



Our volunteers are ready to volunteer!

Our Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers are dedicated to natural resource conservation work, but as a result of extreme circumstances due to the pandemic our members have been severely limited in conducting many of their typical outreach, technical guidance and community stewardship service projects. This has limited their ability to obtain their required volunteer service hours. With health and safety restrictions persisting, we're thinking outside of the box for how Texas Master Naturalist volunteers can assist our partner conservation organizations in their communities.

The **Virtual Volunteer Fair** will be an opportunity for our partner conservation organizations to present volunteer service projects that need volunteers from a distance or virtually! Save the Date and plan to join us on **February 3rd and 4th, 2021**, for this series of project presentations showcasing opportunities from across the state and across the spectrum of natural resource topics.

Registration is now OPEN to attend our Virtual Volunteer Fair! Register for either of the days or for both days **but registration is day specific** so make sure you sign up for the day you want to attend! You can attend any or all project proposal presentations on either of the days – come and go as you please! TMN volunteers will earn Volunteer Service hours for attending all project proposal sessions – please use the “TMN Virtual Volunteer Service Fair” Statewide Project Opportunity for logging service hours.

[Register to receive a WebEx Link for each Day](#)

If you've never used WebEx as a platform at all, the [WebEx 101 Guide](#) linked is a great place to start – plus there are live testing sites on the Cisco WebEx page for any day users to test their equipment and set up.

# AGENDA

The following projects are described in the “Catalog of Projects” in the order presented below.

## Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Introduction
9:10 AM - 9:20 AM	George W. Bush Presidential Library Native Texas Park Docent - <i>Lois Diggs</i>
9:20 AM - 9:30 AM	Prairie Restoration Maintenance Plan - <i>Stephanie Keith</i>
9:30 AM - 9:40 AM	Erosion Plot Design - <i>Stephanie Keith</i>
9:40 AM - 9:50 AM	Social Media Content - <i>Jordan Kieffer</i>
9:50 AM - 10:00 AM	BREAK
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Flora and Fauna Guide to the Chris W. Burkett Service Center Demonstration Gardens - <i>Rebecca Sales</i>
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	Virtual Interpretive Videos - <i>Brent Wilkins</i>
10:20 AM - 10:30 AM	Request for Social Media Content emphasizing the natural resources and flora and fauna of Southeast Texas. - <i>Emilee Gerngross</i>
10:30 AM - 10:40 AM	3 Rivers Foundation Biodiversity and Educational Assistance - <i>Christena Stephens</i>
10:40 AM - 10:50 AM	Nature Notes Contributor - <i>Rachel Powers</i>
10:50 AM - 11:00 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM - 11:10 AM	Butterfly Monitoring - <i>Irmi Willcockson</i>
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	Texas Butterfly Monitoring Co-coordinator - <i>Irmi Willcockson</i>
11:20 AM - 11:30 AM	Texas Aquatic Science Video and e-Book Production - <i>Melissa Felty (Alderson)</i>
11:30 AM - 11:40 AM	Adopt-A-Paddling Trail - <i>Shelly Plante</i>
11:40 AM - 11:50 AM	Monitoring Invasive Aquatic Species Through Birding - <i>Alice Best</i>
11:50 AM - 12:00 PM	Conclusion & Wrap Up

## Thursday February 4<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Introduction
9:10 AM - 9:20 AM	Bracken Cave Preserve video projects - <i>Fran Hutchins</i>
9:20 AM - 9:30 AM	City Nature Challenge 2021 in the Rio Grande Valley - <i>Tony Henehan</i>
9:30 AM - 9:40 AM	AquaPlant Website Review & Enhancement - <i>Brittany Chesser</i>
9:40 AM - 9:50 AM	Invasive Species Surveys and Verification - <i>Angela England</i>
9:50 AM - 10:00 AM	BREAK
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Adopt-A-Loop - Great Texas Wildlife Trails - <i>Joshua Lee</i>
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	Fat Bat project - <i>Fran Hutchins</i>
10:20 AM - 10:30 AM	Story Time for Bats - <i>Fran Hutchins</i>
10:30 AM - 10:40 AM	Plant ID Bingo - <i>Meg Inglis</i>
10:40 AM - 10:50 AM	Aligning TPWD Educational Resources with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) - <i>Louisa Torrance</i>
10:50 AM - 11:00 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM - 11:10 AM	Texas Municipal Park Providers Inventory - <i>Jamie Walker</i>
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	Aquatic Plant Photo Submission Round 2 - <i>Brittany Chesser</i>
11:20 AM - 11:30 AM	Armchair Botanist: Community Scientists Transcribing Specimen Labels - <i>Tiana Rehman</i>
11:30 AM - 11:40 AM	Horned Lizard Conservation Educational Materials - <i>Mason Lee</i>
11:40 AM - 11:50 AM	TPWD's Texas Ecological Analytical Mapper user testing - GroundTruther tool - <i>Wendy Anderson</i>
11:50 AM - 12:00 PM	Conclusion & Wrap Up

# Projects Not Presented During Virtual Volunteer Fair

*These projects need your assistance too!*

- Flora Guide for Village Creek State Park – *Kathy Smith*
- Village Creek State Park Trail Maintenance and Minor Repair Projects – *Kathy Smith*
- Village Creek State Park Invasive Species Control - Coral Ardisia – *Kathy Smith*
- Village Creek State Park Bird Checklist – *Kathy Smith*
- Species Spotlight for Village Creek State Park Social Media – *Kathy Smith*

+++++

# CATALOG of PROJECTS

Presented on

Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

***The following projects are in order of how they appear on the Agenda from the 2-day Virtual Volunteer Fair Event held on Feb. 3 & 4, 2021. There are some additional projects listed at the bottom from speakers unable to participate at the Virtual Volunteer Fair event. Please check out ALL the projects!***

*The catalog offers a description of each project, along with the Project Contact and their email address. If you are interested in a particular project, please reach out to the Project Contact directly if you did not get a chance to sign up during the event.*

*In addition, where a project is not open for statewide consideration, the ecoregion and the local chapters are indicated in the project description. Keep in mind that some site-based projects may offer aspects of the project that don't require your presence at the site. If they do require your presence to assist, please make sure to consider the project's location compared to your chapter's region and your training as a Master Naturalist. Be sure projects you choose are within ecoregion(s) you are trained and are pre-approved by your chapter.*

# George W. Bush Presidential Library Native Texas Park Docent

Project Contact: *Lois Diggs, George W. Bush Presidential Library Native Texas Park*  
*Loissdiggs@gmail.com*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Blackland Prairie Ecoregion - Available to Chapters: North Texas, Blackland Prairie, Cross Timbers, Indian Trail*

The George W. Bush Presidential Library completed in 2013, includes a 15-acre Native Texas Park. The park offers visitors an opportunity to experience Mr. & Mrs. Bush's love of the Texas landscape and their commitment to environmental conservation and restoration. The park is FREE and open to the public 365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset. The Park is maintained by a local landscape company with guidance from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. A core group of docents, comprised of Master Gardeners, Master Naturalist, and lovers of the Blackland Prairie, worked with the education staff to develop the Park Docent handbook, education programs, and handouts, and coordinating seasonal events. Each Saturday morning, during the spring and fall months (weather permitting), Park docents provide a 45+ minute guided tour through a network of mile-long pathways, exploring and showcasing Texas native/adapted trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs. One of the goals of the tour is to help visitors see the beauty of a restored native landscape in an urban environment, how it can be used in a residential or formal setting, and the necessity to increase the biodiversity and conservation of resources for the future generations. The tours are also available upon request.

As in many organizations, the park tour would not be possible without the tour volunteers.

For more information about the Native Texas Park go to the [www.georgewbushlibrary.smu.edu](http://www.georgewbushlibrary.smu.edu) or contact: Lois Diggs at: [loissdiggs@gmail.com](mailto:loissdiggs@gmail.com).

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* The Native Texas Park offers the opportunity to learn about giving guided tours, building on your area of interest: birds, wildlife, grasses, forbs, Blackland Prairie, etc. and helping develop educational programs for the public.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* None, but knowledge of birds, pollinators, native/adapted plants would be helpful.

*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 hours of orientation all volunteers at the Bush Library are required to attend

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* When the Bush Center is cleared to conduct tours, we hope to offer the Saturday morning events, in the Spring of 2021. In the meantime, potential volunteers will be given information, socially distance training tours in the park and can begin learning about the plants at an instagram account: [mockingbirdsandbluebonnets](https://www.instagram.com/mockingbirdsandbluebonnets)

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Yes, flexible hours, tours are Saturday morning Spring and Fall or when requested by groups.

There are also opportunities to help with the Instagram account/Photograph, develop specialty informational handouts and educational events. *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?*

As in many organizations, the park tours would not be possible without volunteers. The goal of our tours, is to provide an example of landscape restoration-using native/adapted plants, showing how to use minimal supplemental watering, and providing for wildlife through diverse plantings. Offering a guided tour, gives visitors the opportunity to ask questions and learn from what they are experiencing. A pamphlet can not provide these answers. By giving visitors the experience of an interpretive tour, this small 15 acre landscape hopefully will give them a renewed appreciation of what they can do to in their area.

# Prairie Restoration Maintenance Plan

---

Project Contact: *Stephanie Keith, Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District*  
*mtgcd4@centurylink.net*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Cross Timbers Ecoregion - Available to Chapters:  
Heart of Texas, Prairie Oaks, Cross Timbers, Rio Brazos Chapter*

---

Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (MTGCD) would like to partner with an individual or team of knowledgeable Master Naturalists to develop a Native Prairie Restoration Maintenance Plan.

The District is currently designing an outdoor learning center situated in an urban setting adjacent to its main office. Each aspect of the center is designed around the water story and the following three main educational themes have been established: Water is Life; We are All Water Stewards; Water is Always Moving.

Eleven interventions have been incorporated into the design to support the educational themes:

invasive species removal, windmill, green parking infrastructure, rain gardens, green infrastructure, native plant gardens, rainwater cisterns, turf grass, riparian buffer, prairie restoration, and a wetland habitat.

Scope of Work: The volunteer(s) will work with the project manager, to develop a basic three-part maintenance plan for the prairie restoration portion of the project.

How will the area be managed or maintained short term?

How will the area be managed or maintained long term?

What will be done to prevent invasive non-native plants from out-competing the native plants?

Native Prairie Restoration Project Details: Currently, there are 73,000 square feet of Bermuda and Johnson Grass present on the project site. This area will be transformed back to its native prairie state. The removal process is tentatively scheduled to begin in the early spring of 2021.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - non place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* A volunteer could gain experience in maintenance program design concepts for prairie restoration, working relationship with Middle Trinity GCD staff, and possible educational opportunities for the local Master Naturalist chapter.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Experience with native prairie restoration projects and maintenance; short and long term

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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Participating volunteers will be expected to efficiently collaborate with the project manager via Zoom. The project will begin in mid-February and be complete no later than March 5th, 2021. Collaborative documents can be shared via Google Docs or email.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* The expected amount of hours needed to complete this project are undetermined at this time. Volunteer work hours will be flexible. The project must be complete no later than March 5th, 2021.

*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?* MTGCD is requesting assistance with the maintenance protocol to: Establish a working relationship and/or mentorship with Texas Master Naturalists. Develop an executable maintenance plan to ensure the success and longevity of the prairie restoration portion of our project. Submit the maintenance plan as a part of the project details when applying for grants. The expected outcome of the project is to develop an executable maintenance plan and a relationship with Master Naturalists. This project is linked to the mission of the TMN Program because we are working to building educational opportunities around stewardship, native plant and tree species, green infrastructure, and restorative practices that will benefit the land.

# Erosion Plot Design

---

Project Contact: *Stephanie Keith, Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District*  
*mtgcd4@centurylink.net*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Cross Timbers Ecoregion - Available to Chapters:  
Heart of Texas, Prairie Oaks, Cross Timbers, Rio Brazos Chapter*

---

The volunteer(s) will work with the project manager to design multiple erosion run-off plots throughout the outdoor learning center. The plots will be used to demonstrate the impact of plant coverage and the amount of sediment lost to erosion.

## Project Details

Plots will be designed according to their locations within the learning center. There are many opportunities to explore a variety of plant species, seeding methods/patterns, and soil types. Location options include, but are not limited to: riparian areas, Bermuda covered berms. The plots will be used as educational tools for the center. An educational focus is desired when designing this project.

The volunteer(s) will be mainly responsible for plant selection based on plot location and plot design.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

---

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* The volunteer can hope to gain erosion plot design experience, specifically in plant selection.

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

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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Planning and project implementation can begin as soon as possible and may continue throughout the remainder of 2021 depending on project construction status.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* The expected amount of hours needed to complete this project are undetermined at this time. Volunteer work hours will be flexible. Participating volunteers will be expected to efficiently collaborate with the project manager weekly via Zoom. The project design will need to be complete by April 2021.

*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?*  
The project is needed for educational and data collection purposes. MTGCD would like to create these plots as an educational tool for its patrons. Erosion control and plant selection are vital to the knowledge base of a Texas Master Naturalist.

# Social Media Content

---

Project Contact: *Jordan Kieffer, Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*jordan.kieffer@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Gulf Prairies Ecoregion - Available to Chapters:  
Galveston Bay Area, Gulf Coast Chapter, Lower Trinity Basin Chapter, Cradle of  
Texas Chapter*

---

Galveston Island State Park is looking for volunteers to help produce social media content for both Facebook and Instagram pages. Social media content will include taking photos, providing entertaining interpretive facts, creating videos, and assisting the park interpreter with recording videos.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Learning about Galveston's unique environment while also learning helpful tools such as producing social media content, photography, and videography.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Some background in social media and photography 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!

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Service will be carried out through multiple mediums including virtually, going out on their own, and assisting the park interpreter with videos. No time frame set.

*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. Looking for 1-2 social media posts a week with a potential for more.

*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?* Due to these unprecedented times, most live interpretation programs cannot take place. With one staff member in charge of all interpretation, it will be incredibly helpful to have individuals able to help educate the public through virtual means. This will be used on both Facebook and Instagram platforms, as well as teaming up with some partner organizations.

# Flora and Fauna Guide to the Chris W. Burkett Service Center Demonstration Gardens

---

Project Contact: *Rebecca Sales, City of Mansfield Environmental Services Department*  
*rebecca.sales@mansfieldtexas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: North Texas Area-- Cross Timbers, North Texas, Rio Brazos, and Indian Trail*

---

This guide would be used for participants in both virtual and in-person gardening classes that are held at various times throughout the year. The guide would showcase the plants featured in the Chris W. Burkett Service Center demonstration gardens. The guide could be used by residents to help plan their own gardens and make choices of plants to include. The guide would give information about specific native and adaptive plants. The information would include things like watering and sun requirements, size of plant, what type of wildlife it can attract, special considerations when planting, maintenance and care suggestions, description of plant and blooms, pictures of the plant, scientific and common names, when to plant, annual/perennial and any other pertinent information that the Master Naturalists think would be helpful.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* A volunteer would be able to use their expertise to provide educational information to residents who are interested in creating their own pocket gardens or flower beds to attract wildlife and add beauty to their yard. This deliverable could be used far into the future and be a helpful resource.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Expertise in native and adaptive plants to attract pollinators and wildlife

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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* I would love to have a booklet that could be used in print form and posted electronically on the city website. Ideally, this would be ready for distribution in the summer of 2021. The volunteer could produce this document using whatever software they prefer, but the final document would need to be in a pdf format. I can provide a spreadsheet of the plants we have in the demo garden. The spreadsheet contains some of the information that is requested (scientific name, plant pictures, descriptions, etc.) so the volunteer would not have to be working from scratch. I can also take new photos of the plants if needed to see them in various seasons.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* The completion date is totally flexible. I anticipate that the total commitment would be a few weeks to possibly a month to complete if working full time.

*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 have many residents to want to learn more about gardening while conserving water and improving their environment. Many are also interested in learning how to attract pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Having a printed educational resource that supports the demonstration gardens as an educational piece helps class participants to retain and use the knowledge they gain during gardening classes. This project directly links to the Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission of providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

# Virtual Interpretive Videos

---

Project Contact: *Brent Wilkins, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center*  
*bwilkins@hcp4.net*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Pineywoods Ecoregion - Available to Chapters:  
Gulf Coast, Heartwood, Lower Trinity & Piney Woods Lakes*

---

Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, a Harris County Precinct 4 nature park, is dedicated to environmental and natural history, education, wildlife conservation and passive recreation. Located along Spring Creek in northeast Houston, Jones Park features over 10 miles of trails and a replica 1830s era pioneer homestead and Akokisa Indian village.

In an effort to bring programming to the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jesse Jones Park Volunteers, a registered 501(c)(3) that supports Jones Park, is developing a new Facebook page. We are currently searching for volunteers that are passionate and knowledgeable about Texas natural and cultural history.

Our goal is to publish short informative videos on the JJPV Facebook page using volunteer-contributed digital content. These videos can be made at your convenience remotely or on-site while social distancing.

For anyone looking for in-person volunteer opportunities, such as habitat management or living history demonstrations, we also have a plethora of additional on-site activities available. For more information, contact the park at 281-446-8588.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Master Naturalists are able to join a passionate team of volunteers that have dedicated 31 years to supporting the mission of Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center. Regardless of your location, we are honored to welcome you to the JJPV.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Experience with educational programming and digital media.

*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 project can be done around your own schedule on-site or remotely from home.

*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 is flexible to work around your schedule.

*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 goal of this project is to expand the reach of park educational programming into a broader digital community. By promoting natural resources conservation, our goals align with the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

# Request for Social Media Content emphasizing natural resources & flora and fauna of S.E. TX

---

Project Contact: *Emilee Gerngross, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Newton County*  
*emilee.gerngross@ag.tamu.edu*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Pineywoods Ecoregion - Available to chapters: Sabine-Neches, Piney Woods Lakes & Longleaf Ridge*

Social media is becoming a major source of discriminating information to our local communities. There is a strong desire for material related to horticulture and natural resources. Even though “Natural Resources” is a part of the title description as AGNR CEA Agents, we often are trained in more conventional agriculture- like row crops, livestock and forages and do not have as much knowledge base in natural resources. While I can create social media content in those areas, it often takes me a longer amount of time to gather materials and resources to write an engaging, and most important, accurate piece. I know that the residents of Newton County would appreciate interesting, applicable, and tailored social media content.

For this specific proposal, Newton County requests social media content that is tailored to the Southeast Texas region, specifically Newton County. One post per month would be ideal for the 2021 calendar year. It would be the assumption that no additional training would be necessary for a certified Master Naturalist beyond basic research of our area. The skills needed to become a Texas Master Naturalist would be of the upmost value in researching and putting together engaging social media posts for our office to use.

Through these posts we would hope to highlight the Pineywoods region of East Texas and specifically Newton County. We are one of the poorer and often overlooked counties in Texas. Having some of our rich natural history and offerings explored and talked about would be very advantageous to our community. We appreciate this opportunity and the knowledge of the Texas Master Naturalist.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* A broader knowledge of the differing landscapes of Texas.

*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!

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* A series of social media posts that could be disseminated over time. Perhaps one post per month over a 12 month period.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* 2 hour - at your own pace. The posts or information could come monthly or put together all at once.

*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?*

In Newton County we often are overlooked for things and to be honest, don't have much that our folks rally behind, besides high school football, of course. We are a county of hard working folks, many spending much of their day in the woods, earning a living in the logging and timber industry. While we are surrounded by nature, 900+ square miles of it roughly, on a daily basis, we often overlook or take for granted the natural beauty that our area and ecosystem have to offer. Through this educational opportunity, the Texas Master Naturalist Program could help the communities of Newton County learn more about our natural resources, flora and fauna and how to enjoy, understand and conserve them. With the prominence of logging and land clearing, it would be beneficial to understand more of how reforestation works. What can we do to protect our natural wildlife and or support them in an area that is logged. Any education or information would be appreciated greatly.

# 3 Rivers Foundation Biodiversity and Educational Assistance

Project Contact: *Christena Stephens, 3 Rivers Foundation*  
*christenas@3rf.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Rolling Plains Ecoregion - Available to these chapters: Rolling Plains, Big Country, South Plains, Panhandle Chapter*

Many ideas around documenting the biodiversity of the 3 Rivers Foundation conservation lands are waiting to come to life. As the Wildlife Biologist and Director of Outdoor Education, my part-time hours limit what I can accomplish for education and biodiversity monitoring. Projects needing volunteers include creating bio identification sheets of plants and animals using primary research materials; helping pull together materials for Story Maps; creating field guides with animal tracks, facts, and illustrations; creating a bird list just to name a few; renaming 1000s of camera trap photo files; the list can go on.

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Experience working with a wildlife biologist who has a tenacity for wildlife education. Learning cool facts. Eventually, being able to visit our main campus. Contributing to an educational database of Texas native wildlife.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Love of animals and plants. Good with Microsoft Word and Excel. Knowledgeable how to use primary research materials.

*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 hours

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* At home in their homes with the option of coming and visiting the campus later in 2021. Emails or texting check-ins once a week. Phone calls are welcome.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* 10 or more volunteers x 5 to 10 hours per week with work being accomplished by August 1, 2021. Yes – hours are flexible meaning they can adjust their times weekly.

*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?* One person, meaning me, can only do so much with limited time. This work has always been needed to be accomplished to prove the importance of 3 Rivers Foundation Biological Biodiversity. Projects will help further the educational mission of 3RF Outdoor Educational Program. So much of private land biodiversity in Texas is undocumented – this will contribute to the record of species for the state on private land that is owned by a nonprofit organization. This organization allows for public access with permission obtained and granted and also provides public educational programs.

# Nature Notes Contributor

---

Project Contact: *Rachel Powers, Citizens' Environmental Coalition*  
*rachel@cechouston.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

The Citizens' Environmental Coalition seeks Master Naturalists to create and manage weekly content for CEC's website(s), newsletter(s), and social media. Content will focus on local nature with seasonal relevance. Content might consist of a quiz, sounds, photos, destinations, and descriptions of local nature that people can look for at the time of publication. Content might also include links to similar content from other local environmental organizations or other related information.

Ideally, a small team of 2-4 Master Naturalists would work together to develop a content calendar and then prepare and edit content prior to publication.

Opportunities are available to expand the series to other topics or concepts (citizen science, photo of the week, upcoming Master Naturalist opportunities, etc.) relating to Master Naturalists.

Incorporated in 1971, the CEC is an alliance of over 120 organizations that do environmental work in the Houston / Gulf Coast region. CEC seeks to connect our environmental community through publications and events.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers could build a local repository of seasonal observational opportunities, and can work to increase the visibility of Master Naturalists to CEC's audience. Volunteers would learn about seasonal variation in local flora and fauna.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Strong writing skills required. Graphic design skills preferred.

*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?* Three (3)

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* We hope to create one post each week. Ideally, a small team will collaborate to create a content calendar and editorial guidelines, and then to develop and edit the content prior to publications. Depending on the number of volunteers (and the goals set by the team), commitment could range from 1-10 or more hours/week.

*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, but the weekly posting schedule will be pre-determined. This is an ongoing 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?* CEC provides a venue for bringing natural resource education to a broad audience of people interested in environmental issues in the Houston / Gulf Coast region, including environmentalists new to Houston and residents of the greater Houston region who are new to nature.

# Butterfly Monitoring

---

Project Contact: *Irmi Willcockson, Texas Master Naturalist*  
*irmi.willcockson@txgcmn.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

Butterfly monitoring is a vital part of understanding how butterflies use different environments throughout the year. This data is used by land managers to identify sensitive areas as well as what improvements may increase biodiversity.

With input from the coordinator, you select a route that take between 30 min to 2 hours to walk, then monitor the route at least 8 times each year. Any route that includes at least one natural habitat is useful, urban or rural.

Monitoring on your land is encouraged! Monitoring can be done by yourself or with no more than one other person, and is only done in fair weather.

In order to monitor, you need to be able to travel the route you've selected at a walking pace, spot and identify butterflies within 6-8 feet of you, and write down your findings. If you are comfortable, entering your own data in the computer is preferred, but you can also send it to me for entry.

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - non place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers can improve their butterfly identification skills. Depending on where a volunteer monitors, land management practices will be informed to better support butterfly biodiversity.

*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?*  
1-2

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* 1-2 times per month while daytime temperatures are at least 65 F.

*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 month during warm months ( daytime temperatures at least 65 F). 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?* Butterflies have unique habitat requirements, including both host and nectar plants. Monitoring identifies population trends and can improve habitat not only for butterflies, but also other pollinators.

# Texas Butterfly Monitoring Co-coordinator

---

Project Contact: *Irmis Willcockson, Texas Master Naturalist*  
*irmi.willcockson@txgcmn.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

Butterfly monitoring requires interactions with both volunteer monitors as well as the database used to house the data. I am looking for someone who is interested in helping with the database, as well as assist with virtual training of new monitors. Extensive knowledge of butterflies or databases not required, just a willingness to help.

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Improve capacity for monitoring butterflies in Texas. Provide data to land managers to improve habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Comfortable with computer, very basic knowledge of databases

*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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* On the volunteer's schedule, provided response can be provided back to the monitors within 2 weeks.

*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, expect 2 hours per month on average. If recruitment of new monitors is successful, time commitment the first 2-3 months may be 5 -10 hours per 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?* Butterfly monitoring is important for identifying how butterflies use different habitats. Making the data collected accessible requires setting up the routes submitted by volunteers in the database.

# Texas Aquatic Science Video and e-Book Production

---

Project Contact: *Melissa Felty (Alderson), Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*melissa.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov*  
*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

Many TMN are comfortable leading Texas Aquatic Science (TAS) lessons and activities. Teachers and educators are aware of TAS but may not have the confidence or knowledge to teach them. By producing short videos, TMN will demonstrate the steps needed to accomplish an activity and aide in helping fellow educators. This project includes TMNs assisting in producing short videos at home or a local natural area. The videos will be uploaded to a few TPWD's educational channels. Additionally, if interested, TMNs can assist in producing the updated chapter content of the TAS Teacher Guide into an e-book as well.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

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

- oBuild confidence in teachers that are thrown into teaching aquatic science
- oLearn a new skill in technology – video production and e-book develop
- oEarn service hours toward the Texas Waters Specialist certification
- oBe a contributor to the growth of the TAS and TWS programs

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*  
Knowledge of aquatic science activities preferred

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* on knowledge of aquatic science activities

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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* The service can be carried out using their own smartphone or technology they feel comfortable using final product as mp4 format for videos and will provide website to produce e-book. Completion timeline dependent on task, but within a year.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Time is flexible depending on TAS activity or e-book. Videos can take as little as 5 minutes and e-book can take as much as 2-4 hours per week for possibly up to 3 months.

*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 videos will be used for preparing teachers and educators to teach TAS in classrooms or programs. They will also be used in the updated e-book TAS Teacher Guide, which will be sent to over teachers statewide. These videos can also be used within TMN chapters to train each other in TAS lessons and field practices.

# Adopt-A-Paddling Trail

Project Contact: *Shelly Plante, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*  
*shelly.plante@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

Adopt-a-Paddling Trail (AAPT) is a project by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to provide regular review and updates (and eventually trail evaluation) to certified trails within the Texas Paddling Trails program (TPT). The TPT program is statewide and managed through a community partnership model between TPWD and the local community entity. AAPT will enlist help from TMNs to adopt their local paddling trails to help provide regular updates and review to paddling trails in the TPT program. By adopting a trail (or trails), TMN chapters will be able to help in one or more of these three ways:

- Computer/Phone Volunteer Hours: Verify information listed for each trail on the TPT website ([www.tpwd.texas.gov/paddlingtrails](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/paddlingtrails)). This review can be done through internet research, by email, and/or by phone. This is our primary need at this time and this work can be done from home. It is paramount that the community partner contact information in our internal TPT database as well as the trail information listed on the public-facing TPT website is current and correct, making it important to conduct quality assurance checks by email or phone to the listed community partner.
- Local Site Review Volunteer Hours: Windshield survey or access sites for your TPT. This would be an in-person visit to each water access site to ensure that signs are still posted (road signs and informational kiosk), the site is still useable, and any other details you observe.
- Trail Survey Volunteer Hours: Provide a paddle survey of the trail within the next year to ensure that the trail is still able to be paddled and that the site information listed online and on the kiosk is still accurate. Alert TPWD to any changes, dangers, etc. You do not need to ultimately be able to do this trail work to volunteer for the first or second level of work listed above.

Each Chapter choosing to adopt a trail(s) will appoint a Project Coordinator that will be the liaison between the volunteers and TPWD.

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers will build relationships with their local community leaders and canoe/kayak companies which could lead to new partnership opportunities locally. Volunteers will gain experience helping manage a large statewide partnership-based project, working with multiple divisions at TPWD.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Ability to research information online, call partners for information, and record accurate information. For volunteers willing to survey trails (the third option in project description) access to canoe/kayak equipment and paddling skills are required.

*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 for initial onboarding training

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Trail information will be reviewed and verified annually. In-person visits to access sites will occur annually and after major weather events as needed. If TMN volunteers have access to paddling equipment, trail surveys would happen annually as well.

*(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)*

# Adopt-A-Paddling Trail (continued)

*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 depends on how many trails are adopted. The length of time for trail information verification and access site visits will vary for each trail depending on how many access sites the trail has and how many miles the trail covers. Hours could range from 30 minutes to multiple hours. Trail surveys will generally take 2-6 hours, depending on the trail (some longer trails would take longer). Hours are flexible at the discretion of the AAPT 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 through outdoor recreation, specifically canoeing and kayaking; Provide accurate, up-to-date information for the TPTs being visited by nature tourists; and Improve communication and website information to paddlers by providing real time information for alerts or access changes to TPTs after major weather events (droughts, floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.).

# Monitoring Invasive Aquatic Species Through Birding

Project Contact: *Alice Best, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Inland Fisheries*  
*alice.best@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

Aquatic invasive species can be harder to detect than terrestrial species and specialized, time-intensive sampling is often necessary to determine presence of invasive fish and aquatic invertebrate species. However, native aquatic feeding birds—such as herons, egrets, and cormorants—have been documented feeding on introduced fish and invertebrate species. As telephotography in the birding community becomes increasingly common and resulting photos are shared on social media and citizen-science websites, it may now be possible to track range expansion of invasive aquatic species through monitoring birding photography. This project will attempt to estimate the current range of common and uncommon invasive fish species in the Houston area through monitoring social media and citizen-science websites such as Facebook groups, iNaturalist, and iBird. If successful, the project will be presented at scientific conferences and possibly published in a peer-reviewed journal, in which case volunteers will have the option of presenting or co-authoring the resulting work. Familiarity in Texas fish species is a desirable but not necessary, and training in fish identification will be provided. Volunteers will need to have access to Facebook, iNaturalist, and/or iBird. The estimated commitment is for 8 hours per month for 6 months and will be accomplished virtually for the foreseeable future.

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers will gain training in fish identification and the opportunity to help track invasive species rarely seen by the general public. If successful, volunteers will have the option to present or co-author the research.

*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?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* The volunteer service will be carried out individually with monthly update meetings. I will also be available as needed to help the volunteers accomplish their goals.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* The estimated commitment is for 8 hours per month for 6 months and will be accomplished virtually for the foreseeable future. The time period is flexible and can be shifted some depending on the volunteers involved.

*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?* Invasive fish and aquatic invertebrates are becoming increasingly common across the Houston area, possibly impacting native fish communities and aquatic ecosystems. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to survey the entirety of the Houston area. This project will help us both better understand current invasive species ranges and help locate areas to focus research on in the future.

# CATALOG of PROJECTS

## Presented on Thursday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

***The following projects are in order of how they appear on the Agenda from the 2-day Virtual Volunteer Fair Event held on Feb. 3 & 4, 2021. There are some additional projects listed at the bottom from speakers unable to participate at the Virtual Volunteer Fair event. Please check out ALL the projects!***

*The catalog offers a description of each project, along with the Project Contact and their email address. If you are interested in a particular project, please reach out to the Project Contact directly if you did not get a chance to sign up during the event.*

*In addition, where a project is not open for statewide consideration, the ecoregion and the local chapters are indicated in the project description. Keep in mind that some site-based projects may offer aspects of the project that don't require your presence at the site. If they do require your presence to assist, please make sure to consider the project's location compared to your chapter's region and your training as a Master Naturalist. Be sure projects you choose are within ecoregion(s) you are trained and are pre-approved by your chapter.*

# Bracken Cave Preserve video projects

---

Project Contact: *Fran Hutchins, Bat Conservation International*  
*fhutchins@batcon.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Edwards Plateau Ecoregion - Available to  
Chapters: Hill Country, Alamo Area and Lindheimer Chapter*

BCI is attempting to collect non-bat video & audio material of wildlife, plants and landscapes from Bracken Cave preserve for use with educational presentations.

MN Opportunities:

individuals with videography experience to collect raw footage to use to create educational video clips to be used on website, other social media platforms and virtual educational programs.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* The ability to tell a story thru video is a powerful skill. Having the eye for seeing and capturing the images is a very important step in telling the story.

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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* timelines for completing work will be established otherwise individual would establish schedule.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* When work is done is flexible but there will be completion deadlines. Estimating 20 hours a month

*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?*

Bracken Cave Preserve is an amazing place that could be shared with teachers and other educators along with the public that would highlight the importance of bats and the ecosystems that our dependent upon them.

# City Nature Challenge 2021 in the Rio Grande Valley

Project Contact: *Tony Henehan, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*  
*tony.henehan@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: South Texas Plains Ecoregion - Available to Chapters: South Texas Border, Rio Grande Valley, South Texas, Brush Country*

We are looking for volunteers to help us document as many species of plants and animals through the iNaturalist App for the upcoming City Nature Challenge (CNC). The CNC takes place Apr 30 - May 3 to take as many pictures as possible, and May 4 - 9 to upload and identify those pictures to iNaturalist. We are looking for individuals in the Rio Grande Valley to adopt a location for the CNC and be dedicated observers for that location through the CNC. A location can be your backyard, a local park, or anywhere in between! No location is too small! Upon signing up, you'll work with our local RGV coordinator John Brush to best put your talents to use. Our aim is to get as much coverage from Cameron to Starr Counties as possible. If you are unfamiliar with how to use iNaturalist, we will provide training. This training can be counted towards AT hours. The CNC is a great way to learn about the world around you while helping us gather valuable information about the presence of plant and animal species. **IMPORTANT** - You do NOT need to know how to identify what you are documenting. The app helps with identifying! We just need you to document the natural world around you!

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers will help increase knowledge of the distribution of plants and animals in the Rio Grande Valley. Volunteers will gain a better understanding of the natural world around them while learning about the iNaturalist app.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Basic phone use. How to download an app.

*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?* Approximately 30 min to an hour to learn the app, as much AT as they need to get used to the app in their free time.

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Volunteers will learn about the iNaturalist app ahead of the event. During Apr 30 - May 3, volunteers will document as many plants and animals in their designated area as possible. During Apr 30 - May 9, volunteers will upload their observations to iNaturalist and, if they are knowledgeable about different taxa, help identify observations submitted by others.

*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 is entirely dependent on the volunteers and how much time they want to put in. There is not minimum or maximum requirement for hours. The only restriction is when the event starts and ends (Apr 30 - May 9).

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Volunteers can start getting hours as soon as they sign up to learn about the iNaturalist program and practice. The last day they can get hours will be May 9.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* This project gathers crucial information on plant and animal distribution through the Rio Grande Valley for scientists, researchers, and managers to utilize. This lines up with the TMN program's goals of creating citizen scientists.

# AquaPlant Website Review & Enhancement

---

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

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

AquaPlant.tamu.edu is designed to help land owners, even those with limited background knowledge, identify and manage plants in their ponds or tanks. AquaPlant regularly sees 450,000 to 500,00 individual users per year, averaging 3.5 million page views annually. AquaPlant has been one of Texas A&M AgriLife's top three websites for the past 10 years and one year was the second ranked website behind the athletic department website within the Texas A&M system of websites.

During this project, volunteers will assist in evaluating webpages found on AquaPlant, reviewing and adding any necessary information related to photos, distribution maps, key characteristics, pros/cons, cultivation, etc. This project has been up and running since the last TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair and we now have a solid system utilizing Google Drive, thanks to the work of our volunteers. However, there are over 200 pages left to be evaluated and more volunteers would be wonderful! In addition to edits on specific plant profiles, volunteers are also welcome to suggest website enhancements and other projects/resources. Current volunteers have added and implemented several ideas.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers can receive a more in depth knowledge of aquatic plant identification. Current volunteers will discuss their benefits thus far.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Ability to find and decipher reliable sources. Ability to navigate Google Drive is a must.

*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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Each volunteer will be expected to complete xx webpage evaluations, averaging in 8 evaluations per month (dependent on total volunteers). This project should take place on their own computers. Progress meeting will occur as needed.

*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 is flexible in terms of hours spent each week and total time period. On average, each webpage evaluation may take 1-2 hours. It is encouraged that about 8 evaluations are uploaded per month. Main key is communicating where you are in the project.

*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?* This project is needed to tailor the AquaPlant website to meet a changing demographic. While the main focus of this website is to provide education and outreach on quick ID and management, AquaPlant can be enhanced to meet the needs of individuals in search of pros/cons, cultivation, etc. for specific aquatic plants.

# Invasive Species Surveys and Verification

Project Contact: *Angela England, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.*  
*angela.england@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

**Distanced Service:** We are looking for TMN volunteers to record observations of invasive species found in Texas using either iNaturalist or Invaders of Texas platforms (whichever you are most comfortable using). Records could be from public parks, nature preserves, greenbelts, roadways, waterways, beaches, etc.

**Virtual Service:** We also need knowledgeable folks to review submitted iNaturalist records of invasive species to confirm or correct other people's observations.

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - non place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* You'll get a reason to get outdoors, or something to do on a bad-weather day. You will become better at finding and identifying invasive species, and gain a better understanding of where and when each of them occur. You'll contribute information needed to preserve our native Texas biodiversity.

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

Volunteers can focus on certain invasive species that they are already familiar with, or can brush up on more by visiting <https://www.texasinvasives.org/invaders/> <https://www.texasinvasives.org/invaders/toolkit.php> More identification info on the Texas in

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* If not already familiar with either Invaders of Texas or iNaturalist, volunteers will need to learn how to use at least one of them. Both can be accessed either by website or by installing an app on your mobile device.

*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 are several activities planned that you can be a part of, but there's certainly no reason to wait! We need records of invasives year-round, so we can get an idea of when they are growing, reproducing, or present in an area.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week – Feb 22-28, 2021

City Nature Challenge – April 30 to May 3, 2021

Texas Invasive Species Bioblitz 2021 – May (DATES TO BE DETERMINED IN MID DEC)

To earn TMN volunteer hours, recent TMN guidelines require observations in iNaturalist to meet these guidelines:

Be observed within Texas

Include a photo or sound file

Have position accuracy within 500 meters

Contain true location info (whether obscured via geoprivacy or open to the public)

Be focused on wild organisms

Not be from your own property

Be part of a Texas Nature Trackers project, formal bioblitz, or other chapter-approved project such as Plants of Texas, Edwards Plateau Naturalist, eButterfly North America, etc.

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

All of this can be done whenever you have a bit of time to visit a field site or to log onto a computer. Recent TMN guidelines require recording observations in increments of 15 minutes at a minimum, or making identifications in increments of 30 minutes at a minimum.

*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?*

It is important for researchers and land managers to know where and when invasives are present, so we can determine how much effort to spend on managing each of them. Your observations help researchers and land managers see the big picture and allow us to prioritize future actions.

# Adopt-A-Loop- Great Texas Wildlife Trails

Project Contact: *Joshua Lee, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

*joshua.lee@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

Adopt-a-Loop is a 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 and eBird, 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.

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - non place-based***

*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?* Experience with iNaturalist and eBird is a plus!

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?* Depending on level of knowledge of iNaturalist and eBird platforms.

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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Site visits will ideally be conducted 4 times per year on a seasonal basis, in order to observe different types of wildlife.

*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

# Fat Bat project

---

Project Contact: *Fran Hutchins, Bat Conservation International*  
*fhutchins@batcon.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

BCI's Fat Bat project is an attempt to increase the body fat of bats before they begin their winter hibernation by increasing the availability of insects near their cave roost using a remote light source. Research is being done to build self-contained systems, identify best light frequency's for attracting insects and best siting practices.

MN opportunities:      Counting & identifying insects from insect traps,  
                                 Reviewing acoustic data, and  
                                 Equipment monitoring and maintenance.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - non place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* support of important research that could be used all over the US to save thousands of bats from dying of this disease.

*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?* 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

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Timelines for completing work will be established

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* When work is done is flexible but there will be completion deadlines. Estimating 20 hours a month.

*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?* Timely evaluation of the data will allow us to advance the project from field trials to broad scale implementation.

# Story Time for Bats

---

Project Contact: *Fran Hutchins, Bat Conservation International*  
*fhutchins@batcon.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

Videos of people reading Bat themed children's books on the Bat Week website and posted through social media in multiple languages.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Sharing their love of books with children all over the world.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* fluent in a non-English language

*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?* Timelines for completing work will be established otherwise individual would establish schedule.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* When work is done is flexible but there will be completion deadlines. Estimating 2 hours depending on number of languages person is fluent in.

*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?* There are many places in the world where children do not have access to books in their native language. This is an opportunity to share positive information about an amazing animal.

# Plant ID Bingo

---

Project Contact: *Meg Inglis, Native Plant Society of Texas*  
*meg.inglis@npsot.org*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

The NLCP is implementing a class activity this spring called "Plant ID Bingo" - a bingo game designed to reinforce recognizable characteristics of natives and undesirable non-native plants. The game will be played during class to reinforce the information taught in the class presentation about the plants.

I need help creating the instructional materials using online Google Sheets. I will provide the template, instructions and any necessary support.

Here is an example of what a NLCP greater Houston area Level 1 bingo card looks like.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zk6ne21waeouz15/NLCP%20L1%20Bingo%20HOU.png?dl=0>

We want to create a bingo game for each NLCP class level that is taught by the various chapters throughout the state - a total of about 30 games.

---

*This Project is designated as: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers working on this project will learn about identification and other characteristics of native plants in all ecoregions of Texas. See this website page for the different ecoregions and associated plant lists. <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/plant-lists-by-ecoregion/>

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Use of Google Sheets would be helpful, but not necessary. If volunteers understand how Excel works, they can easily learn Sheets.

*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 hope to have the Bingo games set up by June 30, 2021. Volunteers would work on the project when they had time.

*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 self-paced and flexible although I would like to be complete with the project by June 30th.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Till June 30, 2021 latest.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* The bingo game will add another fun learning activity to the NLCP classes. Once the volunteers are familiar with how to set up the bingo games, they would be able to set up Master Naturalist bingo games as well - on other subjects which are taught.

# Aligning TPWD Educational Resources with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

---

Project Contact: *Louisa Torrance, Texas Parks and Wildlife*  
*louisa.torrance@tpwd.texas.gov*  
*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

Calling all educators! TPWD has an extensive collection of educational resources across grade levels and subject areas ready to be aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and added to our Educational Resources spreadsheet. These include YouTube videos, Junior Ranger activities, Keep Texas Wild magazine lesson plans and more. There will be future opportunities to create new content as well!

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Directly supporting the success of the State Parks Distance Learning Program during its first year, familiarity with TPWD educational resources, networking with staff and educators

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*  
Preferred: experience utilizing the TEKS (lesson planning, instruction, assessment)

*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?* Virtual using shared Google Drive documents and consistent communication via email.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Total hours per week: 1-5 hours, flexible. Time period: On-going.

*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?*  
Because so many educational resources are already created and in need of alignment and/or updating, having volunteer experts assist in this project will ensure that we can deliver these resources to educators and show the value of incorporating the Distance Learning program in the classroom. This is woven into the TMN mission to provide education and outreach within their communities.

# Texas Municipal Park Providers Inventory

---

Project Contact: *Jamie Walker, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*  
*jamie-rae-walker@tamu.edu*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

According to census data, over 400 Texas municipalities directly provide park and recreation services to members of their local communities. Our statewide inventory of these local land managers, their holdings, leadership roles, land uses, delivery systems, and educational needs serves as an invaluable resource to better understanding the current make-up of municipally owned and operated open spaces.

Volunteers will help identify the local land manager or contact and work with them to complete the inventory about their parks and park system. A two hour training will be required for volunteers.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Learn about municipal park structures, infrastructure, funding, and partnerships.

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

*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 hours

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* By internet and phone typically during business hours from March through May 2021.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* During the project period, hours are flexible but some work will most likely need to occur during business hours Monday - Friday. The number of hours is optional and dependent on the effort needed to identify and correspond with the local contact for parks.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Through the end of May 2021.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*  
The project helps us inventory the parks and park system structures in Texas municipalities. This information supports policy, outreach, and education for local, state, regional and national decision making agencies and organizations.

# Aquatic Plant Photo Submission Round 2

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

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

Last year I sent a call out to TMN Chapters to submit their aquatic plant photos. While we had a great response from 11 volunteers, totaling in 391 photos (!) I am hoping to get some more great photos this year. For round 2 of this project, I am looking for 1 to 2 individuals who are highly organized to run this project. This includes managing the Google Form where volunteers will submit their photos, compiling a list of highly needed species/features, sending out a call to TMN Chapters once submissions open, organizing photos in the Google Drive once received, confirming identifications when possible, and sending out their submission summaries to volunteers. These photos will be used in educational materials including but not limited to: online courses, programs, social media, <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/> , and publications. Volunteers will submit photos will be cited in materials, so this is why organization is critical!

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers can hope to gain hours through project management and build on aquatic plant identification.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Knowledge of Google Drive and availability to identify plants down to genus with the use of guide books

*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 hours

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* This volunteer will be in complete control of the project and can manage it on their own schedule. However, there will be strict deadlines for the first few tasks needed to get this project up and running. Once project is running, they should be able to keep up with tasks in a timely manner. Two volunteers can manage the project together if they have great communication skills and are able to divide up tasks as needed.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* 5-8 hours per week depending on submissions.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?* Photo submissions will be open until the 2021 TMN Annual Meeting.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?* The project is needed is continue to gather these photo resources across to create or enhance Extension materials. This materials deliver information to the public on aquatic plant topics such as identification, invasive species, and management.

# Armchair Botanist: Community Scientists Transcribing Specimen Labels

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

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

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 georeference: 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!

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*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 at the discretion of the Master Naturalist and will require a computer (possibly a tablet) with access to the internet. There are weekly Zoom sessions on Thursdays to support anyone engaging in this project ([www.brit.org/armchairbotanist](http://www.brit.org/armchairbotanist)).

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Both the number of hours, and the time of day during which they are contributed are at the discretion of the Master Naturalist. Any time contributed to this project is a help. A single "transcription" or submission takes approximately 4 minutes.

*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.

# Horned Lizard Conservation Educational Materials

---

Project Contact: *Mason Lee, Horned Lizard Conservation Society*  
*mason\_lee@sbcglobal.net*  
*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

---

Did you know that there are MANY young Texans who have never seen the state reptile in the wild? Some of us grew up playing with “horny toads” in our neighborhood, but unfortunately, many now don’t get that experience because of the decline in population of this beloved species. We need your help! In this project, we are asking volunteers to prepare fun, educational original materials for children to learn about horned lizards (any or all of the 3 species found in our state) that may be used on our website, or in educational packets. One of the best ways to help with horned lizard conservation is to educate the young about these interesting critters. If we can show young people the value of horned lizards and how special they are, then they hopefully will care enough about them to protect them for future generations.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers in this project will gain a better understanding of the horned lizards of Texas as they research and prepare materials to promote horned lizard conservation to the young Texans.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* None needed, but a passion for education and outreach would be beneficial!

*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 must list their sources and/or sign that the product is his/her original work. Our expectations are that volunteers will: Produce a high-quality original educational page or activity about horned lizards for children to promote conservation and/or Share an original educational story about horned lizards that can be used with children for educational purposes and Will use current research information on horned lizards and their place in ecosystem

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Time (both hours and time period) are flexible for the volunteer’s schedule

*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 is greatly needed because the Horned Lizard Conservation Society is promoting education and the development of materials to support this focus. This project is linked to the mission of the TMN Program because it promotes education and outreach on conservation issues. It also involves a Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

# TPWD's Texas Ecological Analytical Mapper user testing- GroundTruther tool

---

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

---

The Landscape Ecology team at Texas Parks and Wildlife is looking for volunteers to test our new Texas Ecological Analytical Mapper (TEAM) and TEAM-Go apps. 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 and TEAM-GO app.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers will become familiarized with the TEAM and TEAM-Go apps, expand their GIS knowledge, learn about the ecosystems of Texas, and help TPWD create a more user-friendly app.

*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?*  
One (1)

*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 about 20 hours total. Hours are flexible, at your own pace, at your leisure. The project and volunteer hours should be completed by April 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?* The landscape ecology team needs volunteers to test our GroundTruther tool in the TEAM-Go mobile app in order to make it a user friendly mapping experience. Ground truthing data will help improve accuracy of our mapped grassland ecosystems.

# PROJECTS

## *NOT* Presented During Virtual Volunteer Fair in February 2021

***The following projects were not presented during the 2-day Virtual Volunteer Fair Event held on Feb. 3 & 4, 2021. They need assistance too! Please check out ALL the projects!***

*The catalog offers a description of each project, along with the Project Contact and their email address. If you are interested in a particular project, please reach out to the Project Contact directly if you did not get a chance to sign up during the event.*

*In addition, where a project is not open for statewide consideration, the ecoregion and the local chapters are indicated in the project description. Keep in mind that some site-based projects may offer aspects of the project that don't require your presence at the site. If they do require your presence to assist, please make sure to consider the project's location compared to your chapter's region and your training as a Master Naturalist. Be sure projects you choose are within ecoregion(s) you are trained and are pre-approved by your chapter.*

# Flora Guide for Village Creek State Park

---

Project Contact: *Kathy Smith, Village Creek State Park*  
*kathy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Pineywoods Ecoregion - Available to chapters:  
Sabine-Neches, Piney Woods Lakes & Longleaf Ridge*

This project involves taking digital photos of plants located within the park that will be used to create a "field guide" for park visitors. These photos will be arranged, by month, in an album to assist in the identification of plants found along trails within the park. The album will be kept in the park Nature Center for the use of visitors who want to identify plants that they have observed while hiking the trails in the park.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers will gain an increased ability to identify local plant species while enjoying the beauty of Village Creek State Park. Contributors to this project will have their names listed as volunteers in the creation of the book.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Knowledge of local flora, basic photography, and ability to walk on rough terrain in all kinds of weather. Experience in using iNaturalist is a plus, however, it is not necessary as all volunteers will be trained to use it.

*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 project to last entire year to facilitate capture of images of as many blooming/fruited plants within the park as possible.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Anticipated time is two to three hours per visit depending on trail length. Visits should be made by at least one volunteer each week at the time of their choosing.

*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?* This project is needed in order to enhance the experience of visitors to Village Creek State Park. Many visitors to the park are not from Texas and are unfamiliar with the local flora. They often ask about the name of plants that they have seen on the trails. This album would help them identify what they have seen.

# Village Creek State Park Trail Maintenance and Minor Repair Projects

---

Project Contact: *Kathy Smith, Village Creek State Park*  
*kathy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Pineywoods Ecoregion - Available to chapters: Sabine-Neches, Piney Woods Lakes & Longleaf Ridge*

---

Regular maintenance of trails and facilities is essential to making the park enjoyable and accessible to park visitors. Conditions are affected by weather, use, and other factors and maintenance is a never-ending challenge to park staff. Volunteer assistance is vital to keeping park facilities open to visitors.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers will gain hands on experience in park operations and help keep the park spaces open to 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?* on the scope of the project

*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?* Volunteer need is ongoing and year-round. Projects can be done in small groups of 10 or less or as an individual. For details on projects, please contact the park Volunteer Coordinator.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Volunteer trail and maintenance projects are performed during park operating hours of 8 AM to 5PM daily. Hours of work depends on 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?*

Volunteers are vital to the success of state parks in so many ways, including keeping trails open, assisting with repairs, and minor construction projects. Without their help, many things just wouldn't get done. Master Naturalists help improve and keep the park open to visitors who want to learn more about nature.

# Village Creek State Park Invasive Species Control- Coral Ardisia

Project Contact: *Kathy Smith, Village Creek State Park*  
*kathy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Pineywoods Ecoregion - Available to chapters: Sabine-Neches, Piney Woods Lakes & Longleaf Ridge*

Coral Ardisia is a highly invasive, non-native plant that crowds out native vegetation and is suspected as being toxic to wildlife. Many areas of Village Creek State Park are being overtaken by this plant. Control of Coral Ardisia by use of herbicides is highly disruptive to native flora and only minimally effective. The most effective means of controlling this plant is by physical removal. We need help in removing this invasive species.

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers can gain a better understanding of the impact of non-native flora on ecosystems.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Recognition of Coral Ardisia and ability to use tools to remove it.

*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?* 30 minutes

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?* Control of Ardisia must be done when plant is not dormant to prevent removal of similar looking species. Ideally, removal should be done before seeds mature.

*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 to complete project depends on size of area being cleared and number of plants.

*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?* Coral Ardisia is having a detrimental effect on many areas of the park. While total eradication is not possible, removing this plant from areas open to the public and preventing its spread will preserve these areas so that visitors can experience flora that is native to East Texas.

# Village Creek State Park Bird Checklist

---

Project Contact: *Kathy Smith, Village Creek State Park*  
*kathy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Pineywoods Ecoregion - Available to chapters:  
Sabine-Neches, Piney Woods Lakes & Longleaf Ridge*

---

Village Creek State Park is asking for experienced birders to document bird sightings on eBird and contribute to the park bird checklist. Changing conditions in the park due to hurricanes and restoration efforts are resulting in changes in the species and number of birds found in the park. To keep our bird list current, we need volunteers to document what they find on eBird.

---

*This Project is designated as a: **Distanced Service Project - place-based***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers can learn more about the bird species in East Texas and assist in educating the public about birds while helping the park monitor its bird population and habitat.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Knowledge of bird species and use of eBird needed.

*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?* This project is ongoing throughout the year and can be done anytime the volunteer can come to the park and make observations.

*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 highly flexible and can be done anytime.

*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?* Surveys of bird species will help the park to assess the impact of natural disasters and success of management practices. Knowledgeable volunteers are important to assuring accurate counts of species and assisting in educating the public about birds and bird habitats.

# Species Spotlight for Village Creek State Park

## Social Media

Project Contact: *Kathy Smith, Village Creek State Park*  
*kathy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov*

*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Pineywoods Ecoregion - Available to chapters:  
Sabine-Neches, Piney Woods Lakes & Longleaf Ridge*

Volunteers needed to create social media posts highlighting a plant, animal, or fungi found within Village Creek State Park. These posts would help to educate the public about local species and make them aware of the incredible biodiversity of this area of East Texas.

*This Project is designated as a: **Virtual Service Project***

*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?* Volunteers would gain an increased understanding of the interconnectedness of nature and local plant, animal, and fungi. This project would also give volunteers a platform to share their knowledge and teach others about species they are interested in.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?* Expertise in creating social media content including video, writing, and editing.

*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?* If enough volunteers participate, it is hoped that posts could be scheduled twice monthly on the 1st and 15th of each month. All social media content must be approved by park management before posting, so content will need to be submitted to Volunteer Coordinator in advance of post date.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e. # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?* Depending on skill and complexity, each social media project would take from 2 to 4 hours to complete. Volunteers can create content at their own pace and time for submission at a later or scheduled 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?* Many people are not aware of the incredible biodiversity of East Texas and the importance of preserving it for future generations. This project will make use of the knowledge of TMN members and their passion for nature in educating others.