

Training Director Round Table, June 17, 2025

Meeting will be recorded and added to the TMN Naturalist News page.
Last meeting was breakdown of the training survey
Different meeting today and will be more discussion based.

Housekeeping

Final round table will be at the Annual Meeting
Fill out training class form on the website for the fall classes
Commonly Asked Questions
 TMN Tuesday questions addressed for training
 Annual Meeting

Group Discussion

Questions from survey – 10 min per question

How do you thank instructors – not common practice to pay them, may provide gift and/or thank you note

 Create a photo tile with collage of each topic to give as gift, Shutterfly – Good Water
Chapter
 Shopping bag
 Walking stick
 Native plant seeds
 Flash drive
 TPWD and AgriLife speakers cannot accept money

What to consider for second training class in a year
 One session in person, second session is mostly zoom
 Two different sets of training committee, same presenters

Question in chat
 Discuss class sizes, how many trainees – most are 25 to 30

Survey results are on Naturalist News page: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/training-director-round-table-january-21-2025>

How to prep speakers - convey chapter's desired outcomes, expectations
 Email with the goals of the unit and personal suggestions based on their expertise
 Live conversation with speaker is best

 Speaker doc that listed objective for each class, projected agenda with timing, breakout activities, feedback on prior year's survey, listing of prework for trainees, live links, could edit, slide google doc (Blackland Prairie)

Anything that other chapters should incorporate
 Went to community college and held training at college, got younger students

First class everyone introduces themselves for 3-5 minutes
Use Slack for trainees and for other chapter members
After each topic, we open the outreach trailer to show how to use knowledge
Have a backup plan is important in case of bad weather
Difficult to keep full time students in chapter after training
Interview process the potential trainees, use a script

What approaches to increase underrepresented in their chapter?

Family events
Full scholarships – put question on application and they can email us
Offer discount to educators
Expanding outreach to various demographics – need younger people manning table
Bonding at socials where trainees meet their mentors
Discount for a couple sharing the textbook
Young people recruit their friends

How do large geographic chapters coordinate/work with trainees having to travel long distances for VH/AT

Encourage carpooling
Natural grouping of volunteers who work/live at project near them
Tried having training all over county - class prefers one meeting place for all training classes

Trying to move training locations to other areas of our service area
Meet in different locations

Incorporate our partner locations for field days. Helps us move across three counties and create volunteer connections for trainees.