

T E X A S



Texas Master Naturalist™ Program



Sponsored by:



The Mission

“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 Goals

To develop a statewide Master Naturalist volunteer network that efficiently and effectively :

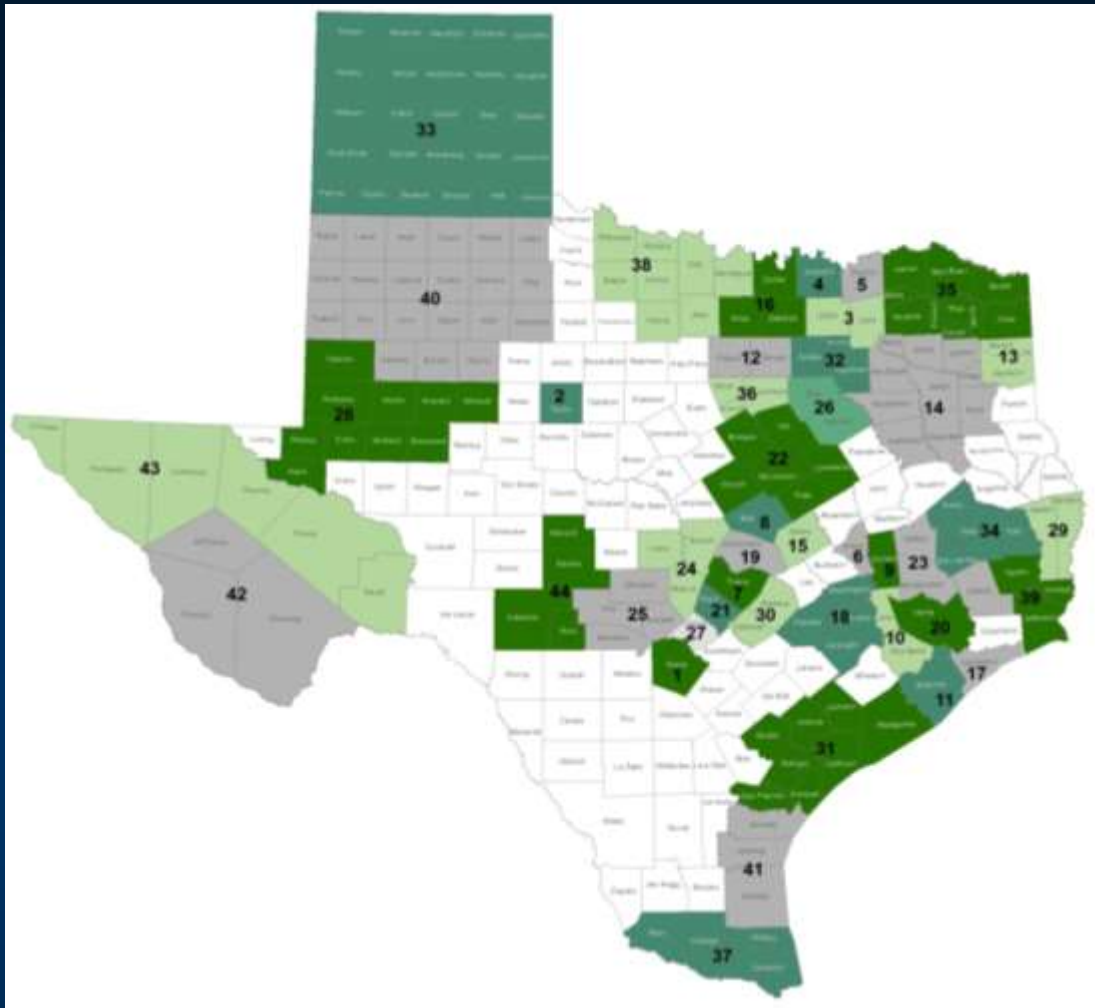
- *Improves public understanding of natural resource ecology and management*
- *Enhances existing natural resource education and outreach activities*

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
- **2008** – TMN State Program celebrates 10th year
- **2013** – TMN State Program celebrates 15th year
- **2014** – Assistant State Program Coordinator

Present Day

- 42 Chapters
+2 IN 2014
- 370+ Partners
- 200 counties
- Over 78% of Texas
- 8,850+ volunteers
- 82 chapter advisors
 - TPWD
 - A&M AgriLife Extension



What Master Naturalist Volunteers do for our Sponsoring Agencies

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



What Master Naturalist Volunteers do for our Sponsoring Agencies

- Supports Urban Wildlife Biology and Natural Resources
- Promotes Conservation Partnerships
- Improves Science and Data Collection



Program Impacts

“Bit by bit builds to bunches...”

- **8,852+ Volunteers** have been trained
- **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





Program Impacts

“Bit by bit builds to bunches...”

- **206,300+** acres of habitat enhanced
- **Over 1,850+** miles of interpretive trails developed or improved
- **31 National, State and Local Awards**
 - 2014 TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Award

Awards and Recognition

- Wildlife Management Institute's President's Award
- TPWD Lonestar Legends Volunteer Award
- TAMU Vice Chancellor's Award of Excellence
- National Audubon Society Habitat Hero's Award



Awards and Recognition

- US Dept. of Interior's Take Pride in America Award
- TCEQ Environmental Excellence Award
- Texas League of Women Voters – Environmental Awareness Award
- Governor's Volunteer Award for Community Leadership





Certification Requirements

- 40 hours of classroom and field instruction
 - 8 hours of approved advanced training
 - 40 hours of approved service projects
-

After certification, requires 40 hours volunteer service and 8 hours advanced training annually



“Basic Training”

40 hours of classroom and field experience:

- Present day and historical naturalists
- Traditional naturalist disciplines
- Land management and land use history
- Ecological concepts
- Ecoregions of Texas
- Management of natural systems
- Interpretation and communication



“Advanced Training”

8 hours of advanced training:

- 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



Statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced Training



October 24-26, 2014

Mo Ranch Conference Center, Hunt, TX

Learn more/register on line at: <http://txmn.org>

Statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced Training



October 23-25, 2015

Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls, TX

Learn more/register on line at: <http://txmn.org>

Volunteer Service Projects

40 hours of volunteer
service projects that:

- Are self-directed
- Are coordinated by the local Chapters
- Consist of opportunities developed by local partners
- Take advantage of individual skills





Statewide Projects



- Wildscape maintenance and demo areas
- Construction of interpretive trails
- Interpretive tours
- Brush and exotic plant management
- Fish, wildlife and plant inventories
- Volunteer Monitoring Projects



Statewide Projects

- Small acreage landowner consultation
- Native plant seed collections & rescues
- Natural resource youth camps
- Habitat restoration



Project Example

- Texas Wildlife Association
 - L.A.N.D.S. Program 2013-2014
 - 100's Master Naturalists
 - 28 LANDS Field Days
 - 9 Chapters Involved



Project Example

- Texas Wildlife Association
 - Recognized as “Volunteers of the Year”
 - Paul & Charlie Grindstaff



Local Chapter Projects

TMN Volunteers Assist Staff by:

- “Providing outreach that otherwise would not be done...Providing assistance in taking data, reducing the cost to agency or enabling research that otherwise could not be funded”*
- “Assisting local landowners with becoming familiar with the resources they have on hand through their Land Management Assistance Program”*
- “They help with species checklists and monitoring, help with educating the public, support wildlife conservation and are willing to help me in any way they can”*

What Staff say about the Program

- *“Texas Master Naturalists provide high quality volunteers who are conscientious and reliable...”*
- *“A great volunteer base for your state park. This can include everything from park maintenance to park interpretive programming...”*



What Staff say about the Program

“...Working with the MN’s is my favorite part of my job! Plus they are making huge impacts on local natural resources through restoration and education activities!... Lives are being changed because of the TMN program! Working with the MN’s is the most important thing I have done in my 22 year long career in natural resource protection and education!”

The Benefits: What's in it for you?

Opportunity!

- Help make a difference in Texas Natural Resources—now and for the future
- Learn from Experts in the field
- Provide important and valuable natural resource information
- Gain an appreciation for and understanding of natural environments
- Develop new friendships and working relationships
- Obtain Individual awards and recognition

Questions?

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Questions?

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