

T E X A S

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Tuesday, April 04, 2023

Dear Texas Master Naturalists:

April is a celebration of many things! The best of those celebrations is YOU!! The entire month of April is **Global Volunteer Month**. The week of April 16th to 22nd is highlighted as **National Volunteer Week**. April also has a whole host of conservation and stewardship events with Earth Day, Arbor Day, City Nature Challenge and so many other nature festivals and events taking place to celebrate the return of spring across Texas. In our minds, April should be recognized as Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer Month! The work done by Master Naturalist volunteers this month – and in fact every day of the year – is worthy of celebration on a state, national and global level!

**National Volunteer Week** (April 16-22nd) is an opportunity for our Texas Master Naturalists to be celebrated and to celebrate each other. Watch our Texas Master Naturalist social media channels that week as we highlight the work of our incredible volunteers. Follow us at [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)!

Rounding out our National Volunteer Week is **Earth Day** (Saturday, April 22nd). Though these two special events are not tied together, for us, they offer a stewardship-focused capstone to one amazing week.

All of these events serve as opportunities to recognize the impact of your volunteer service and the power of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. Your ability to tackle our communities' and society's greatest natural resource challenges is unrivaled. As a Texas Master Naturalist, you've heard us say before that when you put on the dragonfly badge, your name tags, your pins, or your Texas Master Naturalist shirt - you are part of something bigger. You are part of our state's largest conservation and stewardship movement. YOU ARE our Texas Master Naturalist family! And our family is awesome!

As part of the Texas Master Naturalist program, you have made considerable impacts over the past 25 years of the program. In 2022 alone, our Texas Master Naturalist Program volunteers conquered service projects, developed conservation partnerships, changed landscapes, and enlightened your communities. To see the whole of your impacts, check out our 2022 annual report attached and shared on our [website](#). Please share this resource with other people you know too!

Texas Master Naturalist – <http://txmn.org>

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.

Help us share your story and your favorite parts of being a Texas Master Naturalist. Join our [25th anniversary storytelling project](#) by submitting your videos, stories or photos. Your contribution to this project will help tell the story of the program with more than just impact numbers and volunteer service hours. It's the people, the heart of our program, that we want to hear from, learn about and recognize the spirit of in this 25th year and the next 25 years going forward.

The impacts you and the entire Master Naturalist family make on behalf of our two state agency sponsors, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, are noticed, felt, and appreciated more than can ever be expressed. Our agencies recognize the power of conservation stewardship and your volunteerism – and the fact that “it’s needed now more than ever”! We hope you and your chapters utilize this month-long celebration as an opportunity to inspire others to join your ranks as you shout from the rooftops how amazing you are!

Happy Global Volunteer Month  
Happy National Volunteer Week  
Happy Earth Day

We appreciate you! We celebrate you! We have so much to look forward to with you!  
You make a difference! You make everything possible! Thank YOU!

*Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth*  
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