

# Your Guide to being a

# Texas Master Naturalist

**WHO?** An organization of adult volunteers who are interested in preservation, conservation and promoting education of the environment and the ecosystems which make up Brazoria County.

**Texas Master Naturalist (TMN)** is State-based and sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The Goal is to help improve the natural resource understanding of Texas, to develop programs and to promote activities within the State.

Texas Master Naturalists adhere to three Objectives:

- Improve understanding of natural resource ecology and management activities;
- Promote education and outreach activities; and
- Develop a TMN volunteer network.

**WHAT?** “Cradle of Texas” (COT) Chapter covers Brazoria County. It was started in 2001 and today, has over 100 members who wear proudly the “Texas Master Naturalist” title. Since its founding, the Chapter has volunteered over 85,000 hours estimated at \$1.5 million contributed to the citizens of Brazoria County. Some of the places TMNs volunteer are Sea Center Texas, county parks and libraries, local national wildlife refuges and state parks.



**WHERE?** The Cradle of Texas Chapter maintains its offices with the Marine Agent in the Texas AgriLife Extension Building at 21017 CR 171 in Angleton, Texas.

**WHEN?** COT meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting at 8:30 a.m. with a Social Hour followed by a short Business Meeting. The next 2-2 ½ hours are spent on Advanced Training (AT)--a more in-depth presentation on specific Naturalist topics chosen by the Members (ex. Photographing Nature and/or Birds, kayaking Brazoria County waterways, etc.)



**WHY?** Because you are someone who is interested in the natural world and want to be called a “Texas Master Naturalist”... an active Member who completes 40 Volunteer hours and takes 8 hours of Advanced Training each calendar year.

**HOW?** Any person 18 years or older is eligible to become a “Texas Master Naturalist”.

Simply express your interest to one of our members or our Brazoria County Marine Agent and the Chapter’s Training Director will contact you shortly to arrange for your enrollment in the TMN “Intern Training” Program.

The program is a 40-hour combined classroom and fieldwork program planned to give you the basic knowledge needed by all Naturalists. In-depth and specific to Brazoria County learning experiences are scheduled during the year for you to complete the internship.

Further classroom experiences can be completed at the General Meeting’s AT, through AT offered by adjacent Chapters or a TMN-COT Partner.

Field experience can be earned with a combination of self-directed projects, group projects, volunteering with Chapter projects, volunteering with Partner activities and planned field events.

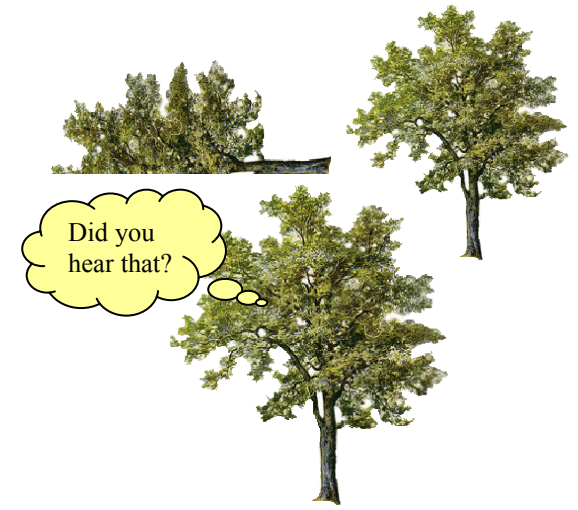
The training “year” is 15 months from the receipt of your application and \$80 tuition fee. (This covers the cost of your State Curriculum text, your TMN t-shirt and Name Tag, and first year’s COT Membership.)

***What qualifications do I need?***

You only need an *interest*...an interest in nature, ecology, preservation, restoration, sharing your knowledge, bird watching, invasive plants identification, working with others including children, butterflies and moths, forests, rivers, creeks, bayous.....etc.

You do not need to be a scientist, teacher, researcher or whatever...just Yourself!

**And most important.....  
.....YOU want to HAVE FUN!**



***For more information, contact:***  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Marine Agent  
21017 CR 171  
Angleton, TX 77515

**979-864-1564,  
979-388-1564, or  
281.756.1564**

[r-tillman@tamu.edu](mailto:r-tillman@tamu.edu)

**--OR--**

<http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>  
(Cradle of Texas website)

Educational programs of the TX AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

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