

October 12th

Chapter Presidents & Advisors Reception



October 12th Chapter Presidents & Advisors Reception

- Those of you joining online:
 - Share video (if you like and if your bandwidth allows)
 - We will be monitoring the chat room
 - Will be recording the meeting
 - Will share slides and notes
- We'll get started at **4:30pm**
- Volunteer Note Taker – _____



Agenda

- Introductions
- Welcome to our newest Chapter!
- Thank YOU for your Leadership!
 - Chapter Presidents Thank you item
 - Chapter displays
 - Project Signs
- Picking up items
 - End of year Pin orders
 - Congratulations on some high milestones!
 - TMN Curriculum Order pick ups
 - 'Thank You' items above
 - Swap Shop
- Annual Meeting
 - El Sauz Field Day
 - Slack
- Program Updates
 - Welcome Evelyn Gomez!
 - New TMN Program Support Specialist Position
 - TMN Tuesdays and November Chapter Leaders Mtg
 - TMN VMS Rebuild
 - Card for Craig
- 25th Anniversary
 - 25th Anniversary T-shirt Quilt
 - Video Interviews
 - 'New' Anniversary Timeline display debuts
 - Storytelling Project
- Friends of TMN/TMN NGO
- Program Resources
 - Webex
 - WordPress Training
 - End of the Year Succession
- License Plate
- Endowment
- Roundtable



October 12th Chapter Presidents & Advisors Reception

- Introduce yourself:
 - Name
 - Chapter you represent
 - Your role in 2023 (or '24)
- Those of you joining online:
 - Share video (if you like and if your bandwidth allows)
 - We will be monitoring the chat room
 - Will be recording the meeting
 - Will share slides and notes
- We'll get started at **4:30pm**
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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 today!



Thank YOU!

for your leadership and the work of your chapter!

- Leather notebooks for Presidents
- TMN Displays (Left and Right panels)
- TMN Project Signs
-

Also pick up:

- End of year pin orders
- Curriculum bulk orders
- Swap Shop items



Chapter 'Care Packages' to take home from the Annual Meeting

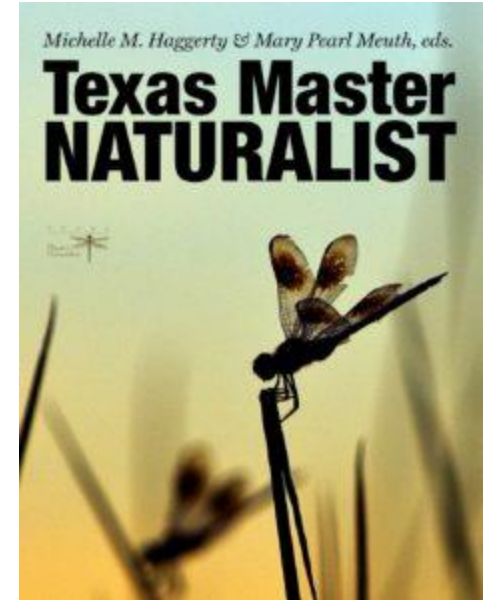
We will have a few items for you/your chapter to take home from the annual meeting:

- Your Recertification Pins & Milestone Pins Order for the remainder of the year
- TMN Project Signs
- New Item - 2 panel display
- Anything you/your chapter wants to pick up from the TMN Swap Shop
- Curriculum (if you are taking advantage of the bulk order)
- Silent Auction wins!
- **NOTE – You have time between this meeting and dinner to take items to a vehicle or your room**



Pick Up your Stuff :-)

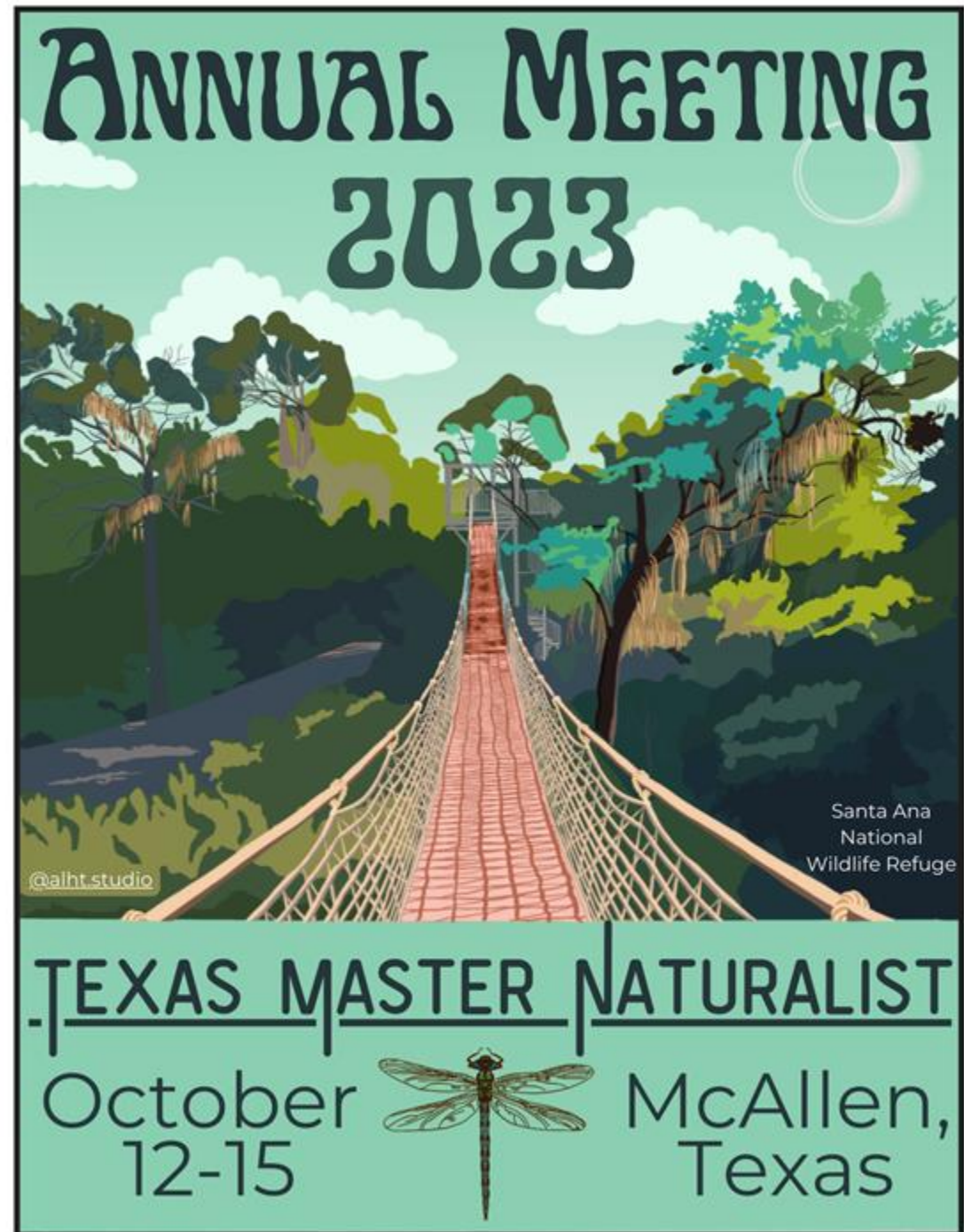
- Pick Up **BULK Curriculum Orders** - See the TAMU Press booth in Exhibit Hall A
- **Pick up End of year Pin & Certificate Orders**
- **NOTE – 4,000 hr/PVSA pins are all on backorder –including orders that were already in process from April’s order.**



Welcome to the TMN Annual Meeting!

TMN Annual Meeting by the numbers

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



Eclipse Field Day at El Sauz Ranch

A once in a lifetime event! Today's Annual Meeting is going off site and outdoors! We'll head to the East Foundation's El Sauz Ranch to view the Annular Solar Eclipse, eat lunch, listen to speakers, and host field-based advanced training sessions. The El Sauz Ranch hosts a unique diversity of landscapes and land management practices with active sand dunes, thornscrub brush, ocelots, an active cattle herd, university research projects, burn management plans, and so much more. Learn with us with boots on the ground!



What to Expect

A day spent in the field outdoors! We'll watch the eclipse, eat lunch and host field stations to visit. Restrooms, food, and water provided.

Depart MCC at 8:00am - Return at 4:30pm

What to Wear and Bring

- TMN shirts or gear!
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Sunscreen and Bug Spray
- Hat and/or Sunglasses
- Snacks if wanted
- Boots or Closed-toed Shoes
- Weather Gear *if needed
- Cameras and/or Binoculars
- Portable Devices

Eclipse 101

Eclipse safety glasses will be provided, but bring any additional safe viewing devices you'd like. We'll also have telescopes on hand.

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/#Eclipse>

Busses
LEAVE at
8:30 AM!!



<https://arcg.is/1ar8q9>



<https://www.eastfoundation.net/education/behind-the-gates/>

Slack Communication

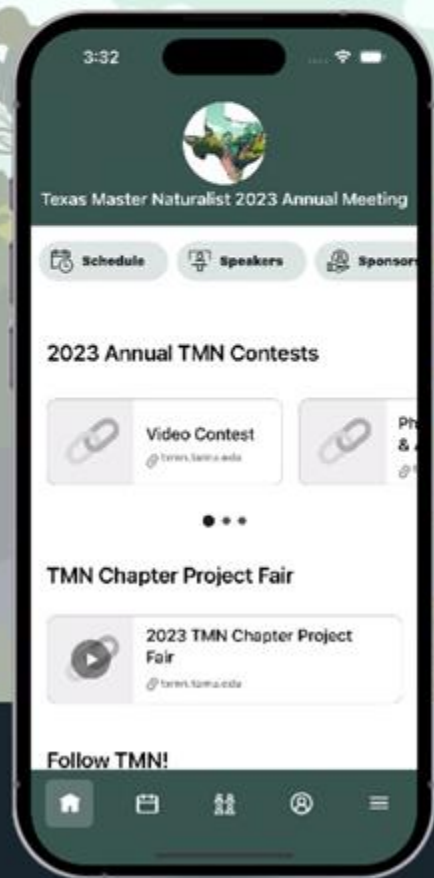
- Available for all registrants
- Channels on transportation, lodging, field sessions, and more!
- Tutorial on using Slack:

<https://youtu.be/6wjmH5qL3Ms>



Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

Download Our App Now!



Event App Download
QR Code



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
2023 ANNUAL MEETING



October 12-15
McAllen, Texas

T E X A S

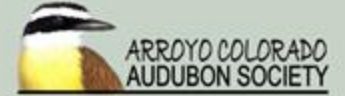


Thank you to our current sponsors

Ecologist

Balcones Canyonlands Chapter
Big Country Chapter
Cradle of Texas Chapter
East Texas Chapter

Hill Country Chapter
Indian Trail Chapter
Rio Brazos Chapter
South Plains Chapter
Shackelford Living Trust



Steward

Alamo Area Chapter
Blackland Prairie Chapter
Capital Area Chapter
Coastal Prairie Chapter
Cross Timbers Chapter
Good Water Chapter

Hays County Chapter
Heart of Texas Chapter
Heartwood Chapter
North Texas Chapter
Sabine Neches Chapter
South Texas Border Chapter



Conservationist

Galveston Bay Area Chapter
Harv Peterson, Heart of Texas Chapter
Llano Estacado Chapter
Mary York



Morning Star
Prairie Plants



BAT CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



Naturalist



Our Texas
Our Future



East
FOUNDATION



Program Updates: Here we grow again!

Welcome Evelyn Gomez!

TMN State Office Student Program Aide

Started a few weeks ago and joining us for
her FIRST TMN Annual Meeting!



Coming Soon:

A new Program Support Specialist



TMN VMS Updates

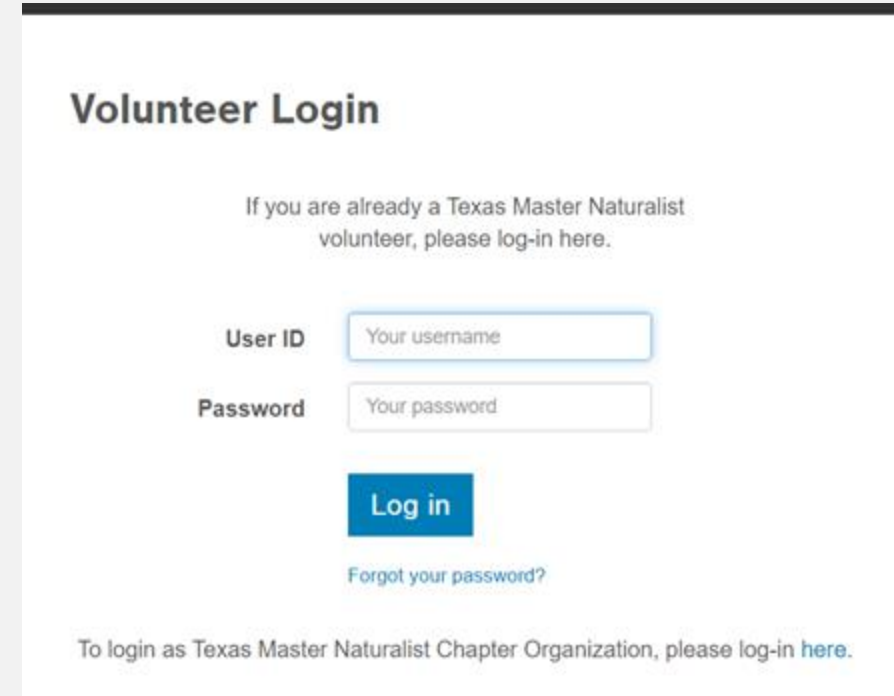
New Account Manager

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



The screenshot shows a web page titled "Volunteer Login". Below the title, there is a message: "If you are already a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer, please log-in here." There are two input fields: "User ID" with the placeholder text "Your username" and "Password" with the placeholder text "Your password". Below these fields is a blue "Log in" button. Underneath the button is a link that says "Forgot your password?". At the bottom of the page, there is a link that says "To login as Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Organization, please log-in here."



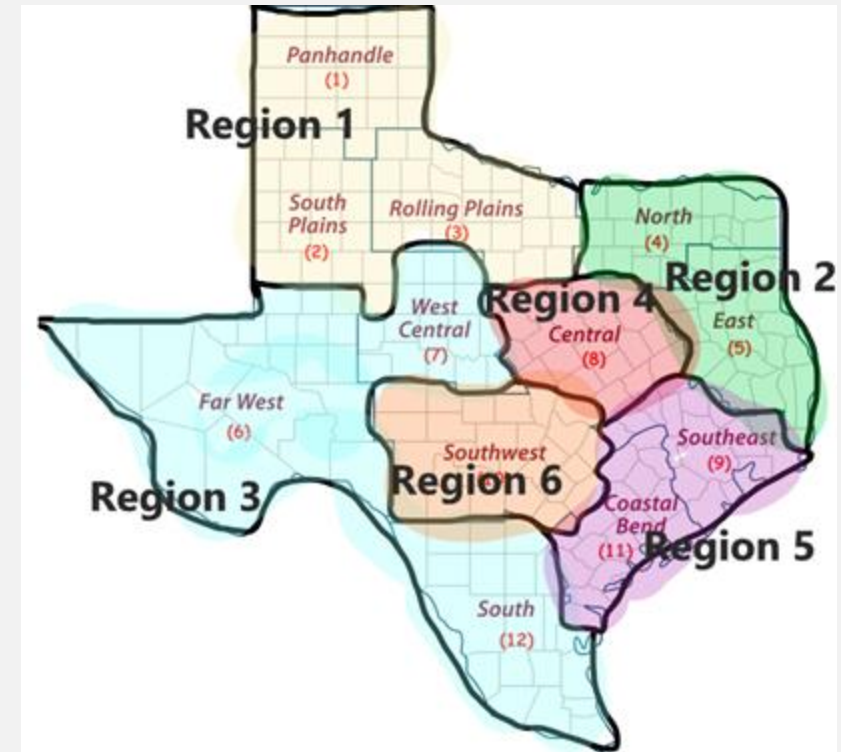
Slimming Down on WebEx Accounts

Regional Accounts

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

State Program Accounts

- Discontinued Webex Events 3000 Account and moved to our other TMN Webex Events Account
 - Holds 1,000 live, more than that can register though
- Still moving registrants for Nov & Dec over
 - New Nov & Dec registration links on our website
 - You can register yourself at:
 - For Nov 14th:
<https://tpwdevents.webex.com/weblink/register/r9fa2c9235470ce75bc93b912ad3a622f>
 - For Dec 12th:
<https://tpwdevents.webex.com/weblink/register/r58a07f2c82806eb23c9e81dae4afb986>
- No change to Presidents & Advisors Meetings
- All 2024 #TMNTuesdays will be set up in the other Webex Events account



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

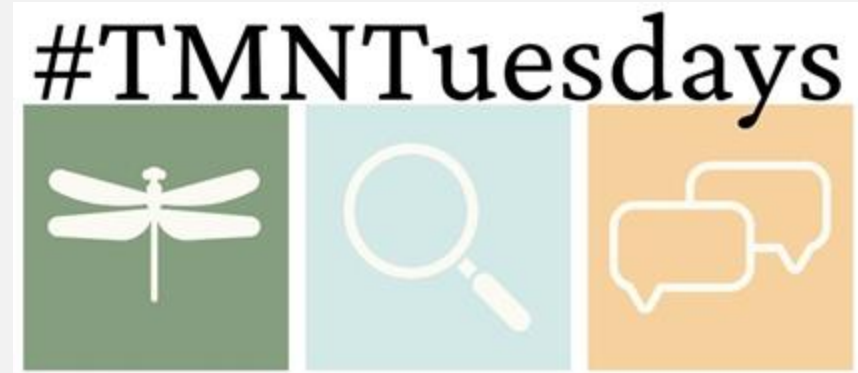
#TMNTuesdays



#TMNTuesdays for rest of 2023

- Second Tuesday of Each Month at Noon cst
- up to 1 Hour Advanced Training (sometimes more)
- Watch Live or Recorded
- Speakers & Topics Announced Monthly
- Purposefully done...
- What topics would you like to see in 2024?

Note: this past year we delved deeper into our curriculum units



November 14 - Texas A&M Forest Service

December 12 - *Joint
#TMNTuesday+Presidents Meeting
Topic TBD

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 person emailing!



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



25th

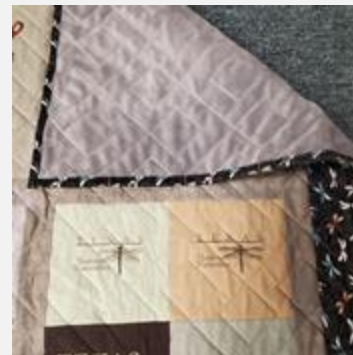
ANNIVERSARY

25th Anniversary T-Shirt Quilt

(Silent Auction Item)



- 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, MaryAnn Everett



TMN Program 25th Anniversary Video Interviews

- Lee Smith, TPWD Community Stewardship & Engagement Program's Videographer and Visual Storyteller
- Capturing the stories of our highest milestone award winners here this weekend



TMN Program 25th Anniversary Video Interviews

- Capturing the stories of our highest milestone award winners here this weekend
- We will be asking these people to schedule 15 mins with Lee over the weekend

4000 Hours

Roberto Gaitan, Rio Grande Valley Chapter
Jeanette Geiman, Alamo Area Chapter
Anton Hajek III, Alamo Area Chapter
Pat Hunter, Llano Estacado Chapter
Laura Kimberly, North Texas Chapter
Barbara Peet, Rio Grande Valley Chapter
Michael Petitt, Galveston Bay Area Chapter
Nancy Rabensburg, Lost Pines Chapter
Louise Ridlon, Lost Pines Chapter
Bert Stipelcovich, Coastal Prairie Chapter
Rick Travis, Blackland Prairie Chapter

5000 Hours

Christine Anastas, Galveston Bay Area Chapter
Randy Beehn, Sabine Neches Chapter
Linda Jo Conn, El Camino Real Chapter
Nancy Rabensburg, Lost Pines Chapter
Lynn Seman, Rolling Plains Chapter

10,000 (2 people)

John Egan, Gulf Coast Chapter
Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Galveston Bay Area Chapter

30,000

Tom Solomon, Galveston Bay Area Chapter



- We want to hear from you too!
 - The same 25th Anniversary questions coming as a “survey” in the next couple weeks



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Since 1997

There were 718 new members trained in 2022 and more than 16,330 members have been trained to date.

Members contributed 515,454 hours of service to the TMN Program in 2022 and more than 6.38 million hours to date. In 2022, TMN Members contributed more service hours than any other program year!

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.

T E X A S



ABOUT

What makes the work of a Master Naturalist so important is that they are not only individuals who love nature and offer their time, but are also trained naturalists with specialized knowledge of different ecosystems, species, habitats, and environmental demands. Our skilled volunteers work with communities and organizations across 48 chapters covering 213 counties to implement youth outreach programs, help operate parks, nature centers, natural areas, and lead local natural resource conservation efforts.

OTHER PROGRAM IMPACTS

Reached over **289,969** youth, adults, and private landowners in 2022 and more than **6.864** million people to date.

Service hours in 2022 were valued at **\$11.85** million and more than **\$146.80** million since the program's inception.

Developed or maintained **62 NEW** miles of trail in 2022 and more than **2,296+** miles of trail to date.

Added **40** acres under TMN stewardship and management projects in 2022 and made an impact on more than **233,943** acres of Texas to date.

Commander Kjell Lindgren, also a TMN volunteer, took our patch and pin to space on the ISS as part of NASA's Crew-4.

SPONSORS

The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



<http://txmn.tamu.edu>

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Since 1997

2023 is our State Program's 25th Anniversary Year! Come join us and celebrate your accomplishments during any of these upcoming program activities to contribute even more to our 25th Anniversary Report published next year!



25TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

Help us share your story and 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.



2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Get excited for our **Texas Master Naturalist 2023 Annual Meeting** – to be held Thursday, Oct. 12th through Sunday, Oct. 15th at the southernmost point of Texas' South Plains ecoregion, in McAllen, Texas. The Annual Meeting is a chance to get all of your advanced training in for the year in one weekend, meet other Master Naturalists and learn about replicable TMN projects from around the state.



HELP US CONTINUE TO BUILD THE TMN PROGRAM



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.

TMN LICENSE PLATE

Show off your support of the Texas Master Naturalist program, your membership, and commitment to conservation education through volunteer service all over Texas, and beyond! By purchasing a **Texas Master Naturalist license plate**, you will be directly providing financial support back to our program and its conservation and stewardship of Texas' natural resources. **ANYONE** can purchase this plate and \$22 of each \$30 annual plate fee comes directly back to the Texas Master Naturalist Program for continuing our mission.



<http://txmn.tamu.edu>

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

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Naturalist™



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/>



25th Anniversary Storytelling Project

TMN 25TH ANNIVERSARY



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.



Storytelling PROJECT

TMN 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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!



STEPHEN STRESOW,
TRANS-PECOS
CHAPTER



Storytelling
PROJECT

Friends of TMN NGO
...

Donna Cole
Texas Master Naturalist,
Blackland Prairie Chapter

Developing a Support Organization for TMN

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Agenda

- Our Goal
- General Proposal
- Why Do We Need This?
- FAQs
- Initial Budget & Funding
- Progress & Plans
- Q & A

Our Goal

- *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 A&M AgriLife Extension)*



General Proposal

- Will be a 501(c)3 corporation
- Immediate responsibilities:
 - Collect and disburse funds for annual meeting (currently ~\$125,000 each year)
 - Assist sponsors to plan annual meeting as needed
- Developing with guidance and approval from both sponsoring agencies
- Name: Friends of Texas Master Naturalist



Why Do We Need This?

Federal grant that funds Texas Master Naturalist Program prohibits making a profit

- No selling allowed
- Auditors view any meeting overages as profit
- Sponsors' state purchasing card rules disallow paying invoices to another state organization (would allow payments to Friends organization)





Annual Meeting
100% self-funded
from registrations
and sponsorships



Leftover funds used
for next year's
meeting



Friends budget to
segregate funds for
Annual Meeting
from other items



Fiscal responsibility
for Annual Meeting
that supports all
chapters



Annual Meeting
funds in AgriLife
account to be
transitioned to
Friends account

FAQ:
Will this
organization
raise money
to pay for
the Annual
Meeting?

FAQ: Will the Friends organization govern the chapters?

No, will not have oversight and governance of chapters, i.e. not a chapter-of-chapters

Michelle, Mary Pearl and staff to continue as State Office



FAQ: What is the relationship between the current Endowment and License Plate funds and future Friends organization?

No plans to change ownership of either fund

Friends may include future fundraising efforts and informing plans for both



Initial budget: \$2,115

All fees are estimates based on state incorporation and non-profit 501(c)3 status

\$40 fee for Reservation of Entity Name (Texas)

\$25 fee for Certificate of Formation (Texas)

\$25 fee for Application for Registration to do Business (Texas)

\$600 Fee for IRS 501(c)3 filing (Federal)

\$600 Fees for any professional assistance (\$200/hour x 3 hours)*

\$25/year website domain name

\$150-200/year webhosting

\$50 postage

\$50 basic office supplies

\$500 bank account*



Startup donations secured from Alamo Area and North Texas chapters

Initial Budget & Funding

** Non-profit resources may reduce or remove these amounts*

Progress & Plans

- Draft initial bylaws
- Secure donations for start-up costs
- Reserve name with Texas Secretary of State
- Prepare & file Certificate of Formation with Texas Secretary of State
- Meeting of Initial Directors to Adopt Bylaws and Transact Business
- Apply for a Federal Employer Identification Number and establish bank account (by end of 2023)
- Prepare Federal Tax-Exemption Application
- Apply for Sales, Franchise and Hotel Tax-Exemption from Texas Comptroller



Questions?

Thank you!

Donna Cole

donna@donna2112.com

214-538-4444

T E X A S

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Other Chapter Resources and Looking Ahead

...

End of Year Succession Planning

Coming up soon . . .

Elections

- Many Chapters planning nominations and elections
 - Your leadership sets the tone and pace for the year.

Chapter Leadership Retreats

Chapters with Board Retreats - successful

Don't forget to enter new leadership in VMS

-Mark in Directors List

Incoming 2024 Chapter Presidents invited to November 28th Presidents & Advisors Meeting

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

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
- Short Form

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:



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?



The Mission

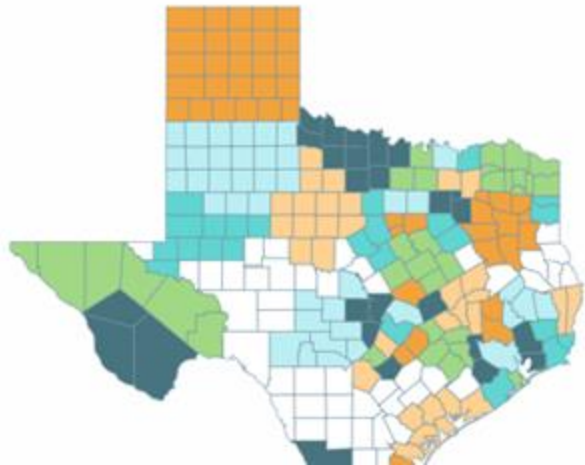
The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.



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)



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**



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>



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

