



Our volunteers are ready to volunteer!

Our Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers are dedicated to natural resource conservation work. After the innovations of the pandemic, we're continuing to hold our ever-popular Virtual Volunteer in 2024 Fair where Texas Master Naturalist volunteers are introduced to virtual and distanced service projects offerings of our partner conservation organizations in their communities. This returning feature of our program easily allows members to remain active during the hottest months of the year and provide service opportunities for any ability throughout the year.

During the hottest months of the year, in-the-field service projects become less desirable and hit a lull until cooler months come around. The TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair (VVF) is an opportunity for our partner conservation organizations to present service projects that need volunteers from a distance or virtually! After five successful TMN VVF events, our members are asking for more virtual and distance-based service projects!

The Virtual Volunteer Fair will be an opportunity for our partner conservation organizations to present volunteer service projects that need volunteers from a distance or virtually! Save the Date and plan to join us on **Tuesday April 9th 2024**, for this series of project presentations showcasing opportunities from across the state and across the spectrum of natural resource topics.

TMN volunteers will earn Volunteer Service hours for attending all project proposal sessions – please use the “TMN Virtual Volunteer Service Fair” Statewide Project Opportunity for logging service hours.

Registration to attend our Virtual Volunteer Fair is now open. It is free to register! You can attend any or all project proposal presentations – come and go as you please!

[Register today!](#)

# Virtual Volunteer Fair Agenda

Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Introduction
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	<b>Texas Children in Nature Network Virtual Volunteer Opportunities</b> - <i>Alice Jansen, Texas Children in Nature Network</i>
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	<b>Bridging Communities: Translating LEAP Program Promotional Material for Education Outreach in the Gulf Coast Region</b> - <i>Alicia Fontenot, Texas Children in Nature Network</i>
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>Pack for Adventure: Volunteer Event to Prepare LEAP Backpacks</b> - <i>Jennifer Larios, Texas Children in Nature Network</i>
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	<b>Armchair Botanist: Mapping the Plants of Texas</b> - <i>Tiana Rehman, Botanical Research Institute of Texas</i>
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Warnock Herbarium Updates</b> - <i>Sally Baulch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	BREAK
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>1 Million Acres of Native Plants</b> - <i>Sandy Tibbs, Native Flora Seeds</i>
12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	<b>Agents of Nature - A Discovery Challenge</b> - <i>Marla Layne, Blackland Prairie Raptor Center</i>
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	<b>Seasonal Interest Articles on the Coastal Prairie</b> - <i>Mary Anne Piacentini, Coastal Prairie Conservancy</i>
12:30 PM – 12:45 PM	<b>Photographers Needed: Help Bring the Coastal Prairie to Life!</b> - <i>Mary Anne Piacentini, Coastal Prairie Conservancy</i>
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>Spanish Translation of Regional Wildlife and Nature Guides</b> - <i>Marisa Oliva, Texas Children in Nature Network</i>
1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Conclusion & Wrap Up

## Projects Not Presented During Virtual Volunteer Fair

**Time to Restore: Connecting People, Plants, and Pollinators** – *Erin Posthumus, USA National Phenology Network/Nature's Notebook*  
**Monarch Larva Monitoring Project** – *Wendy Caldwell, Monarch Joint Venture*

# Texas Children in Nature Network Virtual Volunteer Opportunities

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Project Contact: *Alice Jansen, Texas Children in Nature Network*  
*ajansen@texaschildreninnature.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

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We offer valuable conservation and education resources by sharing spotlight interviews of board members and partners with our statewide network.

## Texas Children in Nature Network Virtual Volunteer Opportunities

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers help support TCiNN with resource sharing and informing the network of conservation and education work happening statewide. They will learn about people and groups working to connect children to nature and help the organization reach more people with informative spotlight interviews.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Some experience with copywrite editing preferred, but not required.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 1 hour

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers needed to transcribe interviews from Zoom meeting transcripts and recordings and put them into the spotlight interview email format.

Interviews are sent out approximately every 3 weeks alternating between a board member and partner spotlight.

The interviews will then be put into the Constant Contact email platform by a staff person to send out to the partner network on schedule.

Volunteers will work remotely on their own schedule. They will be given deadline dates to complete the interview write ups according to the spotlight email "send out" schedule .

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

This opportunity will be ongoing. Transcribing each interview will take anywhere from 45 minutes to a couple of hours depending on how long the interview transcript is.

The hours are flexible, but there will be deadlines to complete transcribing the interviews.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

TCiNN is a statewide organization with a small staff of one full time Executive Director, one part time Education Events Coordinator, and three full time, grant funded regional Health and Nature Liaisons. This project is needed to help maximum staff's time that is needed to work on other projects/programs, outreach events, grant writing, annual Summit planning, partnership development, social media outreach, website management, webinar series programming, etc.

This volunteer project is linked to the mission of the TMN Program because it provides resource and information sharing about conservation and education programs that connect kids to nature and helps support over 800 partners throughout Texas. The spotlight interview email series is one of the most popular information sharing efforts that the organization offers. Without volunteer assistance for this project the spotlight interviews may not be able to be sent to the network as frequently due to other programmatic work needs.

# Bridging Communities: Translating LEAP Program Promotional Material for Education Outreach in the Gulf Coast Region

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Project Contact: *Alicia Fontenot, Texas Children in Nature Network*  
*afontenot@texaschildreninnature.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

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TCiNN is seeking volunteers to help translate promotional material for the LEAP Program as part of our educational outreach, making environmental resources accessible throughout Texas.

## Bridging Communities: Translating LEAP Program Promotional Material for Education Outreach in the Gulf Coast Region

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact by making environmental resources more accessible to diverse communities throughout Texas.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Fluent Spanish speaker, with knowledge of local, regional Spanish speaking culture. Familiarity with environmental terminology and concepts could also be helpful in ensuring accurate translations of promotional material related to conservation and education outreach.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers would be expected to work with the TCiNN Health and Nature Liaisons (HNL) in their respective regions with their corresponding regional/local promotional material. The intent is to have all the information recorded and available in a central location (i.e., Google Folder, Canva). The goal is to have the project completed by the end of July 2024. The three HNL regions are the Rio Grande Valley, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Houston/Gulf Coast area.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

The total time commitment is dependent on the word count and number of promotional materials per region for the LEAP program. On average, a professional translator can translate about 250-300 words per hour for straightforward text. Promotional material can include one-pager information sheets, banners, and multipage information packets, so time commitment can range from a couple of hours to a few days. The period is flexible and TCiNN is willing to work with volunteers' schedules.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

Through the end of summer, this is subject to change with per regional needs.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

This project is needed to ensure that the LEAP program's promotional material is accessible to a broader audience, including the growing Spanish-speaking population in Texas. The Spanish-speaking population is in great need of the health and social benefits that come

with the LEAP Program. By translating these materials, the project aims to increase awareness and engagement in environmental conservation and education efforts among diverse communities.

The expected outcomes include:

- Increased participation in LEAP program activities among Spanish-speaking populations.
- Greater understanding and appreciation of the regional natural resources and ecosystems among Spanish-speaking communities.
- Strengthened community connections to nature and environmental stewardship.

This project is linked to the mission of the TMN Program, which is to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. By translating LEAP promotional material, volunteers contribute to the program's goal of educating and engaging the public in conservation efforts, aligning with the TMN Program's mission of environmental education and stewardship. Additionally, the LEAP packs offer under-resourced and nature-deficient communities the opportunity to engage in self-guided and empowering nature adventures, further supporting the program's mission.



# Pack for Adventure: Volunteer Event to Prepare LEAP Backpacks

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Project Contact: *Jennifer Larios, Texas Children in Nature Network*  
*jlarios@texaschildreninnature.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Blackland Prairie, Cross Timbers*

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Volunteers are needed to help with the sorting of pack materials and laminating activity sheets. There will be approximately 80 backpacks needed to be sorted.

## Pack for Adventure: Volunteer Event to Prepare LEAP Backpacks

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*This Project is designated as a : **Distance Based Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will have the opportunity to engage with their local community and contribute to a program that benefits children and families in their respective region.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

No additional expertise or experience needed

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

The sorting will be held at a partner site or host library. This will be decided closer to the date of the pack sorting. Depending on the amount of volunteers, the sorting will take place within 1-2 days.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

This opportunity will occur either 1 or 2 days depending on the amount of volunteers present. The number of hours will also vary between 4-8 hours.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

1-2 days

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

This project is needed in order to have a successful launch of LEAP in the North Texas and Gulf Coast regions. Volunteers will have the ability to promote LEAP to their communities and in turn create the next generation of nature-minded Texans.

# Armchair Botanist: Mapping the Plants of Texas

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Project Contact: *Tiana Rehman, Botanical Research Institute of Texas*  
*herbarium@brit.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

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Apply your knowledge of place, history and plants to help us map (georeference) collection localities of botanical herbarium specimens collected in Texas from the 1900s to the present.

## Armchair Botanist: Mapping the Plants of Texas

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

A more intimate understanding of the geography, history, and flora of our state, in particular the history of botanical exploration in a chosen region (e.g. county-level). An opportunity to exercise independent research skills while uncovering the history of an area to interpret location, habitat, a

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

There will be specific training required, and participants will need to demonstrate successful completion of the training and proficiency with the georeferencing software before they may begin on their project.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project? 2+ hours (see responses below)*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Once volunteers have successfully completed training (multiple opportunities offered, some synchronous, some asynchronous), volunteering can be carried out at the individual's discretion (using a computer with internet access), since it can all be done remotely through an online web portal which will be live 24/7.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Hours and time period are flexible, but a recommended schedule might be the equivalent of 2 hours per week to be most efficient. Please note that contact hours for training may be 2 hours, but there will be additional hours for self-study, taking of a quiz, and the review of the quiz with project leads. Multiple people may work on a single county, so the completion of a county project will depend on the number of people and the time that individuals devote to the activity.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

Over a year.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

\*Texas Master Naturalists have a specialized understanding of their local environments, and the history and geography of their areas. When presented with limited information, TMNs

have the ability to engage in personal research to fill any gaps in their knowledge of an area/habitat. These special traits mean that TMNs are uniquely suited to providing the most accurate and researched efforts to apply geo-coordinates to text descriptions that may describe locations from over 100 years earlier within the state of Texas (for example, natural areas are urbanized, and political boundaries change, as do place names). TMNs understand the need to document the process and can also be trusted to describe the assumptions they may have made when assigning coordinates. Mapping these specimens informs us all of the historic presence of plant species in Texas, which can inform restoration projects, as well as basic floristic and taxonomic projects.

# Warnock Herbarium Updates

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Project Contact: *Sally Baulch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*  
*sally.baulch@tpwd.texas.gov*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: TransPecos*

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Herbarium specimens at the Barton Warnock Environment Education Center gathered in and around Big Bend State Park need updated nomenclature in a cloud-based database.

## Warnock Herbarium Updates

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers to this project will become familiar with herbarium specimens, a museum database, and information gathered with the specimens.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Comfort with working on computers and researching nomenclature.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?* 1 hour

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

We expect the volunteer to contribute 2-4 hours/week on the project at whatever time they chose. The initial one hour training would be via Teams during the normal work week. The volunteer would access a cloud-based database via a web browser.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

flexible; potential time commitment of summer months

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

We hope to make the digitized herbarium specimens available to researchers, but first we need to fix the nomenclature to make them searchable.

<https://tpwd.rediscoverysoftware.com/mResults.aspx?pS=%221999.160.%22&db=objects&dir=NATHIST>

# 1 Million Acres of Native Plants

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Project Contact: *Sandy Tibbs, Native Flora Seeds*  
*sandytibbs9@gmail.com*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

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**CREATE A SEED AND PLANTING PROGRAM TO IMPACT 1+ MILLION ACRES OF NEW  
NATIVE PLANTS.**



# 1 Million Acres of Native Plants

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

We are entering the project phase where we need to make contact with multiple conservation groups throughout the state that would be interested in supporting this native planting project. Volunteers are needed to help us find these conservation groups and reach out to them to determine interest.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

No

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project? 1*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

After a brief training to provide guidance on the project's structure, individual volunteers would compile lists of potential conservation groups, first in their local eco-region and secondly in other eco-regions not already covered by volunteers. Research can be done online and/or reaching out to known resources.

Once these lists are compiled, volunteers and project leaders would meet remotely to determine next steps in making contact with said groups.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Each volunteer would be asked to initially commit to a total of 3 hours of research. Further commitment/interest would be determined after the lists are compiled.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Natural resources and natural areas are becoming more and more limited. Educating the public on the benefits of native plants, reaching out to conservation organizations to assist in the coordination and implementation of this effort, and lastly, getting plants in the ground has a multitude of benefits for humans, flora and fauna.

# Agents of Nature- A Discovery Challenge

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Project Contact: *Marla Layne, Blackland Prairie Raptor Center*  
*marla.layne@bpraptorcenter.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Blackland Prairie*

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Create fun and educational content and games for nature discovery and exploration of local plants, wildlife, and ecosystems for kids and families delivered in a mobile app

## Agents of Nature- A Discovery Challenge

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will be able to utilize knowledge of native plants, wildlife, water resources, and conservation to build unique fun interactive challenges to engage children with the natural world.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Strong written communication skills

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Possible "get started" webinar

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

The project is to be started in June and completed by August for the September live launch. Volunteers will receive an overview of topics, site maps, photos, Raptor Center engagement training, and an overview of the app and capabilities. We will have multiple treks or programs to meet the needs of the demographic, skills, and learning goals. The treks will include but are not limited to prairie and native plant education, insects and pollinators, pond ecology, ecosystems, food webs, scouting programs, bird watching, iNaturalist challenges, plus more. Volunteers will choose an area of their interest and build short age-appropriate specific challenges based on the trek. The challenges will be interactive, educational, and engaging and may include identification, scavenger hunts, fun facts, and others based on the educator's goal. The challenges will be organized by BPRC and entered into the mobile application. Visitors will download the app and complete challenges that are appropriate to their program or as they desire.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Based on the number of challenges and the research needed to create a challenge, a volunteer can expect to spend 1-3 hours total per challenge. Volunteers may choose multiple challenges based on their availability. A deadline will be mutually agreed to and there will be a minimum of one check-in to ensure the volunteer is comfortable with the instructions, challenge, and content creation. A BPRC coach will be available to all volunteers throughout the project.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

Must complete by end of Aug

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is growing! We are dedicated to offering unique and engaging education programs to our community. Our goal is to open our facility to the public throughout the week or on weekends outside of our traditional 1st Saturday. The Agents of Discovery program is utilized in many nature centers, state parks, etc., and will be a compelling offer that integrates technology with nature to engage families in our park.

While we have a strong dedicated group of volunteers, the ability to utilize additional Texas Master Naturalists to help with content creation is an incredible opportunity!

The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center's mission of Conservation, Rehabilitation, and Education is closely aligned with the Texas Master Naturalist's mission of Education, Outreach, and Service. Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is a long-time partner with the Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalist Chapter and provides a significant number of volunteer hours for the chapter members.

# Seasonal Interest Articles on the Coastal Prairie

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Project Contact: *Mary Anne Piacentini, Coastal Prairie Conservancy*  
*info@coastalprairieconservancy.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Gulf Prairies*

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The Coastal Prairie Conservancy seeks volunteers to create engaging articles on wildlife and plant species of interest to release throughout the year. This is a remote opportunity perfect for TMN!

## Seasonal Interest Articles on the Coastal Prairie

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will have the opportunity to pull from their personal experience with wildlife and plant species on the coastal prairie to write these articles. Volunteers are welcome to visit the prairie and include their own photography as part of this opportunity.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Writing and Research skills will prove helpful but not necessary. Photography skills are a plus.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

CPC staff will meet with volunteers to discuss their interests and how many articles they're interested in writing. Volunteers will then have ample time to compile research and prepare articles before submitting them back to CPC. This will all be done digitally via email.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

This is a very flexible opportunity. One article could take between 1 and 3 hours to prepare, depending on experience and the specific topic.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

This project will help educate supporters of the Coastal Prairie Conservancy about the coastal prairie's biodiversity and unique habitats. These articles will be used in CPC's monthly newsletter, on our blog, and potentially to help fundraise for additional support of our mission. We are grateful to any volunteers who are interested!

# Photographers Needed: Help Bring the Coastal Prairie to Life!

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Project Contact: *Mary Anne Piacentini, Coastal Prairie Conservancy*  
*info@coastalprairieconservancy.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Gulf Prairies*

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Do you enjoy capturing the natural beauty of wildflowers, grasses, and other native plants? The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is looking for volunteers to take photos on the prairie for our use.

## Photographers Needed: Help Bring the Coastal Prairie to Life!

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*This Project is designated as a : **Distance Based Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will enjoy time on CPC's preserves in Waller, Texas to capture photos of the surrounding prairie/wetland complex. This could be your first interaction with the coastal prairie's incredible biodiversity!

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Experience with nature photography needed.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

We will ask volunteers to visit the Coastal Prairie Conservancy's preserves in Waller, TX to take photos. We ask volunteers to share their photos with us and allow us to use them in communications, social media, grant requests, etc. CPC credits all photography.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

This project is flexible. No specific time commitments are included.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

CPC is always in need of new photos to reflect our work conserving and restoring the coastal prairie. The prairie is an ever-changing ecosystem, and volunteer photographers play a big role in our ability to tell our story. Photos are necessary components of our public outreach, grant proposals, fundraising appeals, and more.



# Spanish Translation of Regional Wildlife and Nature Guides

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Project Contact: *Marisa Oliva, Texas Children in Nature Network*  
*moliva@texaschildreninnature.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Blackland Prairie, Cross Timbers, Piney Woods, South Texas Plains, Post Oak Savannah*

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TCiNN is requesting assistance in the Spanish translation of regional wildlife and nature guides and checklists, to be included in LEAP (Library Explorer Adventure Packs) program.

## Spanish Translation of Regional Wildlife and Nature Guides

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*This Project is designated as a : **Virtual Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will gain knowledge of Spanish names of local wildlife and plants and be able to share that knowledge with native Spanish speakers and area professionals.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Fluent Spanish speaker, with knowledge of local, regional terms used primarily in their specific region. Knowledge of plants and animals (and their names) from northern Mexico/Taumalipas region would be helpful.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers would need to work with the TCiNN Health and Nature Liaisons (HNL) in their area to identify which guides and checklists are available in their region and can be translated. They will need to identify reliable online sources or Spanish-speaking natural resource professionals who can provide accurate Spanish translations of local wildlife and plants. The intent is to have all the information available in a spreadsheet format, including English names, Spanish names, scientific names, English and Spanish descriptions, and cited sources. The goal is to have the project completed by the end of September 2024. The three HNL regions are the Rio Grande Valley, Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston/Gulf Coast area.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Hours are flexible. Depending on the volunteer's knowledge of local Spanish wildlife and plant terms, the project could take a week to a month, per guide.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

through the end of summer, but more time if needed.

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Local Spanish language resources are scarce for wildlife and plants, often to the detriment of the larger populations of native Spanish speakers. This project will make knowledge of local resources accessible to the larger community, and therefore will help more residents to become invested in the conservation and protection of native plants, wildlife and habitat. Though the intention of the guides is to be used in the LEAP backpacks, they will also be

shared with local nature sites and TMN chapters, so they can utilize them in their own programming and outreach.

# Projects Not Presented During Virtual Volunteer Fair

# Time to Restore: Connecting People, Plants, and Pollinators

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Project Contact: *Erin Posthumus, USA National Phenology  
Network/Nature's Notebook  
erin@usanpn.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

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Track flowering and seed timing of nectar plants with Nature's Notebook or iNaturalist to support pollinator restoration across Texas! Learn more about the project at [www.usanpn.org/TimetoRestore](http://www.usanpn.org/TimetoRestore)

## Time to Restore: Connecting People, Plants, and Pollinators

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*This Project is designated as a : **Distance Based Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Volunteers will follow flowering and seed timing of one or more nectar plants throughout the year and become experts at understanding the life cycle

changes of the species they track. Volunteers will be directly supporting data collection that will help conserve plants and pollinators.

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Volunteers should be able to identify the wildflower species they track.

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

Yes, there is additional training that I will set up for those who choose to participate in my project.

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project? 1*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers will work independently to track flowering and seed timing of nectar plants at locations of their choosing. Volunteers can elect to either use iNaturalist or the USA National Phenology Network's Nature's Notebook platform.

We suggest checking plants 2-3 times per week during periods of activity to capture the start, peak, and end of flowering and seeding. Volunteers can also participate as a group, either by creating a project in iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects>

Or creating a Local Phenology Program in Nature's Notebook:  
<https://www.usanpn.org/community/LocalPhenologyPrograms>

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

The time commitment is flexible. Options range from spending a few minutes each week tracking flowering or seeds of wildflowers in iNaturalist, or establishing a Nature's Notebook site in one's own backyard or another nearby locations to track the flowering and seed status of one or more plants multiple times per week. This project will last through the end of 2026, with the potential to continue in additional years.

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Your data collected as part of this project on nectar plant flowering and seed timing will help us understand bloom times and when to harvest seeds for important pollinator plants. Your data will also help researchers understand the relationship between climate variables like temperature and precipitation and flowering and seed timing. They will use this knowledge to understand how future climate changes will impact flowering and seed timing of these plants. These changes will then be used to create climate-informed guidance for those working on pollinator restoration.

# Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

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Project Contact: *Wendy Caldwell, Monarch Joint Venture*  
*wcaldwell@monarchjointventure.org*

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*Ecoregion & Chapters Designation: Statewide*

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**Be a community scientist with the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP)! This asynchronous training will show you how to collect data that contributes to our knowledge about the monarch population.**



# Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

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*This Project is designated as a : **Distance Based Projects (Statewide or Ecoregion Specific)***

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*What could a volunteer hope to build/gain from helping your project?*

Contribute to monarch conservation science and community engagement by helping to survey an iconic species. Learn plant and monarch ID skills and basic habitat survey protocols. Gather a group of friends for a fun outdoor weekly activity!

*Beyond the standard Texas Master Naturalist training, is there any specific expertise or experience needed?*

Monarch and milkweed identification

*Is there any additional training you'd want the volunteers to complete before they assist your project?*

No, there is no additional training needed!

*If yes, how many hours of AT would need to be completed before being able to carry out the service of the project?*

*What are your expectations of how and when the service would be carried out?*

Volunteers set up an online account to contribute their data. Data collection is recommended weekly during the milkweed growing season, but volunteers can take weeks off when needed. They need to find a habitat to survey, whether their property, or another area (e.g. community park) where they are permitted to collect data.

*What is the potential total time commitment (i.e # of hours/week or per month)? Are hours flexible? Is the time period flexible?*

Totally flexible - estimated 1-2 hours per week!

*How long do you anticipate the project lasting?*

As long as a volunteer wants to help!

*Why is this project needed, what are the expected outcomes? How is it linked to the mission of the TMN Program?*

Texas Master Naturalists have been involved in the MLMP for a long time, and we'd be thrilled to engage additional volunteers in collecting important monarch and habitat data. These data are critical in feeding into regional and national models that inform future monarch conservation activities.

Texas Master Naturalist Virtual Volunteer Fair  
Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> 2024