order to gain access with a mower and manage the Guineagrass. Some chainsaw use would be helpful, but there is a lot of debris that can be removed without the use of a saw. A UTV at the park would be available for volunteer use as needed along with loppers and personal protective equipment. Herbicide use would be conducted with supervision. There are also three old fence rows in this zone which have been destroyed over the past 40 years leaving posts and wire scattered throughout the area. The old posts, which are mostly on the ground, and the old wire should be removed. A fauna and flora checklist of this area would also be a useful tool for visitors and staff.

Help is needed immediately. There is a lot of work to be done to get the entire area back into good shape, but after the initial needs are met, maintenance will be on-going.

Initially work input could be unlimited, but once the major problems are under control the area could be reasonably maintained with approximately 10 hours of work per week. Hours and the time period of the job are completely flexible. Work is needed year-round and late summer months with high heat and mosquitoes can be unpleasant. Work during winter months can be terrific with beautiful cool days, grateful and friendly park visitors and lots of interesting plants and birds.

## Goose Island SP – Big Tree Area Clean-up, Improvements & Maintenance

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers at this site will develop a deep sense of stewardship for this amazing and peaceful site. They will also develop in-depth knowledge of coastal habitat management, grounds maintenance and tree care.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Volunteers could use UTV's, mowers, chainsaws and herbicide, but it is not required.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Use of UTV's, mowers, chainsaws and herbicide would require training, but use is not required.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

I would like for a small group to begin immediately. Work would be best from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 until the weather cools off. Any day of the week is fine. I will meet the person(s) and work with them to begin with. Later, they will be working alone or with other volunteers. Park staff is always nearby.

I hope that one individual will emerge as a team leader and will organize a small group who wants to continue this work long-term, for several years.

I would love to have a dedicated group in the community that cares for The Big Tree grounds long-term.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

It is completely flexible. Initially work input could be unlimited, there is so much to do, but once the major problems are under control the area could be reasonably maintained with approximately 10 hours of work per week.

Hours and the time period of the job are completely flexible. Work is needed year-round and late summer months with high heat and mosquitoes can be unpleasant. Work during winter months can be terrific with beautiful cool days, grateful and friendly park visitors and lots of interesting plants and birds.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

The Big Tree itself was not damaged by Hurricane Harvey but the surroundings were very severely impacted. Downed wood throughout the area, salt and wind damage to vegetation, and constant demands on staff throughout the other portions of the park due to reconstruction, now compounded by demands from COVID-19 have left the area looking ragged. The Big Tree itself is healthy and very well cared for, but the surrounding area is in need of attention. The intent of this project is to restore natural beauty to the area and provide on-going care and maintenance.

This project would closely fit with the mission of TMN. Successful implementation would result in a corps of well-informed volunteers who would primarily provide service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within this State Park and the community of Lamar. Informal education could also be a part of this project, according to the volunteers' desires and capabilities, because the site is heavily visited by visitors who want to know more about The Big Tree and about how TPWD takes care of the area.

# 'Nature Rocks Texas' Assistance

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Project Contact: *Sandra Williams, Texas Children in Nature*  
*sandra.williams2@tpwd.texas.gov*

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There are many ways to get out and explore nature in Texas. TCiN promotes nature exploration at all levels, especially nature close to home. Some of the best nature might be in your backyard, at a local park, on your school campus or at a nearby nature center. Nature Rocks Texas is a suite of websites designed to help families play, explore, and connect with nature in their communities. Visit [naturerockstexas.org](http://naturerockstexas.org) to find nature-based activities and places to play, explore and connect with nature near you. Volunteers will help to update green spaces and parks on the Nature Rocks website as well as help create the new Nature Rocks Houston page.

## 'Nature Rocks Texas' Assistance

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Help communicate where someone can spend time in nature.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Yes – ability to use a computer and a website we will train you on using

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project? One hour*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

At their own time, on a computer.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Flexible – 10 hours/month

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Help communicate how people can spend time in nature and spread awareness of nature areas near to them.

# TPWD's Texas Ecological Analytical Mapper User Testing

Project Contact: *Wendy Anderson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*  
*wendy.anderson@tpwd.texas.gov*

The Landscape Ecology team at Texas Parks and Wildlife is looking for volunteers to test our new TEAM-Go and GroundTruther apps. Both tools are add-ons to the TEAM application is an interactive mapping tool that assists users in understanding the Texas Landscape and integrates EMS data with land management and resource planning of all types. Volunteers who live near grasslands can attend optional, additional training to submit grassland ecosystem data within the TEAM-GO and GroundTruther apps.

## TPWD's Texas Ecological Analytical Mapper User Testing

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

By assisting with TEAM-Go and GroundTruther app testing, Master Naturalists will gain valuable experience with our free mapping software, and can use that knowledge to provide technical ecological guidance to local organizations.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Volunteers require experience with using a computer and web browsers, understanding maps, and basic plant ID.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 1 hr for application training, 1 hr additional & optional for plant identification training

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers can work at their leisure at any time. Ground truthing grasslands must happen during the day and not during the winter when plants are senesced.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Volunteers should expect to do 1-10 hours per month, with as many hours as they would like to commit to. Every entry is valuable to our mapping efforts and understanding Texas' landscape. Hours are flexible, at your own pace, at your leisure. Similar to eBird and iNaturalist this is an ongoing effort with no expected end date

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* The landscape ecology team needs volunteers to test our TEAM-Go and GroundTruther mobile apps in order to make it a user friendly mapping experience. Ground truthing data will help improve accuracy of our mapped grassland ecosystems.

# Texas Children in Nature Stories Project

Project Contact: *Sarah Coles, Texas Children in Nature*  
*scoles@texaschildreninnature.org*

Texas Children in Nature is collecting stories from community members on how they are or are not connecting with nature during the time of COVID-19. Many have been observing an increase in park visitorship and families spending time in nature in neighborhoods across Texas. But, is this a perceived increase? How are families using nature during this time? Are there families not able to access nature now? Tell us your stories.

Recent events have reaffirmed and energized our commitment towards equitable access and connection to nature for all children and Texans. We want to focus on the voices of people of color and underrepresented communities within this project, with a goal to better understand how the network can help all communities achieve safe, equitable access and connection to nature. These stories will be collected through October 2020.

Research has shown that children who spend time outside in nature are more resilient. This is especially important as we weather the unprecedented challenges facing our communities here and throughout the world today. This project is one of the ways we hope to help Texans more equitably benefit from nature's mental and physical healing powers."

TCiN is made up of eight regional collaboratives: Caprock, North Texas, Austin, San Antonio, Pineywoods, Houston, Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley. TCiN hopes the diversity of our communities will be reflected in these personal stories and that we will learn more about the ways families are connecting with nature and what it means to them.

We are looking for volunteers to help with recording interviews and transcribing the interviews.

## Texas Children in Nature Stories Project

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Help TCiN gain a greater understanding of access to nature across the state and inform our work towards equitable access to nature. Also, experience with the interview process.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Yes

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 1

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Can be done on the volunteer's time. Will need to be able to log into the our shared (google) drive to work.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Time if flexible and can do as much as they wish, but an average would be 10 hrs/month

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* Help us gather information about access to nature across the state.

The mission of TMN is: 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 their communities for the state of Texas. This program will help volunteers gain understanding of the natural areas in the state and how we can help manage the land to make it more accessible to others.

# Project WILD Workshops

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Project Contact: *Kiki Corry, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*  
*kiki.corry@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Project WILD Facilitators deliver professional development workshops and materials to educators. Working independently or in teams they share valuable tools to teach conservation in a fun and engaging way. Workshops can be online, hybrid, or in-person, depending on the situation.

## Project WILD Workshops

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers refine their presentation skills, make connections with educators and improve conservation education in general.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Although only completion of the advanced training is required, it is recommended (and a lot more fun) if you have experience using the WILD materials yourself.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* •Advanced training is required – first a basic 6-hour Project WILD or Aquatic WILD workshop, like the one they will be certified to conduct must be completed. Then a 12-hour Project WILD Facilitator Training concludes with certification to conduct the workshops.

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Project WILD Facilitators generally conduct a workshop or do a presentation with it at least once a year. Especially these days, that is flexible. You will be contacted when a request for a workshop in your area has been received; or you can organize one yourself with whatever audience you have connections. The time commitment varies depending on how long it takes you to prepare, which WILD workshop you conduct, and how many you do, but typically a workshop is 3 or 6 hours long and it should take about twice that much time to get ready.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* The time commitment varies depending on how long it takes you to prepare, which WILD workshop you conduct, and how many you do, but typically a workshop is 3 or 6 hours long and it should take about twice that much time to get ready.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* Educators typically get very little preparation to teach specifically about conservation and using outdoor learning space. Project WILD is scientifically accurate, vetted by wildlife agency biologists and extensively tested for best practices in education. Project WILD Facilitators provide that continuing education.

# Curation Assistance of Texas Nature Trackers Projects

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Project Contact: *Craig Hensley, Texas Nature Trackers, TPWD*  
*craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov*

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## Introduction

Texas Nature Trackers (TNT) serves as a conduit between community scientists, including Texas Master Naturalists (TMN), and the scientific world in documenting Texas flora and fauna through, among other things, a series of 12 long-term “traditional” projects in conjunction with iNaturalist. These projects are taxa specific, ranging from those focused on a single species to an entire class of organisms.

In managing these projects, TNT staff focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) within those projects. We are challenged to not only curate records within each project – or coordinate and encourage the curation of projects by partners – but also to identify, among tens of thousands of other observations entered by community scientists in iNaturalist, SGCN observations that have not been included in our TNT projects.

iNaturalist data contribute to our knowledge of the distribution of Texas’ Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Your assistance will help move understanding and conservation forward.

This effort will be computer-based, perfect for a virtual service project for those TMNs who want to assist Texas Nature Trackers while also sharpening their identification skills. All you need is time, a computer with internet access and an iNaturalist account. Curation can be done any time of the year and time commitment varies with project based on the number of observations in question. When curating, you should anticipate blocks of 2-3 hours per session to make meaningful headway.

Below we have outlined what curating a project entails as well as the skills we are seeking for TMNs interested in contributing their time and talent to this important endeavor.

## What Curation Entails

The word curate or curation has taken on multiple in the iNaturalist platform. For our purposes, TMN assistance curating a TNT iNaturalist project entails reviewing Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) records within a given project to:

- 1.confirm the identity of the image or sound recording for that observation,
- 2.check on the locational accuracy of the observation to make sure that it is within our location limit of 500 meters, and if not,
- 3.reach out to the observer to find out if they can review their location data to either add or improve upon the accuracy of said observation, and/or
- 4.search for specific taxa records on iNaturalist that have not been submitted to appropriate TNT projects, reaching out to the observer to invite him/her to submit those data to said project.

## Curator Skills

Texas Master Naturalists interested in assisting with curation of TNT projects should have the following:

- 1.Ability to positively and confidently identify selected taxa being curated,
- 2.Ability to work within the iNaturalist platform,
- 3.Ability to work under the direction of TNT staff while working independently,
- 4.Commitment and time available to make significant contributions,
- 5.Willingness to reach out to other iNaturalist users in a friendly manner to request corrections or inclusion in TNT projects, including follow-up.

## Procedure for becoming a TNT Project Curator

A Texas Master Naturalist interested in assisting with curation of TNT iNaturalist projects is asked to first review the TNT projects to identify which project(s) he/she is interested in helping curate. In determining those project(s) consideration should be given to individual, existing taxa expertise or familiarity, or willingness to learn.

Contact either Tania or Craig to discuss and to become involved at: [tania.homayoun@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:tania.homayoun@tpwd.texas.gov) or [craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov)

## Curation Assistance of Texas Nature Trackers Projects

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

The volunteer will gain the satisfaction that he/she is helping move important observations in our TNT iNaturalist projects of Species of Greatest Conservation Need to, potentially, the Texas Natural Diversity Data Base. This increases our understanding of flora and fauna distribution.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

We will work with the volunteers to get them up to speed on project curation through a training session (virtual).

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* maximum of two

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Curation of certain projects can be on-going and at the convenience of the schedule of the volunteer. There are times where curation of a given project is time sensitive -- we will work with the volunteers coordinate those efforts.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Hours are flexible, however, when curating volunteers should anticipate committing time in 2-3 hour blocks to make significant headway. In terms of total time commitment, while curation is on-going, we would like to see volunteers commit a minimum of 10 hours per project.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Curating projects with Texas Nature Trackers helps move important observations of flora and fauna from the iNaturalist platform to the Texas Natural Diversity Database. The TXNDD tracks species distribution across Texas which helps conservation planners, researchers and agencies make wise decisions on practices that can alter land and habitat quality. You will be making a positive contribution to the understanding of the flora and fauna of Texas, and learning as well.

# Writing For Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine

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Project Contact: *Louie Bond, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine*  
*louie.bond@tpwd.texas.gov*

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We need 10 Texas flora profiles and 10 Texas fauna profiles — one plant and one animal for each 2021 issue. (J/F, MAR, APR, MAY, JUNE, JULY, A/S, OCT, NOV, DEC)

Each article is focused on one species, seasonality preferred, approx. 350-400 words.

We prefer more common species over the rare, for general interest and better imagery.

Odd behaviors or traits? Our readers love those.

Worried about your writing skills? We love to polish. And a pretty photo makes it all so much better.

We'll happily consider any photographs you take or have permission to use, or any photography contacts. Not required at all, though.

We will provide a list of previously covered topics to avoid duplication.

Advanced training?

No additional training needed, but questions happily answered and guidance always available.

How is it carried out?

Deadlines are the first of the month, three months before publication, but ideally, we'd like them carried out more quickly. One problem is that the first deadline is October 1 (but the second isn't until December 1.) We can skip the first one, if that turnaround is too speedy. A simple Word document will suffice for each article. Length is 350-400 words.

Why is it needed? What are the expected outcomes? How will it be used?

These are always written internally by our small staff or busy TPWD biologists. We welcome new voices and perspectives to our publication. We try to inform Texans about what they are seeing each season or give them something new to observe. The more they know, the more deeply they connect with Texas nature. That's how we inspire conservation. We use stunning imagery to draw their attention. Then we share the fun facts we'd impart to a friend if we ran across a Texas spiny lizard or a sensitive mimosa while on a hike together.

Is there any equipment needed by the volunteers?

Just your personal computer and maybe some guidebooks. But heck, if you want to write them on a Big Chief tablet and stick them in an envelope, we'll take it!

What is the potential total time commitment? Likely time commitment of volunteers. Are hours flexible? Is the time period of the job flexible?

Texas Master Naturalist Virtual Volunteer Fair  
Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

We think it takes about four hours to research and write one of these profiles. You may be faster or slower. But at that rate, it's a total of 80 hours. (20 profiles X 4 hours). At a day each, 160 hours. Hours are flexible. These could be split into two projects, one for flora and one for fauna. Only two are due each month, though we would love to receive more sooner.

Examples of past articles (can present as layouts on slides for meeting):

Wild Things

Texas Tiger Beetles [https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/oct/scout8\\_wildthing/index.phtml](https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/oct/scout8_wildthing/index.phtml)

Flying Squirrels [https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/nov/scout8\\_wildthing/index.phtml](https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/nov/scout8_wildthing/index.phtml)

Scrub Jays [https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/may/scout8\\_wildthing/index.phtml](https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/may/scout8_wildthing/index.phtml)

Flora Facts

(We don't usually have a theme for these, but in 2020 we ran a year of native pollinators.)

Poison ivy [https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/jun/scout6\\_flora\\_ivy/index.phtml](https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/jun/scout6_flora_ivy/index.phtml)

Black walnut trees [https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2018/jan/scout3\\_florafact\\_walnut/](https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2018/jan/scout3_florafact_walnut/)

Texas bullnettle [https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2017/jun/scout3\\_florafact\\_bullnettle/](https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2017/jun/scout3_florafact_bullnettle/)

Anything else?

We do have opportunities for other types of photography and articles, as well as blog posts, social media and podcasts, but the animal and plant profiles for print are a pressing and well-defined need for us for 2021.

## WRITING FOR TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE MAGAZINE

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Published magazine clips, improved writing skills, the satisfaction of sharing knowledge with the public.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

no

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Deadlines are the first of the month, three months before publication, but ideally, we'd like them carried out more quickly. One problem is that the first deadline is October 1 (but the second isn't until December 1.) We can skip the first one, if that turnaround is too speedy. A simple Word document will suffice for each article. Length is 350-400 words.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

We think it takes about four hours to research and write one of these profiles. You may be faster or slower. But at that rate, it's a total of 80 hours. (20 profiles X 4 hours). At a day each, 160 hours. Hours are flexible. These could be split into two projects, one for flora and one for fauna. Only two are due each month, though we would love to receive more sooner.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

A year or less.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

These are always written internally by our small staff or busy TPWD biologists. We welcome new voices and perspectives to our publication. We try to inform Texans about what they are seeing each season or give them something new to observe. The more they know, the more deeply they connect with Texas nature. That's how we inspire conservation. We use stunning imagery to draw their attention. Then we share the fun facts we'd impart to a friend if we ran across a Texas spiny lizard or a sensitive mimosa while on a hike together.

# Photo Compilation and Archive - Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

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Project Contact: Roy Rodriguez, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept/Bentsen-RGV State  
Park  
*roy.rodriguez@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park needs assistance in sorting and compiling flora, fauna, volunteer & program photos.

There are hundreds of pics, mostly donated or taken by staff/volunteers. We need to catalog & title them by species for use on our website, FB, photo checklist, trail guides, etc.

## Photo Compilation and Archive - Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Assisting staff with photo organization and compilation. Help us to build content for our online programs. Help us with creating photo checklists and trail guides.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Some technical knowledge of digital photo storage and manipulation

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is an additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 2

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

We have begun weekly FB posts to support our environment education initiatives. We would like to begin in the fall and have the entire photo catalog completed by early spring.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Very flexible. 2-4 hrs per week. Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Over the years, we have saved hundreds of donated photos and hours of video which have not been shared with the public in order to support our mission and to highlight the unique habitat Bentsen supports.

# Social Media Content Creator- San Antonio Urban Office Facebook Page

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Project Contact: *Jessica Alderson, TPWD*  
*jessica.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Volunteers are needed to help create content to be published on the TPWD San Antonio Urban Office Facebook Page.

## Social Media Content Creator – S.A. Urban Office Facebook Page

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers participating in this project would gain experience creating content for social media posts for a state agency. Volunteers would gain knowledge about local wildlife and natural resources in our area.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

No

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers can work from the comfort of their own homes developing social media content that is relevant to our area. Content will be created in a Word document and emailed to the SA urban office when completed. TPWD staff will then publish the content on our social media.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Hours are flexible.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Social media is a great way to reach the public, especially during times when we are not able to meet people face-to-face. With our changing schedules, it can be challenging finding time to create content to post on our office Facebook page.

# Wildlife & Natural Resource Education Trunks Review & Update

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Project Contact: *Jessica Alderson, TPWD*  
*jessica.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Our office has education trunks that are available for loan free of charge to formal and informal educators. Each trunk contains activities and materials appropriate for multiple age level groups. We currently have the following trunks: Bat, Mammal, Wild in the City, Texas Waters, Wetland, Insect, Bird, Owl Track Stamping, Track Molds, Rare and Wild and several other activity trunks. We would like volunteers to review and update these trunks. Volunteers would review trunk for missing, broken items, update any irrelevant information and add materials to enhance the trunk if necessary. Volunteers are encouraged to find and/or develop new content for our trunks.

## Wildlife & Natural Resource Education Trunks Review & Update

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers participating in this project will gain additional information about wildlife and natural resources. Volunteers will contribute to creating updated content for education trunks.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

No

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers can work from the comfort of their own homes. If they prefer, they can also work at our office which is located at Government Canyon State Natural Area (GCSNA). Education trunks can be picked up at GCSNA or delivered to volunteer, if in SA or surrounding area. Volunteers would review trunk for missing, broken items, update any irrelevant information and add materials to enhance the trunk if necessary.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Hours are flexible. We would like to have all trunks reviewed and updated by January 2021 if possible.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Our education loaner trunks are very popular. Most of our trunks are reserved year round making it difficult to review and update materials. Due to COVID, our program has been put on hold, which has created the perfect opportunity to review and update the trunks.

# Develop Species/Eco Region Social Media Spotlights To Help Promote The Wildlife And Habitats That Could Benefit With Dedicated Conservation Funding

Project Contact: *Rachel Rommel, Texas Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife*  
*r.rommel@txwildlifealliance.org*

The Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife could really use volunteers to help develop social media content for the species of greatest conservation need in their Chapter's region. This will help showcase the types of Texas wildlife and habitats that will benefit if the Recovering America's Wildlife Act passes -- federal legislation that would bring more \$50 million dollars per year to wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

## Develop Species/Eco Region Social Media Spotlights w/Dedicated Conservation Funding

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* This volunteer would play a critical role in presenting incredibly important resources for all Texans. This will help showcase the types of Texas wildlife and habitats that will benefit if the Recovering America's Wildlife Act passes -- federal legislation that would bring more \$50 million dollars per year to wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Knowledge of native wildlife or conservation needs in your region preferred, or the ability to research and develop educational and engaging content for our followers who want to learn more about native wildlife. The Coordinator of the Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife will provide a rough "template" for content and example social media posts. The volunteer will provide the species/habitat content and a photograph (with appropriate credit) and then the TAAFW coordinator will copy edit, plug it into our graphics template, and add any applicable information about the legislation before posting to social media sites.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* No  
*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 0

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* It would be great to have enough content for at least one species or ecoregion spotlight per week, more if we have multiple volunteers or volunteers from different parts of the state are interested.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* This would be very flexible and volunteers can put as much or as little into it as they desire. I would imagine for the research and writing it shouldn't take more than 1-2 hours per week if you're only writing content for one post. But if you want to do more, great! Again, the content you put together will then be reviewed/edited by the coordinator and she will add our branding.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* At least another year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* Keep engaged followers on our social accounts with information about native species and how they can be helped with dedicated, adequate conservation funding.

The following are Projects that were not presented during the Virtual Volunteer Fair due to scheduling conflicts – BUT they're still looking for volunteers!

# Distinguishing Oak Tree Species- Fairfield Lake State Park

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Project Contact: *Kate Sherman, Fairfield Lake State Park - Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*kate.sherman@tpwd.texas.gov*

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This is a project that would fit most naturalist with a knack for tree identification. It would be nice to have a video that walks down one of our trails and purposely distinguish the different species of Oak and the easiest way to tell them apart. Species such as White Oak, Pin Oak and scrub oak as well as the many others in our park.

## Distinguishing Oak Tree Species - Fairfield Lake State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

We would hope to gain an informative and educational video on the basics of telling the different species of oak trees apart. We hope that not only park guests/viewers will be able to benefit from learning tree ID but our staff will benefit as well.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Knowledge on plant ID will be helpful

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

A high quality educational video that can be shared on our social media page or local schools.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Just a few hours of filming and video editing is required.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

No more than a month.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Gaining the knowledge of tree ID can help park guests and park staff to ID our native species. We are hoping this video will help staff to ID trees but also spark interest in park guest for tree ID.

# Feral Hog Destruction of Natural Habitat & Increase in Invasive plant species - Fairfield Lake State Park

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Project Contact: *Kate Sherman, Fairfield Lake State Park - Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*kate.sherman@tpwd.texas.gov*

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As in many parts of Texas, Fairfield Lake has its fair share of Feral Hogs in the park. In studies from other southern states in the US there seems to be a correlation on the dispersal of invasive species seeds and spores through the travel and destruction of property committed by these feral hogs. By tracking movement and destruction patters, it would be interesting to see if and how invasive plants are spreading more easily due to this. By completing this study we can get a better understanding of how these invasive seeds are spreading and hopefully learn how to prevent it further. This projects scope would be over a year as seasons and sprouting times vary. A person with botany, familiarity with invasive plants and experience with GPS and mapping software would be needed for a project of this scope. This is an observational study that trail cams and other tracking means for hog trails and a modern hydrological map would be needed to distinguish erosional and path markings.

## Feral Hog Destruction of Natural Habitat & Increase in Invasive plant species - Fairfield Lake State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* By tracking movement and destruction patters, it would be interesting to see if and how invasive plants are spreading more easily due to this. By completing this study we can get a better understanding of how these invasive seeds are spreading and hopefully learn how to prevent it further.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Invasive Species ID and possibly Botany

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* No

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* This projects scope would be over a year as seasons and sprouting times vary. A person with botany, familiarity with invasive plants and experience with GPS and mapping software would be needed for a project of this scope. This is an observational study that trail cams and other tracking means for hog trails and a modern hydrological map would be needed to distinguish erosional and path markings.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* At least a full year of study would be required for this particular project.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* Due to the increased pop. of feral pigs in this area and destruction of soil stability it allows for the dispersion of invasive species seeds and spores on an increased scale. This study is needed to learn how to control the spread of these unwanted species at our state park and to better protect it from invasive species in the future.

# River Otters Informational Video - Fairfield Lake State Park

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Project Contact: *Kate Sherman, Fairfield Lake State Park - Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*kate.sherman@tpwd.texas.gov*

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Fairfield Lake State Park has a healthy population of otters. We would love for an expert on otters to create an informational video for virtual learning that we can share to our social media pages. Many people are not even aware that otters exist in Texas and we would love to give our a spotlight and provide educational content on them.

## River Otters Informational Video- Fairfield Lake State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

We are hoping to provide a virtual learning source about or otters that can reach wide audiences and achieve engagement and interest for an animal that many people don't know is a resident of our lake.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Expertise on Otters in Texas and their habitat would be awesome!

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

We would expect to see a high quality, informative, and engaging video.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Just a few hours to put together a video are necessary. If footage of the park is required they could come to the park or our staff can help by providing b-roll footage of our park.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* No more than a month.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

We would like to provide a spotlight for these fascinating animals that the public may know little about. We hope that by shining a spotlight on these animals it will spark a passion for protecting the environment they live in. Our park staff can also learn from this video and help to educate park guests about our otters here at the lake.

# Flora and Fauna Guide – Fairfield Lake State Park

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Project Contact: *Kate Sherman, Fairfield Lake State Park - Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*kate.sherman@tpwd.texas.gov*

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## Flora and Fauna Guide – Fairfield Lake State Park

A guide on the flora and fauna that can be found within our State Park.

No additional training needed.

Expertise needed to correctly identify species of flora and fauna.

Service and be carried out anytime.

Park guest often ask if we have such a guide and to my knowledge no guide has been done on our park and if one has, not in a very long time. We have been seeing a wider variety of flora and fauna in our park since the power plant shut down and the water became cool and more like a natural lake. For example, we are seeing more migratory birds than ever. We have very little knowledge on flora but from other park guests we have learned that we have quite a variety or healthy plants. We are hoping a guide will not only help our park guests learn about our local wildlife, but it will help our staff to become more knowledgeable about our park.

No special equipment is needed but park staff and park guests have been using iNaturalist to identify many species of flora and fauna. This may be a great tool to use to put together a guide.

Hours and time are completely flexible. The time period is completely flexible.

## Flora and Fauna Guide- Fairfield Lake State Park

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* They could help us build a better picture of the ecosystem of our lake. To our knowlage nothing like this has ever been done. A guide will help not only our park guests but our staff will become more knowledgeable about our parks flora and fauna.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Experience with east texas flora and fauna. Experience in creating guides.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* No.

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Volunteers can gather data by visiting the park or by using tools like iNaturalist. This work can be done independently if desired. Cataloging of common flora and fauna found around our lake is needed. Our park staff can also be of assistance by providing data or photographs if needed.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Time and hours are completely flexible. We believe only a few hours a week to come to the park and collect data would be necessary. There is no deadline on when we need this guide.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* Park guest often ask if we have such a guide and to my knowledge no guide has been done on our park and if one has, not in a very long time. We have been seeing a wider variety of flora and fauna in our park since the power plant shut down and the water became cool and more like a natural lake. For example, we are seeing more migratory birds than ever. We have very little knowledge on flora but from other park guests we have learned that we have quite a variety or healthy plants. We are hoping a guide will not only help our park guests learn about our local wildlife, but it will help our staff to become more knowledgeable about our park.

# Crawdad Population and Varied Species Study - Fairfield Lake State Park

Project Contact: *Kate Sherman, Fairfield Lake State Park - Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*kate.sherman@tpwd.texas.gov*

Since the Operation of the Big Brown Plant has ceased and Fairfield Lake has had a two-year time window to acclimate to a latitude appropriate lake temperature. In this time, we have seen the number of organisms increase as the water health has improved drastically.

At Fairfield Lake, we know that we have a healthy population of Red Swamp Crawdads and their importance to our Food Web and Energy Flow. As a valuable food source to many of other species, it would be interesting to know if this is the only type of crawdad.

## Crawdad Population and Varied Species Study - Fairfield Lake SP

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

This would be a good study to be carried out with a park representative. The expected outcome would be to continue to catalogue the species that exist in our park and used as reference for other ecological food web, fish stock and other vital studies to the health of the lake.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Invertebrate ID would be helpful

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

There is no specific time that we need this study to be completed.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Total time commitment would be less than four hours after traps are dropped and catalogued over a few weeks or less. It is recommended that the traps be dropped at different depths and segments in the lake to obtain an accurate reading of dispersed species and habitat patterns.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

No more than a month.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

We are hoping to gain a better understanding of our food web and energy flow since the lake is now a latitudinal normalcy. In order to keep a healthy and viable ecosystem all species must be balanced in energy and resources. With this knowlage we can better protect our resources and organism.

# Educational Video on our Spider Lilly Population - Fairfield Lake State Park

Project Contact: *Kate Sherman, Fairfield Lake State Park - Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*kate.sherman@tpwd.texas.gov*

One of the most unique and beautiful plants on our park, Fairfield Lake State Park, are the Spider Lilies. This would be an interesting video for plant and flower researchers in this area of Texas.

## Educational Video on our Spider Lilly Population - Fairfield Lake SP

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Knowledge about a plant that is only seen blooming a few weeks out of the year at our park. We are hoping to gain a better understanding of how they fit into our ecosystem and how they got here.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

None

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

An educational video about this particular plant species life cycle and how it fits into the ecosystem.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Just a few hours to create and edit a video.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

No more than a month.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

One of the most unique and beautiful plants on our park are the Spider Lilies. This would be an interesting video for plant and flower researchers in this area of Texas.

# Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

## Butterfly Surveys

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Project Contact: *Jessica DeBoer, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*  
*jessica.DeBoer@tpwd.texas.gov*

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This upcoming fall and beyond, we will be conducting butterfly surveys at the park. We are looking for volunteers who have some knowledge and experience with identifying butterflies (and wildflowers), both in the field and from photographs, to assist with this effort.

### Enchanted Rock State Natural Area Butterfly Surveys

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Opportunity to learn/practice butterfly and wildflower identification in the Llano Basin and Texas Hill Country; Adding to the available data for pollinators & wildlife in Texas and the world;

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Butterfly & wildflower identification skills are a strong plus

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

There may be additional training available dependent on interested parties.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* TBD

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

On selected days (anticipating twice a month) starting in October, surveys will take place on foot beginning around 10AM and run until about 2PM.

Survey areas may not be on designated trails, so good footwear and long pants are strongly suggested.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

2-4 hours per survey; bi-monthly; there may be additional time involved with going through photos, sorting/entering data and uploading images to databases (iNaturalist; eButterfly etc).

Time commitment per volunteer would vary. Specific survey dates will be set up by the myself, with input from volunteers.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

To better understand the population composition of butterflies in the area, to create a baseline for future surveys and to provide an opportunity to educate the public on butterflies while building identification skills (currently through social media). Note: at this point there is no public outreach component to this project; however, in the future we hope to loop the public in on butterfly surveys and/or guided butterfly walks.)

# Enchanted Rock State Natural Area Bird Surveys

Project Contact: *Jessica DeBoer, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*  
*jessica.DeBoer@tpwd.texas.gov*

This upcoming fall and beyond we will be conducting bird surveys at the park. We are looking for volunteers who have some knowledge and experience with identifying birds (by sight or by sound), or with a strong interest in learning bird identification, to assist with this effort.

## Enchanted Rock State Natural Area Bird Surveys

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Opportunity to learn/practice bird identification in the Llano Basin & Texas Hill Country; Add to the available data for wildlife in Texas and the world;

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Experience with field identification of birds is strong plus

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

On selected days (anticipating 2-4x per month) starting in October, surveys will take place on foot beginning around 8:00AM (dependent on sunrise) and running for approximately 2-3 hours. Additionally, we may be able to have a 'stationary' survey team for more developed areas of the park. Survey dates will be set up by park staff, with input from volunteers.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

2-3 hours per survey; 2-4 times per month; there may be additional time involved with going through photos and uploading photos to databases (iNaturalist; eBird etc).

Time commitment per volunteer would vary.

Specific survey dates will be set up by park staff, with input from volunteers.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

To better understand habitat usage in the park and the Llano Basin throughout the year; to continue to monitor the bird populations in the area and to provide an opportunity to educate the public on birds and bird habitats while building identification skills (currently through social media). Note: at this point there is no public component to this project; however, in the future we plan to resume our scheduled bird hikes.

# Dinosaur Valley State Park Trail Maintenance

Project Contact: *Zachary Riggs, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department/Dinosaur Valley State Park  
zachary.riggs@tpwd.texas.gov*

Work off that quarantine fatigue by beautifying the park! Our trails at Dinosaur Valley State Park are becoming overgrown and we need help trimming them back and filling in washed out areas.

## Dinosaur Valley State Park Trail - Trail Maintenance

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

In addition to meeting volunteer hour requirements, participants can expect to gain skills in trail maintenance (e.g. tree trimming, path repair/fortification), build bonds with park rangers and fellow volunteers, and ensure park visitors have a safe, and enjoyable experience.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Trail maintenance preferred, but not required.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

This service can be done any day of the week from Wednesday to Monday (no Tuesdays). We expect volunteers to be able to hike up to a mile or two down the trail in order to cut back junipers, oak, and shrubs as well as repair and fortify washed out sections of trail.

Volunteers unable to hike but still willing to help will do similar work on interior trails.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

We would like volunteers to commit at least 4 hours per month (with no upper limit). These dates and times are flexible provided the volunteer is able to perform said duties with little guidance. We will schedule monthly work days that we encourage volunteers to attend (as many hands make light work), but understand that not all will be available. Those wishing to make up the hours may do so by coordinating with a Ranger.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Trail maintenance is an essential duty within Texas State Parks in order to provide recreational opportunities to present and future generations. TMN would be serving their community by helping the park manage its natural resource. Dinosaur Valley State Park experienced a reduction in staff during the last 6 months, along with limited visitor capacity. By removing both of these factors, our trails have become overgrown and we could use some help restoring them.