



The Bluestem Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program invites you to become part of an exciting program for Grayson County. The mission of this program is to develop and certify a group of well-informed volunteers who will 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 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 8, 2019, from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Grayson County Courthouse. Training classes will be held on various Tuesday/Thursday 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 for 2019.

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 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 26, 2019**.

Sincerely,

Margaret Avard
President, Bluestem Chapter

T E X A S



BLUESTEM CHAPTER FALL 2019 TRAINING APPLICATION

PRINT, COMPLETE & MAIL APPLICATION & REGISTRATION

FEE BY July 26, 2019 TO:

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST/BLUESTEM CHAPTER

C/O Cathy Van Bebber

405 Preston Road

Denison, Texas 75020

For more information: 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 months 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 8, 2019.
- I understand that I will pay a class fee of \$100, which includes a background check fee. Class fees are non-refundable beginning August 8, 2019.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

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.



2019 BMN Training Schedule

August 8 GC Courthouse 4 hours	Potluck Dinner Welcome History of BMN VMS Set-up	5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Cathy Van Bebber – BMN Margaret Avard – BMN Cathy Van Bebber – BMN LVargus/DTurner – BMN
August 15 HNWR 3 hours	Entomology Spiders	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	David Parsons – BMN
August 24 ESP 7 hours	Prairies/Wildflowers Brown Bag Lunch Blackland Prairie VMS Training	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Carol Clark – Conservation Specialist Cody Edwards – ES Park Interpreter LVargus/DTurner – BMN
August 29 HNWR 3 hours	Herpetology	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Tim Patton Professor – SOSU
September 7 HNWR 7 hours	Geology Field Trip Geology Class Brown Bag Lunch CoCoRahs	8:00 – 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	MAvard/KGlenn/CVanBebber MAvard/KGlenn/CVanBebber Sue Abernathy – BMN
September 12 Denison Dam 3 hours	Denison Dam Trip	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Paul Balkenbush Deputy Manager – HNWR
September 17 HNWR 3 hours	Nature of Naming (Tentative date)	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Patrice Parsons Professor – GC
September 21 AC – Room IC215 7 hours	Mammalogy Lunch at AC Climate Change Ecological Systems	9:00 – 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Jessica Healy, Professor – AC George Diggs, Professor – AC Peter Schulze, Professor – AC
September 28 HNWR 6.5 hours	Ornithology Brown Bag Lunch Shore Birds at HNWR Identifying Birds	9:00 – 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Wayne Meyer, Professor – AC Jack Chiles – BMN Jack Chiles – BMN

October 5 7 hours	Field Trip Rangeland Ecology Brown Bag Lunch Forest Ecology Sand Pit Visit/Land Stewardship	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Randy Moore Conservation Specialist Fannin County Judge
October 10 HNWR 3 hours	Aquatic Systems	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Paul Balkenbush Deputy Manager – HNWR
October 26 HNWR 4.5 hours	Archaeology Brown Bag Lunch Rules/Regulations TBA	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon 12:00 noon – 12:30 p.m. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Becky Shelton – Texas Archaeologist Shane Bailey – Grayson Game Warden
November 14 HNWR 3 hours	Ichthyology	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Paul Balkenbush Deputy Manager – HNWR
December 7 HNWR 6 hours	Weather Brown Bag Lunch Wetland Ecology Tram Tour	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon 12:00 noon – 12:30 p.m. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.	MAvard – BMN Kathy Whaley, Manager – HNWR Kathy Whaley, Manager – HNWR
December 8 HNWR	End of Year Party Potluck Dinner	5:00 p.m.	

Scheduled to date: 67 hours of initial training (allows ample opportunity to complete minimum requirement of 40 hours)

TBA: Field Trip to Water Treatment Center
Interpretation
Trail Building

Key:

GC Courthouse – Grayson County Courthouse
HNWR – Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge
AC – Austin College
ESP – Eisenhower State Park
GC – Grayson College
BMN – Bluestem Master Naturalist