Dear Future Texas Master Naturalist,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Bois d'Arc Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program. The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) program 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. This program will enrich the participant's understanding and appreciation of the natural resources of the state of Texas, particularly within the local ecoregion, through interesting presentations by local experts covering a wide range of topics from botany to land stewardship. Classroom learning will be reinforced by hands-on field trips in local ecosystems. Throughout the course, you will learn strategies for helping others recognize and appreciate those resources. Additional information can be found on our state website at https://txmn.tamu.edu/ and our chapter website at https://txmn.org/boisdarc/ .

Information on the 2026-27 Bois D'Arc TMN Initial Training Course follows:

- The Initial Training course will have two semesters. The Fall semester will begin on October 10, 2026 with classroom sessions on 3 consecutive Saturdays from 9:00 to 1:30. Monthly one-hour Zoom sessions will be held in November, 2026 and January – March, 2027. The course will conclude with the Spring semester consisting of 3 classroom sessions and 3 field trips on consecutive Saturdays beginning on April 3, 2027.
- The course will provide 40 hours of Initial Training to satisfy the Initial Training requirement for certification as a Texas Master Naturalist. Additional advanced training and volunteer service is needed to complete certification.
- The classroom sessions will be held at the Texas A&M Extension Service – Fannin County office in Bonham from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. The monthly Zoom sessions will be webinars logged into from your home. The field trips, covering forestry, wetlands, and prairie ecosystems, will be a minimum of four hours on-site at locations throughout the chapter area.
- The statewide curriculum textbook for the course is *Texas Master Naturalist* (2015, eds. Haggerty and Meuth). The student must have access to the textbook for class preparation. The individual applicant fee of $100 includes the textbook. Two students in the same household may share a book by paying a joint applicant fee of $165, which includes one textbook. All applicant fees include a class notebook and other materials needed for the class for each student.
- All applicant fees include chapter dues for each student through the end of 2027.
- The class will be limited to the first 12 participants who return a completed application and training fee. *Participants must be 18 years of age or older.*
- Incomplete applications (with missing data, commitment blocks not initialed, or no fee enclosed) will be returned to the applicant with any fee submitted and may cause the applicant to lose their place in class.
- The field sessions will involve walking in fields and/or rough terrain. Please advise as soon as possible of auxiliary service or aid that you require.

*You will become a Bois d'Arc Texas Master Naturalist Member-in-Training when you take your first Initial Training class and have passed a mandatory criminal background check conducted by the state TMN office.* While completing the Initial Training class sessions, a Member-in-Training may participate in all chapter activities, including voting, and start earning Volunteer Service and Advanced Training hours to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist. A wide range of chapter-approved Volunteer Service projects and Advanced Training sessions is available. Volunteer Service projects of your own interests and design can be approved by the chapter. To earn certification, a TMN Member-in-Training must do the following:

- Attend all Initial Training class sessions (or complete makeup sessions for missed classes),
- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of Volunteer Service on chapter-approved projects, and
- Complete a minimum of 8 hours of chapter-approved Advanced Training.

To maintain Certified TMN status, one must do the following annually:

- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of Volunteer Service on chapter-approved projects,
- Complete a minimum of 8 hours of chapter-approved Advanced Training, and
- Pay chapter dues, if applicable.

***To join the Initial Training Class, please return your completed application(s) and fee to the following address.*** Please enclose a check for $100.00 (individual) or $165.00 (2 people in same household sharing a textbook), payable to "Bois d'Arc Chapter Texas Master Naturalist". If submitting for two people sharing a textbook, please include a completed and signed application for each applicant. Mail the completed application(s) and fee to:

Bois d'Arc Texas Master Naturalist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Fannin County
2505 N. Center St
Bonham, TX 75418

***The application deadline is October 1, 2026.*** The application and fee may also be dropped off at the above address.

Thank you for your interest in the Bois d'Arc TMN Initial Training Course. Please address any questions to boisdarctmn.training@gmail.com.

You will be contacted once we have received your application. We look forward to learning with you as you start your journey toward becoming a Texas Master Naturalist.

Naturally,

Debra Jones
New Class Co-Director
boisdarctmn.training@gmail.com

Linda Brinlee
New Class Co-Director
boisdarctmn.training@gmail.com

The Texas Master Naturalist Program is coordinated jointly by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service** provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity. **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, and gender, pursuant to state and federal law.