June 27th Chapter Presidents & Advisors Meeting

- Introduce yourself & your chapter in the Chat Room
- Share video (if your bandwidth allows)
- Michelle & Mary Pearl will be monitoring the chat room
- Will be recording the meeting
- Will share slides, chat room and notes

- We’ll get started at **12:00pm**
- Volunteer Note Taker – __________
June 27th
Chapter Presidents & Advisors
Monthly Meeting
Agenda

• 2023 Planning
  o Governing Documents
  o 25th Anniversary Storytelling Project
  o TMNTuesdays
  o Basic Training Fall Sessions
  o Annual Meeting
  o TMN Program Awards Nominations and Applications

• Resources
  o Website
  o WordPress training
  o TMN Merchandise
  o License Plate
  o Endowment

• Roundtable & Calendar Check
Governing Docs Update

**Bylaws**- All Chapters have completed adoption or are in process (just a few)!!!

**COH**- Roughly half of our chapters have fully completed their COH documents. If you haven’t already, please let us know when your COH adoption status changes - target date for these is this year.

**Remaining Bylaws adoption status:**
- Alamo Area - in process
- Cypress Basin - in process
- Heart of Texas - in process
- Longleaf Ridge - in process
- Trans Pecos - in process
25th Anniversary Storytelling Project

Celebrate twenty-five years of volunteerism, conservation, education, and outreach in 2023 by sharing your favorite TMN stories!

Scan the QR code to get started!
TMN Program 25th Anniversary!

• To celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year, we started a storytelling project to highlight our wonderful TMN members and their conservation work across the state.

• What made you want to become a TMN member? Have a favorite TMN in-the-field memory? What has been your most meaningful project, community outreach, or conservation event?

• We’d love to hear your stories and share them!
• https://txmn.tamu.edu/25th-anniversary-storytelling-project/
I joined the Master Naturalist program in the Spring of 2017 when I was a junior in high school, and I credit the program for completely changing the way I looked at the Chihuahuan Desert that I grew up in. I was surprised to learn just how many unique ecosystems (and the associated plants and animals) can be found here. Ranging from mountain habitats to wetlands, I was able to explore more than I could have ever imagined. The best part of all being a Master Naturalist has been taking family and friends to these same sites and seeing their astonishment that these marvelous habitats are in their own backyard. Volunteering with the Master Naturalists even led to my first internship with Texas Parks and Wildlife working with local populations of burrowing owls! As a college student who now works in research and extension, I have been able to draw on my experiences as a Master Naturalist to direct new outreach efforts!

When I first learned about the Texas Master Naturalist group, it was not at all what I was expecting, it was much more. When I joined the Texas Master Naturalist group, I found my true calling and people whom I could relate to. Nature has always been the thing I love the most, and I love to go out each day and volunteer and enjoy teaching others about the local wildlife. However, I also love taking photos of nature and wildlife. I became a graduate of the class of 2016 and have never looked back. If it was not for the Texas Master Naturalist group, I have no idea where I would be now. I found my true love for nature but also for videography and photography. I am now at the University of Texas in Arlington studying photography and documentary with an emphasis on wildlife. This program really changed my perception on my home area and the places I had been visiting all my life but didn’t know much about. I enjoy learning about the vast eco-regions and love traveling to see how the areas all interconnect. I enjoy going out each day whether it is for a BioBlitz, community day, or out in a wildflower restoration area I can never get enough. Since joining the program, each day is a day for wildlife adventure.
#TMNTuesdays for 2023

- What topics would you like to see?
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at Noon cst
- 1 Hour Advanced Training
- Watch Live or Recording
- Speakers & Topics Announced Monthly
- Purposefully done...

January 10
February 14
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13
July 11 *Joint Presidents Meeting
August 8
September 12
October 3rd – Project Fair Presentations
*shifted up a week!
November 14
December 12 *Joint Presidents Meeting
July 11th 2023 – 12:00pm
Joint
#TMNTuesdays + Presidents Meeting
NASA, GLOBE, Eclipse, oh my!
2023 Basic Training

Kelley will be sending out a request for updates to training Class information to be posted on our website:

- Keep in mind Fall training classes coming up and application periods open now

https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2023-basic-training-classes/
Welcome to our newest developing Chapter!

**Brush y Canyons Chapter**
- based out of Uvalde
- includes Kinney, Medina & Uvalde Counties
- currently accepting applications for their first class to start late July
  - Share the news with friends and family in that area!

*Note: this will be Chapter #49*
Welcome Wendy Anderson, TNT Biologist!

**Wendy Anderson, Texas Nature Trackers Biologist**
- she’s a TMN member too! (Capital Area Chapter)
- previous work developing the TEAM tool.
- Passionate about all things conservation!
- Special interest in grasslands
- Professionally trained Botanist
- Studied Biology, environmental science and public affairs
- Spanish Speaking

In her new TNT role:
- based out of Austin
- job focus = northern half of the state
- **Ready to assist TMN Chapters with their fall training class needs covering Citizen/Community Science!**

**Wendy Anderson**
Texas Nature Trackers Biologist
Wildlife Division - Wildlife Diversity Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
O: 512-389-8074
Wendy.Anderson@tpwd.texas.gov
Texas Master Naturalist
2023 Annual Meeting

October 12-15 | McAllen, Texas

- Timeline
- Call for Presentations
- Website Update
- Lodging
- Skeleton Agenda
- Sponsorship

https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/
Countdown Timeline

- **May 2023** – Call for Proposals Deadline
  - Get your presentation proposal submitted before our extended deadline of June 9th!
- **July 2023** - Agenda Preview Launches
  - We hope to share the full agenda preview for the 2023 Annual Meeting the first week of July.
- **August 2023** - Registration Opens
  - Registration for the 2023 Annual Meeting will open the first week of August.
- **August 31** – Early Registration ENDS
  - Price increase to ‘Standard Registration’
- **September 15** – Contests Close *early this year
  - Advisors Award, Photo, Art & Media, Video Contest and Project Fair
- **September 29, 2023** – In Person Registration Closes
  - Registration for the 2023 Annual Meeting closes!
  - **October 3, 2023** - #TMNTuesday – Chapter Project Fair Presentations
  - Join our monthly TMNTuesday webinar to hear this year’s entries for the Chapter Project Fair.
Skeleton Agenda

- Will have a longer day Thursday and Sunday this year.

- Travel Considerations:
  - Come early and explore the region!
  - Plan to stay a few days longer too!
## Agenda Preview

### Thursday 10/12
- Pre-Event Field Sessions
- Chapter Leadership Luncheon
- Afternoon Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
- Welcome Dinner

### Friday 10/13
- Field Sessions
- Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
- Keynote Address

### Saturday 10/14
- Annular Solar Eclipse
- All Day Off-Site Conference Location
- Annual Awards Reception & Dinner

### Sunday 10/15
- Post-Event Field Sessions
- Contest Awards
- Morning Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
- Conference Wrap up by Noon!

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### South Texas Conservation Issues

- Community Science 101
- Outreach and Education
- Chapter Project Highlights
- Herpetology and Entomology
- Ornithology: Birds of Prey
- Aquatic Systems
- Coastal Ecology
- Laws and Ethics
- Range Management
- Photography And Birds
- Interpretation and Training

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### Youth Programming / Aquatic Systems

- Monarchs / Plant Ecology
- Range and Wildlife Management
- Mammals / Ethics
- Ecosystem Level / Plant Ecology
- Native Plants
- Conservation Communication
Agenda Highlights

• Roundtable Sessions
  ○ Junior Master Naturalist
  ○ New Training Class Directors
• Conservation Grant Writing Session
• Texas Waters Day
• Ocelot Presentations

• 20+ Field Sessions
• Starting Wednesday morning through Sunday morning
• Coastal Ecology
• Birds of the RGV
• Mothing
• Historical Sites
• Thornscrub Tour
Registration

• Plan to open registration first week of August
• Will have Early Registration pricing until August 31st
• Standard Registration September 1st - September 29th

• Registration Prices - Working on this!
• Hoping to have final prices to release with agenda early next week.

• Virtual Registration - pending and may consider after August
• IF we are able to host virtual registration - it will be keynote and awards only.
Lodging

- Five Hotels with Room Blocks for TMNs!
- Rates $100-139 *(all include breakfast!)*
- Room Blocks links are Open
  - Make your reservations now
- Some hotels offering same rate 3 days pre & post event – come early and stay late!
Transportation

• Are looking into a discussion board to allow attendees to connect for ride sharing.
• Self serve discussion board
• Because we will not be able to provide field session transportation - we are also looking into field session transportation discussion boards for meeting up.
Contests & Awards

- Pre-Annual Meeting Entries – all due by 5pm Friday September 15th

Contests Open Now

- **Chapter Advisor Awards**
  - Nominate your chapter's advisor(s) to be recognized
- **Chapter Project Fair**
  - Submit your chapter project for our virtual fair!
- **Video Contest**
  - Videos of 1 minute to 3 minutes

- **Photo, Art & Media Contest opening soon**
  - Rio Grande Valley and South Texas Border Chapter hosting!
  - Entries to be submitted online between August 15th - September 15th
  - Note: Photos & Media must be taken somewhere in Texas and within the current year: 2023
Chapter Advisor Award

https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2023-chapter-advisor-awards/

The Texas Master Naturalist Program presents the Chapter Advisor Award to outstanding advisors and/or teams of advisors each year. The goal of the awards program is to encourage and recognize the exceptional work and support of local Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Advisors.

The Chapter Advisor Team category was established to recognize the exceptional support of TMN chapter Advisors working in partnership to support a chapter, just as the TMN program is supported by a partnership between Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at the statewide level.

Applications are due by September 15th, 2023.

Kara Matheney
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Gideon Linneanum Chapter Advisor
- “dedicated to empowering our chapter”
- “She has a talent for identifying the resources that we need”
- “Kara takes every opportunity to champion the TMN program”
- “Kara has an excellent relationship with our board and general membership.”
Chapter Project Fair

https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2023-chapter-project-fair/

The Texas Master Naturalist Program holds this competition during our Annual Meeting each year to share and award the premier projects of the TMN Program. Our chapter members continually list this fair as a favorite way to learn about projects other chapters are doing and how they may be able to replicate such projects in their areas.

View past Project Fair entries and winners.

Criteria & Judging

Each Chapter will provide a short written paragraph describing the project by September 15, 2023. A pre-selected panel of judges will join the live 20 minute presentation of the Project Fair during our October #TMNTuesday Speaker Session on October 3rd, 2023 using the judging criteria below.

Awards will be in the form of monetary project grants based on place level and availability of funds to the winning chapters which are intended to further support the winning projects or new project implementations of the chapters’ choice.
Release the director in YOU! Each year, the Texas Master Naturalist Program hosts a video contest to showcase the “behind the scenes” works that go on within your chapter. We want you to share your experience as a trainee, your experience as a TMN volunteer, or a highlight of a Chapter project, event, partnership effort, or anniversary year.

Videos should be a minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds and a maximum of 3 minutes. Uploads should be either formatted as .mp4, .mov, .wmv, or other YouTube-ready format.

Video Contest submissions will be accepted until September 15th, 2023. Entries will be reviewed and top videos will be announced and awarded at our 2023 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony.
Photo, Art & Media Contest

LINK COMING SOON!

Entry Submission - **August 15, 2023 12:00AM through September 15, 2023, 11:59PM**

**Categories**

- Individual member submissions categories:
  - Photo –
    - Plants and Fungi
    - Wildlife: Birds
    - Wildlife: Insects and arachnids
    - Wildlife: Reptiles and Amphibians
    - Wildlife: Other
    - Chapters at work/play
    - Scenic
    - Macro
    - Digitally Enhanced Photos

- Art –
  - Paintings or Drawings
  - Sculptures, Carvings, & Ceramics
  - Sewing or Stitchery

- Chapter submissions categories –
  - Newsletter
  - Scrapbooks
  - Brochures

**Digitally Enhanced**

Betsy Cross
Hays County
“Night of the Flower Moon”
Looking for the TMN t-shirts off your back :-) 

We are working toward having another heirloom quilt made of TMN t-shirts from the past 25 years.

• Does your chapter have a past anniversary t-shirt
• Does your chapter have a personalized shirt?

Please send whatever you would like to be considered for the project by August 5th

Ship to:
Michelle M. Haggerty
TMN State Program Coordinator
309 Sidney Baker South
Kerrville, TX 78028
**Sponsorship**

- All sponsorships received special recognition through conference communication, fliers, announcements, and programs.
- Sponsors could make a general contribution to support and sponsor the TMN Annual Meeting at any of the following levels with recognition at each level as given:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friend - $150</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecologist - $300</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steward - $500</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservationist - $1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian - $3,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturalist - $5,000+</td>
<td>$5,000+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All sponsorships will receive special recognition through conference communication, flyers, announcements, and programs as follows:

- Friend - $150: Posted on Annual Meeting website
- Ecologist - $300: All Friend level recognition, plus: Posted on conference hallway signs
- Steward - $500: All Ecologist level recognition, plus: Posted on Annual Meeting app; Recognition given during awards ceremony
- Conservationist - $1,000: All Steward level recognition, plus: Complimentary Vendor Booth (optional)
- Guardian - $3,000: All Conservationist level recognition, plus: Reserved table at Annual Meeting awards dinner; Inclusion of collateral materials in attendee registration bags
- Naturalist - $5,000+: All Conservationist level recognition as given above, plus: Organization highlight page on website
Thank you to our current sponsors

**Ecologist**
- Cradle of Texas Chapter

**Steward**
- Alamo Area Chapter
- Blackland Prairie Chapter
- Coastal Prairie Chapter
- Cross Timbers Chapter
- Hays County Chapter

**Conservationist**
- Rock Sande Valley Chapter
- Texas Master Naturalists

**Naturalist**
- Our Texas Our Future
- H-E-B
Vendors

Vendor Booth - $300 commercial
$150 non-profit

• Seeking vendors to share their naturalist related goods, artwork, projects, plants or educational materials.

Rio Grande Valley and South Texas Chapter hosting vendor search - help us source vendors!
TMN Curriculum Bulk Orders at Annual Meeting

• **BULK Curriculum Orders** for Annual Meeting pickup available once again!
  Will send out order form in mid-August.
• Deadline will be end of September
• Please designate who will be picking up these books (heavy!)
Pop Up Store with TMN logo items, 25th Anniversary and Annual Meeting logo items!

Timeline:
Opening August 15th
Closes August 31st
Shipped to you PRIOR to the Annual Meeting

Items:
- Soft Shell jacket
- T-Shirts
- Polos
- What else?
SILENT AUCTION

Rio Grande Valley and South Texas Border Chapter hosting

Asking for Donations from Chapters
- Regional representations of your chapters ecoregion
- Naturalist items
- Travel packages
- Hand crafted items
- Themed baskets

Item Drop Off – Thursday October 20th 1pm – 6pm or Friday 21st before 9am

Auction Open until – Saturday 6:00pm
Accepting cash, checks, and cards!

https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/#silent-auction
Other Chapter Resources
State office will be sharing & posting state level offered advanced trainings or upcoming events. All events added are **not automatically approved** for AT, please check with your local chapter first.

Don’t forget about our TMN State Email Listserv! [https://txmn.tamu.edu/contact/](https://txmn.tamu.edu/contact/)
Update on Pins

Reminder:
• Recertification Pins & Milestone Pins Ordering System!
• Ordering Form – https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-supplies/#pins

• Will send out recertification & milestone pins monthly.
  o Note some staff vacations coming up
• All order requests via website collected each month & mailed to chapter at beginning of following month.
  o *Exception – September/October – Hand delivering at Annual Meeting or mailing in October

• NOTE – 4,000 hr/PVSA pins are all on backorder – including orders that were already in process from April’s order.
WordPress Web Accessibility

- Join our AgriLife Extension Team with the Web Accessibility WordPress Training
- Skipping July’s
- August 1st at 12:00pm
- Via Google Meet
- Tx.ag/TXMNwordpress
Meeting Owls

Have these available still!

Use the form online to reserve:
https://txmn.tamu.edu/meeting-owl-loaner-program/
TMN Merchandise

Pop Up Store
- Will host another gear shop this summer with Annual Meeting logo and 25th Anniversary logo items!

Opening Mid to Late July!

AgriLife Learn
- Restocked Columbia Shirts
- Restocked Lanyards
- Restocked Tablecloths

- [https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/](https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/)
TMN License Plate

- Can be ordered on myplates.com
- FAQ on our website

- $30 for non-personalized OR $70 for personalized
- $22 of each plate sold goes back to TMN Program
  - https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmn-license-plate/

- Quarterly Reports from DMV
The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Endowment is to further enhance the Texas Master Naturalist Program, its chapters and volunteers, now and into the future, for the benefit of natural resource education, conservation and stewardship.

Started in 2016
Currently @ ~$100,000
- Individual or Chapter Gifts
- Employer Gift Matching
- Estate Planning

https://masternaturalistendowment.org/

To give directly, follow the link: http://give.am/TexasMasterNaturalist

THANK YOU to all who have given!
Calendar Check

June
• 6 – WordPress Training
• 13 – TMNTuesday
• 27 – Presidents Meeting

Presidents Meetings
• January 31
• February 28
• March 28
• April 25
• May 30
• June 27
• July 11 *Joint TMN Tuesday
• August 29
• September 26
• October *Annual Meeting
• November 28
• December 12 *Joint TMN Tuesday
President's Corner

- Hill Country Chapter
  - YMCA partner project won TPWD Co-Op Grant with HCMN volunteers assisting

- Bluestem Chapter
  - Conservation Day 2023 Impact Results —>

- Balcones Canyonlands Chapter
  - Whole Foods Market Community Giving Project - Pollinator Garden grant - $5,000

Conservation Day 2023 Impact Results

According to the Texas Education Agency, 98% (4,814 of 4,910) 5th-grade students in Travis County public schools met or exceeded expectations in reading, 97% (4,766 of 4,910) 5th-grade students met or exceeded expectations in mathematics, 99% (4,908 of 4,910) 5th-grade students met or exceeded expectations in science, and 97% (4,814 of 4,910) 5th-grade students met or exceeded expectations in social studies.

During March and April of 2023, Texas A&M AgriLife (Extension of Grayson County) provided 2,000 meals to 11 schools within the county for the Conservation Day program. Public and private schools were able to select conservation topics in their school's curriculum, including but not limited to, soil types, water filtration, stream tables, food webs, water cycle, butterfly migration, and wildlife conservation.

As part of Conservation Day, four AgriLife professionals, along with 20 AgriLife volunteers from Denton County, the Bluestem Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, and the North Texas Chapter of the Master Gardeners, presented 12 sessions to 1,772 students in 5th, 4th, and 3rd grades. AgriLife Extension volunteers contributed 500 hours over 6 days of programming, providing $3,000 in direct support to this educational program.

**Food Webs**
- 100% (456 of 456) of students understood plants get energy from the sun.
- 99% (455 of 456) of students understood animals that eat other animals are called predators.

**Stream Table**
- 98% (459 of 456) of students understood water conservation is important for everyone.
- 94% (450 of 456) of students understood what is called pollution.

**Wildlife & Fisheries**
- 98% (459 of 456) of students understood everything needs water to live.
- 96% (454 of 456) of students understood what is called pollution.

**Soil Particles**
- 95% (451 of 456) of students understood soil is made up of particles including sand, silt, and clay.
- 94% (451 of 456) of students understood a soil particle which is made up of sand, silt, and clay.

**Water Filtration**
- 98% (457 of 456) of students strongly agreed they learned something new at Conservation Day.
- 97% (454 of 456) of students strongly agreed the sessions were fun at Conservation Day.

**Overall Program Results**
- 97% (457 of 456) of students strongly agreed they learned something new at Conservation Day.
- 93% (454 of 456) of students strongly agreed the sessions were fun at Conservation Day.
- 95% (459 of 456) of students strongly agreed they were more averse to conservation concepts after attending Conservation Day.
- 94% (454 of 456) of students strongly agreed they were more averse to conservation concepts after attending Conservation Day.
- 95% (459 of 456) of students strongly agreed they were more averse to conservation concepts after attending Conservation Day.

54% (603 of 1,111) of students that attended Conservation Day responded to the post evaluation results generated from Gunter Elm (3rd grade), B. McDowell Intermediate (4th grade), Home Elm (4th grade), Whiteoak Intermediate (5th grade), and Collinwood Elm (5th grade). The Water Filtration session response is lower due to only two schools providing data.
Presidents Corner

• Don’t sign MOA’s, MOU’s or contracts without review & approval of TMN State Office.

• Let us know about grants & awards you win!

• What questions do you have for the chapter presidents on the call now?

• Any others?
The End