

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™

BRAZOS VALLEY CHAPTER

The

Cyrano

Newsletter

Fall is (kind of) here in the Brazos Valley. People in other states might start to retreat into their homes and get cozy when autumn approaches, but not us Texans - this is when we can actually start to go outside without sweltering (well, maybe not yet - but soon!). Texans stay outside and stay busy in the fall, and TMNBV is no exception. We've got a lot happening. The 2025 training class is underway, this year's native plant sale is fast approaching, and the TMN Annual Meeting is on the horizon, too. You could also celebrate fall by signing up for one of our upcoming outreach programs, like Owl-O-Ween or Trick or TreeT, or volunteer for the Jr. Master Naturalist classes and help the kids with fall themed crafts and nature scavenger hunts.

There are plenty of opportunities coming up to gain volunteer and advanced training hours, so grab your pumpkin spice latte (or iced tea, since it's probably still 90 degrees as you're reading this) and read along to see what opportunities speak to you!

Upcoming Meetings:

Chapter Meetings

September 18, 6:30 p.m.
November 20, 6:30 p.m.

Join us at 6 p.m. before
each meeting for a Happy
Half-Hour!

Winter Social

December 18, 6:00 p.m.
Potluck and trivia!

Board Meetings

October 1, 6:00 p.m.
November 5, 6:00 p.m.

Brazos County Extension Office
4153 County Park Court, Bryan



Board Election

Call for Nominations: TMN Brazos Valley Chapter Officer Elections

The Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter is preparing for its upcoming election of Officers – **President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer**. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute your leadership and passion for conservation to our chapter's continued success!

Eligibility Requirements:

To serve as an **Officer**, candidates must have been **Certified Texas Master Naturalists at least once** and be **Members in Good Standing** at the time of nomination.

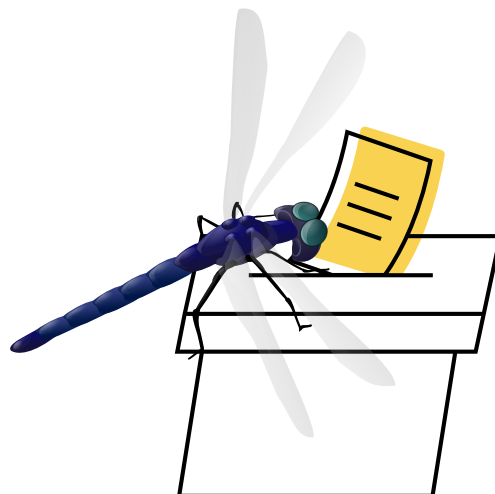
Election Details

The election will take place at the beginning of the November Chapter Meeting, and **all members are invited to vote**. Your voice matters – help shape the future of our chapter!

Interested in Serving?

Please contact **Bruce Neville, Chair of the TMN BV Nomination Committee**, to express your interest or to nominate a fellow member. Please be sure to have your nominee's permission to be nominated, or we can reach out to them. Please have any nominations, including self-nominations, to Bruce by October 20th to provide time for adequate notice of the slate to the membership. Bruce's email: b2neville@gmail.com.

Let's work together to shape the future of our chapter and continue making a difference in our community and natural spaces!





Fall Native Plant Sale

Order Your Plants on our Online Store:

Open from September 20 to October 3, 2025

Scan QR code OR Visit:

<https://brazos-valley-master-naturalist-100562.square.site>

Order Pickup:

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 9-11 a.m.

Pickup Location:

Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections
(BRTC) Facility

3380 University Drive East, College Station



Every plant you purchase supports the mission of TMN-Brazos Valley Chapter – Educating, restoring, and conserving the natural spaces that make our region special.

*Buy Local. Plant Native.
Support Conservation.*

Together we can grow a healthier, more vibrant Brazos Valley!



Annual Meeting 2025



Agenda

Details

Pricing

Registration is open for the Texas Master Naturalist 2025 Annual Meeting! This year is extra special for the Brazos Valley Chapter because it's here in College Station! It will be held Thursday, October 16th through Sunday, October 19th.

Interested in volunteering? If you'd like to volunteer at the Annual Meeting, click [here](#)! Note: You must be registered for the meeting to volunteer.

Silent Auction

We're seeking donations for the 2025 Annual Meeting's silent auction! Proceeds from this auction directly support chapter project grants, scholarships to the annual meeting for each chapter, and bringing in speakers and trainers for future annual meetings. Individual members can participate by donating new or like-new naturalist themed items. This could include experiences, outdoor gear, nature guides and books, artwork, themed baskets, and more. If you're interested in donating, click [here](#) to learn more!





Junior Master Naturalists Hit the Trail This Fall!

This fall, the Junior Master Naturalist programs will be going strong at Lick Creek Park. We have three programs planned for September 28, October 26, and November 23. These programs are on Sundays, from 2:30-4:30pm and are open to ages 7-12. We focus on the topics from our adult Master Naturalist training, but we design them for maximum fun and creativity for kids.

For our September 28 program, we will be hitting the nature trails at Lick Creek Park on a nature scavenger hunt equipped with our new insect vacuums and viewing lenses. After our scavenger hunt, we will look at the insects up close and play an insect Bingo game. To finish out our day, we will make recycled insect hotels using twigs, stems, and leaves. These were designed by Kim Roesse and will house important insects as we go into fall and winter.

For our October 26 program, we will look at spooky, creepy, crawly critters of the Brazos Valley. We will have activities and crafts centered around bats, spiders, owls, and nocturnal creatures.

For our November 23 program, we will explore the trees of Lick Creek Park. We will learn about tree growth and determine the age of several tree specimens. We will have some leafy crafts. We will also have the opportunity to plant a class tree at the park.

We need a good number of volunteers for each of these programs. We like to have plenty of leaders for the outdoor activities, and we need lots of help with the crafts. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me, Michele Ward, at youthservices@tmnbv.org. The city now requires you to fill out a quick background check form (it took me about 4 minutes to fill out).

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These programs are sponsored by the College Station Parks and Recreation Department. To register kids for the programs, you can go to the links below or go to the College Station Parks and Recreation website and go to their registration portal. Class costs are \$5.00 for College Station residents and \$6.00 for non-residents. We ask the kids to dress appropriately for outside weather. Of course, if the weather is bad, we will have indoor options.

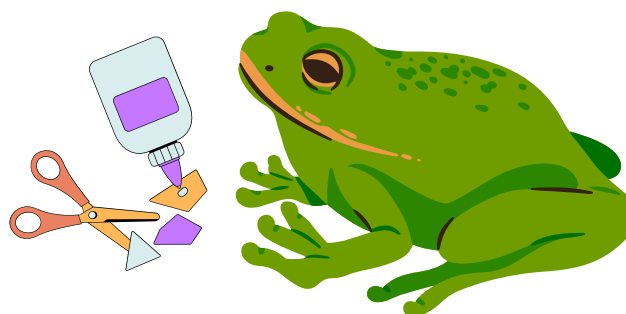
September 28 Registration



October 26 Registration



November 23 Registration



Outreach

Joyce Giblin, Outreach Director

Do you have fun and educational nature crafts or activities you would like to share? Outreach would LOVE to hear your ideas! We are constantly looking for inspirational activities for our community events. 5 minute or less activities that dry quick are perfect! Extra points for low cost, recycled item use and ones that inspire a love of nature. Contact Joyce at outreach@txmnbv.org.



Upcoming Outreach Events

Owl-O-Ween

October 24th 5:30-8 p.m. at Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Trick or TreeT

October 24th 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Wolf Pen Creek Festival Site

The Gardens Fall Festival

October 25th 8-10:30 a.m. at The Gardens at TAMU

Park in the Dark

November 7th and November 14th 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Lick Creek Park

Teachers Night Out - TCIN

December 4th 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Lick Creek Park

🌸 POPPP Awarded \$2,000 Grant for Pollinator Education 🌸

By TMN Brazos Valley Chapter

We're thrilled to announce that on February 13, 2025, our chapter was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the H-E-B Pollinators of Texas initiative in support of our **Post Oak Pollinator Plant Project (POPPP)**. Our proposal was recognized as a standout opportunity to advance pollinator conservation across Brazos County, and we're excited to bring this vision to life in the months ahead.

🌸 Project Overview

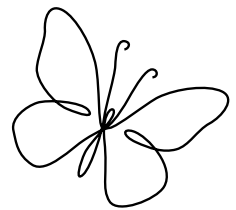
POPPP will use the grant to develop **durable interpretive signage** for native pollinator gardens located at **Lick Creek Park, Bee Creek Park, and the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections (BRTC)**. Each plant marker will be crafted from anodized aluminum and include:

- Common and scientific plant names
- A QR code linking to a 60-second educational video on our **TMN Brazos Valley YouTube channel**

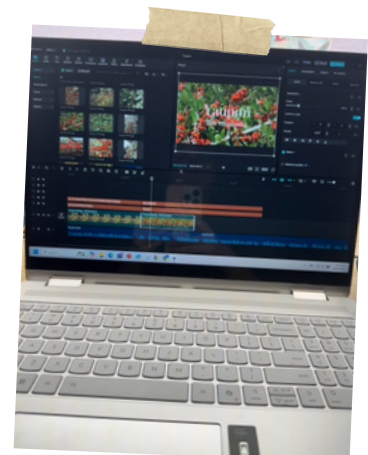
These videos will highlight plant identification, ecological benefits, and the pollinators each species supports - making native plant education more engaging and accessible for all visitors.

🌸 Project Goals

- **Educate** the public about native plants and their ecological roles
- **Encourage** home gardening with native species
- **Support** the expansion of pollinator habitats in Brazos County
- **Engage** the community through Texas Master Naturalist volunteer opportunities and membership
- **Provide** dynamic educational content via YouTube and social media platforms



This project is a shining example of how our chapter continues to connect people with nature through education, stewardship, and service. Stay tuned for updates as POPPP takes root and blossoms!



New Member Training Class

The 2025 New Member Training Class is in full swing! Our trainees meet every Tuesday at the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collection where they learn about a different naturalist topic each week. They also have Saturday field sessions where they get to go outside and learn in nature. Welcome to our class of 2025!



New Member Classes

Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.

September 16
Entomology

September 23
Geology

September 30
Herpetology

October 7
Mammalogy

October 21
Native Plants/Botany

October 28
Weather and Climate

November 4
Ornithology

November 11
Water Resources/
Closing Ceremonies

Field Sessions

Saturdays, 8 a.m.

September 20
Entomology

October 25
Terrestrial Plant Ecology
and Identification

November 8
Habitat Reclamation

Stream Team

If you're interested in becoming certified for the Texas Stream Team, we have a training session coming up on Sunday, October 5th, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.. It will be held at the Gary Halter Nature Center at Lick Creek Park. Plan on hiking up to a couple of miles altogether to reach the collection site and back. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen, and your other hiking essentials.

If you plan on attending, let Kathryn Sneed know via email by September 23rd.

For any questions, contact Kathryn at 979-777-1345 or kathrynsneed@gmail.com.



Habitat Restoration & Maintenance

Grab your gloves and gardening tools and join us in maintaining our demonstration gardens!

If you're interested, contact our Habitat Restoration and Maintenance Director, Donell, at habitats@txmnbv.org

Upcoming Workdays:

September 27, 8-10 a.m.
Schob Nature Preserve

October 25, 8-10 a.m.
Lick Creek Park

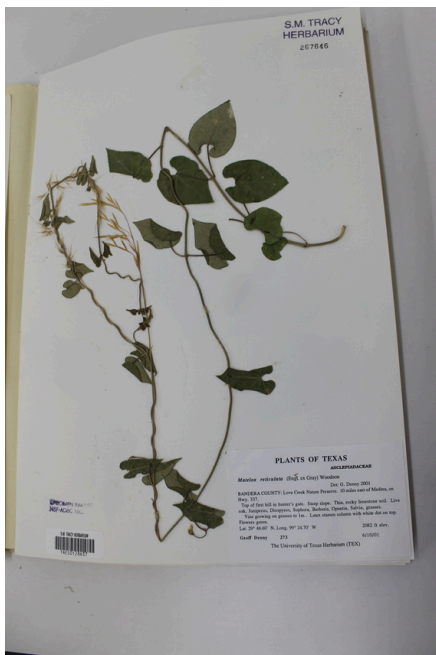
November 22, 8-10 a.m.
Bee Creek Park



A Day at the S.M. Tracy Herbarium

Attached to the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections building is another fascinating collection: The S.M. Tracy Herbarium. The Tracy Herbarium was established after Samuel Mills Tracy donated his Gulf Coast Collections, and library, to Texas A&M University. The herbarium now houses hundreds of thousands of specimens and maintains one of the largest collections of grasses in the southern US.

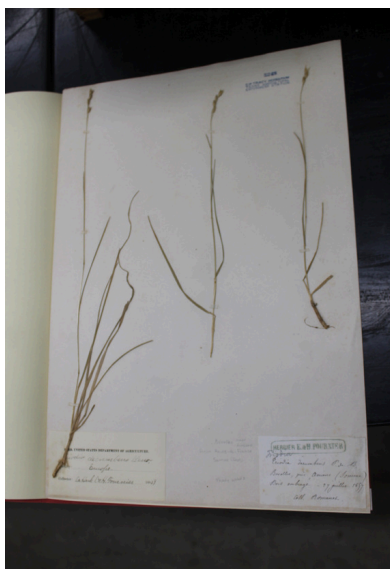
TMNBV member Katie Andre spends time every week volunteering at the Tracy Herbarium, where she prepares plant specimens and helps keep the massive collection organized. With specimens as old as the 1800s and thousands of accessions arriving yearly, there's always work to be done and something intriguing to see when perusing the collection.



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The building is calm and quiet and feels a lot like walking through a library. The massive cabinets hold specimens from every continent, with an emphasis on Texas, the southern US, and the Caribbean. While grasses take up the majority of the cabinets, there are a number of other flowers and plants to see - from milkweed to pitcher plants and everything in between. The herbarium also has the largest collection of fungi in Texas.



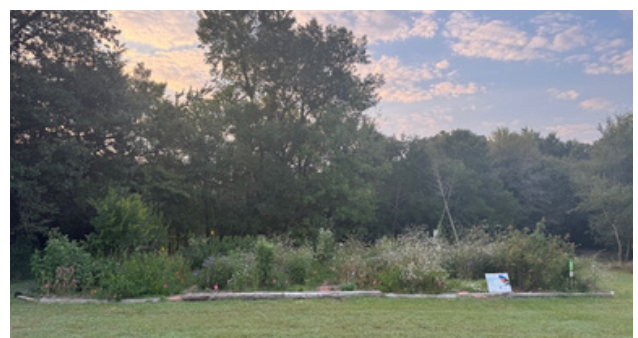
The specimen preparation also helps give the herbarium it's library-like feel. The method is much the same as it was decades ago. Specimens are placed between newspaper before going into the press. When they're dried and ready, they're adhered onto the paper with tried and true Elmer's glue. It's a haven for anyone who loves plants and archives, and a great place to spend a quiet afternoon.



Bee Creek Park Butterfly Garden

Located in the D.A. “Andy” Anderson Arboretum at Bee Creek Park (1900 Anderson St. in College Station) is a haven for pollinators (and people!) looking for a respite. This butterfly garden features native plants that butterflies and other pollinators need for fuel.

If you’re looking for a good way to get outdoors this fall, consider taking a walk along the trail at Bee Creek Park and stopping for some insect sightseeing at the butterfly garden. You could also join in on our next HRM workday at the garden on November 22nd!



More Things To Do

SCRAPBOOKING

Are you interested in helping design and assemble the 2025 Chapter Scrapbook?

Contact Vappy at webmaster@txmnbv.org if you'd like help out!

AgriLife Events

Check out the [AgriLife Events](#) page to see classes, trainings, events, and more going on locally and throughout Texas. Note: Events on this page may or may not qualify for volunteer or advanced training hours with TMNBV. Check with membership@txmnbv.org for individual events.

Free Birding Classes from College Station Parks & Recreation



Introduction to the Joy of Bird Feeding
Wednesday, Sept. 17 @ 10-11 a.m.,
Lincoln Recreation Center



Bluebird Lunch and Learn
Wednesday, Nov. 5 @ 12-1 p.m.,
Gary Halter Nature Center



The Christmas Bird
Tuesday, Dec. 9 @ 10-11 a.m.,
Meyer Senior & Community Center



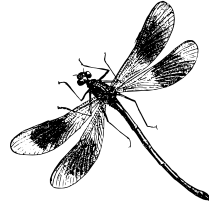
**BIRD
CITY**
TEXAS
COLLEGE
STATION

Whether you're already an avid birder or if you would just like to learn more about your feathered neighbors, there are plenty of opportunities through College Station's Parks and Recreation Department this fall! Classes will be led by John Mims, a fellow Master Naturalist and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Kingwood. Classes are open to all ages and count for AT hours. Learn more about reserving a spot for these events [here](#).

Certifications & Milestones

2025 Re-Certifying Members:

Ann Boehm
Amanda Chau
Karen Davis
Donell Frank
Joyce Giblin
Kelly Hill
Glen Hill
Bruce Neville
Dana Roese
Kim Roese
Laura Sare
Susan Smith
Betty Vermeire
Michele Ward
Bill Williams
Liz Worsham



2025 Milestones

Cheryl Cato
250 Hours

Megan Konarik
250 Hours

Liz Crompton
500 Hours

Kathryn Sneed
500 Hours

Dana Roese
1000 Hours

Sue Welfel
2500 Hours



Class of 2024 Certifying Members

Katie Andre
Bill Williams
Shaina Parham
Laura Smith

How to Certify: Complete 40 training hours, 40 volunteer hours, and 8 advanced training hours. Then you get your dragonfly pin and are a certified Texas Master Naturalist!

How to Re-Certify: Complete 40 volunteer hours, 8 advanced training hours, and pay your yearly dues. Then you'll receive the yearly re-certification pin - this year it's a roadrunner!

Letter From the Editor

My favorite part of making the newsletter is seeing just how much goes on in our chapter. I say it all the time, but that's because it's true: There really is something for everyone in TMNBV! Even if you're not sure what it is you love yet, being in this organization can help you find it - whether that's birding, public outreach, water testing, or sitting on Canva trying to pick between fonts for the newsletter. No matter what your background or skillset is, there's a place for you here!

Do you have any suggestions or submissions for the Cyrano newsletter? Let me know at cyrano@txmnbv.org.

Shaina Parham



Our Sponsors:



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Our Partners:



BRAZOS VALLEY
MUSEUM
 of Natural
History

Contact Us

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Youth Programs Director		
Michele Ward		
youthservices@txmnbv.org		

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Publicity Manager	Webmaster	
Megan Konarik	Vappy Severs	
publicity@txmnbv.org	webmaster@txmnbv.org	