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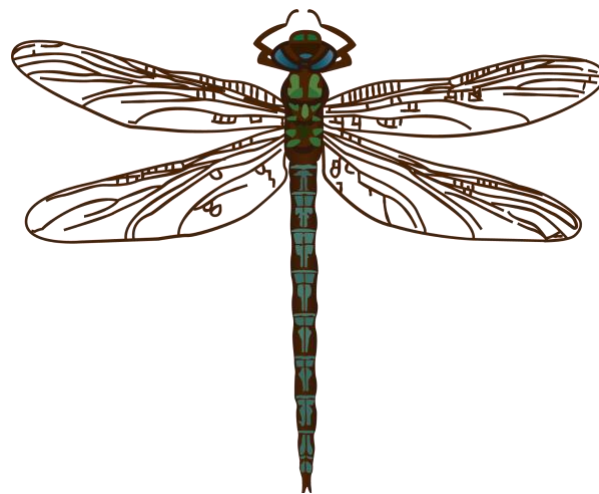


Texas Master Naturalist Program

Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter

Handbook

2024





Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter Handbook 2024

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Mission of Texas Master Naturalists

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 the communities for the State of Texas.

Many communities and organizations rely on 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. A short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.

Sponsors of the Cross Timbers Chapter

The Texas Master Naturalist Program is proudly sponsored Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The local sponsor for CTMN is the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.

- Rachel Richter, Urban Biologist, TPWD,
Rachel.Richter@tpwd.texas.gov
- Jacklyn Jones Doyle, Texas AgriLife, County Extension Agent-Agriculture/Natural Resources
jacklyn.jones@ag.tamu.edu
- Jared Wood, Ph.D., Acting Manager, Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
jared.wood@fortworthtexas.gov

Sponsors provide guidance, resources and education to the chapter. CTMN members provide volunteer hours to assist TPWD, Texas AgriLife and the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge in their efforts to preserve the local ecosystem.

About the Cross Timbers Chapter

Serving Tarrant and Parker counties, the Cross Timbers Chapter is one of **48** Master Naturalist chapters in the state of Texas. Established in 1998, the Cross Timbers Chapter currently has about **200** active members. Active members volunteer in various projects such as local pollinator gardens, the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, the Botanic Research Institute of Texas, the City of Fort Worth Citizen Forester Program, bluebird box monitoring, and water quality and testing of the Trinity River and its tributaries.

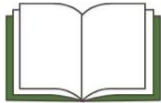
Training classes are held once a year from August through October. The **CTMN website** can be reached through two URLs: <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/> and <http://ctmn.org/>

The chapter **Facebook** group is named "Cross Timbers Master Naturalists," located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/116630178372184>

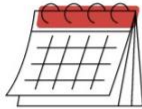
Cross Timbers Master Naturalists



ROAD MAP



Complete **Training** of 10 Classes and 4 Field Trips in the **First Year**



The **First Year** is from Aug to Dec 31, 2024
The **Second Year** is from Jan to Dec 31, 2025



Become **Certified** as a Master Naturalist.
Members who earn **certification** are recognized at the yearly Award Ceremony at the March Chapter Meeting



Volunteer 40 Hours at approved CTMN Projects***
AND
Earn **8 Hours of Advanced Training**



Pay annual **Dues** of \$25
Training Fee includes dues for **First Year** and **Second Year**



When to become **Certified?**



Option 1 - Deadline is Dec 31, 2025 of **Second Year**



Option 2 - For "eager dragonflies"
earn hours by Dec 31, 2024 of **First Year**

*** approved CTMN Projects are located in Tarrant and Parker counties

Code of Ethics Texas Master Naturalist Program

Each member, in striving to meet the mission, goals and objectives of the Texas Master Naturalist Program, pledges to:

1. Subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct.
2. Promote and support the statewide and local Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Program.
3. Respect the state sponsors, (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service), their roles and expectations.
4. Disseminate information to promote understanding of and appreciation for the values of our natural resources.
5. Strive to increase knowledge and skills to advance as a TMN volunteer.
6. Promote competence as a TMN volunteer by supporting high standards of education, service and performance.
7. Encourage the use of sound biological information in education and outreach and in management decisions.
8. Support fair and uniform standards of service and treatment of those engaged in the TMN Program.
9. Know and follow established TMN Program protocols and policies.
10. Abide by the local Chapter Bylaws.
11. Not use the TMN title, logos and trademarks for personal endeavors and/or profit.
12. Act as trustworthy and ethical stewards of the environment.
13. Never inappropriately disturb or harass wildlife. Never inappropriately remove anything from its natural state or area.

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings are held on the third Monday of the month in the Rose Room of the Botanic Garden of Fort Worth. Members in training are encouraged to attend chapter meetings. Guests are welcome at chapter meetings. The chapter meeting begins with a social time from 6:30 pm-7:00 pm and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments are served. At each meeting, a guest speaker or chapter member presents a topic about local nature and local ecosystems. A meeting may be rescheduled when there is a holiday on that date.

Meetings are in-person and hybrid via zoom. An email is sent to the membership a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the meeting that includes the zoom link registration information. Please keep your email updated in the Volunteer Management System (VMS) database to stay informed of chapter meeting information.

Members earn **1 Advanced Training (AT) hour for attending a chapter meeting**. See “How to Use VMS to Record Hours” below to review the procedure for documenting your hours.

The March meeting is the chapter’s annual award ceremony where members are recognized for their volunteer activity. In December, the chapter hosts a holiday party and the date is determined each year.

Note: No Advanced Training (AT) hours are earned for attending the March (award ceremony) or December (holiday party) meeting.

2024 Training Schedule

Date	Day	Time	Topic	Location
8/20/2024	Tue	6p-9p	How to be a Master Naturalist	FWBG Lecture Hall
8/27/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Intro to Ecology	FWBG Rose Room
9/3/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Volunteer Opportunities	FWBG Rose Room
9/10/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Geology and Archeology	FWBG Rose Room
9/17/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Aquatic Systems	FWBG Camelia Room
9/24/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Reptiles and Amphibians	FWBG Rose Room
9/28/2024	Sat	9a-3p	Aquatic Field Trip	FWNC&R
10/1/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Forest Systems	FWBG Rose Room
10/6/2024	Sun	9a-3p	Land Management Field Trip	TBD
10/8/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Birds and Mammals	FWBG Rose Room
10/15/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Invertebrates, Arachnids, Dragonflies	FWBG Camelia Room
10/19/2024	Sat	9a-3p	Forest Field Trip	FWNC&R
10/22/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Prairie Systems	FWBG Rose Room
10/26/2024	Sat	9a-3p	Prairie Field Trip	TBD
10/29/2024	Tue	6p-9p	Urban Systems	FWBG Rose Room
11/2/2024	Sat	9a-3p	Urban Field Trip	TBD

FWBG – Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Fort Worth 76107

FWNC&R – Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, 9601 Fossil Ridge Road, Fort Worth 76135

If you are unable to complete the required 10 classes (out of 11 classes scheduled) and 4 field trips (out of 5 field trips scheduled), you must make up the hours by attending the appropriate class or classes within 12 months as part of the requirements to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist. Class members are welcome to attend all 11 classes and all 5 field trips.

Mentors: Each class member will be assigned a mentor who is a Certified Master Naturalist and member of CTMN. Your mentor welcomes your questions and comments. Please add their contact information to your phone and communicate with them as often as needed.

How to Become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist

PRIOR TO CLASS:

Prior to the first class, trainees must create a profile through the online Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) **Volunteer Management System (VMS)**.

See the **“How to Use VMS to Record Hours”** section below to use your given login and temporary password to access VMS. These items will be emailed to you directly.

Upon receiving your log-in information, complete the following during your initial registration:

- 1) agree to submit to a background check and supply the necessary information.
- 2) change your password using the “Login Information” section.

Type in a new password and verify, save your password

- 3) agree to a Media Waiver
- 4) agree to the Confidentiality Waiver
- 5) agree to the Alternate Workforce Waiver (liability release)

Prior to class, trainees will pay a **training fee** of \$150. Some partial scholarships are available and fee plans are available upon request. Please contact training@ctmn.org for information about applying for a scholarship. The training class fee includes \$50 for the purchase of the textbook, *Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Curriculum*, \$25 for current year dues and \$25 for the next year.

The training fee includes your CTMN membership dues for both 2024 and 2025.

DURING CLASS:

Again, during training, if you are unable to complete the required hours during the scheduled sessions, you must make up the hours by attending the appropriate class or classes within 12 months as part of the requirements to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist.

Record the time you spend during training class and field trip instruction as “**CTMN initial training: TMN Initial Training Hours**” using the **VMS**. It is recommended that you record these hours after each class and field trip.

You may begin to record volunteer hours (VH) and Advanced Training hours (AT) on VMS the first day of classroom instruction. Upcoming sections in this handbook highlight available opportunities. You may also ask your Mentor, training class board members and current volunteers about volunteer opportunities.

All training, field trip and volunteer hours **must** be recorded on VMS within 45 days of the service as “**CTMN initial training: TMN Initial Training Hours**”.

Member categories include the following:

- **Texas Master Naturalist-in-Training** – a member enrolled in a chapter’s Initial Training course
- **Texas Master Naturalist** – an active member who has completed Initial Training course requirements
- **Certified Texas Master Naturalist** – an active member who has met all the requirements of initial certification and thereafter, attains annual recertification

During class your membership status will be reflected in the Volunteer Management System (VMS) as “TMN – In Training”.

To achieve Certified Texas Master Naturalist membership status (and have the membership status of “TMN-Active”), you must complete all of the following by **December 2025**:

- **Earn at least 40 Volunteer Hours (VH)** by working on CTMN pre-approved volunteer opportunities. Note: Initial Training hours do not count toward your 40 volunteer hours.
- **Earn at least 8 hours of Advanced Training (AT)** by attending CTMN pre-approved advanced training opportunities.

Texas Master Naturalists can become fully certified early, if they complete these requirements by December 31, 2024. Because CTMN training takes place in the fall, it is recommended that you begin your volunteer service during training.

Elect a Training Class Representative

Each class shall elect a representative with the following duties:

- Represent the current training class as a member of the board, attending board and chapter meetings.
- Participate as a member of the training committee to plan for the subsequent class.
- Participate as a member of the annual financial examination committee.
- Report back to the current training class to provide trainees with information about chapter business. This may include a social media account for the current class.
- Talk to the subsequent training class about selecting a training class representative.

AFTER CLASS – Once Initial Training is Completed:

Review your VMS entries to ensure that you have entered all time for classroom and field trip opportunities within the previous 45 days. If you need help, contact your mentor or our Membership Director at membership@ctmn.org.

You will begin paying membership dues in January 2026. Your membership will become TMN-Inactive if both of the following conditions are met:

- Failure to pay membership dues for current year
- Failure to report volunteer service hour or advanced training hours within the calendar year

A member may re-establish their TMN-Active membership status by paying dues and reporting appropriate number of hours for the current year.

How to Use VMS to Record Hours

The state's **Volunteer Management System (VMS)** is used to record all hours earned by Texas Master Naturalists. VMS is a Samaritan Technologies product that has been customized for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Master Naturalists.

The TMN Volunteer Management System is here
[Volunteer Management System Portal](#)

The CTMN webpage has a cheat sheet ([Cheat Sheet](#)) and the State Master Naturalist webpage has a helpdesk ([State VMS helpdesk](#)) to assist volunteers with operation of the VMS.

Specific questions about your entries into VMS should be directed to the Membership Director at membership@ctmn.org.

How to Login to VMS for the First Time

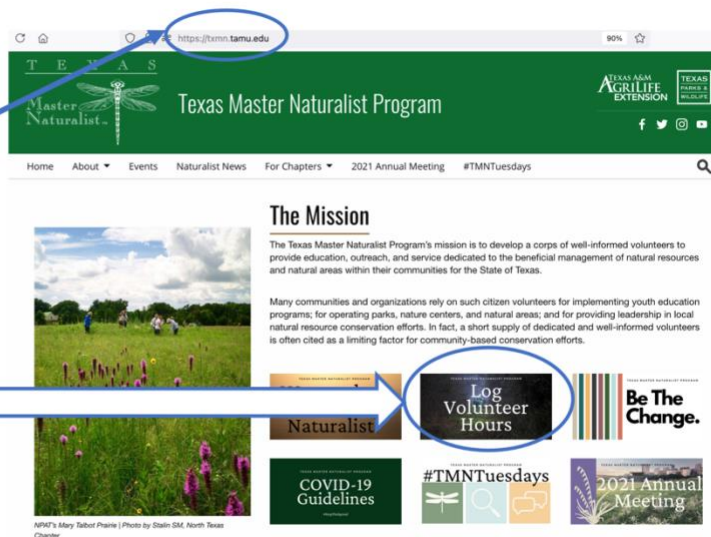
For a tutorial on this topic, go to this YouTube [video](#)!

Use your login id and temporary password to login for the first time. To participate in Initial Training, you must complete the Login, including the waiver of **Criminal Background Check**, **change your password** and **complete other Agreements**.

How to Login to the Volunteer Management System (VMS) to change your password

1. Go to txmn.org
(redirects to <https://txmn.tamu.edu>)

2. Select "Log Volunteer Hours"



https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/tmn-vms-users/

T E X A S
Master Naturalist
Texas Master Naturalist Program
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Home About Events Naturalist News For Chapters 2021 Annual Meeting #TMNTuesdays

Volunteer Management System Portal

Welcome to the Texas Parks and Wildlife implementation of the Volunteer Management System (VMS) for Texas Master Naturalists from Samaritan Technologies.

VMS - Volunteer Login - you must already have a TPWD username; if you do not, you may obtain one below.

You have until the end of	To enter Hours worked on
Today	Apr 26, 2021
Jun 13, 2021	Apr 29, 2021
Jun 27, 2021	May 13, 2021
Jul 11, 2021	May 27, 2021
Jul 25, 2021	Today

Hours on or before Apr 25, 2021 may not be entered
Hours on or after Jun 11, 2021 may not be entered

3. Select "VMS - Volunteer Login"

https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php?class=VolunteerNavigation&re

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Volunteer Login

If you are already a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer, please log-in

Not yet a TPWD volunteer?
[Opportunity Search](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Log in](#)


User ID: CTMN-msmith
Password: Your password

Log in
[Forgot your password?](#)


4. Enter your User ID and Temporary Password

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE


Welcome, Mary Smith




Find Opportunities
Look for ways to serve on a one-time or regular basis.




View My Schedule
See the shifts where I have signed up.




Report my Service
Submit volunteer hours.





View My Log Book
View my volunteer transaction history.



My Placements
View opportunities I have applied for that have been approved.



My Referrals
View opportunities I have applied for that are pending approval and placement.

 [Edit My Profile](#)
 [Log out](#)

5. Select "Edit My Profile"

6. Select "Continue"
If prompted, answer questions on this page, then Select "Continue"

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php#0 📄 ☆ 🗨

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Waivers & Agreements

Background Check

In connection with the evaluation of my suitability for volunteer service, I give my consent for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to obtain criminal history and driving record information related to my application for volunteer service. I understand that criminal history information includes any criminal conviction records for deferred adjudication, misdemeanor or felony offenses at age 17 or older. I understand that driving record information includes a driver's license verification and driving history of the past 12 months, and lists all convictions for traffic violations. Any such information will be used solely for volunteer-related considerations and not for any other purpose.

Volunteers

- [Volunteer Dashboard](#)
- [Search Opportunities](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Log out](#)

Step 1 of 3

[Continue →](#)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php#1>. The page header reads "TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE". Below the header are navigation buttons: "← Back", "8. Save Step 2 of 5", and "Continue →". On the right side, there is a "Volunteers" menu with links for "Volunteer Dashboard", "Search Opportunities", "FAQ", and "Log out". The main content area is titled "Login Information" and contains three input fields: "*User ID" (with the value "CTMN-MSmith"), "*Password" (with the placeholder "Minimum 8 characters"), and "*Password Verify" (with the placeholder "Password verify").

Annotations on the page include:

- A box on the left containing the text: "7. Enter a new password (a minimum of 8 characters) and enter again for 'Password Verify'". An arrow points from this box to the Password and Password Verify fields.
- A box below it containing the text: "8. Select 'Save'" and "9. Select 'Log out'".
- The "Save" button in the top navigation bar is circled in blue and labeled with "8.".
- The "Log out" link in the top right navigation menu is circled in blue and labeled with "9.".

How to Record Training Hours

As a new member of the Training Class, **you are required to record the hours spent in class and on field trips after each session.** We recommend that you enter these hours as soon as possible after you have attended a class or field trip. Note that your training hours do not count toward the 40 Volunteer hours (VH) or the 8 Advanced Training hours (AT) needed to certify and must be entered in VMS as **“CTMN initial training: TMN Initial Training Hours”**.

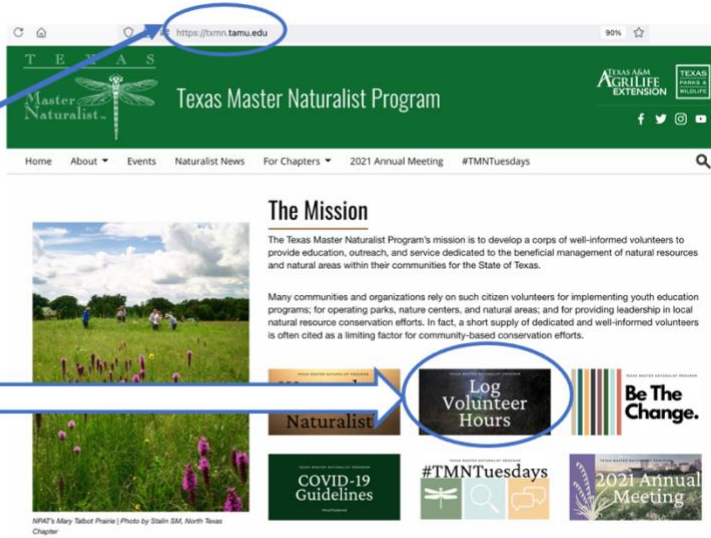
You must enter hours earned no later than 45 days after you earned the hours.

Go to txmn.org/crosstimbers or ctmn.org and select Log Hours

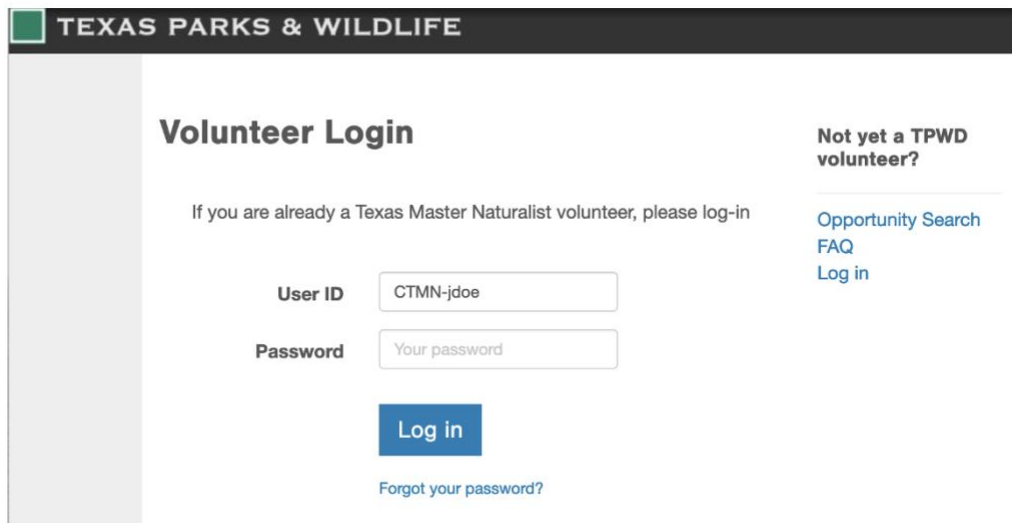
How to Login to the Volunteer Management System (VMS)

1. Go to txmn.org (redirects to https://txmn.tamu.edu)

2. Select "Log Volunteer Hours"



3. Enter your user ID and new password that you created in your earlier login.



4. Volunteer Dashboard

You will mainly use:

Report my Service

View My Log Book

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Welcome, Jane Doe

Summary

Approved Hours

TMN Life: 0
TMN Year: 0
AT Year: 0

Find Opportunities
Look for ways to serve on a one-time or regular basis.

View My Schedule
See the shifts where I have signed up.

Report my Service
Submit volunteer hours.

View My Log Book
View my volunteer transaction history.

My Placements
View opportunities I have applied for that have been approved.

My Referrals
View opportunities I have applied for that are pending approval and placement.

[Edit My Profile](#) [Log out](#)

7. Complete the Date you served, the hours, a description of the event; then select “OK.”

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Report Service

Volunteers

[Volunteer Dashboard](#)
[Search Opportunities](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Log out](#)

Please select from the following survey(s):
CTMN initial training:TMN Initial Training Hours

Opportunity Description:
Initial class & field trips for incoming CTMN members.

Initial Classroom and Field Trip Hours

Date of the class or field trip: 08/16/2022

How many hours was the training?:

What did you think of the training?: Liked It

Describe your training: (255 character limit)
First session of training at FWBG

Volunteer Opportunities

All volunteer hours (VH) and advanced training (AT) **must be earned through CTMN approved opportunities**. For example, you may help with the administration of the chapter by serving on a committee, join a work crew at a pollinator garden project, write an article for the chapter newsletter, take on a leadership position for a project or the chapter board, staff a CTMN table at a local event, teach children about butterflies, observe birds for the annual Great Backyard Bird Count and much more.

Service activities related to managing a local chapter provide multiple opportunities for volunteers to develop organizational, management and leadership skills. Volunteer projects may be a series of short experiences, or they may involve the long-term efforts of a volunteer team.

As a trainee, your volunteer hours must occur within Tarrant and Parker counties. Once you are a Certified Texas Master Naturalist, your volunteer hours on approved projects around the state will be counted for your annual and lifetime volunteer hours. **This does not apply to AT hours.** You may attend various AT trainings outside of Tarrant and Parker counties (often via Zoom), but, if not stated, you should ask the VH/AT Coordinator, if the opportunity meets the requirements for AT.

Note: Members may include a reasonable, typical amount of travel time when recording volunteer service hours. Travel time should **not** include side trips for personal activities.

Volunteer hours recorded as a chapter member cannot be “double” counted for as a member of another organization such as a Master Gardener organization.

See <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/projects/> for a map of some of the CTMN volunteer opportunities. See <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/events-calendar/> for a calendar showing volunteer opportunities.

Contact the organization or **Project Lead** for the opportunity to ask to be added to text or email notifications. Opportunities may be canceled due to weather or other factors.

Various volunteer opportunities, how and when to volunteer, and whom to contact about each opportunity is covered in one Training Class session. Your mentors, training staff, and volunteer committee members are good resources for finding volunteer opportunities that meet your needs.

If you are interested in volunteering with a project not listed in the VMS menu, you must get pre-approval from the VH/AT Coordinator or the full Board of Directors. Pre-approval may take 2-3 weeks.

Questions about volunteer opportunities should be directed to the VH/AT Coordinator at volat@ctmn.org.

CTMN approved Volunteer Hour opportunities:

AgriLife

All areas of volunteer work related to **nature** including landscape work, education and research that meet the CTMN Mission.

Amphibian Watch

Field research for Texas Amphibian Watch including reporting time; TPWD.

Arlington Conservation Council

Work with ACC on various projects, including cleanup and habitat improvement.

Arlington Fielder Butterfly Garden and Monarch Waystation

Cultivate plants, maintain the garden for Monarchs and other butterfly populations, propagate plants for the annual plant sale.

Audubon Society (Fort Worth Chapter)

Volunteer with chapter administration, bird watches, feeder watches, bird counts including recording time.

Bird or Feeder Watch

Cornell University Feeder Watch or annual bird counts with Audubon Society or other birding Groups.

Bluebird box monitoring

Monitor bluebird boxes in various locations around Tarrant and Parker County including city parks.

Bob Jones Nature Center

Volunteer in numerous capacities at the nature center includes trail work, maintain the pollinator garden, events and working with children and adults in a training capacity.

Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

All areas of volunteer work related to nature including landscape work, education, research projects and herbarium work.

Butterflies in the Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Volunteer in various capacities including being a docent in the exhibit or other duties.

Chandor Garden/Weatherford Parks & Recreation Nature Trail

Weatherford Parks & Recreation nature trail on a 13-acre wooded site west of Chandor Gardens. Volunteers will do species identification and help to maintain the woods and trail.

Chisholm Trail Park

Leading nature walks, participation in workdays, trail maintenance, provide bird house boxes for bluebirds to help support/monitor blue bird and/or species population at CTCP.

Citizen Forester

Volunteering to learn how to trim and do the correct tree maintenance to preserve trees. Program offered through the City of Fort Worth/Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council.

Citizen science/data collection (Parker County)

Participation in iNaturalist competitions, BioBlitzes, and similar citizen science/data collection projects within Parker County.

Citizen science/data collection (Tarrant County)

Participation in iNaturalist competitions, BioBlitzes, and similar citizen science/data collection projects within Tarrant County.

CoCoRaHS

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. Volunteers report rainfall, hail and snowfall to the National Weather Service. (Specific gauge is required).

Colleyville Nature Center

Enhance the overall beauty and quality of this natural refuge, while benefitting birds and pollinators; caring for plants; trail and pond trash removal only (no organized activity). Contact: Teresa Landfield, tlandfield@gmail.com.

CTMN chapter administration

Chapter Administration Work including Board meetings, prep time and training class attendance; preparing or planning any region or state TMN meetings.

CTMN Community Outreach Events

Community outreach, preparation/presentations to local public groups, garden clubs, HOAs, etc.

CTMN initial training

Initial classes and field trips for incoming CTMN members. **(Note: Entry of these hours are required; however, they do not count for the 40VH/8 AT to achieve certification).**

CTMN newsletter

Write articles, take photographs, prepare newsletter for distribution to members.

CTMN speaker's bureau

Presentations to various public groups on specific nature topics, including presentations at TMN meetings.

CTMN sponsored activities

Participation as a volunteer in seminars, symposia, nature tours, outreach, lead field trips, native planting projects.

CTMN/NPSOT SW Regional Library native plant gardens

Landscape and maintenance in the native plant gardens.

CTMN/NPSOT SW Sub-courthouse native plant gardens

Landscape and maintenance in the native plant gardens.

DFW Wildlife Coalition (phone bank, animal rehabilitation)

Phone bank to answer questions concerning injured/found wildlife, referrals to licensed wildlife rehab members. Time spent on actual rehab of wildlife.

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Volunteer at Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Includes Green Team recycling, leading a class or working in any area of the garden that meets the CTMN Mission.

Fort Worth ISD Outreach

Assist with planting of native plants in school gardens or landscapes, plan and lead the projects, make presentations to student or parent groups.

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

All Volunteer activities- FWNC&R is a CTMN partner

Friends of Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Volunteer with the Friends of the FWNC&R

Friends of Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)

Volunteering with Friends of LLELA group at the pollinator gardens, etc.

Grapevine Parks & Rec

Assist with pollinator habitat prairies and KGB Eco talks (environment, native plants, animals).; charris@grapevinetexas.gov.

HOPE Farm Pollinator Garden (Fort Worth)

Elsa Gonzales, egonzales@hopefarm.org, 817-926-9116, www.hopefarm.org
Trash pickup, maintain grounds and flowerbeds.

iNaturalist

Record observations in public places using iNaturalist app or website.

Lake Mineral Wells State Park

Butterfly garden and other landscape projects to assist Park staff

Lights Out DFW

Monitor bird window/building collisions in downtown Fort Worth.

Master Gardeners

Planning advanced training classes for trees, greenhouse, and rainwater harvesting and other volunteer event hours meeting the Master Naturalist mission (**hours cannot also be counted for Master Gardener volunteer hours**).

Molly Hollar Wildscape

Invasive plant removal, trail work, composting, planting and propagation of plants at the greenhouse, wildscape clean up and annual plant sale.

Natural habitat cleanup/improvement

Numerous area cleanups in the Cross Timbers area. Including preparations and meetings with groups for planning cleanup activities and rehabilitating an area with native plantings.

Native Prairie Association of Texas (NPAT) – Fort Worth Chapter

Prepare and/or lead a prairie walk or workshop for NPAT. Survey work in the local ecosystem. Prairie management and cleanup. Work for NPAT chapter.

Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) Native Plant Certification Program, volunteer activity

Volunteering with the Native Plant Society of Texas. Plant sales, committee member, outreach at area events.

Oliver Nature Park, Mansfield

Lead tours at the park and/or assist with school programs at the park.

OS Gray Natural Area, Arlington

General upkeep around the park, including invasive plant removal, planting native plants, mulch, trail work and trash pickup.

Pollinator Gardens at Knapp Heritage Park, Arlington

Ongoing maintenance and replacement of plants when needed to provide a place and food for pollinators.

Randol Mill Park, Arlington

Volunteering the the wildscape area and Pollinator Garden and other maintenance in the Garden.

River Legacy Park, Arlington

Includes teaching classes or leading trail walks, manning the reception desk, clearing trash from trails, maintaining and building trails, bird walks, assisting with bird counts.

School demo gardens, native habitats

Work with school groups on planning, developing and working in area school garden activities with special consideration of native plants.

Shari Capehart Nature Preserve, Arlington

Cleanup trails, invasive plant removal, trail work at the Preserve. Prepare for meetings in an administrative role or as a speaker.

Tandy Hills Natural Area, Fort Worth

Includes invasive removal, trail upkeep, trash pick up, other landscape activities, leading hikes wildflower tours or other educational programs including FWISD School programs.

Texas Native Cats Program

Outreach at local events, speaker, social media (no live cats).

Texas State Park volunteer activity

Volunteer your time at any State Park in Texas.

Texas Stream Team

(Texas Water Specialist Program)

Gathering water sample data for Texas Stream Team reporting program. This opportunity requires training and certification by Texas Stream Team.

Texas Wildlife Association

Lead a group or volunteer in other teaching/training capacities.

TMN Virtual Volunteer Service

A series of short project sessions highlighting virtual and distanced service opportunities to the TMN Program and enhancing available safe and health-conscious service opportunities during these historic times.

TPWD Programs

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Programs, educational and research projects such as the North Texas

Urban Wildlife Monitoring Project and demonstrations at events such as Mayfest.

TMN annual and regional conference

Volunteer time at the Texas Master Naturalist conferences and preparation.

TMN Volunteer at projects and programs

Volunteer time working on Texas Master Naturalist projects and programs that meet the CMTN Mission.

White Settlement Pollinator Gardens

Preparing, planting, and maintaining the City of White Settlement's pollinator gardens

Advanced Training Opportunities (Continuous learning/meetings)

Each AT opportunity must meet the following criteria:

- Promotes continued learning and development of naturalist skills.
- Provides Master Naturalists with practical knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts.
- Directs trained volunteers toward specific programs in need of their services.
- Covers natural resource issues and information applicable to Texas with a preferred emphasis on the chapter's local community or ecoregion.
- Allows questions and interaction between the speaker and the participants. The only exception to this is the Texas Master Naturalist provided "TMN Tuesday" opportunity which can be viewed as a recording or viewed live.

Questions about AT opportunities should be directed to the VH/AT coordinator at volat@ctmn.org.

We encourage everyone to recommend speakers and/or presenters for monthly chapter meetings; recommendations should be directed to the Vice President at vp@ctmn.org.

The CTMN approved AT opportunities are:

AT:TMN Tuesday Presented by Texas Master Naturalist Program. ****Only AT which may be viewed live OR pre-recorded, from the current calendar year. (Note: that this item does not have an underscore before the AT ("_") so it appears in the VMS section without an underscore, as required by the state, but, it is AT hours).**

AT:Texas Waters Certification Training

TPWD resources on management of water as a natural resource in the state of Texas. (Note: that this item does not have an underscore before the AT ("_") so it appears in the VMS section without an underscore, as required by the state, but, it is AT hours).

_AT:AgriLife

Attend presentation on the Agrilife SmartScape, YardSmart, Water University, or other AgriLife programs.

_AT:Aldo Leopold Workshop Training in the Aldo Leopold Workshop program

_AT:Arlington Conservation Council

Attend presentations at the monthly meetings. Topics must meet CTMN guidelines for AT.

_AT:Audubon Society

Attend monthly meetings of the Audubon Society. Attend and participate in birding trips or other educational training and presentations.

_AT:Bluebird Conference

Attend lectures and programs at regional or state meetings of the Texas Bluebird Society and related groups.

_AT:Bob Jones Nature Center

Attend naturalist-led tours and workshops at Bob Jones Nature Center in Southlake.

_AT:Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

Attend classes, lectures, or workshops on composting, water conservation, native plants and other topics relevant to the Cross Timbers region.

_AT:Butterflies in the Garden (FWBG)

Training for "Butterflies in the Garden" program

_AT:Chisholm Trail Community Park

Attend naturalist-led prairie tours and presentations held at Chisholm Trail Community Park.

_AT:Citizen Forester Presentations and training

Programs, presentations and initial training and follow-up training; City of Fort Worth/Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council.

_AT:Composting training

Attending composting classes at local parks and other areas. Includes state sponsored Master Composter course.

_AT:CTMN approved Online Presentation/s

Attending Online Presentation/s meeting the CTMN mission statement and approved by CTMN. Live presentations as long as there is some way to interact with others— Live chat or live Q&A. Recorded presentations okay only if there is some way to interact with speaker and/or other audience viewers. Exceptions: TMN Tuesdays, TMN Annual Meeting presentations.

_AT:CTMN Monthly meetings- 1 hr max

Attend regular monthly meetings with speaker. One hour of Advanced Training is reportable.

_AT:Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Attend classes, lectures, or workshops on composting, water conservation, native plants and other topics relevant to the Cross Timbers region.

_AT:Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Attend walk or other program led by Nature Center staff, naturalist, or docent.

_AT:Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

Advanced Training at Monthly meetings. Must meet CTMN requirements for local ecosystem or acceptable generic topics.

_AT:Higher ed courses

Attend college or university classes with science-related topics. **Must be pre-approved.** Hours reporting **cannot** be related to a requirement for your employment.

_AT:INaturalists Presentations and training from the INaturalists Program

_AT:Lake Mineral Wells Hikes and Events training

Training to lead hikes and events at Lake Mineral Wells State Park in Parker County.

_AT:Master Gardeners

Attend lecture, presentation, or workshops, advance training classes provided by local Master Gardeners. Topics may include native plants, landscape design, water conservation, etc.

_AT:Molly Hollar Wildscape lectures

Attend lectures and mini classes taught by Molly Hollar Wildscape volunteers.

_AT:North Central Texas MN Chapter

Attend a monthly meeting of the North Central Texas MN meeting

_AT:Not otherwise listed

Acceptable AT not otherwise listed. Must detail the activity, location, and speaker/leader

_AT:NPAT

Attend presentations of Fort Worth Chapter of the Native Prairie Association of Texas meetings.

_AT:NPSOT conferences

Attend State or Regional Conference meetings and lectures on Native Plant Society of Texas

_AT:NPSOT lectures

Monthly meetings of Native Plant Society of Texas. Report one hour of AT for lectures presented at a given meeting.

_AT:Oliver Nature Park, Arlington

Nature walks and other presentations at the Nature area. Presented by staff and local naturalists.

_AT:OS Gray Nature Area

Tours led by area Naturalists including birding and plant identification

_AT:Project Wild training

Training for Project Wild, a TPWD program

_AT:River Legacy Docent Training & Guide-Led Tours and Walks

Docent or other training for leading groups in activities and Guide-Led Tours and walks.

_AT:Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve

Attend prairie walks and tours lead by area naturalists. Attend meetings of the Friends of the SWNP

_AT:Tandy Hills training

Training for CTMN members to lead wildflower tours, BioBlitz, or other lectures held at Tandy Hills. Often taught by FWNC&R staff or area Naturalists.

_AT:Texas Regional Water District (TRWD)

_AT:Texas Native Cats Presentations and Training

Presentations and Training

_AT:Texas Stream Team training

Attend the Training to become a member of the Texas Stream Team survey group.

_AT:TPWD Presentations and training

Any presentations and training provided by Texas Parks & Wildlife

_AT:Tx Metro Wildlife Training

Training on rehabbing squirrels. intake and release. A one-day program

_AT:TX MetroWildlifeRehab-intro

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

_AT:TXMN conference

Attend programs and presentations at state and regional Master Naturalist conferences

_AT:VMS Training

Advanced Training, Volunteer Management System Training, (bring laptop)

_AT:Water conservation

Attend lectures or workshops on local water conservation topics and techniques.

_AT:Whooping Crane tourRockport Texas, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and other coastal area birding routes to observe Whooping Cranes.

2024 Board: Officers and Committee Directors

President/Webmaster	Mary Beth Lampe	president@ctmn.org
Vice President	Teddi R. Zonker	vp@ctmn.org
Secretary	Bill Collins	secretary@ctmn.org
Treasurer	Dee Ann McGinnis	treasurer@ctmn.org
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Newsletter	Madison Gover	newsletter@ctmn.org
Technology/Eblasts	Frank Keeney	webmaster@ctmn.org

Officers include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who are elected to serve two-year terms. **Directors** are chosen by the President with agreement from the other Board members.

Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Governing Documents

Written by a committee of Texas Master Naturalist state staff and Master Naturalists from across the state, each chapter **must** abide by these governing documents.

[Cross Timbers Chapter Bylaws](#)

[Chapter Management and Operations Protocols](#)

The “CMOP” is the authoritative reference for the management and protocols for chapters. Topics include Overview and Structure of the Program, Membership, Training and Certifying Volunteers, Advanced Training Requirements, Volunteer Service Requirements, Chapter Donations, Volunteer Management System; etc.

[Chapter Operating Handbook](#)

The CTMN COH resource for all members of the chapter, detailing day-to-day operational procedures to be followed. All options, policies, and procedures contained in the COH must meet the requirements of Chapter Bylaws and the TMN Chapter Management and Operations Protocols.