

BPTMN Texas Master Naturalists 2015 Class – 2/15/2015 (repetition intentional ☺)

T E X A S



Master Naturalist™

Blackland Prairie Chapter

Sponsored by






Agenda

- Program Mission & History
- What BPTMN Has Done
- VH & AT Hours Entry
- Web Stuff
- Communication

crecamp - 2015

The Mission – Why?

“To develop corps of well-trained “Master Volunteers” to provide education, outreach and service dedicated toward the beneficial management of natural areas and resources within their communities for the State of Texas.”

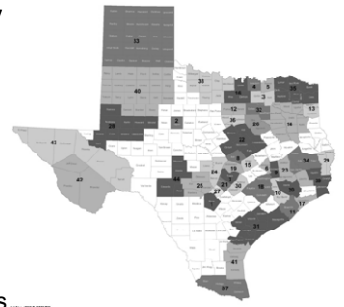




Program History

- **March 1997** – 1st Local Chapter est. in San Antonio
- **March 1998** – Statewide program est. through a TPWD-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Partnership
- **August 1999** – 1st State Program Coordinator
- **2006** – Blackland Prairie Chapter established
- **2008** – TMN State Program celebrates 10th year
- **2013** – TMN State Program celebrates 15th year

Present Day

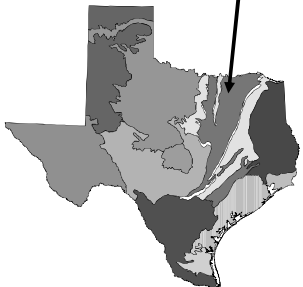
- 42 Chapters
- 370+ Partners
- 200 counties
- Over 78% of Texas
- 8,850+ volunteers
- 82 chapter advisors
- TPWD
- AgriLife Extension



1. Adams County	11. El Paso County	21. Garza County	31. Hill County	41. Kinney County	51. Loving County	61. Pecos County	71. Real County	81. Terrell County	91. Van Horn County
2. Bandera County	12. El Paso County	22. Garza County	32. Hill County	42. Kinney County	52. Loving County	62. Pecos County	72. Real County	82. Terrell County	92. Van Horn County
3. Brewster County	13. El Paso County	23. Garza County	33. Hill County	43. Kinney County	53. Loving County	63. Pecos County	73. Real County	83. Terrell County	93. Van Horn County
4. Brewster County	14. El Paso County	24. Garza County	34. Hill County	44. Kinney County	54. Loving County	64. Pecos County	74. Real County	84. Terrell County	94. Van Horn County
5. Brewster County	15. El Paso County	25. Garza County	35. Hill County	45. Kinney County	55. Loving County	65. Pecos County	75. Real County	85. Terrell County	95. Van Horn County
6. Brewster County	16. El Paso County	26. Garza County	36. Hill County	46. Kinney County	56. Loving County	66. Pecos County	76. Real County	86. Terrell County	96. Van Horn County
7. Brewster County	17. El Paso County	27. Garza County	37. Hill County	47. Kinney County	57. Loving County	67. Pecos County	77. Real County	87. Terrell County	97. Van Horn County
8. Brewster County	18. El Paso County	28. Garza County	38. Hill County	48. Kinney County	58. Loving County	68. Pecos County	78. Real County	88. Terrell County	98. Van Horn County
9. Brewster County	19. El Paso County	29. Garza County	39. Hill County	49. Kinney County	59. Loving County	69. Pecos County	79. Real County	89. Terrell County	99. Van Horn County
10. Brewster County	20. El Paso County	30. Garza County	40. Hill County	50. Kinney County	60. Loving County	70. Pecos County	80. Real County	90. Terrell County	100. Van Horn County

Ecoregions of Texas

Our Blackland Prairie



What Master Naturalist Volunteers do for our Sponsoring Agencies

- Assist in addressing our agency missions
- Help to Improve public access to the outdoors
- Increase support and awareness for conservation on public and private lands




Program Impacts (1997-2014)

- **8,852+ Volunteers** have been trained since program start
- **2.434 Million+ hours** of community outreach & service projects—with a value of more than **\$47 Million** to date
- **Over 200,000+ youth and adults** reached annually and over **4.1 Million** to date
- **206,300+ acres** of habitat enhanced to date
- Over **1,850+ miles** of interpretive trails developed or improved to date
- **31 National, State and Local Awards**
- We support Urban Wildlife Biology and Natural Resources, promote Conservation Partnerships and improve Science and Data Collection



What We Cannot Do

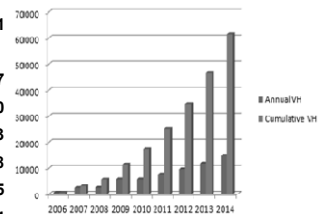
- May not accept unsolicited gifts or gratuities
- Cannot use the TMN® Certification to sell products or enhance your business
- Cannot use the TMN® Title to lobby local, state or federal government
 - The TMN title may not be used by groups or individuals as they participate in political advocacy
 - *You are encouraged to be politically and ecologically active, but do not wear your badge or invoke the TMN program to do so*

The Blackland Prairie Chapter 2014 Statistics

- The entire chapter had
 - 14,886 hours of Volunteer Service (over 7 man-years of VH in 2014)
 - 1,754 hours of Advanced Training
 - 80 members recertified in 2014
 - 106 Members in Good Standing
 - 250 on Yahoo email reflector

BPTMN Chapter Cumulative Volunteer Hours

- 2006 – 686
- 2007 – 2,500 AT 361
- 2008 – 2,545
- 2009 – 5,804 AT 707
- 2010 – 5,816 AT 950
- 2011 – 7,714 AT 1,393
- 2012 – 9,634 AT 1,328
- 2013 – 11,928 AT 1,565
- 2014 – 14,886 AT 1,754



Cumulative through 2014
VH 61,513 AT 8,058

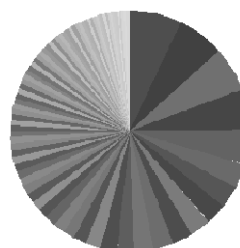
Where We Spent Our Time

14886 total VH hours
75% in the top four



- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Lenoirville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LEELA)
- Connemara Conservancy Foundation
- Heritage Farmstead Museum
- Hagerman Wildlife Refuge
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- YMCA Collin County Adventure Camp (YMCA)
- Wylie Parks and Recreation
- City of Plano
- Richardson ISD Environmental Studies Center

And Who Worked Those Hours



- 108 people contributed VH hours
- 80 recertified (e.g. >40 VH & >8 AT)
- 4 people contributed to 25% of the total 14,886 Volunteer Hours
- 13 people contributed to 50%

Obviously we have some over-achievers 😊

So ... How do you get in on the Fun



Certification Requirements

- **40 hours** of classroom and field instruction (This is what you are doing right now)
- At the end of this class work and fieldwork you will receive our Chapter's class diploma
- But you are still in training until you have also accumulated
 - 40 additional hours of approved service projects
 - 8 additional hours of approved advanced training
 - See the Yellow Sheet you received two copies of at the first class for details.
- At this point let the president and education chair know that you think you have completed your requirements
- Once confirmed you will receive the State Certification Certificate, name badge and initial certification dragonfly



"Basic Training"

40 hours of classroom and field experience:
(do *not* enter these hours as VH or AT)

- Present day and historical naturalists
- Traditional naturalist disciplines
- Land management and land use history
- Ecological concepts relative to our ecosystem (The Blackland Prairie)
- Ecoregions of Texas
- Management of natural systems
- Interpretation and communication



Typical Class Field Trips

(do *not* enter these hours as VH or AT)

- 3-6 Hours each outside doing *something*
 - John Bunker Sands Wetland Center
 - Manasseri Farms
 - Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)
 - Heard or Connemara Birding trips
 - Sulfur River Geology on the Bus & Fossil Hunt (maybe)

Plus 40 Volunteer Hours

If you love doing it, it's not work



40 hours Volunteer Service:

- It's up to you to decide where/what non-class activities you want to do
- Some Chapters are more project oriented
- Our Chapter is more individual activity oriented
- We have ~ 50 Partners
~ 125 Activities within those partners (see handout)
- If your particular passion isn't somewhere in the above, find something that is and we'll work to add it

Plus 8 Advanced Training Hours

Stay Current – Things Change

8 hours of advanced training:



- Again, your choice but not something you did in class or field
- Focuses on volunteers' area of interest
- Is mainly field oriented
- Takes advantage of local partnerships
- Is directed at specific programs in need of trained volunteers

Once You've Certified

Maintaining certification is your responsibility

- Requires 40VH & 8AT annually
- Requires a new Background Check every three years
- Stay involved in your local Chapter meetings and projects (most meetings get you 1-hour of AT)
- Get involved with a Partner Program you like
- Keep accurate records – this means putting your time in on a regular basis – at least monthly
- Don't cultivate personal biases or agendas
- Use the Texas Master Naturalist title and certification appropriately

Hours Entry Stuff

- Hours Entry
 - Please put your VH & AT hours in at least Monthly.
 - Important but easy to forget.
 - These hours are used by state and local AgrLife offices
 - December 31st is a hard cutoff date
 - The Description and Notes fields will not show up at the bottom of your summary page but we do keep them in the archives and they will reappear if you edit an entry

Web Site Usage Tips

- Most links are *not* underlined or blue but instead appear as bold olive green. We will eventually fix this
- Use the *Print Friendly* button at the bottom of every page to print a page instead of your browser's Print or ctrl-P
- The Info Tab has a lot of information – explore it
- Some pages (ex. member contacts, hours entry) require you to be logged in

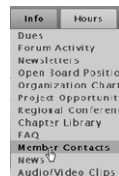
McKinney, TX 75069
www.txnrmuseum.org
[Directions] and [Parking Map]

Print Friendly



Communication: Individual Chapter Members

- Must be logged in to search
- Members can be searched using the *Info / Member Contacts* link
- Any part of name or email can be entered and all matches will be displayed



Communication: Individual Board Members

CONTACT US (EMAIL THE CHAIR)

Name *

Email *

Last *

First *

Subject *

Message *

Submit

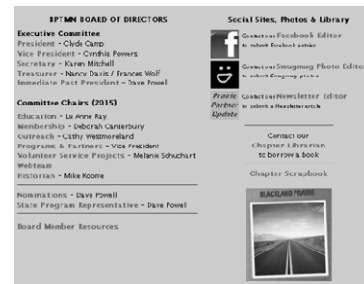
Website Help

More Home *

User Email *

I want to... *

☐ Report a problem



Communication: Yahoo Group Email Reflector

- Use **bpmn@yahoogroups.com**
 - Note bpmn *not* bptmn
 - Any email sent here goes to all BPTMN members (approximately 250)
 - Totally separate from email used in your profile and hours entry system
 - Not moderated (yet) so it's an honor system as to what you feel is important to communicate

Communication: State TMN List Server

- The state office has a notification list server that you can (optionally) subscribe to at <http://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmn-listserv/>
- It is for the entire state, not just us, so *many* things are not applicable to our chapter either due to location or training
- I get them and filter them for things I think some of you *might* be interested in
 - Those that I forward may or may not be approved for either AT or VH. Check with what@bptmn.org if you have a question.