

SILENT AUCTION

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL MEETING

McAllen Convention Center - OCTOBER 12-15, 2023



We are excited about the quickly approaching Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Annual Meeting at the McAllen Convention Center. It is time to prepare for getting donated items for the silent auction. Display and bidding will be open on Friday and Saturday October 13 & 14. Money raised by the silent auction is used for TMN project grants, scholarships to the annual meeting for each chapter, and to bring in speakers and trainers for future annual meetings.

We are asking each TMN chapter to donate a minimum of \$100 in cash or items to the auction. There are many types of items that are appropriate for the silent auction. Cash will be used to purchase attractive and relative items to be placed on the auction tables. If you choose to donate \$100 in items, below are some ideas from previous years:

- Travel packages, vouchers and gift certificates for trips, tours, experiences, hotels and sights. (These are always popular items for bidders.)
- Items and gift certificates solicited from your local businesses
- Purchased items such as outdoor gear, tools, nature guides, books about nature and generally anything related to nature.
- Hand-crafted items such as art (paintings, sculptures, framed photographs, carvings), jewelry, notecards and natural arrangements.
- Theme baskets and grouped items. These may represent your region and members may join together to complete these. Some theme ideas include coastal, birding, outdoorsy, décor items, kitchen, cooking, gardening, regional cuisine, etc.

We encourage you to use your imagination and keep naturalist themes in mind. If it's something you would like to have, other members probably would too. Items in new condition with a value of at least \$25 may be donated. We occasionally group like items together to add to the appeal!

Items should be brought to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 12, between 1 pm and 6pm. Please complete a Silent Auction Bid Sheet for each item (see attached). Silent Auction Bid Sheets will also be available at the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for delivery, just let us know. We are happy to work with you.

The Rio Grande Valley and South Texas Border Chapters are the host chapters for the silent auction. Tamie Bulow (thw.bulow@gmail.com) is the chair for the RGV Chapter, and Anne Mayville (nurse_anne@msn.com) is chair for the STB Chapter. Please email one of us in advance about what you plan to contribute so we can plan the space accordingly.



Please consider contributing local experiences and items to this event for your chapter members. It's a great way to support the TMN mission, promote local attractions, and share some of the treasures of your areas. We look forward to seeing you at the McAllen Convention Center!

Sincerely, the Rio Grande Valley and South Texas Border Chapters