

#TMNTuesday

January 13, 2026

State of the Program

with

Texas Master Naturalist State Program Office



T E X A S



Virtual Meeting Room Etiquette

We will get started right at 12:00pm Central.

TMNTuesdays Page:



If you are experiencing issues with WebEx, please refer to our WebEx Help Guide -
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>



Chat function is open for on-topic discussion only. Please be professional and respectful in all comments & questions in the chat room.



These sessions typically will run for up to **ONE** hour and can count for the amount of time you watch (typically a single AT hour). The **recording** will be posted to our website by the end of the following day. If you missed the live webinar, watching the recording can count for AT credit also.



Attendees are not able to unmute during the WebEx Event. Please use the Chat Box to ask questions.

Help Support Future Events Like This!



Scan this code to complete a short, **voluntary** survey so that we can continue to remain eligible for funding that helps pay for events like this.

OR

Click the link to answer the short **voluntary** survey so that we can continue to remain eligible for funding that helps pay for events like this:

https://survey.tpwd.state.tx.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=96KM5lml&utm_source=QR&utm_medium=print&utm_campaign=usfws-survey2023#

Thank you for your participation!

Agenda

- 2025 In Review and 2026 Program Plans
 - 2024 Annual Report
 - 2025 TMNTuesdays
 - 2025 Annual Meeting
 - Governing Document Schedule
 - Conservation Wrangler
 - Governing Document Updates
 - TMN Brand Guide
 - VMS Updates
 - 2026 Volunteer Training Courses
 - 2026 Chapter Anniversaries
 - 2026 TMNTuesdays
 - 2026 Re-certification Pin
 - 2026 Virtual Volunteer Fair
 - 2026 Annual Meeting
 - Pollinators for Texas
 - AgriLife Learn Store
 - TMN License Plate
 - TMN Endowment
 - Friends of TMN
 - TMN Resources
 - TMN New Year Resolutions

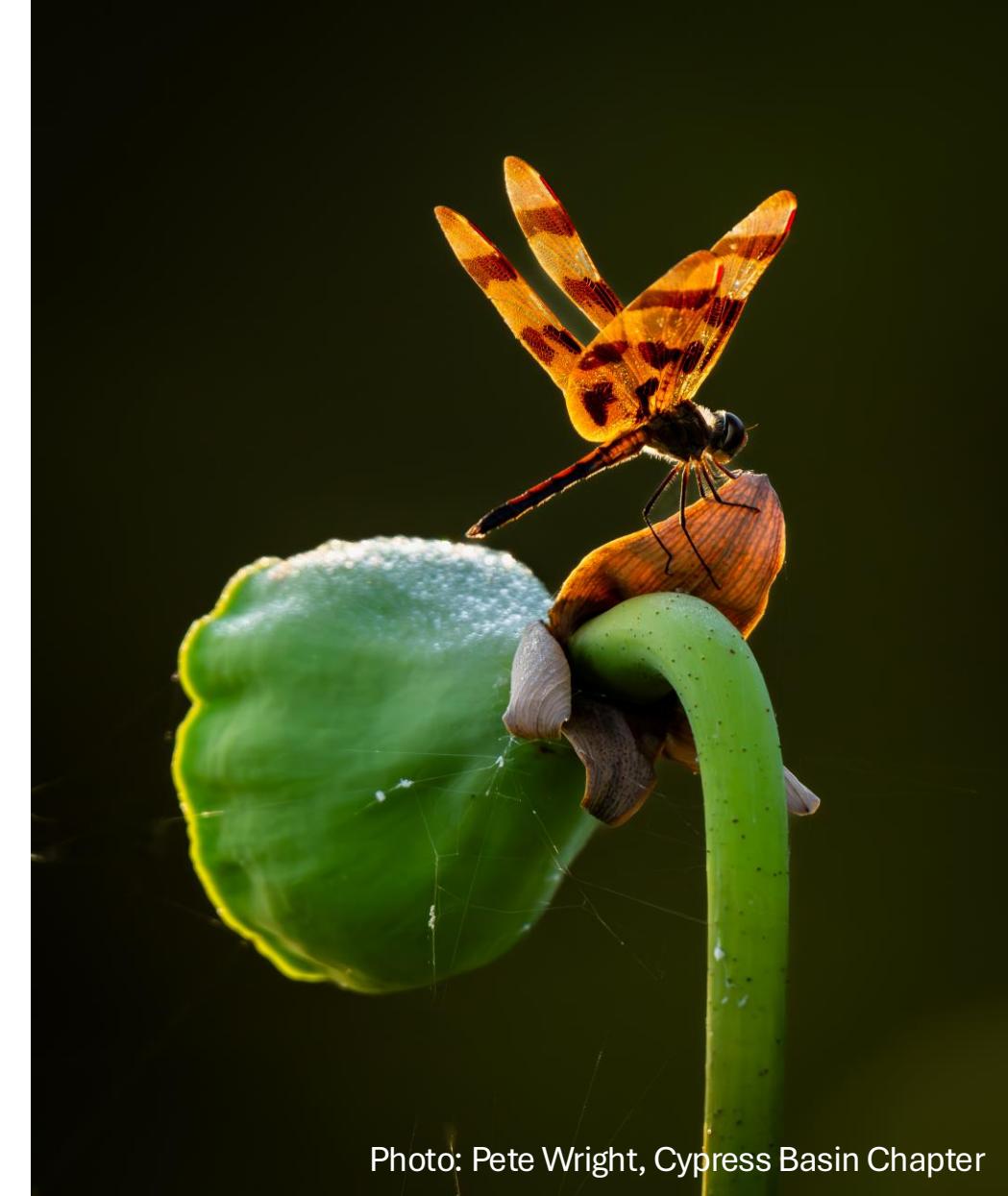


Photo: Pete Wright, Cypress Basin Chapter

State Office

Michelle Haggerty – State Program Leader & Coordinator

Mary Pearl Meuth – Assistant Program Coordinator

Hannah Ferguson – Program Support Specialist

Cristian Lopez – Student Program Aide



2025 IN REVIEW



2024 and SOON the 2025 Annual Report

- You are the people who make this program what it is!
- You have a role in contributing to the next milestones – for you, – for the program in 2024 and beyond!



Master Naturalists contributed more than **578,100 hours** of service—a new record!—in 2024 and more than **7.5 million hours** to date. Service hours in 2024 were valued at **\$13.30 million** and more than **\$170 million** since the program's inception. There were **712 NEW members** trained in 2024 and **17,412 members** have been trained to date.



Dedicated to the beneficial management of Texas' natural resources

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Get excited and join us for our Texas Master Naturalist **2025 Annual Meeting**—to be held October 16-19 in College Station, Texas!



Show your love for TMN and provide direct financial support by purchasing a **TMN specialty license plate**! Anyone can purchase one and \$22 of each annual fee comes to TMN.



#**TMNTuesday** are a way to learn about conservation issues in Texas, earn TMN advanced training hours, and interact with natural resource professionals from across the state.



Pollinators for Texas—a collaboration between TMN and Texas-based grocer H-E-B—aims to benefit Texas communities through the restoration and creation of pollinator-friendly habitats. The initiative awarded 16 TMN Chapters with funding in 2024 and launched its second year with increased funding.



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



TXMN.TAMU.EDU



The Texas Master Naturalist Program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



2024 Program Accomplishments (2025 report coming soon)



2025 TMNTuesdays



Online Webinar Speaker Series
#TMNTuesdays

2025

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
 State of the Program	 The Greater Roadrunner: 2025 Recertification Pin	 Stewards & Statutes: The Legal Side of Texas Wildlife Education	 Virtual Volunteer Fair	 Stewardship Lessons from Aldo Leopold	 Shell by Shell: Community-Based Oyster Gardening for Ecosystem Recovery	 Coastal Fisheries and the Saltwater Fishes of the Texas Gulf Coast	 Combatting Chronic Wasting Disease through Citizen Science	 Project Fair	 From Passion to Profession: The Unexpected Power of Volunteering with TMN	 New World Screwworm: A Reemerging Threat to Texas	 State Program Document Updates: A Look at the Brand Guide, CMOP, and More

Did you know you can scroll to the bottom of our TMNTuesday webpage to watch recordings from previous years? Check them out!

T E X A S
Master Naturalist™



Online Webinar Speaker Series
#TMNTuesdays

2025

RECORDINGS ARE LIVE!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

T E X A S
Master Naturalist™

- 2025 TMNTuesdays are no longer available for AT Hours
- Still available to watch on our YouTube Channel though (think: Information for information's sake)



TMN Tuesday Metrics from 2025

Overview:

- **5,159 total live attendees!**
- 1,836 unique watchers
- 11,605 YouTube recording views
(as of 1.7.25)

Month	Title	Attended
January	State of The TMN Program	338
February	The Greater Roadrunner: 2025 Recertification Pin	792
March	Stewards & Statues: The legal side of Texas wildlife education	475
April	Virtual Volunteer Fair	277
May	Stewardship Lessons from Aldo Leopold	534
June	Shell by Shell: Community-Based Oyster Gardening for Ecosystem Recovery	378
July	Coastal Fisheries and The Saltwater Fishes of the Texas Gulf Coast	368
August	Combatting Chronic Wasting Disease through Citizen Science	404
September	2025 TMN Annual Meeting Chapter Project Fair	275
October	From Passion to Profession: The Unexpected Power of Volunteering with the Texas Master Naturalists	650
November	New World Screwworm: A Re-emerging Threat to Texas	335
December	State Program Document Updates: A look at the Brand Guide, CMOP and More	333

Recap of the 2025 Annual Meeting

Overview:

- 569 – Total Registrants
 - 121 in first hour
 - 351 in first day
- 45 – Chapters Attending
 - $45/48 = 93\%$
- 130 – Classroom sessions
- 25 – Field sessions
- 170 – Speakers
- 24 – Sponsors
- 20 – Vendors
- 538 – Photo, Art & Media Contest entries
- 49 – Student Poster Expo Entries
- 13 – Video Entries
- 8 – Project Fair Entries

Award Winners:

Project Fair Winners

- **First:** Glow Patrol Firefly Survey, Galveston Bay Area Chapter
- **Second:** From Balconies to Backyards Project-Coexisting in a Warmer Drier Climate, Good Water Chapter
- **Third:** Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area Project, Elm Fork Chapter

Video Contest Winners

- **First:** “Patsy Glenn Refuge”, Hays County Chapter
- **Second:** “Texas Master Naturalist Night at the Ballpark – Mid-Coast & South Texas Chapters”, South Texas Chapter
- **Third:** “Join the Rolling Plains Chapter of the TMN Program”, Rolling Plains Chapter

Photo, Art & Media Contest

- **Best of Show:** “What’s Up Buttercup?”, Art: Sewing & Stitchery, Sue Frary, Indian Trail Chapter



Triennial Reviews of TMN Governing Docs

- The Texas Master Naturalist™ Program governing documents are the:
 - Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct
 - Bylaws
 - Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP)
 - Chapter Operating Handbook (COH)
- All Texas Master Naturalist Governing Documents can be found on the Chapter Documents Page:
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>



 Texas Master Naturalist Program

Home About Naturalist News For Chapters 2025 Annual Meeting #TMNTuesdays Pollinators for Texas Search

Texas Master Naturalist Program Policies

All members of the Texas Master Naturalist Program will adhere to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct as established by the Texas Master Naturalist Program.



Code of Ethics

[Code of Ethics](#)



Standards of Conduct

[Standards of Conduct](#)

Governing Documents



Roadmap for Governing Documents

[Roadmap for Governing Documents](#)



Chapter Bylaws

[Chapter Bylaws](#)



Chapter Management and Operations Protocols

[Chapter Management and Operations Protocols](#)



Chapter Operating Handbook

[Chapter Operating Handbook](#)

Additional Operating Resources

Roadmap for Governing Documents

This document serves as the roadmap for the Texas Master Naturalist Program's governing documents.

[Roadmap with Adoption Timelines – 2026 Version](#)

Chapter Bylaws

This state Bylaws template must be used by all Texas Master Naturalist chapters to adopt and amend their Chapter Bylaws according to Article X, Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws. The effective date of this state Bylaws template is January 1, 2026.

Chapter Management and Operations Protocols

This document is intended to provide the minimal requirements for Texas Master Naturalist chapter administration and to assist in initiating, developing, and managing a local chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. It is intended also to clarify and amplify articles of the Chapter Bylaws and to aid in developing a local Chapter Operating Handbook.

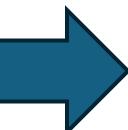
Chapter Operating Handbook Framework

This document is intended to guide the TMN chapter in developing its own Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) in compliance with the TMN Program governing documents. The COH is a resource for all members of the chapter, detailing day-to-day operational procedures to be followed, and it should be shared with all chapter members. All local options, policies, and procedures contained in the COH must meet the requirements of Chapter Bylaws and the TMN Chapter Management and Operations Protocols.

TMN Governing Documents

Since Fall 2022

- Documents put on regular 3-year review and update cycle:
- Comments & Feedback collected through website –
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/governing-documents-feedback-form/>
- 2023 – Year 1
- 2024 – Year 2
- 2025 – Year 3
- Summer 2025 – Review feedback & edits – Compile
- Fall 2025 – Completed updates made & sent out
- 2026 – New Documents Year 1 and cycle starts again



TMN Governing Documents

Triennial Timeline first implemented 2023, REPEATS 2026

- Documents reviewed on regular 3-year cycle:
- Work with and through your chapter to provide comments & feedback collected through website – <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/governing-documents-feedback-form/>
- Comments and feedback being collected through Summer 2028
- Next document update would be 2028 (where needed) for implementation in 2029



Other TMN Governing Documents

Other Documents with updates (or reviews) pending

- Guidance for Citizen Science Volunteer Service Hours – *reviewed, update pending*
- Chapter Records Retention Policy
- Insurance & Liability 101
- Discipline/Removing Members
- Chapter Conflict of Interest
- Best Practices for Photographing Minors – *some covered in Brand Guide update*

Additional Operating Resources



[Brand Guide](#)



[Chapter Records Retention Policy](#)



[Insurance and Liability 101](#)



[Disciplining or Removing Members](#)



[Community Science Volunteer Log Guide](#)



[Chapter Conflict of Interest](#)



[Governing Documents Feedback Form](#)



[Best Practices for Photographing Minors](#)

[Texas Master Naturalist Brand Guide](#)

For the Master Naturalist program, establishing and maintaining a strong identity are crucial for continued success with prospective volunteers and instructors, funding agencies and potential consumers of the education and services we offer.

[Chapter Records Retention Policy](#)

The Chapters Records Retention Policy was developed to ensure full legal compliance, confidentiality of donors, accuracy and efficiency, and is to be a guide for chapters to use as they develop their local policy based on their local needs and board strategies.

[TMN Insurance and Liability Protection 101](#)

This informational page will discuss the types of insurance policies and other liability protection offerings currently available for the statewide Texas Master Naturalist Program. The suggested insurance policies each Chapter should research and those that individual Texas Master Naturalist volunteers may wish to research further on their own. This information is not intended to be legal advice, and Chapters should consult with their own attorney if they have questions about specific laws or legal requirements.

[Incident Report Form](#)

[Process for Disciplining or Removing Members](#)

This document explains the procedures that must be followed to investigate complaints and possible disciplinary action toward a member of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. It complements the general policy statement for disciplining or removing members in *Chapter Management and Operations Protocols* Section 8.

[Guidance for Citizen Science Volunteer Service Hours](#)

The use of apps for collecting natural history data has greatly expanded in recent years with two platforms, iNaturalist and eBird, becoming widely accepted and utilized by conservation agencies and organizations across the country and globe, including the Texas Master Naturalist Program and its sponsors, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This linked Guidance Document below is a resource of best practices to aid TMN chapters in developing a consistent application of volunteer service reporting for these platforms and those activities related to them.

[Chapter Conflict of Interest \(Form\)](#)

A fillable form to be used by chapters in the need for Board Attestation.

[Governing Documents Feedback Form](#)

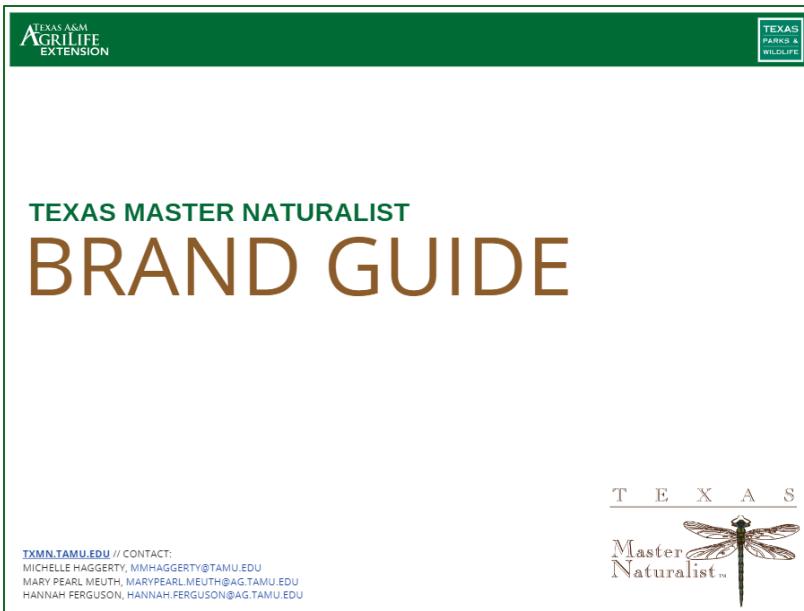
For use in providing feedback, questions, comments about the governing documents of the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

[Best Practices for Photographing Minors](#)

Reference this document for the best practices when photographing minors during chapter events.

TMN Brand Guidelines

- New brand guide is on the website!
- Chapter templates available for use behind password protected page. Presidents: Check your email for updated password.

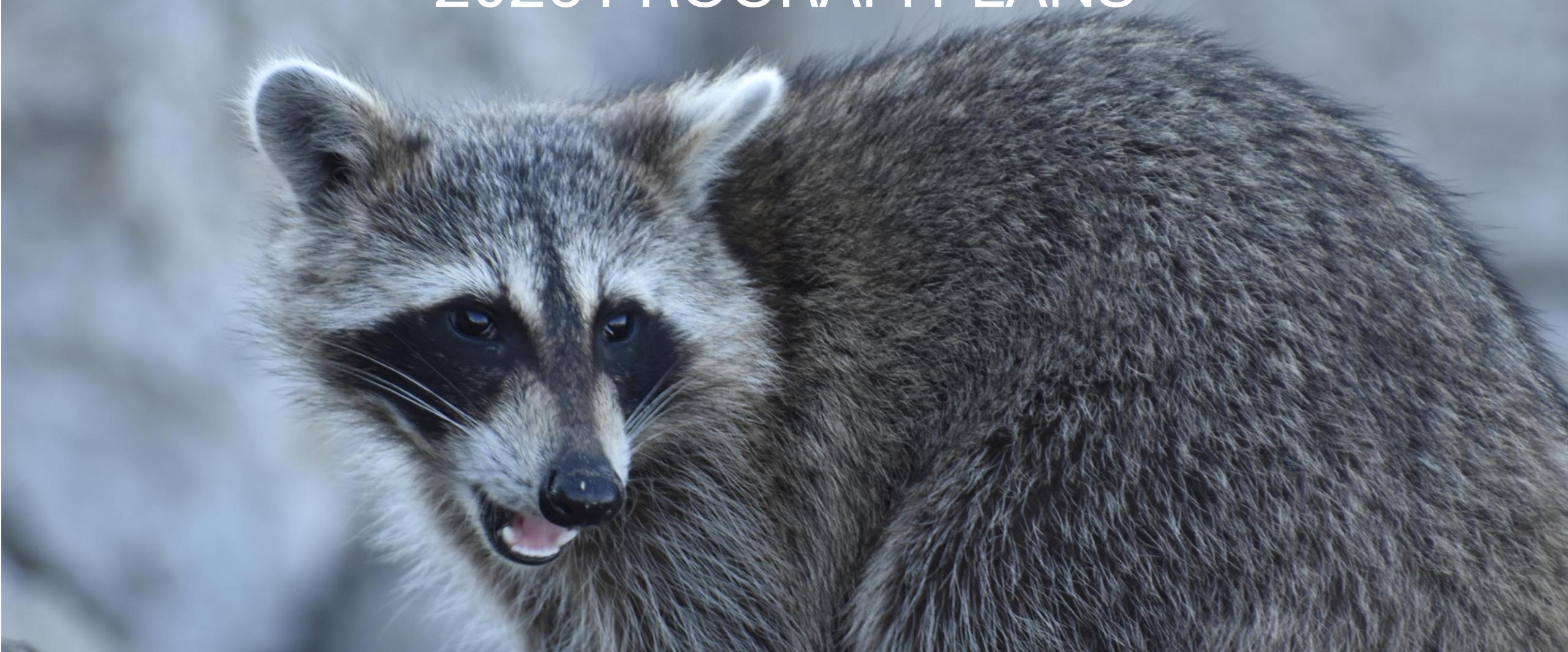


Texas Master Naturalists

For a great 2025!



2026 PROGRAM PLANS



Priorities for 2026!

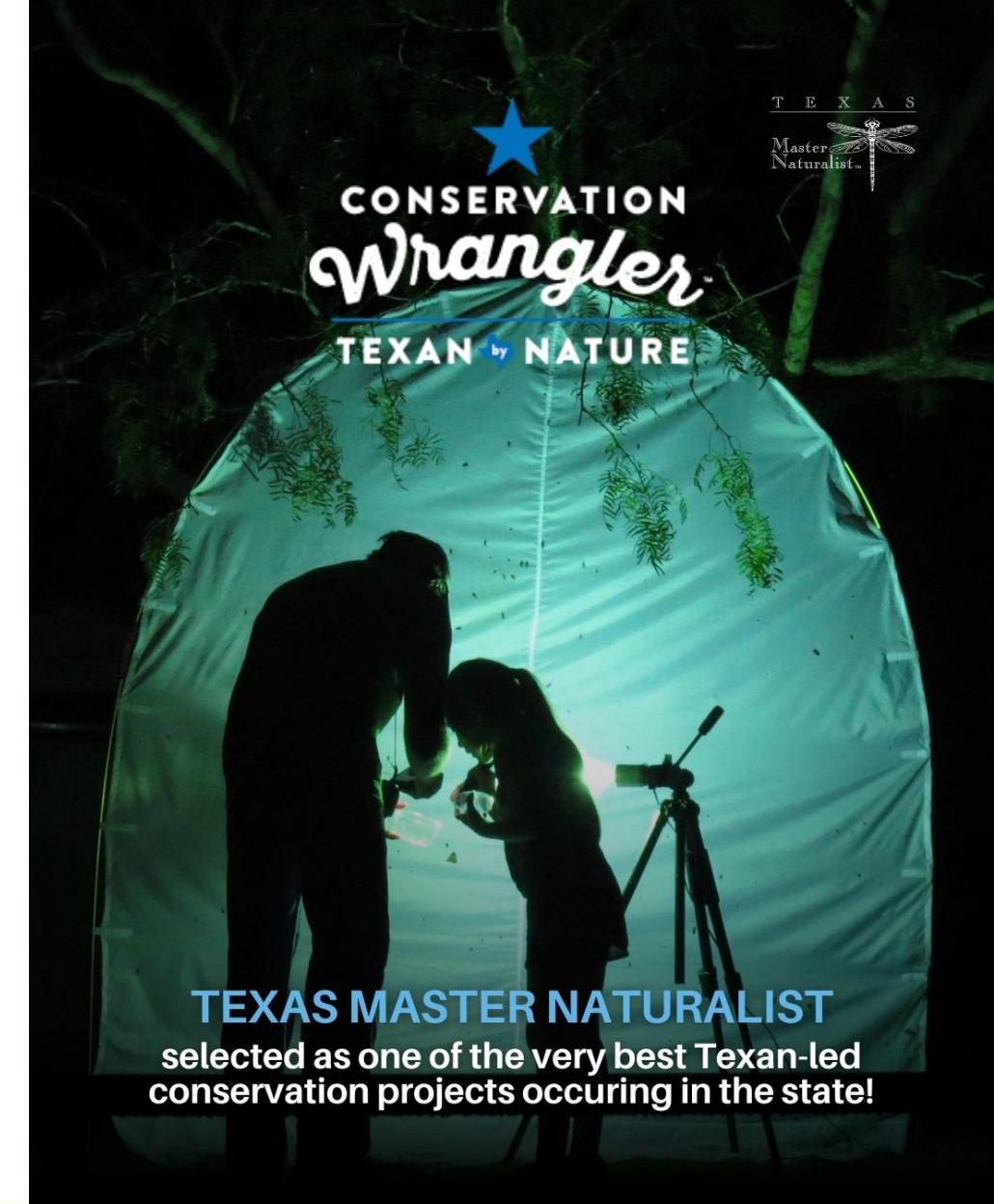
- Governing Documents
 - Chapter Presidents received email in December with adoption process.
 - All chapters need to review and adopt Bylaws by April 2026
 - Updated CMOP operational January 1, 2026
 - Review and Update remaining "Additional Operating Resources"
- Conservation Wrangler Strategic Plan
- Pollinators for Texas Project
 - 2025 Mid-Year report will be due this month
 - 2026 Project Launch
- TMN Curriculum Update
 - Working through final revision of raw manuscripts
 - NOT expected for completion until at least 2028
- TMN VMS Update

Conservation Wrangler



Project Timeline:

- Thank you for completing surveys this past fall!
- Next steps to analyze data and begin developing a strategic plan
- Goal for completion September 2026!





TMN VMS Update

Our TMN VMS continues to undergo a re-fresh & re-build to enable updates and new features.

For our TMN Volunteers:

- Overall, no changes for the end user (TMN reporting volunteers) yet

For Chapter TMN VMS Admins:

- Expanded the TMN VMS Administrative Team for the conversion
- We anticipate consolidation in the next few months
- All information will be communicated to VMS Admins as we learn it

Reminders to our Membership: Using the TMN Title

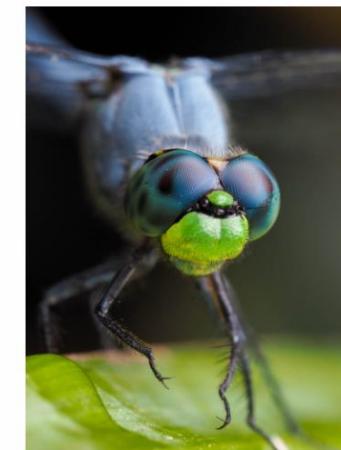
- The Texas Master Naturalist title, your Chapter name and your Program/Chapter membership should never be used in connection with advocacy or to invoke policy.
- TMN Title and Certification should never be used for personal gain or profit.
- REMEMBER: The TMN logo and title are trademarks. Chapters (and members through their chapters) must seek state office approval when adding them to chapter t-shirts, chapter merchandise, chapter and project 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/>

2026 Volunteer Training



Chapter Leaders: Update your Chapter's 2026 info via the Basic Training Class info 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 2026 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/2026-volunteer-training-courses/>



Lauren Shugart, Balcones Canyonlands Chapter

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.

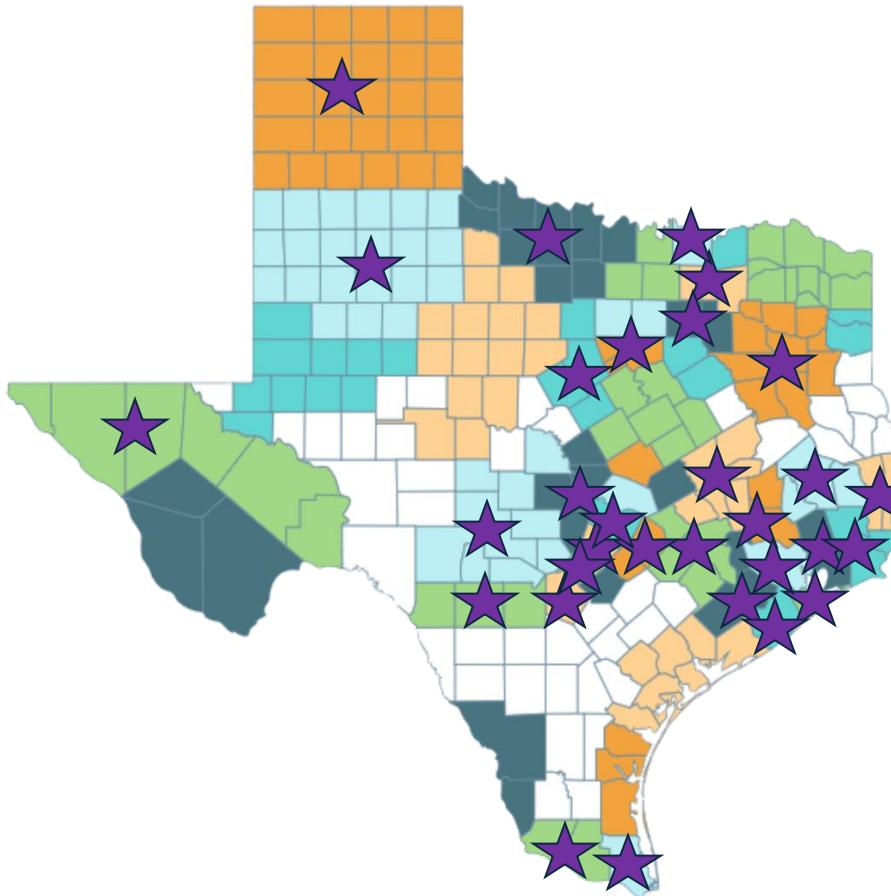
Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.



2026 New Year/Spring Training Classes

- Alamo Area
- Blackland Prairie
- Bluestem
- Brazos Valley
- Brushy Canyons
- Capital Area
- Coastal Prairie
- Cradle of Texas
- East Texas
- Galveston Bay Area
- Gideon Lincecum
- Gulf Coast
- Hays County
- Heartwood
- Highland Lakes
- Hill Country
- Lindheimer
- Longleaf Ridge
- Lost Pines
- Lower Trinity Basin
- North Texas
- Panhandle
- Piney Wood Lakes
- Prairie Oaks
- Rio Brazos
- Rio Grande Valley
- Rolling Plains
- Sabine-Neches
- South Plains
- South Texas Border
- Trans-Pecos

31 Chapters have updated
their 2026 trainings classes!

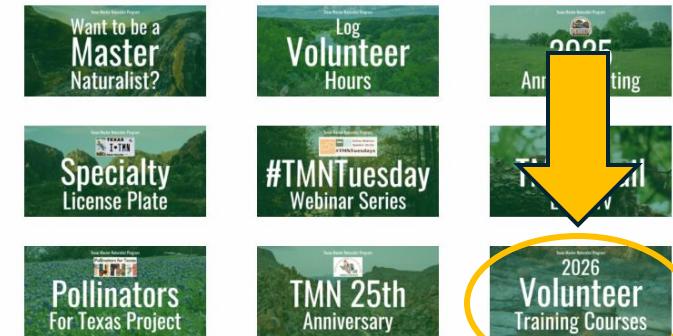


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2026 Chapter Anniversaries

We have 8 chapters celebrating in 2026!

15th Anniversary

- Bois d'Arc Chapter
- Longleaf Ridge Chapter

20th Anniversary

- Blackland Prairie Chapter
- Llano Estacado Chapter
- South Plains Chapter

25th Anniversary

- Cradle of Texas Chapter
- Galveston Bay Area Chapter
- Trans Pecos Chapter

16 Chapters celebrating an Anniversary in the next two years!

- Put this on your radar to plan and celebrate
- Connect with chapters who celebrated anniversaries last year to get great ideas

• Looking ahead to 2027 (8 chapters)

- Alamo Area will celebrate 30 years!
- Hill Country = 25 years
- Rio Grande Valley = 25 years
- Rolling Plains = 25 years
- South Texas = 25 years
- Bluestem = 15 years
- Lower Trinity Basin = 10 years
- Prairie Oaks = 10 years

2026 TMNTuesdays

- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 12pm CT
- Up to 1 Hour Advanced Training (sometimes more)
- Watch Live or Recorded
- Speakers & Topics Announced Monthly
- Recordings added to website afterwards
- October's TMNTuesday will be LIVE from the Annual Meeting again!



Texas Master Naturalist 2026 Recertification Pin



Bobcat

Lynx rufus

*Available for order by Chapter leadership mid-February

*Meet the Bobcat more in our February #TMNTuesday!

2026 Virtual Volunteer Fair

- Our April TMNTuesday
- SAVE THE DATE: April 14, 2026
- More details to come!

How you can help:

- Help share the proposals request in the new year with project leaders in need (Statewide focused needed!)
- Save the date and encourage other members to attend and volunteer with these projects

Photo: Brenda Clark, Blackland Prairie Chapter



2026 TMN Annual Meeting



WACO, TEXAS!

- Dates TBD with Baylor Football Schedule.

Pollinators for Texas Updates

- 2024-2025 Project Awards Annual Report has landed! Access it from our website or use the QR code below
- 2025 awarded projects in progress
 - Mid-Year Report: chapters, please ensure a form is submitted by **11:59 PM Friday, January 30th**. *We ask that the most up-to-date information is provided.*
 - Project photos are greatly appreciated and can be submitted through the mid-year report google form or emailed anytime throughout the project.
 - *In order for H-E-B to have access to the photos, all individuals within photos must sign a PfT media release form.*
- 2026 Project application information coming in April
 - Anticipate project funding up to \$4,000

Pollinators for Texas



a partnership with



24-25 Annual Report



AgriLife Learn Store



HOW TO

Click Here

ORDER

891 plates
sold since
June 2021!



Thanks for your Support!

TMN License Plate

- Can be ordered on myplates.com
 - *ANYONE can order a plate and show their support!
- FAQ on our website
- **\$30** for standard, non-personalized
- **\$70** for personalized
- \$22 of each plate sold goes back to **TMN Program**
- <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmn-license-plate/>

Personalized



Non-Personalized







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 @ ~\$225,000

- 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!

Friends of TMN – A Support Organization for 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.

Officers:

President: Donna Cole

Vice President: Julie Vickers

Secretary: Carolyn Langlinais

Treasurer: Jeannette Geiman



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

Resources for your TMN Journey

NATURALIST NEWS:

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

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 & orgs) share & post information and trainings to each of these resources.
- Events added are not always applicable to all chapters
- 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/>



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Email Listserv Page:



New Years Resolutions as a TMN!

1. Report all Service and AT to VMS as soon as possible.
2. Attend every #TMNTuesday in 2026.
3. Attend the 2026 Annual Meeting in Waco.
4. Learn something new.
5. Volunteer and get outside more.
6. Pay chapter dues.
7. Get Recertified to get the bobcat pin.(40 VS + 8 AT)
8. Attend more Chapter Meetings.
9. Get a TMN license plate!
10. Travel and visit other Master Naturalists.



THANK YOU

