

November 28th

Chapter Presidents & Advisors

Meeting



November 28th Chapter Presidents & Advisors Meeting

- Introduce yourself in the chat:
 - Name
 - Chapter you represent
 - Your role in 2023 (or '24)
- Share video (if your bandwidth allows)
- Will be recording this meeting
- Will share notes & presentation after the meeting

- We'll get started at **12 Noon**
- Volunteer Note Taker: Carolyn Henderson, El Camino Real



Agenda

- Introductions
- Follow up after the TMN Annual Meeting
 - Thank YOU for your 2023 Leadership!
 - Chapter care packages sent
 - Chapter displays
- Pins Update
 - New Ordering Process
 - PVSA pins back in stock
- Program Updates
 - New TMN Program Support Specialist Position
 - TMNTuesdays and December Chapter Leaders Mtg
 - TMN VMS Rebuild
- 25th Anniversary
 - ‘New’ Anniversary Timeline display debuts
 - Storytelling Project
 - 25th Anniversary feature piece
- 2024 Basic Training
 - update your chapter’s 2024 training offerings
- 2024 Program Planning
 - Program Branding
 - TMNTuesdays in 2024
 - Virtual Volunteer Fair
 - Reporting the Program’s 25th Anniversary year
 - Chapters Anniversaries in 2024
 - President's + Advisors Meetings in 2024
- TMN Merchandise
- Friends of TMN/TMN NGO
 - Informational meeting December 13th
- Program Resources
 - Webex
 - WordPress Training
 - End of the Year Succession
- License Plate
- Endowment
- Roundtable



Closing Out 2023 Program Updates



Program Updates: Here we grow again!

Welcome Evelyn Gomez!

TMN State Office Student Program Aide

Started in September and joined us for her
FIRST TMN Annual Meeting!

She's doing GREAT!!!



Coming Soon:

A new Program Support Specialist



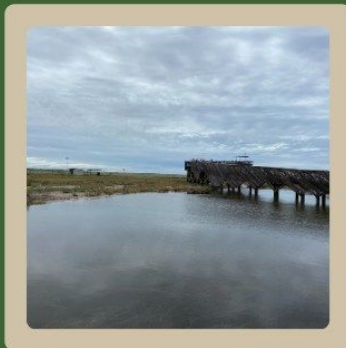
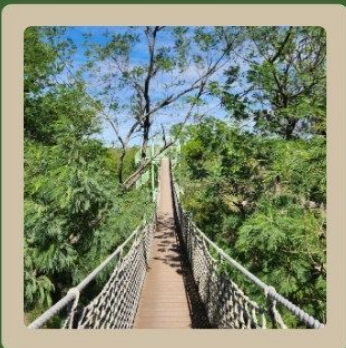
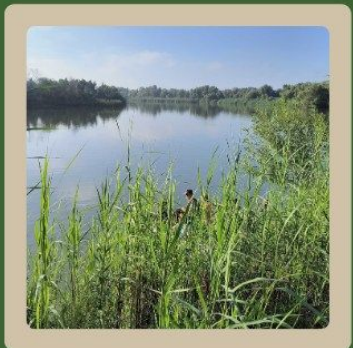
Recap to the Annual Meeting!!

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2023 ANNUAL MEETING



THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL WEEKEND IN
MCALLEN!

WE'LL SEE YOU IN 2024 IN ...



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
2023 ANNUAL MEETING



October 12-15
McAllen, Texas

Recap to the Annual Meeting!!

Overview

- 475 Registrants
- 120 Speakers
- 100+ Sessions
- 25+ field sessions
- 42 of 49 Chapters (42 same as last year)

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
2023 ANNUAL MEETING



October 12-15
McAllen, Texas

Congrats to Annual Meeting Award Winners!!

Project Fair Winners

- First: Brazos River Cleanup/Campout and Educational Extravaganza, Rio Brazos Chapter
- Second: Beautiful Hays County Activity & Coloring Book
- Tied - Third: Rio Grande Valley Chapter's RGV Pollinator Project
- Tied - Third: Galveston Bay Area Chapter's Bayside Regional Park Project

Video Contest Winners

- First: Sabine-Neches Chapter- "Hey Texas Master Naturalist - What are you doing?"
- Second: The Good Water Chapter's "The Land of Goodwater"
- Third: Piney Wood Lakes "American Water Willow Therapy"

Wrap Up Items:

- Awards Wrap Up online – <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2023-annual-meeting-awards-wrap-up/>
- Flickr Photos online - <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB2jkt>



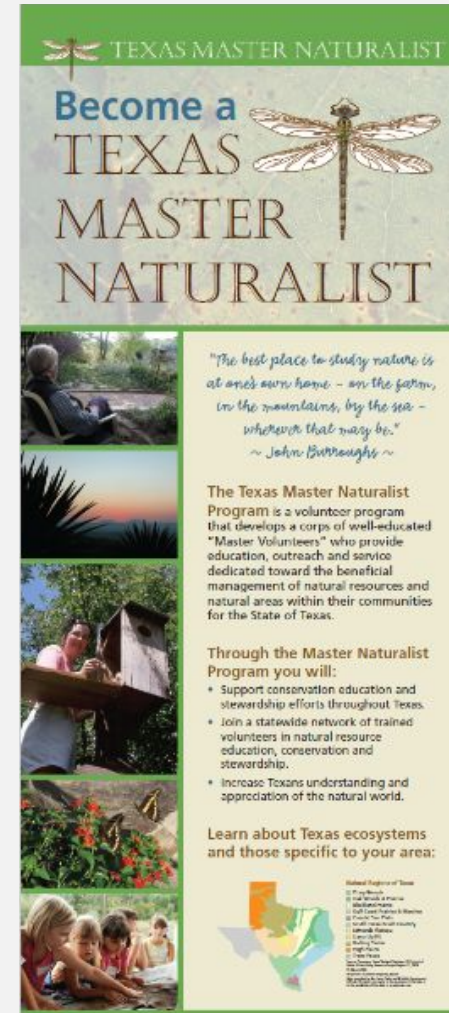
Lois Balin
Trans Pecos Chapter Advisor
TMN Advisor of the Year

Thank YOU!

for your leadership and the work of your chapter!

All Chapter & President Items shipped out!

- Leather notebooks for Presidents
- TMN Displays - Check your panels!
 - “Become” and “Explore” panels
 - Contact Michelle for shipping instructions



Welcome to our Newest TMN Chapter: *Brush y Canyons*

- Launched first Training July 2023
- based out of Uvalde –includes Kinney, Medina & Uvalde Counties
- Officially being Chartered as #49 at the Annual Meeting!



Season of Thanks!

The Texas Master Naturalist Program is wrapping up its 25th anniversary year and to celebrate, we launched our "**Season of Thanks**"

- Share your thoughts, reflections and hopes for the 25th Anniversary of the Texas Master Naturalist Program through our Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tmn25thanniversary> These will be collected and shared in April next year as part of our National Volunteer Month celebration in 2024!
- Share with us what you're thankful for by watching for and interacting with our social media channels for our Season of Thanks posts started earlier this month!
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

SEASON OF *Thanks!*

“Conserving nature in Texas, Texas Master Naturalist Program celebrates milestone anniversary”
an article by Sarah Fuller



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

SEASON OF *Thanks!*



“My hope is that when someone thinks of the future of Texas’ natural resources, they think of Master Naturalists and the Texas Master Naturalist Program. So many great things are accomplished because of the efforts of our volunteers.”

Michelle Haggerty, *Texas Master Naturalist Program State Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

The Texas Master Naturalist Program is recognized in an article by AgriLife Today in celebration of it’s 25th Anniversary.

Celebrating Texas Master Naturalist Program's 25th Anniversary with an article written in collaboration by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The article highlights the efforts made by our master naturalists to conserve our resources while educating others along the way, something we are all very thankful for. The article can be found here: <https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/.../texas-master.../>

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



25th

ANNIVERSARY

25th Anniversary T-Shirt Quilt

(Silent Auction Item)



- Carefully selected shirts and fabric shared from our members reflecting our 25-year history
- In the words of Robert Slaughter, Rio Brazos TMN...

“If only shirts could talk, what great stories these could tell!”

- THANK YOU to all who donated their shirts!
- Made by Quilter, Jennifer Macaulay—daughter of TMN, Mary Ann Everett



25th Anniversary History Timeline

1997

Alamo Area Chapter

In March 1997, the Alamo Area Chapter—known then as the Natural Initiatives Program—holds its first Master Naturalist training.

- Capital Area Chapter
- Hays County Chapter
- North Texas Chapter

In 1998, the statewide Texas Master Naturalist Program was launched with the establishment of the North Texas, Capital Area, and Hays County chapters. Members and state partners create the Texas Master Naturalist State Advisory Committee and write a mission statement for the statewide Texas Master Naturalist Program.

1999



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
503

- Elm Fork Chapter
- Cross Timbers Chapter
- Gulf Coast Chapter

To become a Master Naturalist, the basic training and chapter field sessions always involve hands-on activities to familiarize the volunteers with their area's natural resources—and how to best conserve and manage them.



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
836

- Mid Coast Chapter
- Last Pines chapter
- Lindheimer Chapter
- East Texas Chapter



Held in a learning at the first Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting.



As a trained and well-educated volunteer corps, Master Naturalists are sought out for their expertise in conservation. Volunteers from Elm Fork Chapter held a booth focusing on their collection at the Native Plant Society of Texas Symposium.



Alamo Area Chapter's first graduating class of trained Master Naturalists.

1998



Cross Timbers volunteers take one of their first field trips to a local park.



In the program's early days, new classes of Master Naturalist graduates across the state, as seen here with the Elm Fork Chapter.



Dr. Bill Ward is seen here with Alamo Area Chapter volunteer's learning about local geology.



Michelle Haggerty is named as the TMMN Program's Statewide Coordinator.

2000



Texas Master Naturalist holds its first Statewide Annual Meeting and advanced training at Camp Seawater Springs in Marble Falls.



Gov. Rick Warren awards Sarah Beckelman, both of the North Texas Chapter, with her recommitment award.



Wildlife Management Institute President's Award

Within our first few years, the Texas Master Naturalist Program became recognized internationally with the Wildlife Management Institute President's Award. This award was given for the exceptional professional creativity, integrity, and tenacity in developing a program that advances resource management within the state of Texas.

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.

25th Anniversary History Timeline

2001



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
1,246

- Cradle of Texas Chapter
- Galveston Bay Area Chapter
- Trans Pecos Chapter



Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's (TNRCC) Environmental Excellence Award



Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence



National Audubon Society's Habitat Heroes Award



At the Annual Meeting, volunteers from across the state take part in a marsh class, using wetland trays to help better understand the marsh ecosystem.



Two TMN volunteers, Timothy Foltz and Tomye Foltz-Zettner, are recognized by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the agency's Lone Star Land Steward Award.



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
1,665

- Hill Country Chapter
- Rolling Plains Chapter
- Rio Grande Valley Chapter
- South Texas Chapter

Our annual recertification pins debuted this year. Volunteers provide 40 hours of volunteer service and participate in 8 hours of advanced training annually to earn their annual recertification pins.

Annual Recertification Pin:
Oak Leaf



Michelle Haggerty and Tom Collins bring the Texas Master Naturalist Program to the public at the TPWD Wildlife Expo.



2003



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
2,220

- Big Country Chapter
- Heart of Texas Chapter
- Highland Lakes Chapter
- Panhandle Chapter

TMN celebrates its five year anniversary as a statewide program. The organization now has 22 chapters and 2,220 volunteers. A formal evaluation of the program shows success in increasing participants' long-term knowledge, improving attitudes toward resource management practices, and boosting natural resource volunteerism.

Annual Recertification Pin:
Lindheimer Daisy



Master Naturalists from the North Texas Chapter pose for a group picture at the Annual Meeting at Mo Ranch.



North Texas Master Naturalists tag birds. One of the many ways chapters help their local area is through biological surveys and tracking wildlife populations.



Senecio quaylei discovered by Cross Timbers Master Naturalist, Jeff Quayle



Being a Master Naturalist means getting a bit muddy sometimes.



State Coordinator Michelle Haggerty celebrates with one of the first Lost Pines Chapter members to be certified.

2002



Trans Pecos Chapter volunteers get some help cleaning up leaf litter at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.



Master Naturalists from the North Texas Chapter work on their big chapter project at White Rock Lake.



Alamo Area Chapter's 12th class poses out in the field after a long day of learning.



East Texas Chapter members attend the Annual Meeting and celebrate the fifth anniversary of the TMN Program.



Lost Pines Master Naturalists take part in field research for their local area.

I believe in the Texas Master Naturalist Program because we volunteer for Texas and do good in our area with beautification projects and taking care of living things in water, land, and air.

Delores McCright, Red River Chapter

25th Anniversary History Timeline

2005



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
2,763

Coastal Prairie Chapter

The Texas Master Naturalist model goes national after receiving an International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) Multi-States Conservation Grant, which assists with national training for new Master Naturalist programs. In 2004, 15 programs representing 20 states participate in the first national training.

Annual Recertification Pin:
Green Frog



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
3,431

- Brazos Valley Chapter
- Gideon Lincoecum Chapter
- Heartwood Chapter
- Red River Chapter
- Rio Brazos Chapter
- Tierra Grande Chapter

Annual Recertification Pin:
Belted Kingfisher



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
4,122

- Blackland Prairie Chapter
- Llano Estacado Chapter
- South Plains Chapter

Annual Recertification Pin:
Prickly Pear Cactus

U.S. Department of Interior's "Take Pride in America" Award



Capital Area Chapter volunteers serve their region through planting native plant demonstration gardens.



Keep Texas Beautiful Award



The Brazos Valley Chapter is shown installing a native plant demonstration garden, helping TMN reach the next million milestone of volunteer service.

The first 5,000-hour award is given to Thea Platz, Alamo Area Chapter.



Sonny Arnold is hired as Assistant Program Coordinator



2004



Highland Lakes Chapter hosts some special guests to learn about Raptor Rehab for their new class training.



North Texas Chapter members Becky Rader and Linda Sharp plant pickereeweed at Duck Creek



An essential part of being a Master Naturalist is dedicating time to service projects that benefit local natural resources. Elm Fork Master Naturalists pose for a picture on the brand-new bridge built at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center.



Brazos Valley Chapter hosts their first training class, involving hands-on activities in the classroom and outside.



Barron Rector instructs Brazos Valley Chapter trainees at the Extension Range Center in College Station.



The Elm Fork Chapter has a workday at Clear Creek, clearing trails and benefiting their local natural resources.



White Rock Lake volunteer project is recognized with TPWD's Lone Star Land Steward Award.

2006



Lou Verner, TPWD Urban Biologist and Advisor for the North Texas Chapter, leads volunteers on a birding adventure.



Capital Area Chapter members collect and monitor salamanders at Eliza Springs.



Master Naturalists have many talents that they showcase during the Annual Meeting. Highland Lakes Chapter members pose with their prizes.

25th Anniversary History Timeline

2007

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
4,725

AWARD Educator of the Year by the Texas Association for Environmental Education

AWARD Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal to J. Dale Shively

Mayor of San Antonio proclaims October 12-14, 2007, to be "Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer Days" in San Antonio to commemorate our first chapter's 10th anniversary during the 8th Annual Statewide Meeting.



The North Texas Chapter poses for a group picture at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Recertification Pin:
Grass Shrimp



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
5,306

- El Camino Real Chapter
- Cypress Basin Chapter

Annual Recertification Pin:
Texas Sage

AWARD Citizens' Environmental Coalition of Houston Award



By hosting events for school groups, volunteers share their knowledge with the next generation of naturalists.



In its first chartered year, the El Camino Real Chapter hosts a local event to teach nursing home residents how to fish, to bring conservation education to all generations of Texans.

[10 YEAR SYNOPSIS]

\$16.41 million
estimated economic impact

5,306
volunteers trained

2009



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
5,995

● Sabine-Neches Chapter

Annual Recertification Pin:
Salamander

AWARD New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Department's Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award: Lindheimer Chapter



Rolling Plains Chapter volunteers collect their gear before doing Texas Horned Lizard surveys.



The East Texas Chapter documents plant species in their area for the chapter's herbarium.

2008



Heart of Texas Chapter members work to collect samples of freshwater mussels at Lake Waco.



Annual Meeting attendees get an introduction to wildlife tracks by TPWD Biologist Richard Heilbrun.



Master Naturalists are generationally-minded, including and engaging future conservationists and teaching the value of wildlife and natural resources in the state of Texas.

New statewide TMN website is launched.



The Capital Area Chapter hosts booths at the NatureSmart Austin Cave Festival with fun, educational activities for adults and children.



Master Naturalists from the Gulf Coast Chapter are hard at work but all smiles.



The North Texas Chapter gave its first 5,000 milestone award to some of its founding members: Jim Varnum, Sara Beckelman, and Steve Houser.

996.5 miles
of trails developed or improved

1+ million
service hours

19 national, state, and local awards

34 chapters

90,000+ acres
of habitat enhanced



Alamo Area Chapter volunteers measure stream flow and turbidity.



Master Naturalists work side by side with state and national agency partners to put in the hard work for managing our state's ecosystems, including working with tools like prescribed burning with the Alamo Area Chapter.



An El Camino Real Master Naturalist takes measurements of a Northern Cardinal before banding its leg.

25th Anniversary History Timeline



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
6,737

- Piney Wood Lakes Chapter
- Indian Trail Chapter
- Good Water Chapter
- Central Texas Chapter

AWARD League of Women Voters of Texas Environmental Awareness Award

AWARD Alliance of Natural Resources Outreach and Service Program's "Program of the Year" Award



Cradle of Texas Chapter members host the Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Hays County Chapter members seine the river to identify and log various fish species in the area.

2011



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
7,391

- Longleaf Ridge Chapter
- Bois d'Arc Chapter

Sonny Arnold, a founding member of the Texas Master Naturalist State Program and assistant state coordinator, officially retires.



"Sea Rim Serena," made of trash from Sea Rim State Park, is shown with the Sabine-Neches Chapter. Many chapters use creative ways to help clean up natural areas and involve the public.



Bois d'Arc Chapter members host a fossil day to engage community members with the history of the natural areas in their region.



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
8,142

- Bluestem Chapter

FIRST 10,000-HOUR RECIPIENTS



North Texas Master Naturalists take part in their big chapter project at Cedar Hill State Park. Many chapters use a huge chapter project to encourage camaraderie amongst members while making the maximum impact in their area.

Steve Houser, 10,000 Hours
North Texas Chapter

Dick Benoit, 10,000 Hours
Galveston Bay Area Chapter



Annual Recertification Pin:
Wood Duck



Annual Recertification Pin:
Texas Horned Lizard



Annual Recertification Pin:
Mexican Free-tailed Bat

2010



Members from the first class of the Indian Trail Chapter pose for a picture after completing a class group project together. Many chapters include this as part of their training to set a foundation of service and community.



The Rolling Plains Chapter hosts a clean-up at Sikes Lake. Master Naturalists are essential to maintaining and preserving the beautiful natural areas in their region.



The Red River Chapter completes a bald eagle survey in their area.



The Central Texas Chapter's first class focuses on aquatic invertebrates.



The Good Water Chapter hosts "Kid City," engaging youth in their community and demonstrating nest-building techniques.



The Brazos Valley Chapter instills lifelong passion for conservation in their chapter's "Junior Master Naturalists."



The Longleaf Ridge Chapter is investing in their region as they canoe in a local park.



The Texas Master Naturalist Program receives funding from the Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The mission of the WSFR is to work through partnerships to conserve and manage fish and wildlife, and their habitats, for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.



Through their advanced training, Master Naturalists find specific areas of interest they want to learn more about. These North Texas Chapter members got involved with the Texas Watershed Stewards Program.



El Camino Real Chapter hosts a nature festival with reptiles that bring big smiles!

2012



Piney Wood Lakes Chapter members pose for a picture after studying rare and invasive plants in Angelina Forest.



Highland Lakes Chapter invites children to seine for aquatic species.



Kip Kiphart, Hill Country Chapter member and one of the first 10,000-hour recipients, hunting for monarchs at Garner State Park.



Cooling down and goofing off is part of the fun of being a Master Naturalist.

25th Anniversary History Timeline

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
10,937



The new Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Curriculum is published!



Annual Recertification Pin: Guadalupe Bass



ANROSP Outstanding Educational Materials Award



The Cypress Basin Chapter installs a native garden at Caddo Lake State Park.

2017



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
11,562

- Lower Trinity Basin Chapter
- Prairie Oaks Chapter



Annual Recertification Pin: Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle



Gulf Coast Master Naturalists bring the community together for a day of tree plantings.



The Panhandle Chapter hosts Naturalist Days each year at Palo Duro Canyon State Park to recruit new members.



Innovations in American Government Awards: Bright Idea in American Government



Keep Texas Beautiful Award: Civic Organization



Members of the newly established Lower Trinity Basin Chapter help clear a pollinator garden.



48 chapters

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
12,148

I am now a connection to the outdoors for my friends and family who don't know a lot about our natural world and how to take care of it.

Rachel Nelson, Heart of Texas Chapter



Annual Recertification Pin: Ocelot



Master Naturalists leave a lasting legacy in the conservation and stewardship service they provide and in the youth they educate. Rio Brazos Chapter members are shown participating in Feather Fest.

[20 YEAR SYNOPSIS]

\$116 million estimated economic impact

5.9 million youth and adults reached

12,148 volunteers trained

2,580+ miles of trails developed or improved

2016



Diane Russell with the Coastal Prairie Chapter shows off a collection of caterpillars.



Dick Benoit of the Galveston Bay Area Chapter surveys the prairie after a long days work of service

The first 15,000-hour awards are given to Galveston Bay Area Chapter members Dick Benoit, Jim Duron, and Tom Solomon, and to Hill Country Chapter member Kip Kiphart.



Master Naturalists with the Longleaf Ridge Chapter participate in a Centennial Forest tree planting event at Big Thicket National Preserve.



Members of the first collegiate chapter—Balcones Canyonlands—bring playful energy on a hike to learn about local geology.



Outstanding Book Award: Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society



Gulf Guardian Award, First Place Civic/Non-Profit Organization: Galveston Bay Area Chapter



Lost Pines Chapter members prepare to host their annual Biocensus team project, helping to survey plant species diversity along the same roadway each year.



Students and other members of the Prairie Oaks Chapter—a collegiate chapter in partnership with Tarleton State University—work together to learn about stream quality testing.



Heartwood Chapter leads an innovative project at TDCJ Ellis Corrections Unit. Chapter members teach inmates the Master Naturalist curriculum.



Outstanding Achievement Award from the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

2018



Trainees with the Rio Grande Valley Chapter are led through Hugh Ramsey Park in Harlingen.

I believe wholeheartedly in the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Program and its ability to positively impact the environment by providing us with knowledge and tools to inform the public about the importance of nature.

Rowena Ochiagha, Alamo Area Chapter

4.59 million service hours

36 national, state, and local awards

244,773 acres of habitat enhanced

Coastal Prairie Chapter hosts a bird walk at Seabourne Creek Nature Park.

Both Tom Solomon, Galveston Bay Area Chapter, and Kip Kiphart, Hill Country Chapter, surpassed the 20,000 volunteer service hours milestone on the 20th anniversary of the TMN Program.

25th Anniversary History Timeline



UNPRECEDENTED, PERSEVERANCE, REMOTE, PIVOT, SOCIAL DISTANCE, QUARANTINE, UNCERTAIN TIMES, FLEXIBLE.

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
12,850

2019



Annual Recertification Pin:
Golden-Cheeked Warbler



The Wildlife Society's Conservation Education Award recognizes the Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Curriculum as a work that effectively conveys sound conservation concepts to the public.



AWARD Conservation Education Award, The Wildlife Society



Dr. Chris Mathewson, a geologist and professor at Texas A&M, enjoying the Sunset Cruise at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Dr. Mathewson was honored posthumously as an honorary Texas Master Naturalist the following year.



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
13,339



First TMN Exemplary Service Awards given to Bert Stipelcovich, the Coastal Prairie Chapter, and the TMN State Program Office's Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth for exceptional efforts to bring together a Virtual Annual Meeting for more than 1,200 TMN volunteers.



Annual Recertification Pin:
American Bumblebee



Master Naturalist father and daughter peer at moths drawn in by a blacklight station. Many members record observations like these as an index of biodiversity in their area. Award winning photo captured by Valerie Taber, Rio Brazos Chapter.

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
13,900

2021



Annual Recertification Pin:
Sideoats Grama



Jim Duron, Galveston Bay Area Chapter member, reached 25,000 volunteer service hours—equivalent to 12 years of full-time service to the TMN program.



With the help of members and chapters around the state, the TMN Program launches its dragonfly license plate showcasing artwork by Hill Country Chapter member Bridget Langdale.



Hays County new training class members net macroinvertebrates at John Knox Ranch to study water quality.



Tierra Grande Chapter members volunteer frequently with the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, providing an interpretive foundation for leading hikes on the trails.



Llano Estacado Master Naturalists enthusiastically net dragonflies at the Sibley Dragonfly Celebration.



New Master Naturalist trainees in the Longleaf Ridge Chapter get hands-on and in the field to learn about the natural cycle of prescribed fire in the pineywoods at Aldridge Sawmill Historic Site at Angelina National Forest.

2020



State Coordinators Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth pivoted to working virtually with a team of support at home.



As a sign of the times, Gulf Coast Chapter members work masked and at a distance collecting native grass seeds at Nash Prairie Preserve for propagation in partnership with a local native plant nursery.



Across the state, gatherings took place in different ways during the pandemic, with meetings moved online or outside. Members of the Gideon Lincecum Chapter hosted their monthly meetings at local pocket prairie project areas, working at the same time.



Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, TMN volunteers reflected on lessons learned from the program, the connections to green spaces as a form of relaxation and health, and the stewardship of those spaces for the enjoyment of others. Coastal Prairie Chapter members help maintain one such green space for the public.



Trained members of the Mid-Coast Chapter responded quickly in the unprecedented freezing cold of Winter Storm Uri to provide support for agency rescue operations of cold-stunned turtles all along the Gulf Coastline.



Members of the Good Water Chapter hosted a milkweed planting and restoration project in partnership at Georgetown's Berry Springs Park and



The Master Naturalist state office initiates a series of virtual programs to meet the needs of members during the continuing pandemic. The TMN Tuesday monthly webinar series offers advanced training from state experts, while the Be The Change webinar series addresses diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. Virtual Volunteer Fairs offer project showcases for members to connect with virtual and distance-based service opportunities statewide. Many of these programs continue to be offered.



Master Naturalists of the Trans Pecos Chapter host an interactive table at Franklin Mountains State Park annually for their Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta as a way to showcase their chapter's project, recruit new master naturalists, and educate the public about the numerous wildlife in the Chihuahuan desert.



AWARD Texas Festival & Event Association (TFEA): Best in Texas Award for Nature Discovery Series, Guadalupe Chapter



AWARD Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Partnership Award - Texas Parks & Wildlife Texas Master Naturalist Program

Nature and spending time in nature has long been a priority for me. It allows me to slow down, reconnect on the things that matter most, reflect on life, and feel more grounded. In the midst of this pandemic, however, nature has now, more than ever, become a necessity.

Ashleigh Acevedo, Gulf Coast Chapter

25th Anniversary History Timeline

2023

49 chapters

[25 YEAR SYNOPSIS]

- over \$215 million economic impact
- 6.628 million people reached
- 3,010+ miles of trail
- 6.787 million service hours

2022

40+ awards

49 chapters

256,792+ acres

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS 14,618

Annual Recertification Pin: Lightning Whelk

The first ever Texas Master Naturalist in space! Gulf Coast member and NASA Astronaut Kjell Lindgren commanded the SpaceX Crew-4 shuttle to the International Space Station. He took TMN pins and patches and even hosted a downlink with fellow Master Naturalists from the ISS.

A group of Girl Scouts at Camp Kiwanis learn about using binoculars with the Panhandle Chapter. Just as the natural world thrives with biodiversity, the Texas Master Naturalist Program is dedicated to engaging all audiences in conservation, education, and stewardship.

After 170 days in space, Kjell and crew safely returned to Earth Friday, October 14th. Days later, TMN members attending the annual meeting were the first group to welcome him home as he shared his views on the role of a TMN volunteer's stewardship of Texas' natural resources after viewing Earth's landscapes from space.

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS 15,300

Brushy Canyons Chapter

Annual Recertification Pin: Texas Ecoregions

TMN volunteer Mark Brown and wife Cheryl are recognized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the agency's Leopold Conservation Award.

Tom Solomon, Galveston Bay Area Chapter, completed his 30,000th hour of service—equivalent to more than 14 years of full-time service to the TMN program.

Cross Timbers Chapter members JoAnn Collins, Zachary Chapman, and Dana Austin celebrate the advantageous work of removing bastard cabbage at Fort Worth Prairie.

Galveston Bay Area Chapter members help school children through a sea turtle excluder net to learn about the conservation and restoration of Gulf Coast resources.

Elm Fork Chapter members use every opportunity to engage the public. Even a wandering box turtle at Denton's Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area helped.

Since 2018, a Texas Master Naturalist Conservation Award is presented annually in the junior and senior divisions of the Texas Science and Engineering Fair.

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 25th ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the TMN Program, artist Audrey Tauli combined the 2023 Texas ecoregions recertification pin with many previous TMN recertification pin species placing them across the state according to their habitat range to create our 25th anniversary logo.

The South Plains Chapter organized a Trailway and Bat advanced training tour at Caprock Canyon State Park with members learning about the life history of Mexican free-tailed bats of the Trailway and Clarity Tunnel.

As a TMN, you're not expected to be an expert. It's helpful to get comfortable with saying 'I don't know' and following it with 'but I aim to find out.' ... TMNs-in-training quickly find out it's almost impossible to know everything, and instead, lean into a particular area of interest. For instance, I'm an admirer of insects and mushrooms. Others in my chapter are avid birders. A few have replaced their lawns with lush, gorgeous pocket prairies, and butterfly gardens. There are countless ways to make an impact as a TMN.

Esmeralda Fisher, Coastal Prairie Chapter

The Texas Master Naturalist program allows for people to find other people with a like-minded outlook on life. We 'nature-seekers' seem to find each other while out on the trails or while teaching children about insects.

Lynn Seman, Rolling Plains Chapter

25th Anniversary History Timeline

[25 YEAR SYNOPSIS]


 over \$215 million
economic impact


 6.628 million
people reached

 3,010+ miles
of trail

 6.787 million
service hours

 40+ awards

 49 chapters

 256,792+ acres

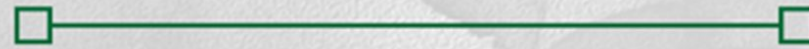
History remains to be written!

There are stories yet to tell!

Will you contribute to it?

25th Anniversary

25th Anniversary Storytelling Project



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

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Scan the QR code to get started!

25th Anniversary Storytelling Project

- 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/>



25th Anniversary Storytelling Project

25TH ANNIVERSARY

When I retired 8 years ago, we moved from Dallas to Austin to enjoy the outdoor life and benefit from what the city has to offer. My wife discovered Texas Master Naturalist, and we found this as our solution to enjoying nature and contributing to the environment. I am a birder, but TMN opened me up to all the things I didn't know.

I have many favorite experiences, but I will describe only two. Visiting the Friesenhahn cave (privately owned), just north of San Antonio, with our chapter, was an amazing experience. To see mammoth tusks sticking out of the cave walls and to understand this was where the saber-tooth cat skeletons were found that now are on display at the University of Texas Memorial Museum in Austin was awe inspiring. The second experience was to participate in a coyote/fox survey on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, using wildlife cameras over a 6-month period. This was a research project for a local university to collect data on the species presence in densely forested areas. In addition, I got to either record other wildlife such as otters, rattlesnakes, deer, and even some trespassers, and get some great photos. Otters had not been seen before in the area, so that was a great discovery.

I am currently serving as President of the Balcones Canyonlands chapter and working on achieving many goals including growing our membership and increasing its diversity by making membership and participation easier for those in the work force and living in city environments. Our chapter is growing very quickly. Let's get people engaged, educated, and enthusiastic!

”
JULIAN YATES,
BALCONES CANYONLANDS
CHAPTER



Storytelling PROJECT



Governing Docs Update 2023

Bylaws- In 2023 all Chapters completed adoption or are in process (just a few)!!!

COH- about two-thirds 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 calendar year.

Remaining Bylaws adoption status:

Cypress Basin - in process

Longleaf Ridge - in process

Trans Pecos - in process



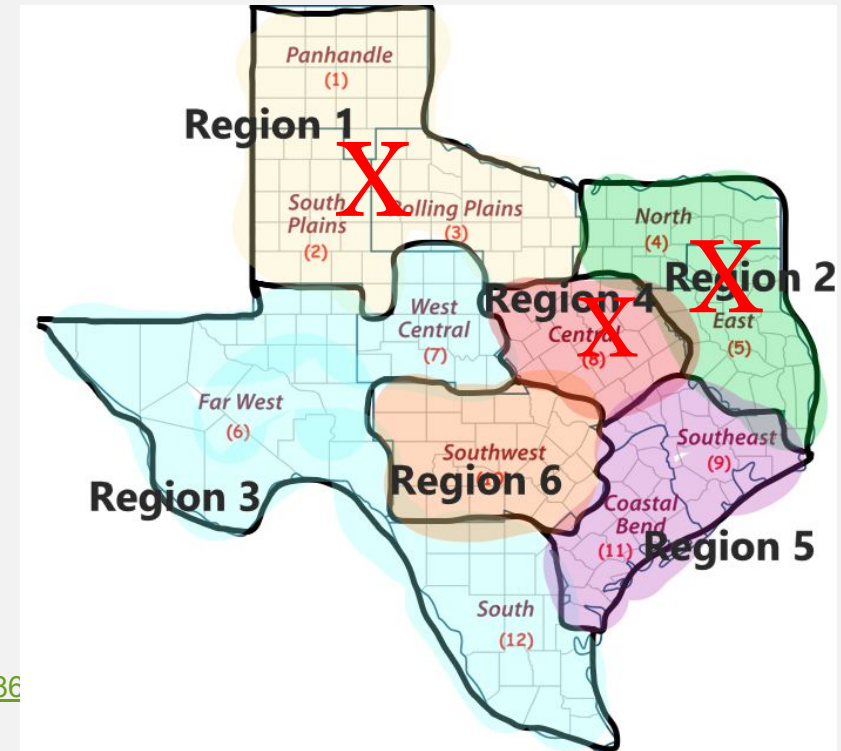
Slimmed Down on WebEx Accounts

Regional Accounts

- Discontinued Region 1, 2 & 4 due to non use

State Program Accounts

- Discontinued Webex Events 3000 Account
- All 2024 #TMNTuesdays will be set up in our TMN Webex Events Account
 - Holds 1,000 live, more than that can register though
- December registration links on our website
 - For Dec 12th: <https://tpwdevents.webex.com/weblink/register/r58a07f2c82806eb23c9e81dae4afb986>
- No change to Presidents & Advisors Meetings



Certificates and Pins Ordering Process

- Ordering Update for TMN Pins* and Certificates
- Now ordering through [AgriLife Learn store](#)

*Pins > 4,000 Hours still ordered through Michelle

- **Transition Process & Timeline:**

- December 10 - Set Up Chapter Ordering Account (see email)
- December 15 – All Accounts entitled to Pins and Certificates
- January 1 – Pins and Certificates available for order

← Emergency Orders - will discuss in last slide

- **Summary of Changes:**

- Chapters maximum limits set based on VMS history
- Shipping for orders ~ \$9
- Add in other AgriLife Learn items (tablecloths, lanyards, shirts, etc!)
- AgriLife Learn Customer Service Email and Phone!



Certificates and Pins Ordering Process

- **Gather info to set up your accounts now:**



Create an account to receive personalized information and customer support. **Please note: Each individual must register with a unique email.**

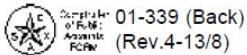
Having issues? Take a look at our [Common Registration Questions](#) to help you get registered.

By checking the box, I acknowledge that I have read Texas A&M AgriLife's [Website Privacy & Security Statement](#), and I consent to Texas A&M AgriLife collecting, using, and/or disclosing my registration information and other course information as described in the Website Privacy & Security Statement.

Sign Up

[Already have an account?](#)

Certificates and Pins Ordering Process



01-339 (Back)
(Rev. 4-13/8)

Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification

This certificate does not require a number to be valid.

Name of purchaser, firm or agency Texas A&M AgriLife Research / Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service / Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory	
Address (Street & number, P.O. Box or Route number) 2147 TAMU	Phone (Area code and number) (979) 847-5801
City, State, ZIP code College Station, Texas 77843-2147	

I, the purchaser named above, claim an exemption from payment of sales and use taxes (for the purchase of taxable items described below or on the attached order or invoice) from:

Seller: _____

Street address: _____ City, State, ZIP code: _____



TM

Certificates and Pins Ordering Process

But wait - I need pins/certificates <4,000 hours BEFORE January 1st!

By **8am FRIDAY December 1st** - I need to have ALL emergency orders for chapters that need/must have pins for an end of the year award event.

Email me with subject line: “Emergency December Pin Orders”

I will manually mail these to those chapters on Monday December 4th!



#TMNTuesday – last of 2023

*Joint #TMNTuesday+Presidents Meeting



December 2023
Speaker Series
#TMNTuesdays

Speaker: Steve Nelle

“Land Stewardship - It Might
Not Be What You Think”

SAVE THE DATE:
December 12,
12-1pm

T E X A S
Master
Naturalist.



Developing a Support Organization for TMN

“Friends of TMN”



To form a financial support organization for the Texas Master Naturalist program to alleviate any financial and logistical concerns from both sponsoring state agencies (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas AgriLife Extension)

Tentative Informational Meeting December 13th at Noon

End of Year Succession Planning

Elections & Chapter Leadership Retreats are coming up soon!

- Chapters plan your Board Retreats
- Incoming 2024 Chapter Presidents invited to **December 12th Joint TMN Tuesday Presidents Meeting** – The topic is Land Stewardship!
- Don't forget to enter new 2024 leadership in VMS
 - Mark in Directors List

Remind members to report all hours as soon as possible in December



End of Year Succession Planning

- Update New & Changing Officers
- Move all historical titles and leadership/service to History box

Volunteer Profile > User Defined - Google Chrome
tpwd.samaritan.com/coordinator/index.php#

Volunteer Profile: Poole, Gary

Personal Ethnic Background **User Defined** Language Registration Emergency Contact Attachments History

Group

- General
- Background and Driver Cl
- Alternative Workforce
- Confidentiality Agreemen
- Media Waiver
- Group Affiliation
- Certifications
- Contact
- TMN Recognition
- TMN Officers/Committee:**
- Diversity Data
- Texas Waters Specialist C
- Safety
- Recognition
- Recognition - State Parks
- Sea Center Awards
- Master Naturalist

Officer List: President Secretary At Large Board Member
 Vice President Treasurer Advisor

Director List: Immediate Past President Advanced Training Director
 Membership Director Volunteer Service Projects Director
 New Class Director New Class Representative
 Communications Director State Chapter Representative

VMS List: VMS Admin VMS LBE VMS ReadOnly

Committee Member of:

Leadership/Service History:

Beware of Phishing/Scam Issues

- Scam we heard of the past couple years:
 - Directors names and email addresses spoofed and appear to be asking others in the chapter for information or funds.
 - Gift card scam
 - Bank account access
 - “I need a favor” scam
 - through email and/or text messages
- Options:
 - Let your members know that you will never ask for these things via TMN emails
 - Make it your chapter practice and policy (and make it known) that you only ‘do business’ (like this) during official business meetings, never over email or text
 - Put directors email list behind password protected page, or on an external share drive
 - Add forms for contacting chapter & use CAPTCHA option
 - Send out directors' email list to chapter members once in external email at beginning of year
 - How else?
- When in doubt – call the named person emailing!









2024 Program Plans

2024 TMN Recertification Pin

**2024 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL
RE-CERTIFICATION PIN** T E X A S

**Western Diamondback
Rattlesnake**
Crotalus atrox
AKA: Texas Diamondback



Available for order
in late February



2024 Chapter Anniversaries

10th Anniversary

- Balcones Canyonlands Chapter
- Guadalupe Chapter

15th Anniversary

- Sabine Neches Chapter

20th Anniversary

- Coastal Prairie Chapter

25th Anniversary

- Cross Timbers Chapter
- Elm Fork Chapter
- Gulf Coast Chapter

What are your plans?
How will you celebrate?



2024 TMN Annual Meeting - Save the date!



Presidents + Advisors Meetings in 2024

January 30

February 27

March 26

April 30

May 28

June 25

July 9 *Joint TMN Tuesday

August 27

September 24

October - In conjunction with TMN Annual Meeting (23-25th)

November 12 *Joint TMN Tuesday

December 10 *Joint TMN Tuesday

- Will Continue to Hold in 2024
- Last Tuesday of the Month *
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm central
- Meeting invitations will be sent



#TMNTuesdays 2024

January 9th - State of the Program

*January 23rd - TNT Mini Series

*February 6th - TNT Mini Series

February 13th

March 5th (shifted a week)

April 9th - Virtual Volunteer Fair

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th *Joint #TMNTuesday/Presidents Mtg

August 13th

September 10th

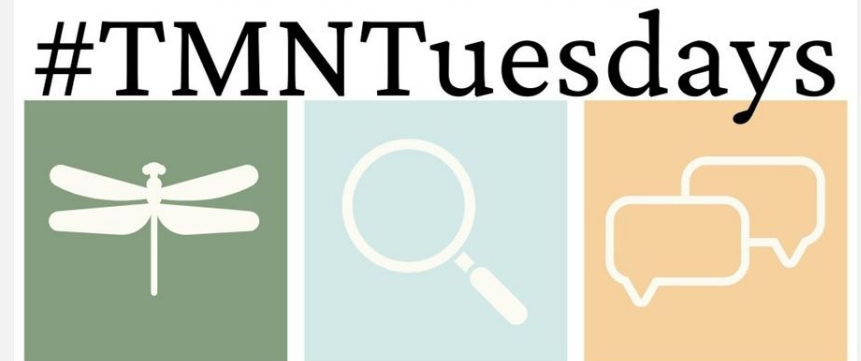
October 8th - TMN Project Fair Competition

November 12th *Joint #TMNTuesday/Presidents Mtg

December 10th *Joint #TMNTuesday & Presidents Mtg

- Second Tuesday of Each Month at Noon cst
- Up to 1 Hour Advanced Training (sometimes more)
- Watch Live or Recorded
- Speakers & Topics Announced Monthly
- *Some additional special #TMNTuesdays added in 2024

What topics would you like to see?



TMN VMS Updates

New Account Manager

VMS will go through a re-build to enable updates and new features

Changes coming this time next year that are intended to make things more efficient.

- We don't know what this will look like yet
- Our VMS Team will be involved in testing the re-build
- We will have training sessions for VMS admins, members

None of this will be taking place for a year

Volunteer Login

If you are already a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer, please log-in here.

User ID

Password

[Log in](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

To login as Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Organization, please log-in [here](#).



2024 Basic Training

Update your Chapter's info via the Basic Training Class information form

Updates to training Class information to be posted on our website:

- *(scroll all the way down to the bottom for the form.*
- *Keep in mind Winter training classes coming up and application periods open now*
- *Potential trainees ALWAYS want to know when your next training class is being planned*

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2024-basic-training-classes/>



Virtual Volunteer Fair 2024

April #TMNTuesday - April 9th

Roles of the Chapters:

- Help share the proposals request in the new year with project leaders in need. (Statewide focused need!)
- Save the date and encourage members to attend and volunteer with these projects!



TMN Governing Documents

FUTURE

- Documents to be reviewed on regular 3-year cycle:
- Comments & Feedback collected through website – <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/governing-documents-feedback-form/>
- 2023 – Year 1
- 2024 – Year 2
- 2025 – Year 3
- Summer 2025 – Review feedback & edits – Compile
- Fall 2025 – Completed updates made & sent out.
- 2026 – New Documents Year 1



Governing Documents Review Timeline

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>

Other Documents:

Marketing & Brand ID Guidelines

Scheduled for an update in ~~2023~~ 2024

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/tmn-brand-marketing/>



State Resources

A wide-angle photograph of a field of tall, golden-brown grasses, likely a prairie or savanna. The grasses are in the foreground and middle ground, with some showing signs of being cut or broken. The background shows a flat horizon line under a cloudy sky. The text "State Resources" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, bold, black serif font.

The Mission

The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission is 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.

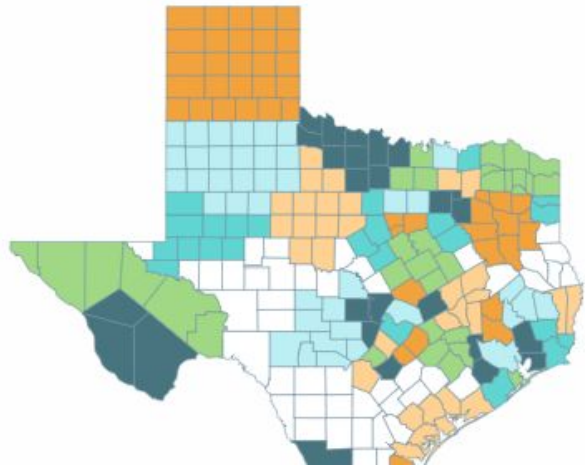


Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.



ALL EVENTS >

Find Your Chapter



State Website

➔ **NATURALIST NEWS**

[HTTPS://TXMN.TAMU.EDU/NEWS/](https://txmn.tamu.edu/news/)

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.

➔ **EVENTS CALENDAR**

[HTTPS://TXMN.TAMU.EDU/EVENTS/](https://txmn.tamu.edu/events/)

Don't forget about our TMN State Email Listserv!
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/contact/>

WordPress Web Accessibility

- Join our AgriLife Extension Team with the Web Accessibility WordPress Training
- First Tuesday of the month
 - ~~November 7th at 12:00pm~~
 - December 5th at 12:00 pm
- Via Teams
- [Tx.ag/TXMNwordpress](https://tx.ag/TXMNwordpress)



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

YOU'RE INVITED

TXMN

#TECHTUESDAY

WORDPRESS TRAINING SESSION

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

12:00 PM to 12:45 PM via Microsoft Teams

tx.ag/TXMNwordpress

The poster features a blue-tinted background image of a group of people, including children, in an outdoor setting. The text is overlaid in white and yellow, with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension logo in the top right corner.



AgriLife Learn Store

NEW items & shirts coming in February 2024 . . .

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/>

On the list:

Polos

UV Shirts

Hats

Women's cuts and styles

What else?

NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 15

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
WINTER

SALE

20% OFF SELECT ITEMS

MASTER NATURALIST
MEN'S AUXILIARY
CANVAS WORK JACKET
~~\$52~~
\$41.60



MASTER NATURALIST
MEN'S PA ROLL SLEEVE
TWILL SHIRT
~~\$30~~
\$24



MASTER NATURALIST
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
CANVAS WORK JACKET



MASTER NATURALIST
DARK GREEN SHORT-
SLEEVED POLO SHIRT

Ends December 15th at 5pm!



MASTER NATURALIST
VOLUNTEER HEXAGON
SHIRT— BLUE
~~\$20-23~~
\$16-18.40

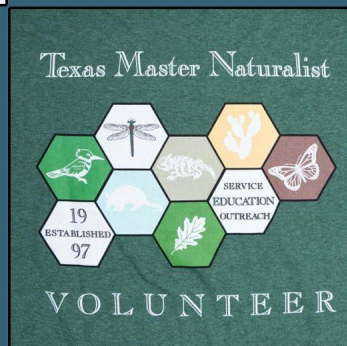


MASTER NATURALIST
LONG SLEEVED T-SHIRT
~~\$20~~
\$16



TMN COFFEE/WINE
TUMBLER
~~\$16~~
\$12.80

MASTER NATURALIST
VOLUNTEER HEXAGON
SHIRT—GREEN
~~\$20-23~~
\$16-18.40



MASTER NATURALIST
LADIES' T-SHIRT
~~\$20~~
\$16



MASTER NATURALIST
BROCHURE SHELLS -PACK
OF 50
~~\$1~~
\$0.80



Only 40 left!

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST LAWN CHAIR

WINTER SALE DOES NOT APPLY



Order now!

\$28

T E X A S



HOW TO



Click Here

ORDER



Thanks for your Support!

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
- **566 total sold as of Q2 2023**



Show us your bumper!





TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
ENDOWMENT

*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 @ ~\$125,000

- Individual or Chapter Gifts
- Employer Gift Matching
- Estate Planning

<https://masternaturalistendowment.org/>

To give directly, follow the link:

<http://give.am/TexasMasterNaturalist>

Today is Giving Tuesday

Why not consider the TMN
Endowment for your end of
Year Giving?

THANK YOU to all who have
given!

Presidents Corner

- What questions do you have for the chapter presidents on the call now?
- Any others?



The End

