

# Highland Lakes Master Naturalist (HLMN)

## More Volunteer Opportunities<sup>1</sup>

### **Volunteer Service with a Variable Geographic Location or without a Specific**

**Geographic Location** – These types of volunteer service include readily identifiable/established programs as well as examples of volunteer service ideas members may wish to pursue.

### **Established Programs Including HLMN Activities**

**Adopt-a-Highway** (Texas Department of Transportation) – Adopt a two-mile stretch of a state-maintained roadway to conduct litter pickups. Note, Interstate and high traffic highways are not eligible for this program. Volunteers are expected to conduct pickups four times per year over a two-year period. Adopt-a Highway signs will be posted with HLMN's name. The state will provide safety vests, litterbags, and safety training. For more information, go to <https://www.txdot.gov/about/campaigns-outreach/adopt-a-highway.html>.

**Angler Education Instructor** (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) – Certified instructors provide children and their families with basic angler education through hands-on activities such as knot tying, tackle assembly, casting, and catch & release. In addition, volunteer instructors provide lessons in stewardship, fish identification & habitat, and safety & regulations. For more information, contact Adam Comer at (512) 389-4472 (office) or at (512) 201-5790 (cell) or via [adam.comer@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:adam.comer@tpwd.texas.gov).

**Armchair Botanist** (Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Philecology Herbarium) - As of the April 2024 TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair, volunteers are needed to help map/georeference the localities where specimens were collected. Training will be provided by their collection manager, Ashley Bales. For more information, contact Tiana Rehman at [herbarium@brit.org](mailto:herbarium@brit.org) or [trehman@brit.org](mailto:trehman@brit.org) or (817) 546-1845.

**Audubon Christmas Bird Count** (National Audubon Society) – Participate in a citizen science project that dates to Christmas Day of 1900. These bird census surveys take place between December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> and are organized by a designated Circle Compiler. Each count takes place within an established 15-mile diameter circle over a single 24-hour period. For more information, go to <https://www.audubon.org/answers-your-top-questions-about-christmas-bird-count>. In addition, there are HLMN members

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<sup>1</sup> There is a list of keywords at the end of this document to aid in performing a word search.

with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**Bird City Texas** (Audubon Texas and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) – Assist a community in achieving/maintaining its Bird City Texas designation. Required activities include, but are not limited to: promoting native plants; controlling native plants; promoting Cat's Indoors; providing education about glass collisions and light pollution; celebrating World Migratory Bird Day; creating demonstration gardens; establishing on-line resources; and adopting a Bird City Resolution. For more information, go to <https://birdcity.org/Texas/applyAndRenew>. Assistance is also available from the following Texas Parks and Wildlife Department contacts. For Austin, contact Natasia Moore at (512) 409-0689 or [natasia.moore@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:natasia.moore@tpwd.texas.gov). For San Antonio, contact Judit Green at (210) 688-6444 or [judit.green@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:judit.green@tpwd.texas.gov).

**Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky** (DarkSky International) – As part of their mission to preserve and protect the night sky, they need volunteers to: gather & publish news about the night sky & light pollution; work with the Hill Country Alliance, chambers of commerce, government agencies, & developers to implement dark sky practices; assess existing lighting and, if necessary, assist in finding night sky friendly lighting fixtures; and capture & record night sky darkness data. Time spent on any fundraising activities will not be eligible for volunteer service. For more information, contact Wayne Gosnell (President) at [president@blancocountynightsky.org](mailto:president@blancocountynightsky.org) or go to <https://www.blancocountynightsky.org/volunteers.php>.

**Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA) Project** – As part of their objective to collect, store, and share information, they need volunteers to: submit photographs of butterflies, moths, caterpillars, eggs, & pupae and/or to serve as a photograph editor. For more information, go to <https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>.

**Celebrate Urban Birds** (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) – Volunteers are needed to learn to identify your neighborhood birds, pick a time & place to watch birds, watch for 10 minutes on 3 days, and enter your data. For more information, go to <https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/>.

**Climate Watch** (National Audubon Society) – Participate in the collection of data to help scientists determine how birds are responding to climate change and shifting their ranges. For more information, go to <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>.

**City Nature Challenge** – Participate in a four-day global challenge to find and document wildlife. Volunteers can participate as individuals, with their families, as part of a larger group, as part of a class, or as part of a specific city. For more information, go to <https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/participate>.

**CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative, Rain, Hail & Snow)** – Pronounced Ko-ko-rozz – This is a network of backyard weather observers from the United States, Canada,

Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Bahamas who measure and map precipitation in their local communities. For more information, go to <https://www.cocorahs.org/> and/or contact Bill Runyon (Texas State Coordinator) at [texas@cocorahs.org](mailto:texas@cocorahs.org).

**Colorado River Watch Network-** (Lower Colorado River Authority) – Volunteers are needed to collect water quality data for analysis by the Lower Colorado River Authority. Training is provided and volunteers are expected to make a two-year commitment to monthly monitoring. For more information, go to <https://www.lcra.org/water/quality/colorado-river-watch-network/>. In addition, there are HLMN members with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**eBird** (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) – With more than 100 million bird sightings contributed annually from around the world, eBird is the world's largest biodiversity-related science project. Volunteers enter when, where, how they went birding, and birds seen and heard. In return, eBird provides tools to manage lists, photos, and audio recordings as well as real-time maps of species distributions and species alerts. In addition, Global Big Day is an annual event in which birdwatchers from around the world document as many birds as possible within a 24-hour period. For more information on eBird, go to <https://ebird.org/home>. In addition, for more information on logging hours for eBird, go to

[Texas Master Naturalist Program Guidance for logging Volunteer Service Hours for iNaturalist, Texas Nature Trackers, and eBird Projects - Texas Master Naturalist Program \(tamu.edu\)](#).

**eButterfly, North America** – Citizen scientists: track butterfly sightings & locations; organize, store, & share photos; find butterflies they have never seen; explore dynamic range maps; share sightings with others; and, most important, contribute to science and conservation. For more information, go to <https://www.e-butterfly.org/>.

**Globe at Night** (National Science Foundation, NOIRLab) – International citizen scientists are taught to measure and submit their night sky brightness observations. For more information, go to <https://globeatnight.org/>.

**The GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program** (NASA) – Projects include: clouds observation; mosquito habitat mapper; land cover observation; and trees observation. For more information, go to <https://www.globe.gov/about/learn/who-uses-globe/citizen-scientists>. In addition, Dorian Janney (Senior NASA Earth Science Education and Communications Specialist) can be reached at (301) 286-8912 (office) or (301) 787-5169 (cell).

**Great Backyard Bird Count** (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada) – Each February, volunteers from around the world watch and listen for birds for at least 15 minutes over a four-day period and then record their findings. For more information, go to <https://www.birdcount.org/about/>.

**The Great Texas Birding Classic** (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) – Teams are formed to compete in various categories and submit their data for scoring. Winning teams receive conservation project grants. Teams select their tournament category based on the age level of the team, number of team members, length of time spent birding, regional versus statewide, and whether team members travel together or disperse. For more information, go to <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic>.

**Healthy Soils, Healthy Trees** (Central Texas Mycology Society and Ecology Action of Texas) – Volunteers are needed to participate in research to better understand the benefits of fungi for Austin's urban forest and soils. Time spent on any fundraising activities will not be eligible for volunteer service. For more information, contact Chris Kennedy (Project Coordinator, Healthy Soils Team) at [volunteer@centraltexasmycology.org](mailto:volunteer@centraltexasmycology.org).

**Hill Country Archeological Association (HCCA)** – The primary task of HCCA is to survey and record details about archeologically significant sites before they are lost to collecting, erosion, and increasing development. For more information, go to <https://hcarcheology.org/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/>.

#### **HLMN Board of Directors -**

Officers include: President; Vice President; Secretary; & Treasurer.

Other directors include: Volunteer Service & VMS Director, New Class Representative, Immediate Past President and State Representative, Chapter Advisor, Education Oversight Director, Communications Director, and Project Director.

**HLMN Booth** – Examples include but are not limited to county fairs, farmers' markets, festivals, and lawn & garden shows.

#### **HLMN Chapter Reporting to TMN Program**

**HLMN Committees** – Advanced Training Committee; Annual Banquet / Fundraiser Committee; Chapter Meetings Committee; Communications Committee; Executive Committee; Financial Examination Committee; New Projects Committee; Nominations Committee; Ongoing Education Committee; Public Outreach Committee; Sunshine Committee; Training Class Committee; Trip Committee; & Volunteerism Committee.

#### **HLMN New Class Support**

#### **HLMN Newsletter (The Steward)**

#### **HLMN Representation at Multi-Chapter Events**

#### **HLMN Volunteer Coordinator/Project Champion**

#### **HLMN Website Management**

**Hummingbirds at Home** (National Audubon Society) – Community scientists report hummingbird sightings and document feeding behavior. For more information, go to <https://www.audubon.org/content/hummingbirds-home>.

**iNaturalist** – Citizen scientists can: record their encounters with nature; create their own bioblitz with others; or create their own projects. Existing projects include: Beetles of Texas; Edwards Plateau Naturalist; Fall Continental MycoBlitz; Global Pollinator Watch; The Mycology Research Project; Plants of Texas; Project GNBee (i.e., ground nesting bees); Summer Continental MycoBlitz; Texas Pollinator Bioblitz; and Texas Milkweed & Monarchs. For more information on iNaturalist, go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. In addition, for more information on logging hours for iNaturalist, go to

[Texas Master Naturalist Program Guidance for logging Volunteer Service Hours for iNaturalist, Texas Nature Trackers, and eBird Projects - Texas Master Naturalist Program \(tamu.edu\)](#).

**Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program** (Monarch Joint Venture) – Volunteers collect and report data on milkweed, nectar plants, and monarchs. For more information, go to <https://monarchjointventure.org/mjvprograms/science/integrated-monarch-monitoring-program>. In addition, there are HLMN members with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**Invaders of Texas Program** (coordinated by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center). Citizen scientists are trained to detect the arrival and dispersal of invasive plant species in their areas. The information they collect is delivered into a statewide mapping database and to those local/national natural resource managers who can do something about it. For more information, go to <https://www.texasinvasives.org/invaders/>.

**Journey North** (University of Wisconsin) – Volunteers track and report on migratory wildlife. Projects include: American Robin project; Bald Eagle Project; Barn Swallow Migration; Habitat & Pollinator Patches; Hummingbird Migration Project; Monarch Migration & Milkweed Phenology Project; Oriole Migration Study; Red-winged Blackbird Migration Study; Signs of the Season; The Symbolic Migration Project; and Tulip Test Gardens. For more information, go to <https://journeynorth.org/about-journey-north>.

**Keep Texas Waterways Clean** (H-E-B) – This program provides volunteers with waterway cleanup kits and cleanup event hosting toolkits. Cleanup locations must be within 30 miles of an H-E-B. For more information, go to <https://ktb.org/our-work/keep-texas-waterways-clean/#overview>.

**Lampasas County Friends of the Night Sky** – Volunteers are needed to help communities in Lampasas County reduce light pollution. For more information, go to <https://business.lampasaschamber.org/list/member/lampasas-county-friends-of-the-night-sky-1573>. In addition, there are HLMN members with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**Llano County Friends of the Night Sky** – This organization is actively working to provide light awareness and other benefits associated with a quality night sky over Llano County. For more information, go to <https://www.llanochamber.org/llano-county-friends-of-the-night-sky>.

**Llano Uplift Archeological Society (LUAS)** – LUAS seeks to protect, conserve, and study historic and prehistoric materials and sites in the Llano Uplift and adjacent areas. Current long-term research projects include: 1) the Simms Creek site which is a prehistoric camp (and possible bison jump) from 1660 to 1780 and 2) the Baker site which is a large camp occupied by the Toyah culture. For more information, go to <https://texasluas.org/>.

**Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation** – This organization seeks to highlight the essential value of bats. Volunteer opportunities are intermittent, so interested volunteers need to submit a form indicating their area(s) of interest. For more information, go to <https://www.merlintuttle.org/work-with-us/>.

**Monarch Larva Monitoring Project** (Monarch Joint Venture and University of Wisconsin) – Volunteers collect and report data on monarch eggs and larvae during the breeding season. For more information, go to <https://mlmp.org/>.

**Monarch Rx** – Monarchs regurgitate saliva on plants to take up toxic chemicals called pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Volunteers are needed to collect and record data regarding this behavior. For more information, go to <https://citsci.org/projects/monarch-rx/>.

**Monarch Stewards** (National Wildlife Foundation) – Volunteers learn to create native pollinator friendly habitats, contribute to research, and amplify pollinator conservation through outreach and educational presentations. For more information, go to <https://www.nwf.org/monarchstewards>.

**Monarch Watch** – This organization provides advice regarding the creation of a monarch waystation, raising monarchs, growing milkweed, butterfly gardening, and the use of monarchs in the classroom. In addition, citizen scientists are needed in three areas: 1) Monarch Watch Tagging Program; 2) Monarch Calendar Project; and 3) Directional Flight Project. For more information, go to <https://www.monarchwatch.org/>.

**Native Flora Seeds** ([nativefloraseeds.org](http://nativefloraseeds.org)) - As of the April 2024 TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair, volunteers were needed to help find conservation groups interested in educating the public regarding the benefits of native plants. For more information, contact Sandy Tibbs at [sandytibbs9@gmail.com](mailto:sandytibbs9@gmail.com).

**Native Plant Society of Texas** – Most chapters offer volunteer opportunities. For more information and to find a chapter near you, go to <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/#map>.

**Nature's Notebook** (USA National Phenology Network) – Backyard observers are needed to track the seasonal events of plants and animals. Projects include: Green Waves; Nectar Connectors; Pest Patrol; Pollen Trackers; Quercus Quest; The Redbud



Phenology Project; and Time to Restore. For more information, go to <https://www.usanpn.org/nn>.

**NestWatch** (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) – Participants collect and report data regarding when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid and hatched, and number of hatchlings that survive. For more information, go to <https://nestwatch.org/>. In addition, there are HLMN members with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**Notes from Nature** (Zooniverse) – Community scientists are needed to transcribe museum records. Please note, only projects associated with Texas are eligible for volunteer service. For more information, go to <https://www.zooniverse.org/organizations/md68135/notes-from-nature>. In addition, there are HLMN members with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**North American Breeding Bird Survey** (U.S. Geological Survey) – Volunteers count and record data on breeding birds. For more information, go to <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/participate/>.

**North American Butterfly Association (NABA)** – Four observers over a six-hour period collect and then report butterfly counts. For more information, go to <https://naba.org/butterfly-counts/>.

**Project Feederwatch** (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) – Volunteers select two consecutive days a week to collect data between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> and then record bird counts. There is optional data collection for mammal sightings, sick birds and bird mortality, behavioral interactions and predation events, and more. There is a fee associated with participation in this project. For more information, go to <https://feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate/>.

**Project Monarch Health** (University of Georgia) – Community scientists sample monarchs for parasites and report their findings. For more information, go to <https://www.monarchparasites.org/>.

**Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA)** – Volunteer opportunities include: observing the arrival of scouts, nest monitoring, reporting pre-migratory and winter roosts, obtaining federal permits required for banding, geolocator data entry, and summer field research tasks. For more information, go to <https://www.purplemartin.org/research/3/research/>.

**SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program** (National Weather Service) – Volunteers are trained to provide timely and accurate reports of severe weather events. For more information, go to <https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>.

**Texas Brigades** – This organization uses wildlife education to teach leadership skills to high school students with the goal of developing the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

HLMN frequently sponsors students to attend week-long camps and interested parties are encouraged to spread the word about this program. For more information, go to <https://www.texasbrigades.org/about-us>. Natalie Wolff is the Executive Director, and can be reached at (210) 556-1391 or at [natalie@texasbrigades.org](mailto:natalie@texasbrigades.org). In addition, there are HLMN members with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**Texas Buffalo Soldiers Program** (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) – This program seeks to connect underrepresented populations with the outdoors through interpretive storytelling of the Buffalo Soldiers. Volunteers are needed to take photos and videos, for general program assistance, to serve as outdoor skill facilitators (i.e., animal tracking or fishing with a cane pole), and as costumed interpreters. For more information, go to <https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php?recruiterID=1353&class=OppDetails&opGuid=%7b23FC8F90-C4FA-4842-A398-38E4A8706826%7d#.VuGN4NIrKHs>. Ricky Dolifka oversees this program and can be reached at (512) 389-4839 or [ricky.dolifka@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:ricky.dolifka@tpwd.texas.gov).

**Texas Butterfly Monitoring Network** – Citizen scientists walk the same route at least nine times over the course of a year and record every butterfly seen. For more information, go to <http://texasbutterflies.org/volunteer.html>.

**Texas Children in Nature Network** – As of the April 2024 TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair, there are two statewide volunteer opportunities. Volunteers are needed to transcribe interviews. For more information, contact Alice Jansen at [ajansen@texaschildreninnature.org](mailto:ajansen@texaschildreninnature.org). Volunteers are also needed to translate educational outreach materials into Spanish. For more information, contact Alicia Fontenot at [afontenot@texaschildreninnature.org](mailto:afontenot@texaschildreninnature.org).

**Texas Nature Trackers (TNT)** (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) – Volunteer opportunities include: Herps of Texas; Terrestrial Mollusks of Texas; Mammals of Texas; Birds of Texas; Rare Plants of Texas; Bees and Wasps of Texas; Texas Freshwater Mussels; Red-crowned Parrot Project; Fishes of Texas; Texas Milkweeds for Monarchs; Texas Whooper Watch; and Texas Eagle Nests. There is also a Camera Trap Loan Program (CTLP). Data is collected via iNaturalist and maintained by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. For more information, go to [https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife\\_diversity/texas\\_nature\\_trackers/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/). Craig Hensley oversees TNT and can be reached (512) 547-9730 or [craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov). In addition, for more information on logging hours for Texas Nature Trackers go to

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**Texas Stream Team** (Texas State University, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment) – The ecological research group needs volunteers to: control non-native



aquatic vegetation as well as control the invasive Suckermouth Armored Catfish; restore native plant communities; enhance Texas wild-rice; identify optimal habitat suitability for native freshwater mussels; mitigate floating vegetation mats; and litter removal. For more information, go to <https://www.meadowscenter.txst.edu/stewardship/eco-research-group.html#volunteer>.

**Texas Waters Specialist** (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) – This program offers volunteer service opportunities in conservation, ecology, education, and stewardship. For more information, go to <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>. In addition, there are HLMN members with experience with this program and they can be reached via [txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com](mailto:txmn.highlandlakes@gmail.com).

**TMN Annual Meeting** – Texas Master Naturalists are needed each year to serve as presenters. In addition, when this meeting is held locally, volunteers are needed to help plan and provide logistics for this multi-day event. For more information, go to <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>.

**TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair** – During this event, Texas Master Naturalists are introduced to both virtual and distance-based volunteer service opportunities. In addition, the time spent in attendance at this fair is eligible for volunteer service. For more information, go to <https://txmn.tamu.edu/?s=virtual+volunteer+fair>.

**UT Fungarium** – (University of Texas and Central Texas Mycology Society) - Volunteers are needed to maintain and grow the fungi collection. Volunteers can choose from the following areas of interest: collection; documentation; microscopy; administrative tasks; DNA analysis; or specify something else. For more information, go to <https://www.centraltexasmycology.org/utfungarium>.

**Wild Basin Creative Research Basin** (Saint Edward's University) – Community members can do robust research at a dedicated field station. Volunteer opportunities are intermittent, so interested volunteers need to submit a form indicating their area(s) of interest. For more information, go to <https://www.stedwards.edu/wild-basin>. Barbara Dugelby is the Executive Director and she can be reached at (512) 327-7622 or [bdugelby@stedwards.edu](mailto:bdugelby@stedwards.edu).

**Keywords**

American Robin

Archeological

Aquatic

Bald Eagle

Banding

Barn Swallow

Bat

Bee

Beetle

Bird

Bioblitz

Board

Booth

Botanical

Buffalo Soldier

Butterfly/Moth/Caterpillar

Camera

Children

Citizen Scientist

Climate

Clouds

Committee

Conservation

Demonstration Garden

DNA

Edwards Plateau

Fall

Field Station

Fish

Fungi

Grant

Habitat

Herp

HLMN

Hummingbird

Invasive

Land Cover

Light Pollution

Litter Pickup/Litter Removal

Llano Uplift

Mammal

Map

Migratory

Milkweed

Mollusk

Monarch

Mosquito

Mussel

MycoBlitz

Mycology

Native

Nature

Nectar

Nest

New Class Support

Newsletter

Night Sky/Dark Sky

Oriole

Outdoor

Parasite

Pest

Phenology

Plant

Pollen/Pollinator

Predation

Presenter

Purple Martin

Quercus

Rain/Precipitation

Redbud

Red-crowned Parrot

Red-winged Blackbird

Season

Soil

Spanish

Summer

Texas wild-rice

Tracking

Transcribe

Tree

Underrepresented

Vegetation

Virtual

Wasp

Water

Weather

Whooper

Wildlife

Winter