



AGENDA



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

OUR MISSION

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

PROGRAM STATE SPONSORING AGENCIES:



ABOUT THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Welcome to San Marcos, Texas! This year marks our 25th Annual Meeting and the 26th year of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. We have scheduled over 200 different presentations and field sessions with a variety of topics and speakers from around the state. Outside of the classroom, we also have plenty of opportunities to meet new friends and old friends alike, beautiful artwork and photos entered into our annual contest, and a wide variety of chapter projects on display in the Project Fair. Enjoy this weekend of comradery and learning! Thank you for being here with us to celebrate another year of incredible conservation impacts on the land!



THURSDAY OCTOBER 24

11:30 - 2:00

2:00 - 4:00

Veramendi EF

Chapter Leadership Luncheon

TMN Friends Group Informational and Membership Meeting

2:00pm - Registration opens

4:00pm - Buses Depart for Meadows Center

WELCOME DINNER

Join us on Thursday, October 24, for a Welcome Dinner and outing at The Meadows Center for Water and Environment. With transportation provided from the Conference Center, our casual welcome dinner opening the Annual Meeting will be hosted on the Headwaters Green lawn with scattered seating available, classic Austin area TexMex food by Chuy's, and beer and wine offered by Roughhouse Brewing (a local TMN owned brewery)! TMNs will be entertained with glass-bottom boat tours offered by Texas State student docents, open tours of the boardwalk, and more along the trails at the Center.





FIELD SESSIONS

Nestled in the heart of the Lone Star State, San Marcos, Texas, unveils a natural symphony where the enchanting melody of the San Marcos River dances alongside vibrant greenery. As the sunlight filters through the towering cypress trees, it casts a golden glow on the river's crystal-clear waters, revealing a mesmerizing underwater ballet of aquatic life. The San Marcos Springs, the lifeblood of this ecological marvel, showcase a unique blend of aquatic flora and fauna. Rare and endemic species find refuge in these pristine waters, forming a delicate ecosystem that stands as a testament to the town's commitment to conservation.

Field sessions during this year's Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting are provided to explore these unique surroundings and learn from local experts about projects, ways to get involved, and lessons to take home to your community. Session options include pre and post event sessions, volunteer service projects, tours of local chapter partnership projects, and guided explorations of the region's top naturalist sites.

As always, these field sessions are limited in attendance and typically fill up quickly. This year, with the help of the Texas Master Naturalist Hays County Chapter, Capital Area Chapter, Balcones Canyonlands Chapter, Lindheimer Chapter, Lost Pines Chapter and Guadalupe Chapter, we have more options than ever before for off-site excursions and learning opportunities. We encourage you to take advantage of these during the Annual Meeting or on another session through the San Marcos area. A wait list will also be available for each of the sessions through registration, once active.

A master schedule is included on the following pages to plan accordingly. Please note that sessions are subject to change. Pay close attention to the key below for those sessions that have an added cost or have special gear required. Additional notes are included in each of the session descriptions on the following pages.

Transportation is NOT provided for field sessions this year. We encourage all attending Master Naturalists to carpool or caravan where possible. A private Slack Channel will be set up for each field session and sent to all final attendee in early October. Through this private discussion board, attendees will be able to make shared travel arrangements.

Field Session Key



Advanced Training



Gear Required
(beyond standard field gear)



Additional Cost
(bring upon arrival)



Volunteer Service



NOT Advanced Training

Wednesday October 23

7:30am - 12:00pm

Hill Country Views, a Native Prairie, and the Colorado River - Meet and Explore Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park 

9:00am - 5:00pm

Shield Ranch: Conservation Project & Campsite at Shield Ranch  

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Biodiversity and Land Stewardship at Bamberger Ranch Preserve   

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Blanco River Conservation Demonstration Site Tour 

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Habitat Restoration for the Houston Toad   

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Migration and Overwintering Grounds of the Golden-Cheeked Warbler  

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Wild Medicinal Plant Walk - NON Advanced Training 










FIELD SESSIONS




Thursday October 24

8:00am - 4:00pm	Use of Prescribed Burning as a Land Management Tool   
8:00am - 4:00pm	Become a Nature Superstar! Hays County Self Guided Tour 
8:00am - 4:00pm	A Guided Walk through Honey Creek State Natural Area  \$
8:00am - 12:00pm	Great Bat Bridge Survey Training  
8:00am - 12:00pm	Blunn Creek Nature Preserve Walking Tour 
8:00am - 12:00pm	Westcave Preserve- A Hidden Gem in the Texas Hill Country  \$
8:00am - 12:00pm	The Stengl Herbarium: A Plant Mounting Party & ID Walk at Stengl Lost Pines Biological Station 
8:00am - 12:00pm	A Tour of Prehistoric Texas, Texas Science and Natural History Museum  \$
8:00am - 12:00pm	Purgatory Creek Birding Hike and Nature Walk 
8:00am - 12:00pm	After the KR: Hidden Treasures 
8:00am - 11:00am	Field Environmental Philosophy As An Approach Towards Mindfulness and Reconnection With Freshwater Ecosystems (1 of 2) 
8:00am - 11:00am	Tour of Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary  
9:00am - 12:00pm	Site visit, Blair Woods Preserve  
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Texas Stream Team Standard Core Training Session 
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Austin Nature from Alligators to Astronomy 
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Lockhart State Park: Plant Identification Walk 
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Blacklighting and nocturnal insect surveys 

Friday October 25

8:00am - 12:00pm	Let's Go Bioblitzing!  
8:00am - 12:00pm	Lockhart State Park - Our Outreach Game Plan Relies on Good Hikes 
8:00am - 12:00pm	Native Tree ID Walk and Seed Swap 
8:00am - 12:00pm	Hands-on Youth Education of the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) 
8:00am - 11:00am	Field Environmental Philosophy As An Approach Towards Mindfulness and Reconnection With Freshwater Ecosystems (2 of 2) 
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Restoring Wildlands to Protect Water on Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands 

Sunday October 27

10:00am - 12:00pm	How to Identify Different Mountain Cedars (Limestone Junipers)  
10:00am - 12:00pm	Explore the role of nature in forensic anthropology 



FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

8:00 - 9:00

9:10 - 10:10

10:20 - 11:20

11:30 - 12:30

Veramendi A

Native your Urban: how the City of Lewisville transformed successful progress to include native Texas blue-green spaces around town

Adopt-A-Loop Program - Great Texas Wildlife Trails

Make an Impact Locally - Local Parks Grants

Veramendi B

Planet of the Insects

Butterfly Survivor: Outwit, Outplay & Outlast

Veramendi C

Fun with Nature of Naming

Plant Party - A Bonus, In-Person Fun Time!

Native Pollinators

Veramendi D

Nature is an Essential Part of a Healthy Childhood

A Taste of WILD

Texas State Parks Are Here For You

Veramendi G

Mammals and their Adaptations to Survive

Spotting the skunks of Texas

Swamp Rabbits of Central Texas

Veramendi H

What Does Green and Clean Mean for Birds? A Look at Renewable Energy and Birds

Songbird migration and stopover ecology in Central Texas

Wild About Turkeys!

Veramendi EF

TMN VMS Review, Training and Roundtable Discussion

Veramendi I

Archeology and Ethnobotany

Nurturing Nature: Understanding Ecological Grief and Its Impact

Wildlife disease ecology for Master Naturalists

Veramendi J

Citizen Wildfire Ecology Program

Chautaqua A

Lights Out: Why the Natural World Needs Light Cycles

Better Lights for Better Nights Workshop

Chautaqua B

Texas Land. Texas Water. And a Trailblazing Way to Protect it.

The Role of Master Naturalists in Protecting Texas Habitats

San Marcos A

Seeing All the Parks

Event Photography to Support Chapter's Presence

How to be a Photonaturalist

San Marcos B

Interpreting our Backyards

Collecting Scientific Botanical (Herbarium) Specimens

Mapping the Plants (specimens) of Texas

Placido

Restoring Native Prairie Habitat on Public Land

Can Urban Historic Cemeteries Help Restore Biodiversity?

All Mushrooms are Magic

Burleson

Going Beyond Bird ID to the Really Cool Stuff: Bird Behavior

Private Dining 1

Belonging: Critical Element of DEI Strategy



FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

2:00 - 3:00	3:10 - 4:10	4:20 - 5:20	5:30 - 7:00
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Veramendi A	Influence conservation priorities in the State Wildlife Action Plan	New information regarding Texas Tortoise (<i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>) habitat in south Texas	Jumping Through Hoops: The Uncertain Listing of Texas Kangaroo Rat	
Veramendi B	Time to Restore: A Multi-State Citizen Science Project to Connect People, Plants and Pollinators!		The Monarch Butterfly Migration Its Rise and Fall	
Veramendi C	Eco-Importance of Native Landscaping - Part 1 Woody Plants			
Veramendi D	Not Just the Fluffy Bunnies		Educating Youth with the Texas Wildlife Association	
Veramendi G	Coyote Coexistence: Living in Harmony with America's Song Dog		Wild Cats in Texas	
Veramendi H	Something to CROW About!	Nightjars: Nocturnal Enigmas		
Veramendi I	Navigating Discourse: Addressing Controversial Topics	Exploring ambiguous moral and ethical situations (formerly Laws and Ethics)	Constructing Relevant and Engaging Education	
Veramendi J	Ecological Succession: from Grasslands to Forests		Living Soil: The Universe Beneath Our Feet	
Chautauqua A	Lights Out, Texas!		Be a Champion for the Night	Lights Out Texas Documentary Film
Chautauqua B	Native Grassland Restoration - How Plants Grow and How to Improve Them	Vibrant Lichen Studies		
San Marcos A	Cell Phone Video Production	Wildlife Video Production	Empowering Naturalists with AI: Creating Engaging, Educational Video Content	
San Marcos B	Texas Waters Day			
Placido	Build It & They Will Come, A Restored Prairie and the Birds That Call It Home		Symbiotic Relationships in Texas and How to Teach it	
Burleson	Recording Natural Landscapes Through Sketches and Photographs	Teaching about nature through unique art	Nature Connection and Mental Health	



SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

8:00 - 9:00

9:10 - 10:10

10:20 - 11:20

11:30 - 12:30

Veramendi A	Texas Backyard Wildlife: Stories from a suburban wilderness	Integrating BCI Programs for Comprehensive Bat Education and Outreach	A Chapter on Bats
Veramendi B	Chasing Dragons: A photographic obsession with the dragonflies and damselflies of Texas.	Here Be Dragons	Night Wings Over the Prairie - Insect Life After Dark
Veramendi C	iNaturalist: The miniseries		Spanish for Naturalists
Veramendi D	Interpretation 101	Turning Master Naturalists into Nature Interpreters	Urban Wildlife Information Network
Veramendi EF	Land Stewardship and Reading the Land, Tools for Developing a Land Stewardship Ethic		
Veramendi G	Improving Surface Water Quality in Texas Through Public Outreach and Education	Water Resources Database Demonstration	From Passion to Action: Creating a Water Quality Monitoring Project
Veramendi H	Approaches to Bird Identification	Specialty Birds of the Rio-Grande Valley	Bird City Texas - Helping Cities be more Bird Friendly
Veramendi I	The Prairie Project	From Kangaroo Rats to Horned Lizards: Understanding the Value of Bare Ground . .	Habitat Management Practices and Funding Opportunities in Texas
Veramendi J	Friends Don't Let Friends Spread Invasive Species	Invasive Species: Reporting, Workshops, and More! with Texasinvasives.org	Modes and rates of spread of the invasive Black Velvet Leatherleaf Slug and New Guinea. . .
Chautauqua A	Advice from a Botanic Garden . . .	Growing a Nursery of Nurseries	Bringing Native Plants to Schools
Chautauqua B	Public or Private Land - Who Really Benefits?	Using Nature Based Solutions to Promote Diversity in Juniper-Oak Woodlands	Mountain Cedars: Junipers that Benefit Limestone Groundwaters
San Marcos A	Making an Effective Slide-based Presentation	Good Water's Youth Program: Building Outreach Crates for Teaching Kids . . .	Floristic Quality Assessments of Oak Point Nature Preserve
San Marcos B	Natural Sciences and Texas Women	Mother Nature's Naturalist Mothers	Nurture Sustainable Biodiversity Within Your Nature Club
Placido	Training the Next Generation: TMN Chapter's New Member Training Class Structure	Unlocking Adult Learning: The Art of Andragogy	Educating Others 101
			Coastal Brigade, Growing our Future Coastal Conservation Leaders



SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

2:00 - 3:00

3:10 - 4:10

4:20 - 5:20

5:30 - 7:00

Veramendi A		BAT Project Roundtable		Trivia Contest (Quiz Bowl) XI
Veramendi B	An Introduction: Texas Flies, Oh My!	Hogna 'incognita'	Spiders of Central Texas	
Veramendi C	Texas Wildflowers and QR Codes - Sharing the Magic With the Visually Impaired	The Bilingual Art of Native Plant Advocacy	Making the Outdoors Accessible	
Veramendi D	Pack Your Trunk with Nature!	How to Be Relevant and Engage Support from Wildlife Viewers: New Data	Interactions with nature and mental health are intertwined . . .	
Veramendi G	Advanced Water Training for Master Volunteers	What Lies Beneath - Animals in the Edwards Aquifer	What's New: The State of the Art in Rainwater Harvesting Systems	
Veramendi H	Saving an Endangered Species	Chimney Swifts: Why We Should Care	Little Prairie in the Suburbs	
Veramendi I	Managing invasive plant species with integrated pest management in the wildland urban interface	How Land-Management Practices Affect Central Texas's Water Supply and Climate	Texas Forestry	
Veramendi J	Project learning Tree: Youth Environmental Education Curriculum	Good Gall-y!		
Chautauqua A	How to Stay Motivated and Keep Volunteers Against Overwhelming Odds	Brazos River Clean Up/Campout & Educational Weekend	Building a Team of Maniac Builders	
Chautauqua B	From Coyotes to Prickly Pears... Award Winning Youth Research Projects	Insect Themed Activities for Kids		
San Marcos A	Geologic Foundations of the Central Texas Ecoregion Crossroads	Unique Geology of the South Texas Sand Sheet	Understanding the Ecology of West Texas through Prairie Dogs and Mesquite	
San Marcos B		Freshwater Ecology and Conservation of Fish, Mussels and Crayfish in Texas Rivers & Streams		
Placido		Project WET workshop (Water Education Today)		



CONFERENCE MAP

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON SAN MARCOS HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTER

1001 E McCarty Ln, San Marcos, TX 78666

