



The Bluestem Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program invites you to become part of the sixth class of an exciting program for Grayson County. The mission of this program is to develop and certify a group of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our community.

This program will furnish participants with essential information and strategies to restore and conserve our indigenous species and habitats. Through carefully planned training classes, local experts will cover interesting topics about our natural resources and lead hands-on field trips to local ecosystems. Upon completion of training, Texas Master Naturalist trainees may select from a wide variety of approved local projects for volunteer service.

To become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist and a member of the Bluestem Chapter, trainees must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Attendance at all training classes, including field trips (minimum of 40 hours)**
- **Forty (40) hours minimum of volunteer service in approved projects within one year**
- **Eight (8) hours of advanced training in approved classes within one year**

To maintain active status, Texas Master Naturalists must complete the following requirements **annually**:

- **Forty (40) hours of volunteer service on approved projects**
- **Eight (8) hours of advanced training in approved classes**
- **Attendance at two (2) general meetings (minimum)**

An orientation for participants will be held during the first training session on August 15, from 6-9 p.m. at the Grayson County Courthouse. Training classes will be held on various Tuesday evenings and Saturdays (see attached schedule). The **registration fee** for this program is **\$100.00**, which includes a training manual, a mandatory background check, and Bluestem Master Naturalist membership.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist Program. You may download an application and schedule at <http://txmn.org/bluestem>, or you may e-mail [bluestemmasternaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:bluestemmasternaturalists@gmail.com) to request an application. Mail the application and your **check made payable to Texas Master Naturalist/Bluestem Chapter** to the address printed on the application by **July 24, 2017**.

Sincerely,

*Helen Vargus*  
President, Bluestem Chapter



**BLUESTEM CHAPTER  
FALL 2017 TRAINING APPLICATION**

**PRINT, COMPLETE & MAIL APPLICATION &  
REGISTRATION FEE BY July 24, 2017 TO:  
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST/BLUESTEM CHAPTER  
C/O Cathy Van Bebber  
405 Preston Road  
Denison, Texas 75020**

**For more information: [bluestemmasternaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:bluestemmasternaturalists@gmail.com) or <http://txmn.org/bluestem>**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (circle) M F  
(as wanted on registration roster and nametag)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ /Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name as you want it on your certificate \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Employer \_\_\_\_\_

If retired or not currently employed, former occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe briefly why you are interested in the Texas Master Naturalist volunteer program.

\_\_\_\_\_

For what organizations have you volunteered time within the past two years?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate skills, professional training, or interests that you are willing to share as a Texas Master Naturalist (check all that apply):

- Educational and/or Public Information: speaking, nature guide, children's tours/activities, project development/management, etc.
- Field Activities/Research and/or Surveys: ecosystems, plant/wildlife census, habitat restoration, water testing, seed/plant collection, invasive species monitoring, etc.
- Administrative: chapter leadership, newsletter, technical/computer assistance (Web page and database management), fundraising, event planning/hospitality (chapter events), etc.
- Personal Interests: photography/artwork, construction, design, etc.
- Other (be specific) \_\_\_\_\_

**As a participant in the Texas Master Naturalist training program (*Program*):**

- I hereby release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless the *Program* and its sponsors and sponsoring governmental agencies, their agents, employees, officers, and successors for all personal injuries (including death), known and unknown, or damage to property caused by or arising out of activities performed under the Texas Master Naturalist program.
- I have reviewed the training schedule provided and am available to attend all classes and field studies. Attendance in all of the training sessions is expected; missed sessions must be made-up within 12 month to complete training.
- I understand I will be required to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training within 12 months of the start of classes to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist and a member of the Bluestem Chapter.
- I understand that to maintain certified status as an active member of the Texas Master Naturalist program, I must complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training each year.
- I will be at least 18 years of age by August 15, 2017.
- I understand that I will pay a class fee of \$100, which includes a background check fee (non-refundable and not required for under age 18). Class fees are non-refundable beginning August 15, 2017.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

This information is **OPTIONAL** (but useful in understanding *Program* demographics):

Highest education level attained: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status: \_\_\_\_\_

**This program is a collaborative effort between Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and local partner organizations. It is intended to serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, gender, religion, disability, or national origin. We seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Please advise us as soon as possible of any auxiliary aid or service that you require.**



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

1. Subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct.
2. Promote and support the statewide and local Master Naturalist programs.
3. Respect the state sponsors of Texas Parks & Wildlife and AgriLife Extension Service and their roles and expectations.
4. Disseminate appropriate information to promote understanding of and appreciation for the value of natural resources.
5. Strive to increase knowledge and skills to advance as a Master Naturalist volunteer.
6. Promote competence as a Master Naturalist volunteer by supporting high standard of education, service and performance.
7. Encourage the use of sound biological information in education and outreach as well as in management decisions.
8. Support fair and uniform standards of service and treatment of those engaged in the Master Naturalist program.
9. Know and follow established program guidelines and policies.
10. Abide by chapter bylaws.
11. Avoid use of the Master Naturalist title, logos and trademarks for personal endeavors and/or profit and political arenas.
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 of area.



## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Master Naturalist program volunteers shall at all time:

1. Uphold the commitment made to the program and the required volunteer and advanced training hours required by the program.
2. Uphold the dignity and integrity of the Master Naturalist program. Endeavor to avoid even the suspicion of dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or unprofessional demeanor.
3. Conduct themselves appropriately to context and setting at all times.
4. Be considerate and respect other points of view.
5. Keep accurate records of volunteer service and training and research; regularly notify local chapter of these records.
6. Avoid performing service when such service is judged to be contrary to the Code of Ethics or detrimental to the well-being of the program and its sponsors.
7. Provide maximum possible effort in the best interest of each client and/or volunteer project regardless of the degree of remuneration.
8. Be mindful of individual responsibility to society and the program.
9. Studiously avoid discrimination in any form or the abuse of program authority, certification or membership for personal satisfaction. Avoid advocacy, lobbying or promoting political issues.
10. Cooperate fully with professionals and other Master Naturalist volunteers in the best interest of natural resources.
11. Refrain from advertising in a self-laudatory manner, beyond statements intended to inform prospective clients or members of qualifications, or in a manner detrimental to the Master Naturalist program and its volunteers.
12. Avoid all use of alcohol and controlled substances while performing service as a Master Naturalist volunteer. Reporting for service while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will result in termination from the volunteer program.
13. Accept responsibility for decisions made and actions taken based on these decisions.



## 2017 BMN Training Schedule

<b>August 15</b> (3.5 hours) Courthouse	Potluck Dinner Orientation History of TMN Naturalists of Grayson County VMS Set-up	6-9:30 p.m.	C Van Bebber-BMN C Van Bebber-BMN C Van Bebber-BMN L Vargus-BMN
<b>August 19</b> (6 hours) Courthouse Commissioners Room	CoCoRaHS Geology Brown Bag Lunch/travel Field Trip****	9-10:00 10-12:30 12:30-1:30 1:30-4:00	S Abernathy-BMN D Brownlee, Geophysicist  Fossils at Duck Creek
<b>August 22</b> (3 hours) Meet at Dam	Field Trip to Denison Dam****	6-9 p.m.	P Balkenbush Deputy Manager-HNWR
<b>September 9</b> (6.5 hours) ESP	Prairies and Plants  Brown Bag Lunch Intro to Eisenhower State Park Interpretation**** VMS	9-11:30  11:30-12 12-12:30  12:30-2:30 2:30-4	C Clark-Conservation Specialist  K Saling- Park Ranger-ESP  K Saling-Park Ranger-ESP BMN members
<b>September 12</b> (3 hours) HNWR	Wetland Ecology Tram Tour Nature of Naming	6-7:30 p.m.  7:30-9 p.m.	K Whaley-Refuge Mgr.  P Parsons-Professor GCC
<b>September 16</b> (6.5 hours) Bonham area	Field Trip Rangeland Brown Bag Lunch Forest Ecology Land Stewardship****	9-5	R Moore-Ecology Conservation Specialist
<b>September 26</b> (3 hours) HNWR	Herpetology	6-9 p.m.	T Patton, Professor SOSU
<b>September 30</b> (7 hours) HNWR	Urban Systems Brown Bag Lunch Archaeology **** Ornithology	9-11:30 11:30-12:00 12-2:00 2-4:30	D Woodson, Texas AgriLife  P Smith, Texas Archeologist W Meyer, Professor AC

<b>October 7</b> (6.5 hours) AC	Mammalogy Lunch at AC Climate Change Ecological Systems	9-11:30 11:30-12:30 12:30-2:00 2:00-4:30	J Healy, Professor AC  G Diggs, Professor AC P Schulz, Professor AC
<b>October 10</b> (3 hours) AC	Entomology**** Spiders****	6-8 p.m. 8-9 p.m.	L Garcia, Professor AC D Parsons-BMN
<b>October 14</b> HNWR	Butterfly Fest Training/Service Hours	TBA	TBA
<b>October 24</b> (3 hours) HNWR	Ichthyology	6-9 p.m.	P Balkenbush Deputy Manager-HNWR
<b>November 4</b> (6.5 hours) HNWR (Conf. Room)	Trail Building**** Brown Bag Lunch Weather**** Shore Birds at HWR	9-11:30 11:30-12 12-2:00 2-4:00	C Anderson, Biologist HWR  M Fox, NOAA J Chiles-BMN
<b>November 11</b> (1.5 hours) HNWR	Protecting Wildlife****	10-11:30	Mike Hummert TPWD Game Warden
<b>November 14</b> (3 hours) HNWR	Aquatic Systems	6-9 p.m.	P Balkenbush Deputy Manager-HNWR
<b>November 28</b> (AT – 3 hours) HNWR	Nighttime Photography	6-9 p.m.	B Garcia-BMN
<b>December 2</b> <b>December 5</b>	RAIN DATE RAIN DATE		

\*\*\*\* May count as Advanced Training for certified MNs who have not received prior training in that particular area.

ESP – Eisenhower State Park  
AC – Austin College  
HNWR – Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge