

A monarch butterfly with vibrant orange wings and black veins is perched on a green leaf. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat. The butterfly's wings are spread, showing the characteristic pattern of orange, black, and white spots.

Education

Restoration

Conservation

Blackland Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalists

September Meeting

Welcome!

Members

Visitors



Membership Report



Month: June 2026 final	2026	2025	2024	2023
Total number VH reported	3358	3286	2026	1844
Total members reporting VH	183	162	108	103
Total number of AT hours reported	243	174	264	169
Total members reporting AT	123	106	96	81
Total number of opportunities	66	66	51	52
Total members reporting VH/AT	202	179	133	116

August Re-Certification



Tyler
Anderson

Kathy Battad

Anita Bigbee

Stephanie
Boullion
Mayer

Deb
Canterbury

Carol Clark

Patricia
Crain

Lisa
Edwards

Sally Evans

Pat Foley

Staci
Jenkins

Amy
Massingill

Sharon
Newsome

Phil Olson

Josh
Peterson

Lauren Plunk

Mikel
Salsgiver

Sharla Stack

Tamara
Welch

Pam White

Mark Yoder

Milestone Achievement
500 Hours

Cheryl-Lynn Dillon



Milestone Achievement

2500 Hours

Jean Higgins





Mark Your Calendars!

PLANO PARKS FOR POLLINATORS

Discover the Pollinators of Arbor Hills

Join us for a Bio Blitz!

September 11 · 7:30–10:30 AM

Arbor Hills Nature Preserve
Parking near 3908 Arbor Vista Dr., Plano

Explore. Observe. Celebrate.

Help us discover the plants, insects, and other wildlife that make Arbor Hills special.
Part of Plano Parks for Pollinators, supporting the national Parks for Pollinators campaign and raising awareness of the pollinator crisis.





Zoom Deep Dive Series

Monday, Sept 14, 7pm-8pm:

“Digging Deep: Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils of North Texas”, with Randy Boys



Mothing Night at Connemara

- **When: Saturday, Sept. 12**
7:30pm/sunset – whenever
- **3 Parking Locations:**
 - **Greensboro and Allbright Dr., Plano**
 - **Alma Dr. and Tatum Dr., Allen**
 - **Suncreek Park: 601 Alma Dr., Allen**



Mothing Night at Limestone Quarry Park, Frisco

**When: Friday, Sept.
18, 7:15pm/sunset
to whenever**

**Address: 1230
Maltby Dr., Frisco.**



Join us **September 29th**

-- the ****5th**** Tuesday

to discuss

Coyote America

A Natural
and Supernatural History

by **Dan Flores**

**Home of Nancy Casillas
6533 Turtle Point Dr.
Plano**

COYOTE AMERICA



A NATURAL AND
SUPERNATURAL HISTORY



Report on UNT Frisco Bioblitz #1 – Aug. 30

- **17 Observers**
- **893 Observations**
- **254 Species**

UNT Frisco Project to date as of 9/6 night

- **39 Observers**
- **2536 Observations**
- **559 Species**

UNT FRISCO BIOBLITZ #2

**Sunday
September 27
7:30-10 am**

**12995 Preston Rd.
Frisco**





Annual Meeting
link on the state
TMN site is live.



Thursday, Oct. 22 – Sunday, Oct. 25

Timing:

- Hotel registration is open.
- Full conference agenda is published.
- Registration ends Sept. 30.

TMN Annual Meeting Silent Auction – Donate an Item!

One of the highlights of the **Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting** each year is the Silent Auction! Proceeds directly support **chapter project grants, scholarships for members to attend the Annual Meeting, and bringing in top-quality speakers and trainers** for future events.

- **Donation Deadline:** Sunday, October 18, at 5:00 PM to be eligible for the \$100 Silent Auction door prize drawing
- **Item Drop Off:** Bring items to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 22 (1–5 PM) or **mailed by October 15th** to Luzette Berry – 4401 Westchester Dr. Waco, TX 76710
- **Minimum Value:** Items should be in new or like-new condition with a value of at least \$25

TMN Annual Meeting Silent Auction – Donate an Item!

Annual
Meeting Silent
Auction Details



Got Some Great Photos to Share?

If you have great “membership in action” photos to share for use as backdrop slides at the Annual Conference, please email them to:

photos@bptmn.org



2nd Program in the Cissy St. John Memorial Education Series: Native Bees



Learn about their habits and habitat needs, ID tips, conservation concerns, citizen science efforts, how we can help in our home landscapes, and plenty of weird bee facts from Carol and several guest experts.

Where: Myers Park-- The Landing

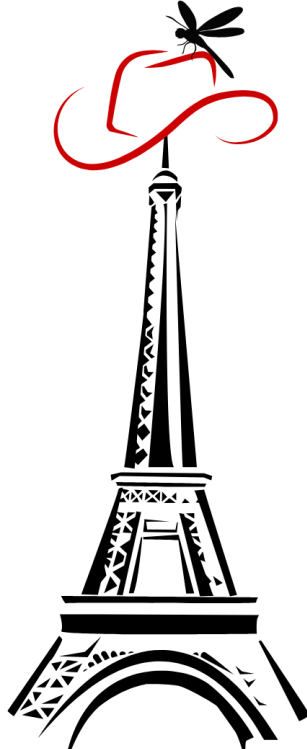
When: October 29th, 1-5pm

Registration info coming soon

**For questions, contact Carol Clark,
carol@r-d-clark.com**



TEXAS MASTER
NATURALIST



NORTH TEXAS
REGIONAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 9-11
PARIS, TEXAS

HELP

WANTED

RECREATION CENTER AT TOWNE LAKE

POLLINATOR PLANT PROJECT **HELP WANTED**

Beginning Sept. 11
Most Fridays, days vary
4:30-6:30PM



INFO:

- ✓ 2001 Central Expressway
McKinney, TX 75070
- ✓ Valarie Atwood
469.831.7745
atwood.valarie@gmail.com
- ✓ See Chapter Calendar
for shedule updates

BAHÁ'Í FAITH
Plano Center



Plano Bahá'í Center **NATIVE PLANT PROJECT**

Includes:

- Garden maintenance & bed prep
- Invasive plants and grasses removal
- Seed, plant, shrub and tree installation

HELP WANTED!

Wednesdays & Saturday mornings

Contact: Valarie Atwood (469) 831-7745
atwood.valarie@gmail.com



The Heard Needs Home School Class Volunteers

When: Tuesday afternoons (2 openings), Wednesday afternoons (3 openings), and Thursday (1 opening) mornings

What you'll do: Assist Heard educators by being the extra pair of eyes, ears, and hands in the classroom and on the trail. Assistants are not expected to prep or lead.

Class sessions are two hours long, occur weekly, and include an indoor lesson, a hike, and an animal visitor. Weekly time commitment would be 2.5-3 hours.

Fall semester runs from Sept. 15 to Dec. 18. Subs can be scheduled if needed.

Homeschool classes meet 1:30-3:30pm. The preschool class meets 9:30-11:30am.

Interested in helping?

Contact Norma Rodriguez:

nrodriguez@heardmuseum.org



First Event of the '26-'27 Girl Scout Year
'Shapes in Nature' (Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors)

Sunday, 9/20, 1-3PM, Frisco Commons

girl scouts 
of northeast texas

T E X A S
Master
Naturalist 
BLACKLAND PRAIRIE CHAPTER

State Fair Outreach Opportunities

Opening weekend signup in the poultry barn with TPWD's "Get Outside" event:



Following weekend signup at TX Discovery Gardens:



The 2026 State Fair of Texas runs from Friday, September 25, through Sunday, October 18, 2026

Main Need is at Texas Discovery Gardens

Signups are for weekends, but if you have an interest in weekdays, let Leea know.

Questions? Contact North Texas Master Naturalist Leea Thompson:

CommunityEd@ntmn.org

Ph/text# 214-448-6598





Parkhill Prairie Workdays

September 26th

October 10th

October 17th

November 14th

December 12th

All are Saturdays, 9:00-11:00am



Two Special Planting Events at the McKinney Monarch Gardens

Planting dates: October
2 and 16th

These events are
sponsored by One Earth
One Chance and the
UTD Naveen Jindal
School of Management,
who will provide
volunteers.



Monarch Gardens **POLLINATOR PLANTING**



Friday, Oct. 2 &
Friday, Oct. 16
9 AM – NOON



TO JOIN SCAN THE
QR & REGISTER
Registration is limited



Monarch Gardens
3339 Alma Rd,
McKinney, TX 75070



T E X A S



Volunteer with the Stream Trailer!

What is the Stream Trailer? A mobile, hands-on rolling classroom model designed to teach communities about watershed stewardship, stream hydrology, and water conservation practices.

What is unique about volunteering with the Stream Trailer? Training on how to run the stream trailer is eligible for AT and running the stream trailer at events is eligible for VH for the **Texas Water Specialist** program.

Why is your help needed? Currently, only myself and limited City staff are trained to run the program – one trailer for all of Collin County.

Upcoming Training Opportunity

- **When:** Before next month's Chapter meeting
(October 13 from 4:30-6:30)
- **Where:** Meet at SRC (plan to spend time outdoors)



**VALARIE
ATWOOD**

**LYNDA
DELSOL**

**There's more than one
way to deal with erosion.**

A CULVERT OPERATION

VIRGINIA PARKLANDS SUBDIVISION - MCKINNEY

**EROSION
FIGHTERS
WANTED**

**Contact: Lynda at
(972) 977-5859
lcdelsol@aol.com**



Project Area

1 Km

LLELA Nature
Preserve

Chilly River

Year One planting area 2026

Year Two planting area 2027

Year Three planting area 2028

Year Four planting area 2029

LLELA

Linear Meadow Project



Want to help with the Linear Meadow Project at LELLA?

Contact: Scott Kiester

Email: skiester2@gmail.com

LELLA
Linear Meadow Project

Year Four planting area 2029

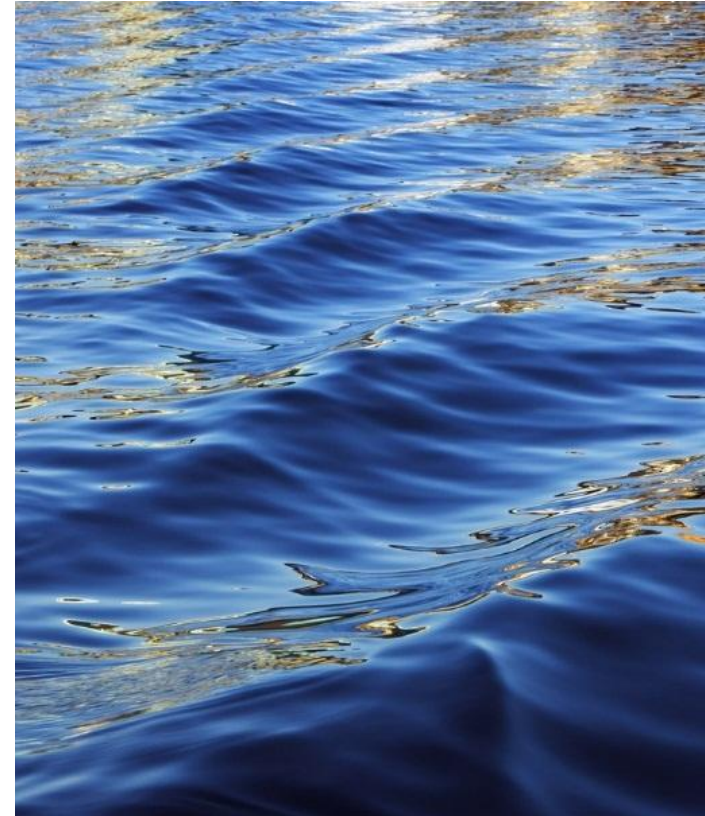
Looking for a Variety of New Members
to join us for External Speaking Events:

Arbor Day Events
City Community Events
Earth Day Events
Garden Clubs
HOA Meetings
Library Functions
Senior Centers
Sustainability Orgs
and More!

Mentoring is available for new Speakers
who have a Sustainability Passion you
are willing to share!

Contact Karen Chambers:
214-649-7842 or karenc@bptmn.org

Speakers Bureau Help Wanted



BPTMN'S HOME PROGRAM: **HELPING OWNERS MANAGE ENVIRONMENTS**

Join a group of Consultants who educate HOAs and Individuals to improve sustainability in their environments on a variety of topics

Water Conservation

Wildlife Gardening

Land Management

Bulk Landscaping Materials

Landscape Design

Pocket Prairies

Property Certifications

Soil

Invasive Species

Identification

Living with Wildlife

Native Plant Nurseries

Plant Lists

Pond Management

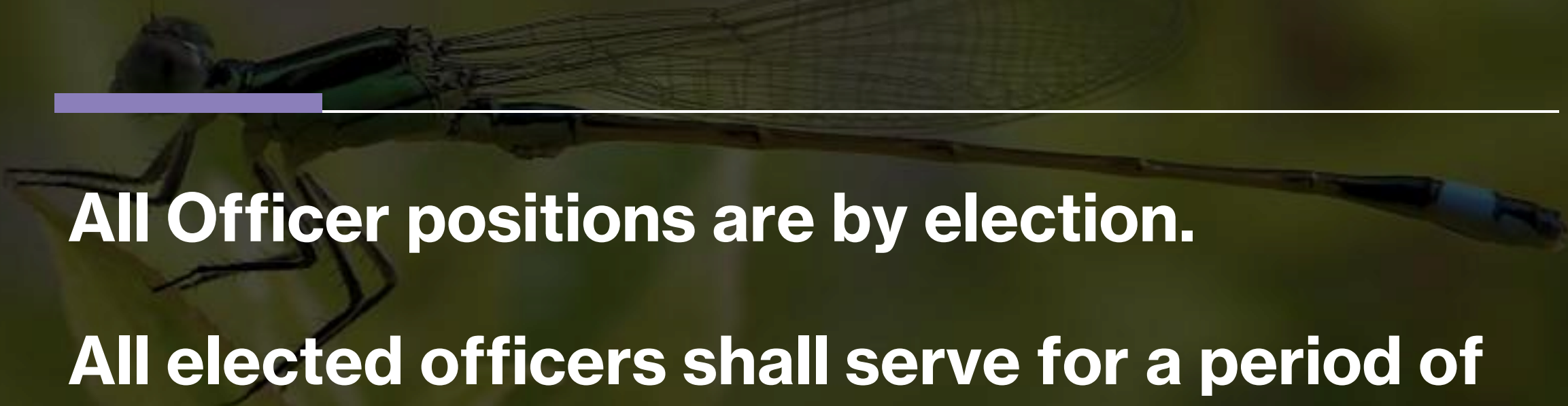
Seeds

Transitioning to Better Chemicals

If you are a Role Model in one or more of these categories (or have knowledge in another niche), and you love to help people make more sustainable choices, please contact **Karen Chambers** at karenc@bptmn.org or **214-649-7842**



We Have 2 Open Chapter Officer Positions for 2027

A dragonfly with a green and black body and transparent wings is shown resting on a dark, reflective surface. A thin white horizontal line passes through the middle of the dragonfly's body, extending across the width of the image.

All Officer positions are by election.

**All elected officers shall serve for a period of
24 months and are eligible for re-election
subject to term limits.**

2027 Open Officer Position: Vice President

- Assist the President and act for the President in the President's absence.
- Arranges programs and speakers for monthly Chapter meetings and optional Deep Dives; manages communications and confirmations with speakers; provides introductions at meetings.
- Amends, updates, and ensures preservation of the Chapter's electronic "Speakers and Presentations Catalog,"



2027 Open Officer

Position: Secretary



- Record, publish, and preserve the minutes of all meetings of the Board, Executive Committee, general membership, and any special meetings.
- Keep a record of attendance at each meeting and whether a quorum is present.
- Maintain a paper copy or a secure digital record of all minutes and correspondence according to the Chapter records retention policy.

2027 Open Officer Positions



-
- Potential interested candidates should submit a letter of interest by October 1.
 - Email letter of interest to our Nominations Committee Chair, Rick Travis (rickt@bptmn.org)
 - Include the following in the letter:
 - Qualifications
 - Areas of Interest
 - Acknowledge having reviewed the Chapter Operating Handbook
 - Willing to perform duties as outlined in the handbook
 - Confirm you are a member in good standing (Certified, paid chapter dues, etc.)

2027 Open Officer Positions



The slate of candidates will be covered at the October chapter meeting and sent to chapter membership via email no later than Oct. 20.

Officer elections will take place at the November 10 chapter meeting.

Our Chapter was Awarded a 3rd “Pollinators for Texas” Grant for 2026-27

Pollinators for Texas



a partnership with



Grant amount \$4000

The grant was approved to continue restoration of the berm at Frisco Monarch View Park with native grasses and flora plantings.

Planning for next phase of the project is underway

Our Chapter was Awarded a 3rd “Pollinators for Texas” Grant for 2026-27

Want to help with the Frisco Monarch View project?

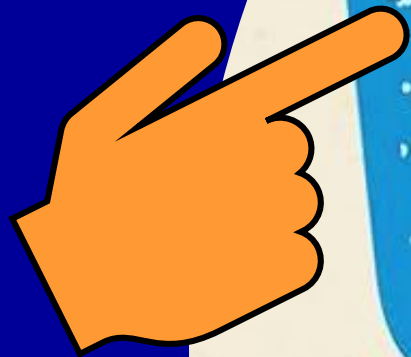
Contact: Laura Kuwayama

Email: laurak@bptmn.org

a partnership with



Planning for next phase of the project is underway

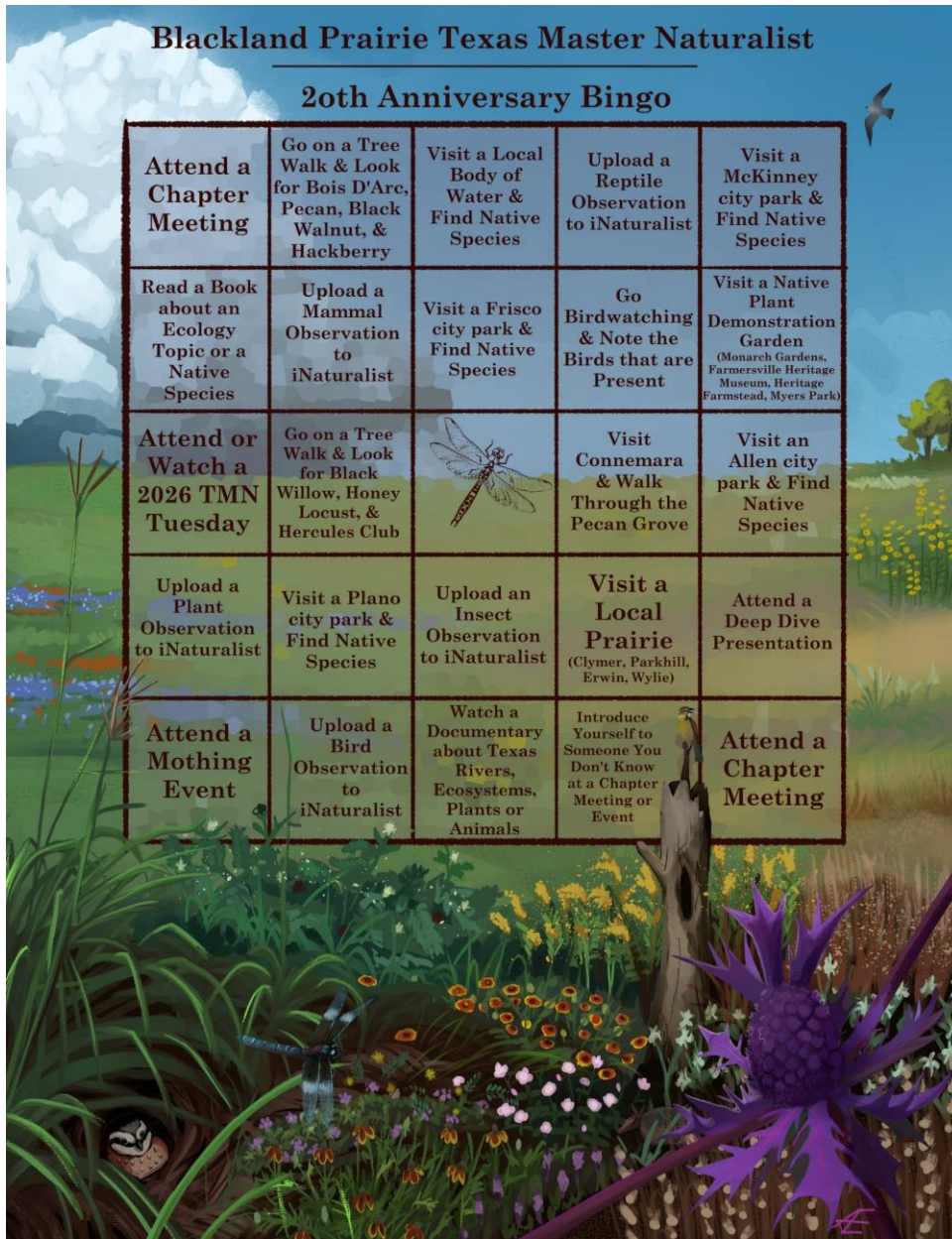


**SOME
OTHER
STUFF**

**MORE
OTHER
STUFF**



TEXAS



BPTMN BINGO!

- Take a card & *write your name on the back!!!*
- Do the activities and mark them off (starting today!)
- Bring the completed card to the Holiday Party
- One horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line enters you in a prize drawing
- Get a BLACKOUT for the grand prize drawing!

Special thanks to:

Maya Wickham for the gorgeous artwork

Nancy Casillas for the idea & facilitation





Coming Soon

Blackland Prairie

Master Naturalist logo

product to order

Watch for an announcement
and link on our website

The buyer will pay the cost, shipping, all
taxes, and other costs. No returns, so order
carefully.

 BPTMN Store

All products Home & Living Accessories Women Men 

Welcome

Gear for
Blackland Prairie
Chapter Texas
Master Naturalists

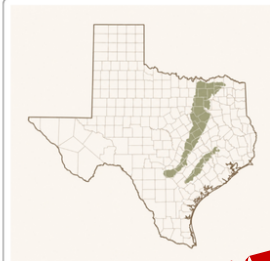
Products

Recommended ▾



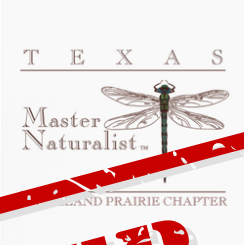
Unisex Midweight Softstyle Fleece
Crewneck Sweatshirt

\$24.31



Square Stickers

\$1.80



Texas Master Naturalist Dragonfly
Magnet | Blackland Prairie Chapter

\$2.35



New Certified Texas Master Naturalists from Class of 2026



**Jan
Johnson**

**Kathleen
Richter**

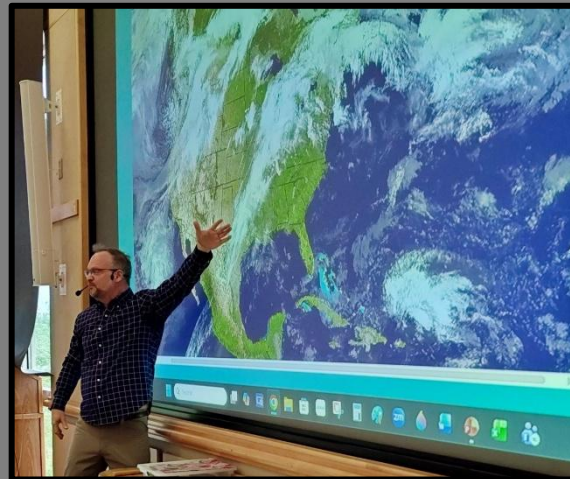
**Megan
Rogers**

**Tee
Roberts**

**Kendall
Zapoli**

2027 New Class Training

Application Window
October 1st – 31st



Interested in Applying?

- Start volunteering NOW
- Attend chapter meetings



[Who We Are](#)
[Training Program Overview](#)
[Program Schedule](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Apply to the Training Program](#)

Apply to the Training Program

The application window for the 2027 Training Program will open on October 1, 2026.

Until then, here are steps you can take:

- 1) Use this [FORM](#) to add your name to our “Interested” list. This will include you in all of our application reminder emails.
- 2) Take a look at a [partial list of volunteer projects](#) to confirm that you will be able to meet the requirements of 40 volunteer hours per year.
- 3) Look at our [chapter calendar](#) to see which projects interest you.
- 4) Preview the [application questions](#) and begin planning your responses. It is very important that you give *detailed* information when completing the application form. We have created a [question guide](#) to explain what information we are looking for.
- 5) Remember that while you are waiting, you can attend our chapter meetings as a guest and can individually volunteer with our partner projects. See the meeting dates on our [chapter calendar](#). See how to volunteer [here](#).

on October 1st

Apply to the Training Program

The application window for the 2027 Training Program will be open October 1st – 31st. Apply [HERE](#).

Please note: We receive many more applications than we have spaces available. It will be very important that you take your time when answering the application questions. You can [preview the application questions](#) to prepare your answers before completing the online form. We have also created a [question guide](#) for you.

All applications will be reviewed by the Training Committee, and applicants will be notified by the beginning of December.



Alex Casillas



Alikea Ray



Arica Shields



Brittany Hamilton



Cali Bakker



Dennis Burke



Grayson Dean



Johnny McCulloch



Laura Schnell



Lauren Plunk



Linda Barnes



Linder O'Rourke



Lisa Travis



Mary Keenan



Mike Makuta



Morgan Ray



Nancy Casillas



Pat Foley



Peter Williams



Rhonda Sanchez



Rick Travis



Shannon Ng



Spencer Aldridge



Sue Makuta



Tina Burke



Tony Griggs

**2027
Training
Committee**

This Evening's
Speaker

Scott Kiester

Vultures: The Life and Times
of an Unloved Bird

