

# August 27<sup>th</sup> 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 – \_\_\_\_\_



August 27th  
Chapter Presidents & Advisors  
Monthly Meeting



# Agenda

- 2024 Planning
  - TMN Resources and Branding
  - 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



Joyce Tipton, Coastal Prairie Chapter

# 2024 Presidents Meeting

## **Monthly Presidents & Advisors Meetings**

- September 24
- October 24 –11:00am – 2:00pm - Leadership Luncheon
  - in conjunction with TMN Annual Meeting
- November 12 \*Joint TMN Tuesday
- December 10 \*Joint TMN Tuesday





Andrea Dixon, Elm Fork Chapter

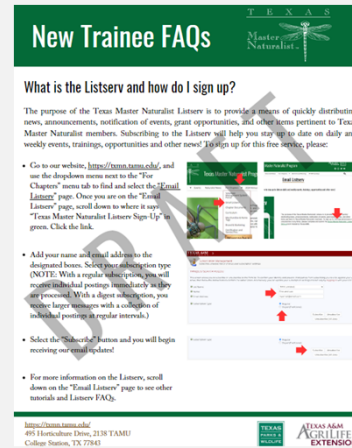
# 2024 Planning



TM

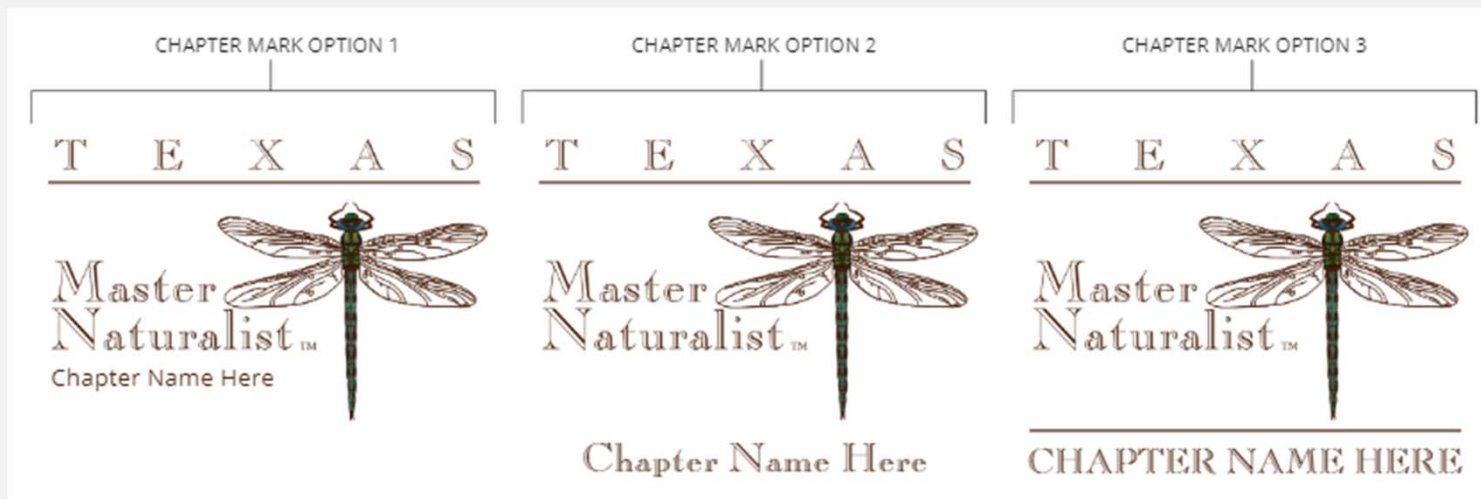
# Chapter Templates & Resources

- Web page and initial templates nearing completion
- Will be a password-protected page under the "For Chapters" tab
- Requests for templates still being accepted – on-going development



# Logo

- ANY use of the TMN logo on printed materials and merchandise must be approved by the TMN state office.
- *Cohesive branding across all chapters is imperative to maintain the integrity and recognition of the TMN trademark, brand and mission.*
- Chapter LOGOS are prohibited; however, Chapter MARKS are allowed.
- Email Hannah for assistance with creating a Chapter Mark.



# TMN Training Class Survey

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

- Results will be presented at the Annual Meeting
- A remote presentation will happen – TBD

THANK YOU for filling out the Speaker Master List survey! If you still have speakers you'd like to send, please contact Hannah.





# 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.)*
- *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/>




# 2025 New Training Class info

## Update your Chapter's 2025 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 2025 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/2025-basic-training-classes/>




Mika Geiger, Balcones Canyonlands

### 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.



# Fall 2024 Training Classes Starting!

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

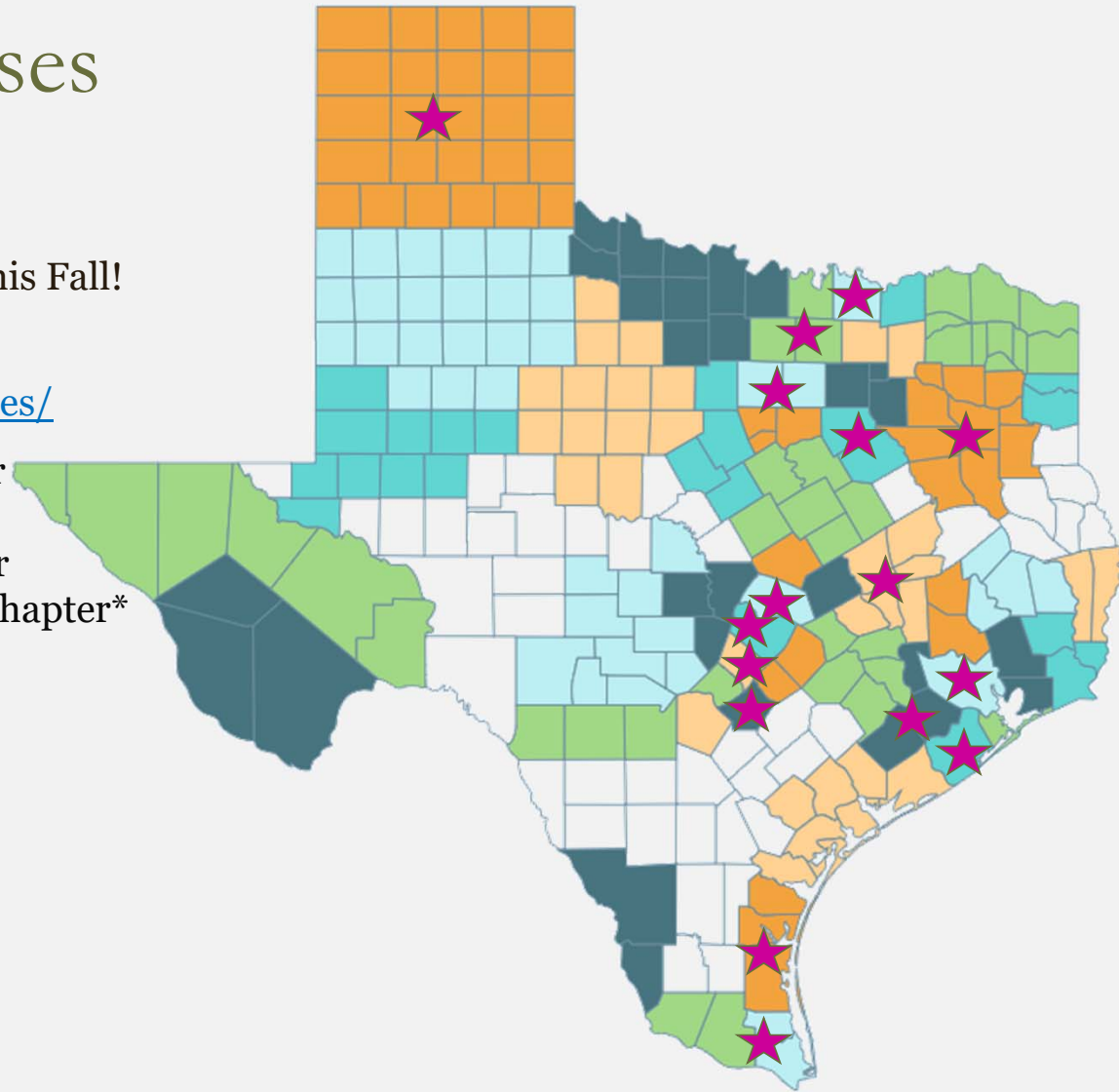
Indian Trail Chapter

Panhandle Chapter

South Texas Chapter

Rio Grande Valley Chapter\*

\*2025 class



# 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>



# Fall Pins Ordering

- **Recertification Pins & Milestone Pins Ordering System- New this year**
- Orders for Certification **certificates, 250-hr, 500-hr, 1,000-hr, 2,500-hr, Friends, current year re-certification**, are available through our AgriLife Learn store – <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/>
- To view the pins on the AgriLife Learn store, chapters will create an entitled “Chapter Name” account that will be given permissions to view these specific items. Once logged in, search “master naturalist pins” to order.
- Orders for **4,000-hour(PVSA), 5,000 hour, 10,000-hour pins and up**, are filled by Michelle Haggerty ([mmhaggerty@tamu.edu](mailto:mmhaggerty@tamu.edu)).
  - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/4000-above-pins/>
  - PVSA Pins are recently **BACK IN STOCK** and all backorders have been ordered!
  - **If the person is registered for the Annual Meeting we will hold for TMN Annual Meeting Awards Banquet.**





Filters

Clear All

Category

All Categories

- Browse by Category (385)
- Courses (180)
- Publications (177)
- Merchandise (91)
- Extension Staff Only (70)
- CDA Renewal (3)
- Observation and Assessment (3)
- Pre-Service (5)
- Child Growth and Development (10)
- Junior Master Gardener (25)

Category ▾

- Animals and Livestock (72)
- Business Operations (23)
- COVID Response (1)
- Child Care (112)

Merchandise



Texas Master Naturalist Initial Certification

\$0.00

VIEW OPTIONS

Merchandise



Texas Master Naturalist Other Pins

\$0.00

VIEW OPTIONS

Merchandise



Texas Master Naturalist Annual Recertification Pins

\$0.00

VIEW OPTIONS

Merchandise



# 2024 #TMNTuesdays

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

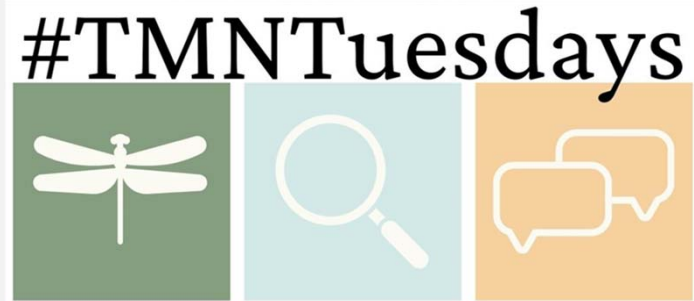
**September 10**  
**October 8**  
**November 12**  
**December 10**



T E X A S



# #TMNTuesday 2024



August 13th - Recording on the Website now

September 10th - Spanish for Naturalists

October 8th - TMN Project Fair Competition

November 12th \*Joint #TMNTuesday+Presidents Mtg

December 10th \*Joint #TMNTuesday+Presidents Mtg

## FAQ's

- 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



SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

Spanish for  
Naturalists/;Español para  
naturalistas!

Register for the year's Series:

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



# #TMNTuesdays



OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

## TMN Exemplary Project Fair Presentations

Register for the year's Series:

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

## 2024 Chapter Project Fair Presentations

- Currently holding the time block of 9:00am – 1:00pm schedule presentations
- Presentations will be scheduled as close to regular #TMNTuesday timing as possible.
- 20-minute presentations from each participating chapter – including 5 mins of Q&A
- **Submission Deadline is September 15th!**



# Reminders to our 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.
- Public Comment should only be made as a private citizen. Your TMN title should never be associated with your public comments.
- Review guidelines here: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>





**SAVE THE  
DATE!**

**OCTOBER 24 – 27<sup>TH</sup> 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.



The most registrations we've had in the first day, week and month ever!!  
160 registered within the first hour  
391 registered by end of first day  
550+ registered to date



# Agenda Access

- Ways to view the agenda: CVENT Website, Full-sessions PDF, Title Only PDF
- All available via: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting/#Agenda>



Summary Agenda Fees Speakers Lodging Contact Us

## Texas Master Naturalist 2024 Annual Meeting

October 24, 2024 – October 27, 2024  
12:00 PM-10:00 AM

Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel  
Conference Center  
1001 E. McGarity Lane  
San Marcos, TX 78666

### Agenda

Here's what's scheduled for the event.

All Dates	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10/23-10/27	10/23	10/24	10/25	10/26	10/27


Filters Search

October 23, 2024  
7:30 AM CT

#### Hill Country Views, a Native Prairie, & the Colorado River: Explore Commons Ford Ranch Meet...

7:30 AM-11:00 PM

**Field Session**  
Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park is located west of Austin along the banks of Lake Austin, a section of the Colorado River. The park is 100 acres of mostly natural habitat that includes temperate woodlands, riparian woodlands, and a 40-acre native prairie. This habitat diversity plays a large role in Commons Ford being one of the top birding locations in Austin and Travis County. During this field trip, we'll



23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

### Native Prairie, and the Colorado Commons Ford Ranch

#### Master Naturalists

Park is located west of Austin along the banks of the Colorado River. The park is 215-acres of mostly natural lands, riparian woodlands, and a 40-acre native prairie. Commons Ford being one of the top birding locations in Travis County. During this field trip, we'll explore birds and their behavior, and will very likely get a close-up view of the native field of non-native grasses to over 70 species of native grasses.

**Sessions Agenda & Descriptions**  
Updated Monday, July 1, 2024

*Please Note:*  
All items on the agenda are tentative and subject to change prior to event registration and the final event agenda.

**Please consider the environment before printing this 60+ page agenda.**

#### Stewardship Project & Campsite at Shield Ranch

Stewardship Group: Chad Timmons, Shield Ranch

Join us at Shield Ranch Barton Creek for a habitat stewardship project and campsite at Shield Ranch. The work of the Shield Land Stewardship Group and Shield Ranch Foundation—including our approaches to our core values of stewardship, sanctuary, and community. Shield Ranch Barton Creek is 6,400 acres located in Southwest Travis County and makes up approximately 10% of the Barton Creek watershed. Since 1968, Shield Ranch Barton Creek has been protected in perpetuity by two conservation easements held by The Nature Conservancy and the City of Austin. The easements preclude commercial development while allowing traditional agricultural and recreational activities and limited development within strict parameters. Shield Ranch supports a diverse ecosystem consisting of over 450 species of native grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees that provide habitat for numerous wildlife

Wednesday October 23, 2024

## 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**  
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

### FIELD SESSIONS

**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 connectivity 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 stoking 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 Meadows Center lawn with catered seating available (classic Austin area TexMex food by Chuy's, and beer and wine offered by Roughhouse Brewing in local 1980's canned brewery 1980's 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.

**MEMBERSHIP VOLUNTEER**

9:30am - 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 Tassie	📄 🗺️ 🗑️
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Migration and Overwintering Grounds of the Golden-cheeked Warbler	📄 🗺️ 🗑️
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Wild Medicinal Plant Walk - NON-Advanced Training	🗑️

Additional Cost Volunteer Service NOT Advanced Training



# 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



If you have not selected this option on your registration, I won't have a meal count saved for you at the lunch! Please make sure you registered for the Chapter Leadership Luncheon.



## 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

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

# 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

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

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



**FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS  
MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM**

Photo: Linda Kuhn, Galveston Bay Area Chapter

The Friends of Texas Master Naturalist organization is being established to provide support to the Texas Master Naturalist program and its staff. The goal is to establish a 501(c)3 corporation to provide outside financial support and logistical assistance to the Texas Master Naturalist program.

Immediate responsibilities include collecting and disbursing funds for the annual meeting, which typically amounts to approximately \$125,000 annually, and aiding in the planning of the financial side of the meeting as required by program sponsors. This support organization is necessary due to federal grant regulations prohibiting any appearance of profit-making and selling. The establishment of the Friends group support organization will allow for continued effective management of funds and logistical coordination while complying with regulatory requirements.

Its primary purposes will include fundraising, financial management for TMN activities such as the Annual Meeting, TMN curriculum, the TMN Endowment, and assisting in the overall success of the program. Once the organization has been formed, membership will be open to individuals who are or have been certified as Texas Master Naturalists, irrespective of residency. Members may be involved in the executive board, committees, and elections.

For more information about the Friends of Texas Master Naturalist organization please contact Donna Cole.

Cell: 214-538-4444

Email: [donna@donna2112.com](mailto:donna@donna2112.com)

# DEVELOPING A SUPPORT ORGANIZATION FOR TMN “FRIENDS OF TMN”

To form a financial support organization for the Texas Master Naturalist Program to alleviate any financial and logistical concerns from both sponsoring state agencies - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

**Thursday 2:00 – 4:00pm Veramendi EF**





Getting There:

Shuttle busses will begin running back and forth between the Embassy Suites and Meadows Center starting at 4:00pm for departure and 9:00pm for the return trip. If desired, you can drive yourself. Parking is limited and will have a cost at the Meadows Center.

Vehicles parked at the Meadows Center must display a valid Texas State University parking permit between 7:00pm Sunday - 5:00pm Friday. One-day temporary permits are available for \$3 at the pay-and-display station located near the ticket kiosk.

**201 San Marcos Springs Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666**

Timeline:

2:00pm - Registration opens at Embassy Suites  
4:00pm - Buses Depart Embassy for Meadows Center  
5:00pm - Welcome Reception Open  
Glass-Bottom Boat Tours & Boardwalk open  
6:51pm - Sunset  
8:00pm - Blacklighting for moths and fungi  
9:00pm - Buses Depart for Embassy Suites

What to Wear and Bring:

TMN shirts or gear!  
Sunscreen and Bug Spray  
Hat and/or Sunglasses  
Boots or Closed-toed Shoes  
Weather Gear \*if needed  
Cameras and/or Binoculars  
Your preferred Portable Device





# Field Sessions

- Field sessions during this year's T... these unique surroundings and l... lessons to take home to your com... volunteer service projects, tours... the region's top naturalist sites.
- As always, these field sessions ar...
- A wait list will also be available f...
- Thank you to the local coordinat... Lindheimer, Lost Pines and Gua...
- Some sessions may have an add... included in each of the session des...
- **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 attendees in early October. Through this private discussion board, attendees will be able to make shared travel arrangements.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do Wait Lists Work?

Once added, if a spot on the field session opens, you will be emailed and have a chance to add the session to your agenda (Modify Agenda).

### Will more spots open?

We don't know! We're asking field sessions hosts if they're open to adding more capacity or duplicating a session. Will announce via social as it happens.





# Lodging

- Book now!
- Closes September 23rd!

Room  
Block is  
Full

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](http://www.txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting)

@Art Arizpe

# Registration Prices



- Registration opened **first week of August**.
- Will be announced via TMN Listserv, Facebook and Instagram simultaneously
- **Early Registration – Closes August 31<sup>st</sup>**
  - Early Full Event Registration – \$450.00
  - Early Two Day (Thurs & Fri or Fri & Sat) – \$425.00
  - Early One Day (Thurs or Fri or Sat) – \$275.00
- **Standard Registration – Open September 1st – September 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - Full Event Registration – \$500.00
  - Two Day (Thurs & Fri or Fri & Sat) – \$475.00
  - One Day (Thurs or Fri or Sat) – \$325.00
- **Guest Registration Add-Ons**
- **Guest Meals Only Pass – \$375.00**



# Silent Auction

## Asking for Item Donations from Chapters

Regional representations of your chapter's ecoregion

Naturalist items

Travel packages

Hand crafted items

Themed baskets

Item Drop Off – Thursday October 24th 1pm – 5pm

Auction Open until – Saturday 6:00pm

Accepting cash, checks, and cards!

**Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting  
Silent Auction  
San Marcos - October 24-27, 2024**

We are excited about the quickly approaching Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Annual Meeting at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in San Marcos, Texas. It is time to prepare for getting donated items for the silent auction. Display and bidding will be open on Thursday through Saturday October 24-26th. Money raised by the silent auction is used for TMN project grants, scholarships to the annual meeting for each chapter, and to bring in speakers and trainers for future annual meetings.

We are asking each TMN chapter to donate a minimum of \$100 in cash or items to the auction. There are many types of items that are appropriate for the silent auction. Cash will be used to purchase attractive and relative items to be placed on the auction tables. Below are some ideas from previous years:

- Travel packages, vouchers and gift certificates for trips, tours, experiences, hotels and sights. Local experiences are a great way to share chapter-area treasures.
- Items and gift certificates solicited from your local businesses.
- Purchased items such as outdoor gear, tools, nature guides, books about nature and generally anything related to nature.
- Hand-crafted items such as art (paintings, sculptures, framed photographs, carvings), jewelry, notecards and natural arrangements.
- Theme baskets and grouped items. These may represent your region and members may join together to complete these. Some theme ideas include coastal, birding, outdoorsy, décor items, kitchen, cooking, gardening, regional cuisine, etc.

We encourage you to use your imagination and keep naturalist themes in mind. If it's something you would like to have, other members probably would too. Items in new condition with a value of at least \$25 may be donated. Vintage or collectible items in like-new condition with a value of at least \$25 may also be donated. We occasionally group like items together to add to the appeal!

Please complete a Silent Auction Bid Sheet for each item (see attached). Each bid sheet you submit by the deadline – **Sunday, October 20 at 5pm** – is eligible for entry into the silent auction door prize. The winner of the door prize will receive a \$100 shopping voucher for the 2024 silent auction. The winner will be posted Thursday, October 24th at 1pm.

Silent Auction Bid Sheets will also be available at the Conference. Bid sheets submitted after

**SILENT AUCTION 2024 Bid Sheet**

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Submit Form

Item Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Opening bid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name TMN Chapter

Name (print clearly)	Cell Phone #	Bid (\$__ increments)

**NEW this year:** If you turn in your filled out bid sheets by Sunday October 20th, you'll be entered into a raffle for a \$100 silent auction shopping voucher!



# Swap Shop

We've got stuff . . .

Do you have stuff. . .

We'll have a swap shop table again this year with some extras from the TMN State Office storage shelves.

Bring your own TMN related resources to share with your fellow naturalists. . . .





# Contests & Awards

- **Pre-Annual Meeting Entries – all due by 5pm Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **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 -**
  - Entries to be submitted online between August 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - 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 Ballin,  
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

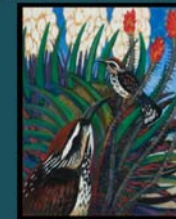
First Place:  
\$800 Project Grant

**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

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual TMN Video Contest 1<sup>st</sup> 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 way to learn about projects other chapters are doing and how they may be able to replicate such projects in their areas.

## 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

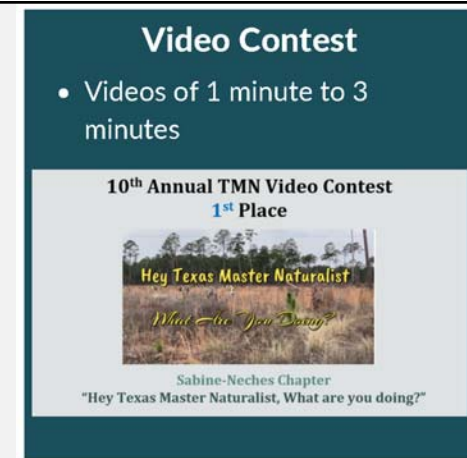
**Rio Brazos Chapter**  
Brazos River  
Cleanup/Campout and  
Educational Extravaganza



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>

## 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

152 entries  
so far!

## 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, fliers, 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



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



# Deadlines Before the Annual Meeting

- Early Registration Closes - August 31<sup>st</sup>
- Contest Entries Due - September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Photo Art & Media Entries Due - September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Registration Closes - September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Milestone Hours Reported - September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Chapter Memorial (Michelle) - September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Chapter Photo Show (Donna Cole) - September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Curriculum Book Order - October 12<sup>th</sup>



## 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](mailto: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

So many great vendors this year! We may have to limit this soon with space limitations

495 Ho

[HTTP://T](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 sent last week!

Deadline October 12th

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

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



# Pop Up Store

- Pop Up Store with TMN logo items, 25th Anniversary and Annual Meeting logo items!

## **Closes September 14th**

- Shipped to you PRIOR to the Annual Meeting

## **Items:**

- -Soft Shell jacket
- -T-Shirts
- -Polos



# 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 **August 31st** and **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 for the 'TMN Recognition' group. The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'General', 'Background and Driver CI', 'Alternative Workforce', 'Confidentiality Agreement', 'Media Waiver', 'Group Affiliation', 'Certifications', 'Contact', 'TMN Recognition', 'TMN Officers/Committees', 'Diversity Data', 'Texas Waters Specialist G', 'Safety', 'Recognition', 'Recognition - State Parks', 'Sea Center Awards', 'Master Naturalist', and 'Short Form'. The main content area shows a list of TMN hour milestones with corresponding 'Awarded' and 'Earned Date' fields:

Milestone	Awarded	Earned Date
Recognition Hours for TMN		
250 TMN Hours	250 TMN Hours Awarded: Yes	250 TMN Hrs Earned Date: 03/23/2019
500 TMN Hours	500 TMN Hours Awarded: [dropdown]	500 TMN Hours Earned Date: [input]
1,000 TMN Hours	1,000 TMN Hours Awarded: [dropdown]	1,000 TMN Hours Earned Date: [input]
2,500 TMN Hours		



D L L Q D > #C ? ? P < L H #G = D M P ? N #M = E P E #D = E R

## "Donna Cole's Photo Request"

To be used in scrolling ppt video during annual meeting agenda

# Deadline = September 29th or sooner!

**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, working on projects and/or celebrating a milestone

**Delivery needs to be by Google Photos or Google Drive to Donna Cole [donna@donna2112.com](mailto:donna@donna2112.com)**

# Chapter Memorials Request



Please share any chapter memorials of members passed since the last Annual Meeting.

Email Michelle Haggerty and Donna Cole with name, Chapter and photo

[mmhaggerty@tamu.edu](mailto:mmhaggerty@tamu.edu) and  
[donna@donna2112.com](mailto:donna@donna2112.com)

Would like to have this by September 29th



# Slack Communication

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

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

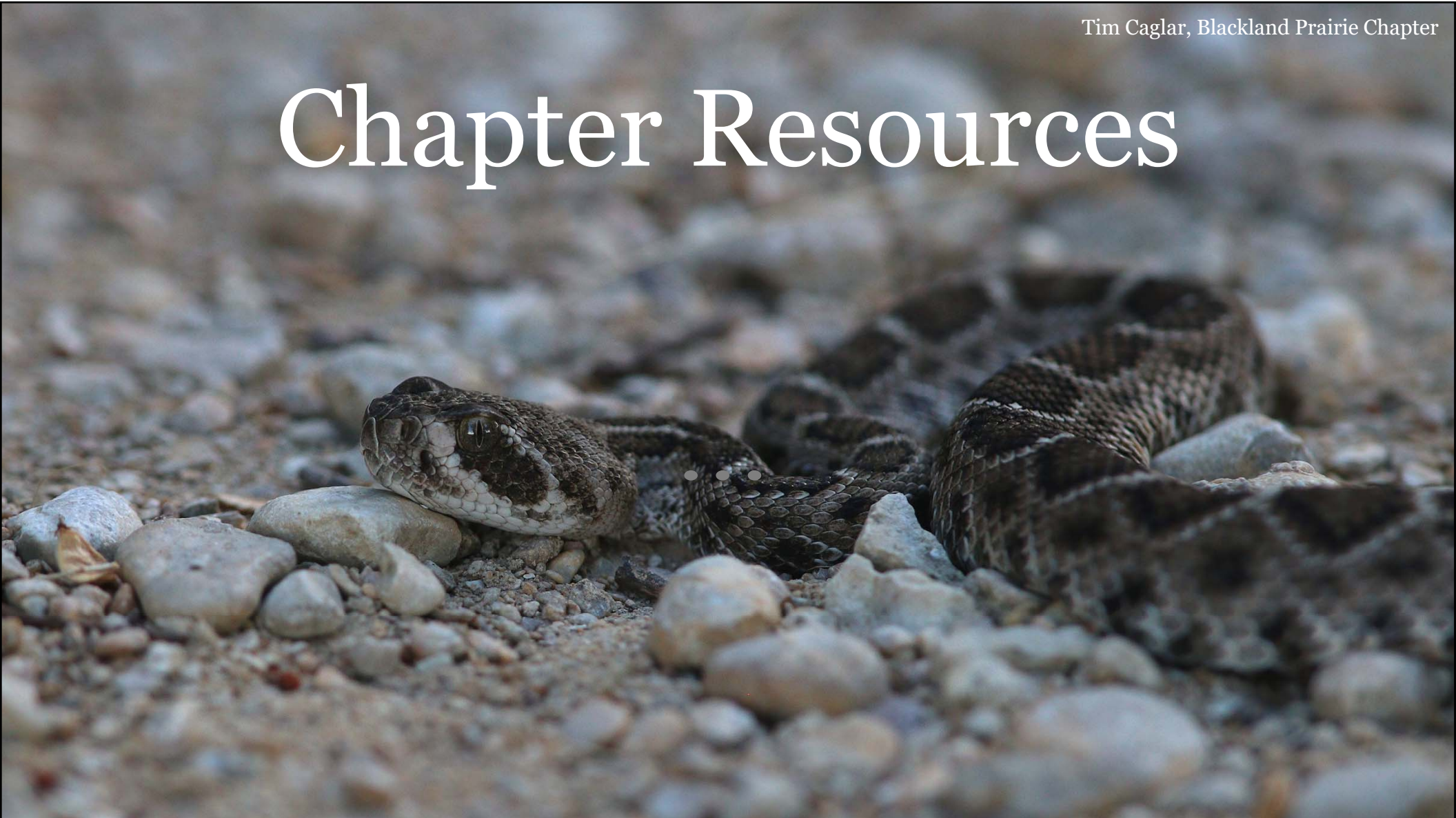


The image is a composite graphic. At the top, a dark blue banner contains the text "TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST" in white, followed by "2024 ANNUAL MEETING" in a larger, bold white font. Below this is the Slack logo, consisting of a colorful icon of six rounded rectangles and the word "slack" in white lowercase letters. The bottom portion of the image shows a smartphone screen displaying the Slack mobile app interface. The screen is split into two panes: the left pane shows a list of channels with a search bar at the top, and the right pane shows a selected channel with a header "Home Messages About" and a message history. In the bottom left corner of the overall graphic, there is a circular logo for the "TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST SAN MARCOS 2024 ANNUAL MEETING" featuring a landscape scene with a bridge and trees.



Tim Caglar, Blackland Prairie Chapter

# Chapter Resources





T E X A S

Master Naturalist Texas Master Naturalist Program

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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.



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

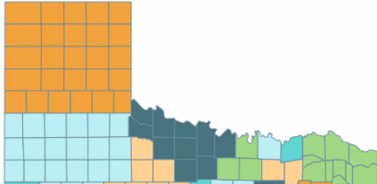
2023 Annual Report

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 WordPress Website Trainings

- TXMNTech Tuesdays
  - First Tuesday of the month
  - 12:00 – 12:45pm
  - Hosted via Teams

**September 3<sup>rd</sup> at  
12:00pm**



# TMN VMS Updates

## **Summer'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
- SSO Prepped, but not functioning yet. No need to use it at this time.

## **VMS Training & Help Desk Updates**

- Moratorium on VMS Trainings until further notice of new VMS
- 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 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 have not been given dates as to when this would happen**
  - We will give as much advance notice as we are given
    - Information and training will be provided as soon as we are made aware

## **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
- 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
- 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:

- REMINDER: that the Opportunity 'sign ups' for chapters will be moving to an **"Opt In" vs the "Opt Out"** process that it is now.
- 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

**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. Please help ensure they are reporting to the correct category too.

### **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** = August Presidents & Advisors meeting with the state office



# AgriLife Learn Store

NEW items & shirts are in stock now!!

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

HOW TO



*Click Here*

ORDER



*Thanks for your Support!*

## TMN License Plate

- Can be ordered on [myplates.com](https://myplates.com)
- FAQ on our website
- **\$30** for non-personalized OR **\$70** for personalized
- \$22 of each plate sold goes back to **TMN Program**
- <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmn-license-plate/>
- Quarterly Reports from DMV
- 687 total sold as of Q2 2024
- Need to get to 800





Show us your bumper!







## TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ENDOWMENT

*The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Endowment is to further enhance the Texas Master Naturalist Program, its chapters and volunteers, now and into the future, for the benefit of natural resource **education, conservation and stewardship.***

Started in 2016

Currently @ ~\$125,000

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

<https://masternaturalistendowment.org/>

To give directly, follow the link:

<http://give.am/TexasMasterNaturalist>

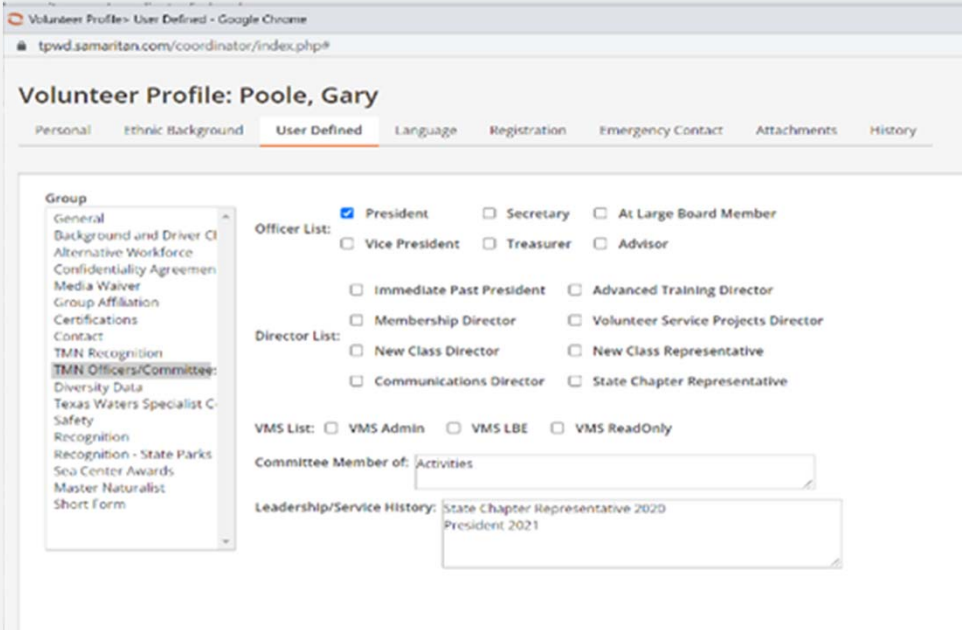


THANK YOU  
to all who  
have given!

# End of the Year Succession Planning

## Chapter Nominations and Elections are coming up soon!

- Incoming Presidents (if known) can also attend the Presidents mtg @ TMN Annual Meeting/October meeting
- Chapters, plan your New Year Board Retreats
- In December, don't forget to enter new leadership in VMS  
-Mark in Directors List



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

### Volunteer Profile: Poole, Gary

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

**Group**

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

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

Immediate Past President  Advanced Training Director

**Director List:**  Membership Director  Volunteer Service Projects Director  
 New Class Director  New Class Representative  
 Communications Director  State Chapter Representative

**VMS List:**  VMS Admin  VMS LBE  VMS ReadOnly

**Committee Member of:**

**Leadership/Service History:**

# Calendar Check

- Early Registration Closes - August 31<sup>st</sup>
- **TMNTuesday- September 10<sup>th</sup>**
- Contest Entries Due - September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Photo Art & Media Entries Due - September 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Presidents Meeting – September 24<sup>th</sup>**
- Chapter Memorial and Photo Show - September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Milestone Hours Reported - September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Registration Closes - September 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Exemplary Project Fair  
TMNTuesday - October 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Curriculum Book Order - October 12<sup>th</sup>
- **Presidents Meeting Luncheon at  
Annual Meeting – October 24<sup>th</sup>**
- **Joint TMNTuesday/Presidents  
Meeting – November 12<sup>th</sup>**
- **Joint TMNTuesday/Presidents  
Meeting – December 10<sup>th</sup>**

# Presidents Questions Submitted

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







## **Michelle Haggerty**

Texas Master Naturalist  
State Coordinator

979-587-2627

[mmhaggerty@tamu.edu](mailto:mmhaggerty@tamu.edu)



## **Mary Pearl Meuth**

Texas Master Naturalist  
Assistant State Coordinator

727-366-1144

[marypearl.meuth@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:marypearl.meuth@ag.tamu.edu)



## **Hannah Ferguson**

Texas Master Naturalist  
Program Support Specialist

512-763-6558

[hannah.ferguson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:hannah.ferguson@ag.tamu.edu)

**<http://txmn.tamu.edu>**



# The End



TM