



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

HOUSTON, TX

OCTOBER 20-23

Put it on your calendar now as we prepare for our **23rd Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting**, an event to gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. We're preparing this year's meeting as an in-person event at the Omni Houston this fall **Thursday, October 20th to Sunday October 23rd**.

This year's Annual Meeting will be hosted in the heart of one of the most ecologically diverse urban centers in the nation. Houston is nestled in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion of Texas, inviting a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation. With a temperate climate and abundant rainfall, more well-known species include the Houston toad and the whooping crane. The conference, held at the Omni Houston, sits on the shores of Buffalo Bayou, creating 160 acres of greenspace in the heart of downtown Houston, and re-introducing the natural world to those who call the city their home.

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Call for Proposals!

As a workshop presenter at the Annual Meeting, you will have the opportunity to inform and train TMN members from across the state on various natural resource topics providing more in-depth information than their initial core training and curriculum. You are also encouraged to make this an opportunity to enlist and train our program volunteers to assist you, your program, and your work as part of their annual volunteer service commitment.

Advanced Training Sessions Requirements

The Texas Master Naturalist Program welcomes your proposals as contributions to our agenda! Individuals wishing to present are invited to submit their proposal on the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting website: <http://txmn.org/2022-annual-meeting/>.

Advanced Training (AT) Sessions include training on a specific skill, technique, or process and may involve one or more instructors. Sessions are intended to emphasize learning through participation, discussion, and hands-on interactive presentations on natural resource topics that model good interpretive methods. AT Sessions should aim to provide participants with new skills to apply in their area of service or in the topic area you are teaching. These could include presentations introducing a natural resource topic or program to solicit the interest of TMN volunteers or to present resources and partnerships that may assist chapters in their communities.

Currently, we are planning for a fully in-person Annual Meeting for 2022! Considerations will be given for the state of the program, and any decisions to change formatting will be made by this summer. We are asking that all presenters be prepared to host their sessions in person with us this fall, however special considerations will be given as needed. Sessions are currently scheduled to begin each day of the conference at 9am and end at 5pm with final arrangements and schedule to be shared mid-summer. Sessions will be offered concurrently with one-, two-, three- and four-hour blocks, built-in breaks and potentially themed days (dependent on final submissions received).

The deadline for submissions is **Tuesday, May 31st**. A notice of receipt will be automatically generated and sent by e-mail. If you do not receive notification of receipt within 10 days or have any questions about proposal submission, please contact Mary Pearl Meuth, (mpmeuth@tamu.edu). Proposals received after the deadline and before registration opening may be considered if space is available.

Presentation Options

Presenters will have the option of hosting their session scheduled for single or multiple hour time blocks. We encourage presenters offering the longer three- and four-hour (or more) sessions to consider including session breaks and transition breaks as listed below.

Conference Center Presentations:

One Hour - 45 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for Q&A.

Two Hour - 90 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for Q&A, 15 minutes break to include at your discretion

Three Hour - 60 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for mid-session break, 60 minutes for presentation, 30 minutes for Q&A, 15-minute transition break

Four Hour - 90 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for mid-session break, 90 minutes for presentation, 30 minutes for Q&A, 15-minute transition break

Field Sessions:

Please note - field sessions are being set up externally and will be added into the conference agenda. Please email Mary Pearl (mpmeuth@tamu.edu) if you are interested in submitting a field session.

Proposal Themes

All training workshops relevant to the Texas Master Naturalist mission will be considered. Presentations will be generally categorized with the following theme areas to help build session tracks in the final agenda:

Abiotic Environment (Geology, Weather, etc.)	Interpretation/Communication
Chapter Management & Solutions	Partnership Highlight, Volunteer Project
Chapter Project Highlight	Recruiting
Community Science	Plants/Flora
Conservation Initiatives	Social Media & Storytelling
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Conservation	Texas Water Resources
Ecological Concepts/Regions	Other
Fauna-General	

Examples of previous years' TMN Annual Meeting agendas with workshop and session titles and descriptions can be found on the TMN Annual Meeting archives website, <http://txmn.org/past-meetings/>.

Information Required in the Proposal System:

- **Presentation Title** (make it catchy!) *Note: the title you provide in your proposal will be the title displayed on the Full Agenda—double check for any errors before you submit!
- **Presentation Abstract** – A short description (3-5 sentences or ~100 words) describing the session, what TMN volunteers will learn, what they will need to wear or bring with them.
- **Presentation Theme** – see above
- **Duration** – Length of time (in hours) requested for presentation
- **Presentation Environment** – Indoor classroom/ Outdoors
- **Maximum Preferred Class Size** – 12 - 60 or more; needed to gauge room requirements
- **Technology Needs** for presentation and participants where applicable

Proposal Evaluation and Notice of Decision

All training proposals will be considered and evaluated on timeliness of the subject, importance of the training to a broad range of TMN volunteers and their further contribution to our program's mission. Applicants will be notified whether their proposals are able to be accepted or not.

All presenters will also need to register for the conference once registration is open – www.txmn.org/2022-annual-meeting .

About the Texas Master Naturalist Program

The Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer program is sponsored statewide by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The program has the mission *to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas*. The program currently supports 15,000+ volunteers in 48 local chapters across the state. TMN volunteers typically provide over 400,000 hours of service annually. For more information visit our statewide website at: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>

Any additional questions about the Texas Master Naturalist 23rd Annual Meeting or the Program in general can be directed to Michelle Haggerty (mmhaggerty@tamu.edu) or Mary Pearl Meuth (mpmeuth@tamu.edu).