

June 25th Chapter Presidents & Advisors Meeting

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

- We'll get started at **12:00pm**
- Volunteer Note Taker – _____



June 25th
Chapter Presidents & Advisors
Monthly Meeting



Agenda

- **2024 Planning**
 - TMN Training Class Survey
 - TMN Curriculum Survey
 - TMNTuesdays
 - Summer/Fall Trainings
 - Annual Meeting
- **Chapter Resources**
 - State Website
 - WordPress
 - TMN VMS Update
 - TMN Reporting
 - TMN Merchandise
 - License Plate
 - TMN Endowment
- **Roundtable & Calendar Check**



July is a Joint #TMNTuesday & Presidents Meeting

Monthly Presidents & Advisors Meetings

- July 9 *Joint TMN Tuesday
- August 27
- September 24
- October 24 –Leadership Luncheon*in conjunction with TMN Annual Meeting (23-25th)
- November 12 *Joint TMN Tuesday
- December 10 *Joint TMN Tuesday

July



Plastic Free July:
A Project Highlight

WHO YOU GONNA' CALL?



Website

Chapter Policy Question

Elections/Voting Question

Events Registration

Meeting Recordings

TMN Listserv

Annual Meeting information

TMN Curriculum -> **TAMU Press**

TMN Gear -> **AgriLife Learn**

Michelle & Mary Pearl

Chapter Management Issue

Discipline Action/Incident Report

Advanced Policy Question

Hannah Ferguson

Chapter Training Resources

TMN Brand and Logo Questions

Chapter – State Office Communication

VMS Help Desk

Request for New Account & Training

VMS Reports

<https://texasmasternaturalist.freshdesk.com/support/home/>

AgriLife First Call

Chapter Website Issue

Financial State of the Program



How is the Texas Master Naturalist Program funded?

The TMN Program costs about \$250k annually to administer the program

→ 3 full time employees + 3-5 part time employees

→ Does not include chapter advisors

A large portion of these funds come from US Fish & Wildlife Service Wildlife Restoration Program

→ originate from excise tax on firearm and ammunition sales

→ requires 25% state match

Texas “matches” these funds with a very small portion of the total TMN volunteer service hours

No actual dollars are received from TMN volunteer service hours

How much of Program administration is funded from donations?

\$0

How much of Program administration is funded by Annual Meeting?

\$0

How much of Program administration is funded by chapters?

\$0

How is the State Program keeping up with growth?

We aren't. And that's a problem.

Many years ago, the program supported 17 chapters with 2 full time staff members

Today, the program supports 49 chapters with 3 full time staff members

We need 5 more full time employees to properly support our chapters and members

In recent years, we have prevented new chapter development and have begun to cut support for some projects just to keep the Program operating.

Doesn't the federal grant cover all expenses?

Not even close.

Some TMN projects and expenses are not eligible for this funding, so the TMN state Program must find other funds to pay for:

- Service and milestone pins

- Deposits for annual meeting

- Covering unmet costs from Annual Meeting, if any

- Project grants to chapters (when offered)

- Fundraising for long term program viability

- Sponsorships to reduce registration costs of Annual Meeting

- Extension and TPWD staff that advise and support Chapters, volunteers

- Junior Master Naturalist Program, or any other youth programming

What about the Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting is a training event

The Annual Meeting cost about \$200-250k each year

If an Annual Meeting generated profit, funds are used to pay for future meetings

Annual Meeting funds are over-allocated

There's not enough to pay for 2 years worth of deposits + 1 year of meeting costs

Sponsor Agencies must cover any deficit not met by registration

Or Registration prices would have to increase

Silent Auction

20% to Host Chapter

80% to Annual Meeting account



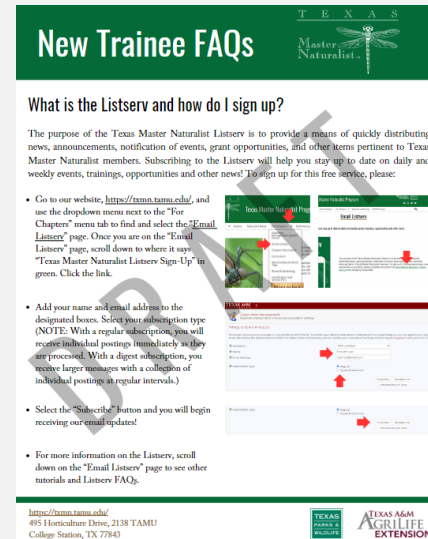
Karen Wilson, Alamo Area Chapter

2024 Planning



Chapter Templates & Resources

- What Canva templates would be beneficial for you?
- In development: brochure, rack card, certificate, social media templates, flyers, FAQ flyers, etc.



TMN Training Class Survey

THANK YOU for filling out the New Member Training Class survey!
42 of the 49 chapters completed the survey.

- Texas Master Naturalist Speaker Master List Survey
 - Designed to create a master list of potential speakers for chapter use upon request (housed by the state office)
 - Multiple-response survey. Each speaker is one submission.
 - To avoid duplicates, please have one representative fill out the survey.
 - Fillable Excel available upon request.
 - Survey questions include: chapter, speaker's name, company/affiliation, location, contact information (phone and email), topic area, notes/comments.



TMN Training Class Survey

Timeline:



Texas Master Naturalist Speaker Master List

○ Responses due **June 30th**

- Results from the New Member Training Class survey presented virtually at the end of summer and in person at the Annual Meeting

Submitted:

- Alamo Area, Balcones Canyonlands, Blackland Prairie, Brush y Canyons, Cypress Basin, Gideon Lincecum, Gulf Coast, Heartwood, North Texas
- **If you do not see your chapter name, please submit your survey!**



2024 New Training Class info

Update your Chapter's 2024 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 ALL 2024 training classes coming up and application periods open throughout this year*
- *Potential trainees ALWAYS want to know when your next training class is being planned.. Or how they can get on the list*

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



The Texas Master Naturalist Program

Home About Events Naturalist News For Chapters 2024 Annual Meeting #TMNTuesdays

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.

Want to be a Master Naturalist?

Log Volunteer Hours

TEXAS I Love TMN

Online Webinar Speaker Series #TMNTuesdays

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

National Volunteer Month & 2023 Annual Report

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 25th ANNIVERSARY

2024 Basic Training Classes

Fall 2024 Training Classes Starting Soon!

16 chapters with class starting in August or later this Fall!

Fill out the form to be added to the web page:

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

Balcones Canyonlands
Chapter

Bluestem Chapter

Brazos Valley Chapter

Capital Area Chapter

Coastal Prairie Chapter

Cradle of Texas Chapter

Cross Timbers Chapter

East Texas Chapter

Elm Fork Chapter

Good Water Chapter

Guadalupe Chapter

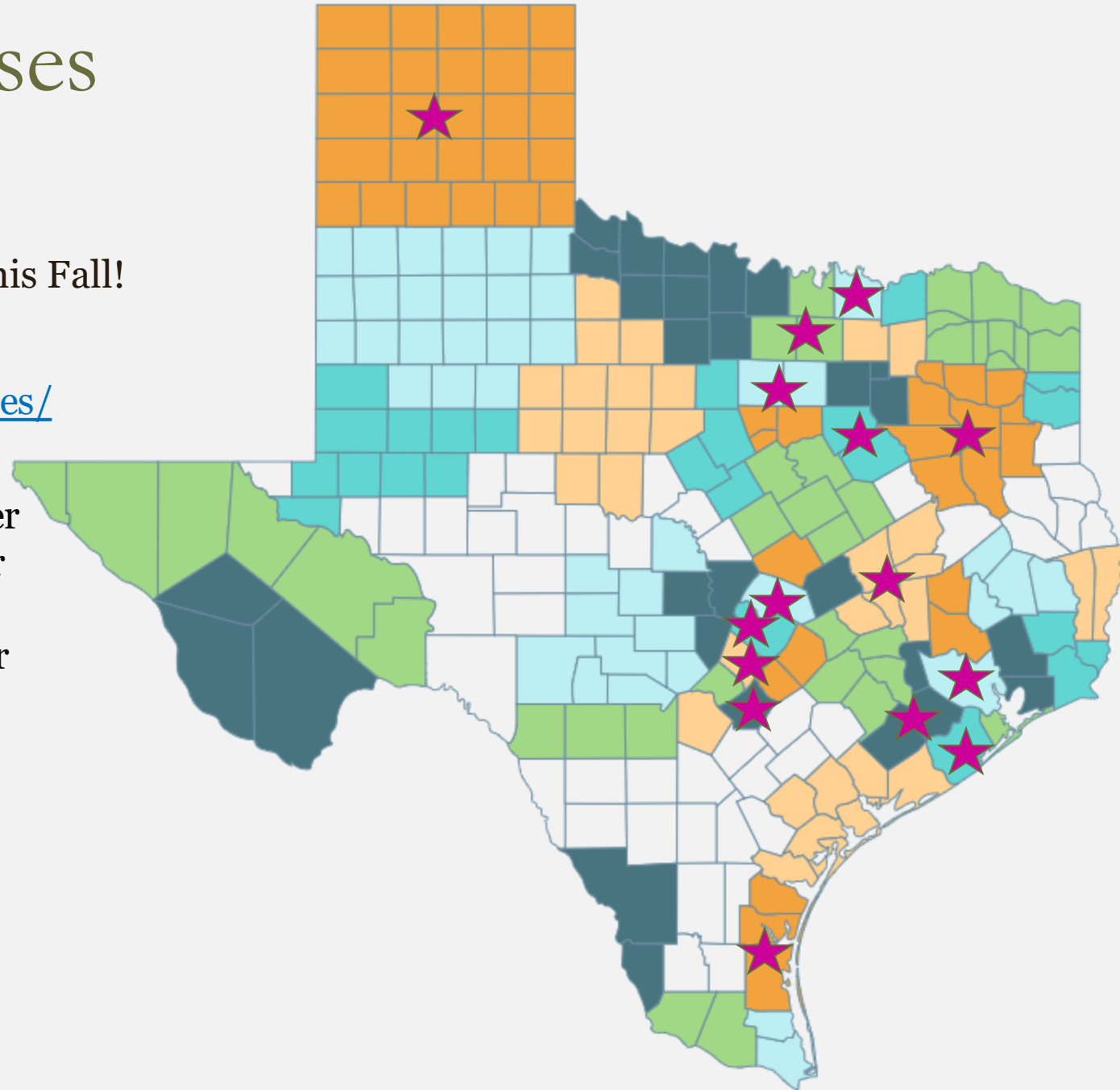
Gulf Coast Chapter

Hays County Chapter

Indian Trail Chapter

Panhandle Chapter

South Texas Chapter



TMN Curriculum Survey

- errata/updates responses still needed-

We are starting the project to review, update and print a second edition of our TMN Statewide Curriculum!

Keep in mind, this will be a multi-year project, but the time to start it is now.

And we need your help!

To get our review and update started, we have two requests to our readers:

1. The first is to help us gather information on **how** our book is being used. This information will be shared with our TAMU Press redesign team as they are looking to make updates to the layout and functionality of the book. Please complete this survey by **May 1, 2024**.

2. The second is to help us collect **errors/updates** in the current edition. Each unit will be getting reviewed and updated, but two sets of eyes are better than one. Please share any errors or update suggestions in the linked survey below. **Note - it's vital that you share page and paragraph information to help us find these areas of edit need.** This survey will remain open.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tmnbookerrata>



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

6 Month check in

- What are your plans?
- How will you/Have you celebrated?
- We will be celebrating your chapters at the Annual Meeting



Joyce Tipton, Coastal Prairie Chapter

2024 #TMNTuesdays

January 9 **May 14**
February 13 **June 11**
March 5* **July 9**
*first week of the month
April 9 **August 13**

September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10



T E X A S



#TMNTuesday 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 – No Mow Zones~~

~~May 21st Pop Up – Handheld Videographer~~

June 11th – Volunteer Safety in the Field

July 9th *Joint #TMNTuesday/Presidents Mtg

August 13th

September 10th

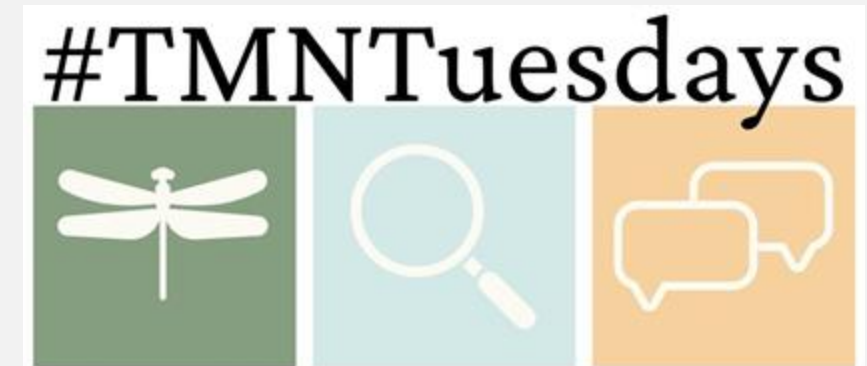
October 8th – TMN Project Fair Competition

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?



#TMNTuesdays



JULY 9TH, 2024

Plastic Free July: A Project Highlight

Register for the year's Series:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>



July



Plastic Free July:
A Project Highlight





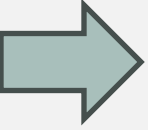
**SAVE THE
DATE!**

OCTOBER 24 – 27TH 2024

Don't forget - plan around these dates with your Chapter trainings, events, etc.

COUNTDOWN TIMELINE

- **June 1, 2024** - Call for Proposals Deadline (**Share the Call for Proposals TODAY**)
 - Get your presentation proposal submitted before our June 1 deadline!



July 2024 - Agenda Launches

- We hope to share the full agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting the first week of July.

• **August 2024** - Registration Opens

- Registration for the 2024 Annual Meeting will open the first week of August.

• **August 31, 2024** – Early Registration ENDS

- Price increase to ‘Standard Registration’

• **September 15, 2024** – Contests Close

- Advisors Award, Photo, Art & Media, Video Contest and Project Fair

• **September 20, 2024** – In Person Registration Closes

- Registration for the 2024 Annual Meeting closes!

• **October 8, 2024** - #TMNTuesday – Chapter Project Fair Presentations

- Join our monthly TMNTuesday webinar to hear this year’s entries for the Chapter Project Fair.



Call for Presentation Proposals



- Seeking presentations on TMN focused topics
- 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-hour concurrent advanced training sessions
- Submission website open now!
- Deadline **June 1**
- **Help us:**
- Share the word with those with a broad

those with a
ing from too!

THANK YOU!!!

The most proposals we've ever
received!!

150 classroom sessions submitted
32 field sessions submitted



Agenda Overview

- Chapter Leadership Luncheon
 - (aka Presidents Meeting)
- Thursday October 24th - **11:30am – 2:00pm in the ballroom**
- Please make sure you (or your designee) are registered for this session for a headcount



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

SKELETON AGENDA

Wednesday
10/23

Pre-Event Field Sessions

Thursday
10/24

Pre-Event Field Sessions

Chapter Leadership Luncheon

Welcome Dinner

Friday
10/25

Field Sessions

Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions

Keynote Address

Saturday
10/26

Field Sessions

Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions

Annual Awards Reception & Dinner

Sunday
10/27

Contest Awards

Conference Wrap up by Noon!

Post-Event Field Sessions

Agenda Highlights

Wednesday

- 7 Pre-event field sessions

Thursday

- 16 Pre-event field sessions
- Registration opens at **4:00pm**
- Dinner at Meadows Center

Friday

- 14 rooms & 7 hours of classroom sessions
- Keynote Presentation

Saturday

- 14 rooms & 7 hours of classroom sessions
- Student Science Fair Winners at lunch
- Quiz Bowl
- Awards Dinner

Sunday

- Contest Awards at 8:00am



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

SKELETON AGENDA

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Chapter Leadership Luncheon

Welcome Dinner

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10/26

Field Sessions

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Sunday
10/27

Contest Awards

Conference Wrap up by Noon!

Post-Event Field Sessions

Lodging

- Book now!
- Closes September 23rd!

2024 Annual Meeting

LODGING

**EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON SAN MARCOS
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER**

1001 E McCarty Ln, San Marcos, TX 78666



Room Block Dates:

Wednesday, Oct. 23, to Sunday, Oct. 27th, 2024

\$185

Includes:

- Free made-to-order breakfast
- Complimentary evening reception
- Complimentary self parking
- Complimentary guestroom internet
- Complimentary access to fitness & business center

Plus 15.98% local
occupancy tax

For more information about the Annual Meeting, visit:

www.txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting

@Art Arizpe

Registration



- Registration will open **first week of August**.
- Will be announced via TMN Listserv, Facebook and Instagram simultaneously
- **Registration Types**
 - Full Conference – includes pre-event field sessions Wednesday through Sunday, all meals, all conference sessions and events
 - Two Day – Friday & Saturday only
 - One Day – Friday or Saturday
 - Guest Meals option
- Early Registration until August 31st
- Standard Registration September 1st through September 30th
- **Registration process**
 - Name, Contact Information, Dietary
 - Registration Type (above)
 - Sessions Registration (based on type) - *guarantees a seat for you in the field/class session
 - Optional Items
 - Checkout

Plan for this time!

Contests & Awards

- **Pre-Annual Meeting Entries – all due by 5pm Sunday September 15th**
- **Chapter Advisor Awards**
 - Nominate your chapter's advisor(s) to be recognized
- **Chapter Project Fair**
 - Submit your chapter project for our virtual fair!
- **Video Contest**
 - Videos of 1 minute to 3 minutes
- **Photo, Art & Media Contest - Pending**
 - Entries to be submitted online between August 1st and September 15th
 - Note: Photos & Media must be taken somewhere in Texas and within the current year: 2024

Chapter Advisor Award

- Nominate your chapter's advisor(s) to be recognized

2023 TMN Chapter Advisor Award Winner



Lois Balin,
Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist,
Trans Pecos Chapter Advisor

She is a wonderful role model to our Texas Master Naturalists and our community. We are all very proud to have her as our leader and advisor. Overall, Lois is an outstanding Texas Master Naturalist Chapter advisor. She is a dedicated and knowledgeable individual who goes above and beyond to support and empower chapter members in their efforts. Her leadership and guidance contribute to the success and impact of our Trans-Pecos Chapter and has helped foster a community of passionate naturalists!

Chapter Project Fair

- Submit your chapter project for our virtual fair!

Exemplary Project Fair Awards: First Place

First Place:
\$800 Project Grant

Rio Brazos Chapter
Brazos River
Cleanup/Campout and
Educational Extravaganza



Photo, Art & Media Contest

- Submit your best photos and art from the past year!
- Entries to be submitted online between September 1st-30th



Video Contest

- Videos of 1 minute to 3 minutes

10th Annual TMN Video Contest 1st Place



Sabine-Neches Chapter
"Hey Texas Master Naturalist, What are you doing?"

Chapter Advisor Award

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

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

Applications are due by **September 15th, 2024**.

Chapter Advisor Award

- Nominate your chapter's advisor(s) to be recognized

2023 TMN Chapter Advisor Award Winner



Lois Balin,
Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist,
Trans Pecos Chapter Advisor

She is a wonderful role model to our Texas Master Naturalists and our community.

We are all very proud to have her as our leader and advisor.

Overall, Lois is an outstanding Texas Master Naturalist Chapter advisor.

She is a dedicated and knowledgeable individual who goes above and beyond to support and empower chapter members in their efforts

Her leadership and guidance contribute to the success and impact of our Trans-Pecos Chapter and has helped foster a community of passionate naturalists!



Chapter Project Fair

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

Entry, Criteria & Judging

1. Each Chapter will provide a short-written paragraph describing the project by **September 15, 2024**.
2. A pre-selected panel of judges will join the live 20-minute presentation of each Project Fair entry during our October [#TMNTuesday Speaker Session](#) on **October 8th, 2024**
3. Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting and will be in the form of monetary project grants which are intended to further support the winning projects or new project implementations of the chapters' choice.

Chapter Project Fair

- Submit your chapter project for our virtual fair!

Exemplary Project Fair Awards: First Place

First Place:
\$800 Project Grant

Rio Brazos Chapter
Brazos River
Cleanup/Campout and



Interested in being a
Judge?
Contact Michelle

Chapter Video Contest

Release the Director in YOU!

- Showcase the “behind the scenes” work that goes on within your chapter.
- Share trainee experiences, your experience as a TMN volunteer, or a highlight of a Chapter project, your Chapter's impact, an event, partnership effort, or anniversary year.
- Videos should be a minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds and a maximum of 3 minutes. Uploads should be either formatted as .mp4, .mov, .wmv, or other YouTube-ready format.
- Video Contest submissions will be accepted until **September 15th, 2024**. Entries will be reviewed and top videos will be announced and awarded at our 2023 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony.



Photo, Art & Media Contest

Entry window – August 1st – September 15th

Categories

- Individual member submissions categories:
 - Photo –
 - Plants and Fungi
 - Wildlife: Birds
 - Wildlife: Insects and arachnids
 - Wildlife: Reptiles and Amphibians
 - Wildlife: Other
 - Chapters at work/play
 - Scenic
 - Macro
 - Digitally Enhanced Photos
 - Art –
 - Paintings or Drawings
 - Sculptures, Carvings, & Ceramics
 - Sewing or Stitchery
- Chapter submissions categories –
 - Newsletter
 - Scrapbooks
 - Brochures

Rules on website
by End of Week

Photo, Art & Media Contest

- Submit your best photos and art from the past year!
- Entries to be submitted online between September 1st-30th



Sponsorship

- All sponsorships receive special recognition through conference communication, fliers, announcements, and programs.
- TMN Chapters can be sponsors too! (Thank you to those who have already!)
- Sponsors could make a general contribution to support and sponsor the TMN Annual Meeting at any of the following levels with recognition at each level as given:

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

BE A SPONSOR

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

Friend - \$150

- Posted on Annual Meeting website

Ecologist - \$300

- All Friend level recognition, plus:
- Posted on conference hallway signs

Steward - \$500

- All Ecologist level recognition, plus:
- Posted on Annual Meeting app
- Recognition given during awards ceremony

Conservationist - \$1,000

- All Steward level recognition, plus:
- Complimentary Vendor Booth (optional)

Guardian - \$3,000

- All Conservationist level recognition, plus:
- Reserved table at Annual Meeting awards dinner
- Inclusion of collateral materials in attendee registration bags

Naturalist - \$5,000+

- All Conservationist level recognition, plus:
- Organization highlight page on website



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

BE A VENDOR

We are once again hosting our event with the opportunity to invite a few key vendors and exhibitors with naturalist related goods, artwork, projects, plants, educational materials, and outreach from partnership organizations. The vendor booths will be located in the main conference hallways of the San Marcos Embassy Suites.

There will be ample time throughout the conference for attendees to browse the vendor areas, with breaks and socials scheduled to be held in the vendor space. We kindly ask that all vendors donate an item for the Silent Auction. The money raised from the silent auction will be used towards scholarship funds for Master Naturalists expressing a financial need to be able to attend our conference the following year.

Vendor Booth Space Information:

- Vendor setup will be on **Thursday, October 24th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**, with take down and move out by **10:00am on Sunday, October 27th**. Vendors will be responsible for their own move in, set up, take down, and move out.
- Vendors will receive **one 6' table and two chairs**. Additional tables may be available if needed, potentially at an additional cost.
- Electricity and other display items can be discussed if needed, potentially at an additional cost. Wi-Fi will be available in the conference space for all attendees. Hardline and electric cord charges may be available, potentially at an additional cost.
- Please have all vendor applications emailed to Mary Pearl Meuth, mpmeuth@tamu.edu, by **5pm on September 15th, 2024**.

[HTTP://TXMN.TAMU.EDU](http://txmn.tamu.edu)

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

VENDOR FORM

Vendor Fee

Commercial Vendors - \$300

Non-Profit Vendors - \$150

- Includes all coffee and break service.
- Registration required to attend technical sessions.

Name of Company/Organization

Items or Services Being Sold

Contact Name

Phone

Email

Silent Auction Donation Item

Please make all checks out to:
Texas Master Naturalist Program
495 Horticulture Drive 2138 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843

[HTTP://TXMN.TAMU.EDU](http://txmn.tamu.edu)

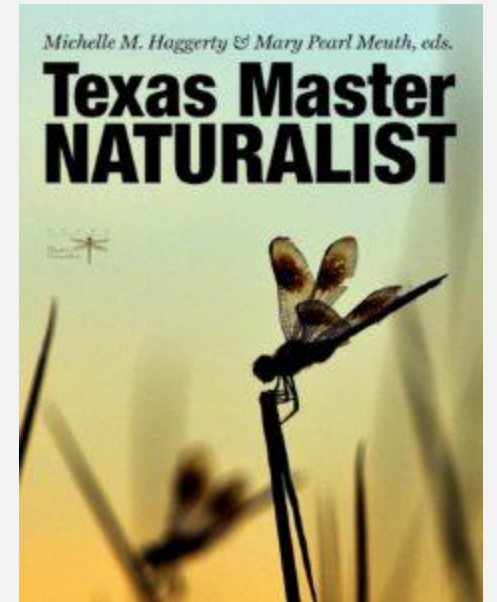
TMN Curriculum Bulk Orders at Annual Meeting

BULK Curriculum Orders for Annual Meeting pickup will be available once again!

Order form will be sent out mid-August.

Deadline TBA (usually early October)

Please designate who will be picking up these books (heavy!)



Member Awards and Recognition at the Annual Meeting

- **Milestones of Members Registered for the annual meeting are recognized Saturday evening.**
- Please ensure awards for your members are updated in VMS **by SEPTEMBER 29th**
 - (VMS Admins see: “User defined tab > TMN Recognition Group)
 - **NOTE:** Milestones recognized at the annual meeting must have been reached within the past year, October 6th, 2023 through September 29th, 2024.

The screenshot displays the 'User Defined' tab in the VMS system, specifically for the 'TMN Recognition' group. The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Personal', 'Ethnic Background', 'User Defined', 'Language', 'Registration', and 'Emergency Contact'. The main content area is divided into sections for different TMN hour milestones: 'Recognition Hours for TMN', '250 TMN Hours', '500 TMN Hours', '1,000 TMN Hours', and '2,500 TMN Hours'. Each section contains a dropdown menu for 'Awarded' status and a text input field for the 'Earned Date'. For the 250-hour milestone, the 'Awarded' status is set to 'Yes' and the 'Earned Date' is '03/23/2019'. The other milestones have empty dropdowns and date fields.

ANNUAL MEETING CHAPTER PHOTO SHOW

"Donna Cole's Photo Request"

To be used in scrolling ppt video during annual meeting agenda

BEGIN GATHERING YOUR PHOTOS

Chapter Presidents (or Historians) – please designate ONE person to collect and send **TEN photos** from your chapter.

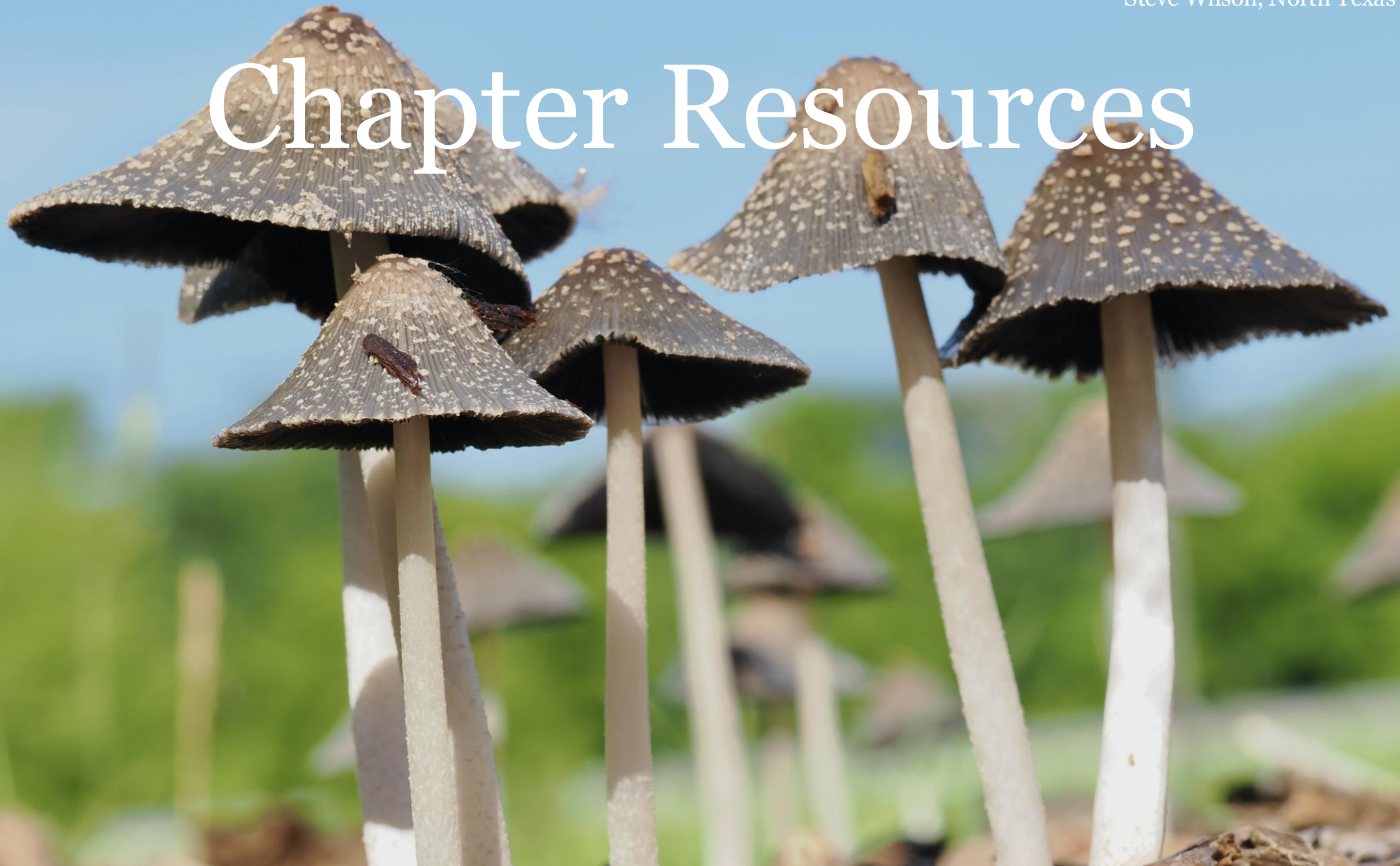
Format: Original .jpg files only

- No PowerPoint presentations, no websites or online newsletters with photos, no “thumbnails”
- Please ensure what you send only .jpg files at full resolution, not compressed! (Cropping is fine.)
- Captions are fine if they are embedded in the photo
- Please make sure the photo is already rotated correctly so the orientation doesn't have to be changed.
- ***Remember: If you view the photo at full-size on your computer monitor and it looks pixilated/grainy/blurry/fuzzy it will not look good in the show and will be left out.***

Subject: Anything that represents your chapter is great, but we really want to see your chapter members at work in the outdoors and working on projects.

MORE INFO COMING IN AUGUST

Chapter Resources



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.



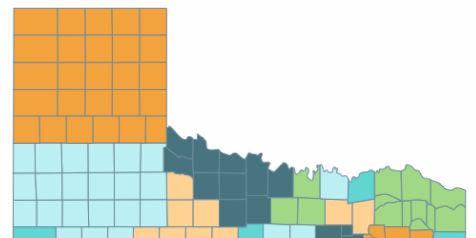
Mika Geiger, Balcones Canyonlands

- Want to be a Master Naturalist?
- Log Volunteer Hours
- 2024 ANNUAL MEETING
- TEXAS I♥TMN Master Naturalist
- Online Webinar Speaker Series #TMNTuesdays
- JOIN OUR LISTSERV
- 2023 Annual Report
- TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 25th ANNIVERSARY

ALL EVENTS >

Find Your Chapter

Scroll or hover over a county to view the chapter operating in that county. Click on a county to go to that chapter's web page.



OUR STATE WEBSITE

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

NATURALIST NEWS:

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

EVENTS CALENDAR:

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

TMN STATE EMAIL LISTSERV:

[HTTPS://TXMN.TAMU.EDU/CHAPTER-RESOURCES/EMAIL-LISTSERV](https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/email-listserv)

The TMN State Office (and sometimes other members) share & post information and trainings to each of these resources. Events added **are not automatically approved** for AT, please check with and have your local chapter review and approve first.

Other Quick Links on the Website:

VMS Help Desk-

<https://txmn.org/help>

Chapter Documents Page

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

TMN VMS Updates

This past month's changes to Administrative backend of VMS:

- Updated list of TMN "Certification Status Fields" (*VMS Update Alert sent to VMS Admins in May*)
- Admin's "Add/Delete" button removed (*Expectation = New trainees create their own TMN VMS Profiles*)
- Samaritan auto log out shortened to 15 mins after no activity
- TMN Roles created and readied for move, consolidation
- Next step is moving and consolidation with the TPWD main account (aka "life without folders")
 - for Chapter Admins, this will not be a big change
 - Chapters will use grids and filters to organize info vs. information in folders
 - **We expect this to happen "soon" (*still have not been given dates)**
 - We will give as much advance notice as we are given
 - Information and training will be provided as soon as we are made aware

VMS Training & Help Desk Updates

- Moratorium on VMS Trainings July-August
- Contact the VMS Help Desk for emergencies (ie. You lose your chapter Admins)

AGAIN:
Nothing changing for our end users (reporting volunteers) at this time.
Proceed with entering hours as normal

TMN VMS Updates – What's Next?

Next Phase (After our account is moved and consolidated) (Timeframe TBD) (Rumors = Oct-Dec timeframe)

- Anticipating similar "application"/entry process in the system as now (*application updated in August?*)
- Development/Implementation of a new "Onboarding" Training Module for volunteers
 - New volunteers would work through a few "need to know" modules to fully be accepted (applied) to the program pre-training class
- HEADS UP that the Opportunity 'sign ups' for chapters will be moving to an **"Opt In" vs the "Opt Out"** process that it is now.
- Development and Implementation of our "Org Module"
- Development and Implementation of our "Prerequisites" (=if/then movements through onboarding) process
- MFA will be added for chapter admins using the system (*last item Samaritan will build and implement*)

TMN VMS Updates – Reminders

Reminders:

- This is not a complete system rebuild and overhaul
- We are implementing new features and modules of the Samaritan system that were not available before
- Our VMS Team has been involved in weekly(+) meetings, 2xs per week now
- Our VMS Team has been and will be involved in providing input to the re-build development and testing
- We will have training sessions for VMS admins, members when we know more and the time comes (TBD)
- For EXISTING members the basic volunteer reporting experience shouldn't be too different from what you see now.

VMS Admins:

Be watching for emails and newsletters from the TMN VMS Administrative Team as we learn more

Improving TMN Reporting

One Simple Request (shared via a ppt slide or follow up email):

- For Chapter Meetings, AT, and Service Projects your chapter leadership provides/leads please help with providing guidance on reporting to general members present

Example for your time here today:

For attending/viewing today's meeting you will report your time as follows:

Opportunity = Chapter Business

Project Category = Chapter & Program Business Admin - President's Duties

Service Description = June Presidents & Advisors meeting with the state office



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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
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<https://masternaturalistendowment.org/>

To give directly, follow the link:

<http://give.am/TexasMasterNaturalist>



THANK YOU
to all who
have given!

Reminders to share with your membership

- The Texas Master Naturalist title, your Chapter name and your Program/Chapter membership should never be used in connection with advocacy or to invoke policy.
- TMN Title and Certification should never be used for personal gain or profit.
- **REMEMBER:** The TMN logo and title are trademarks. You must seek state office approval when adding them to chapter t-shirts, merchandise, flyers, etc.



Presidents Questions Submitted

Form Ginger Greatens, North Texas TMN Chapter, DEI Committee Chair:

- A team of members from various Chapters (Capitol Area, Balcones Canyonlands, Elm Fork, and North Texas) have been meeting to work on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility. We are sharing information and discussing various topics. We started a shared google drive for Spanish Resources. The goal for the shared drive is to allow TMN access to Spanish and/or bilingual nature and conservation educational materials. Some of the materials have been shared from partner local organizations such as Dallas Parks and Recreation information about Coyote behavior. ***The shared folder is to upload and download resources only.

We hope that you will share your Spanish/bilingual resources. By sharing the work we have done we can collectively be more effective and efficient with serving our mission.

Please let us know if you have questions!

Thank you!

○ [TMN Spanish Resources - Google Drive](#)

- What other questions do you have for the Chapter Presidents and Advisors on the call now?



Calendar Check

July

- 9 – JOINT TMN Tuesday & Chapter Presidents

August

- 27 – Chapter Presidents

Presidents Meetings

- ~~January 30~~
- ~~February 27~~
- ~~March 26~~
- ~~April 30~~
- ~~May 28~~
- ~~June 25~~
- July 9 *Joint TMN Tuesday
- August 27
- September 24
- October 24- Leadership Luncheon @Annual Meeting (23-25th)
- November 12 *Joint TMN Tuesday
- December 10 *Joint TMN Tuesday



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The End

