

Texas Master Naturalists New Class Forming For 2009-2010



The Lindheimer Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists is now taking enrollment for its 2009-2010 volunteer class. The Master Naturalist program is a natural resource-based volunteer training and development program jointly sponsored statewide by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks & Wildlife. The mission of the program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education and service dedicated to the beneficial management of the natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the state of Texas.

During 2008, Lindheimer Master Naturalists provided over 4,000 hours of volunteer service in such varied projects as the Canyon Lake Gorge; monitoring water quality on the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers; counting and documenting bird sightings at Warbler Woods; maintaining the Guadalupe River Trail; serving as docents at the Texas Heritage Museum; sponsoring Earth Day activities; and supporting RavenStar children's nature programs, to name just a few.

The fall class begins with an orientation on October 26 from 6-9pm; the first class is scheduled for November 3 from 6-9pm. Curriculum consists of 12 classes, held the first Tuesday of each month from 6-9pm. Curriculum includes 36 hours in the classroom taught by subject matter experts from a wide range of natural resource disciplines. In addition, 40 hours of volunteer work, and eight hours of advanced training qualifies trainees for certification as a Master Naturalist. Training is conducted at the AgriLife Extension Service, Comal County, at 325 Resource Drive, located behind the Comal County Recycling Center on Texas 46W.

Applications will be accepted through October 19 and are available at www.comal-co.tamu.edu by clicking on "Comal Master Naturalists"; at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 325 Resource Drive, New Braunfels, or at the Lindheimer Chapter website at www.grovesite.com/tamu/lc. Tuition is \$120 and includes course materials. The class is limited to 20 students. *For information, call 830-620-3440.*