



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for July 12, 2012
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

I. Welcome

II. Officer and Committee Reports

A. President - Lisa Davenport –

B. Vice President – Janet Quiram -

C. Secretary – Amanda Schwede

1. Sign in
2. Approval of June 2012 meeting minutes

D. Treasurer – Charlene Lusk

E. Outreach – Cheryl Lewis, Chair –

F. Training – Bruce Neville, Chair - Membership –

G. Betty Vermeire, Chair – Report May and June hours please (respond to her email with Excel spreadsheet)

H. Advanced Training –Jim Anding, Chair -

I. Volunteer Service Project – Jay Pritchard, Chair -

J. Host/Social – Olivia Ash and Kara Rosch, Co-chairs -

K. Historian – Terry Junek, Chair –

L. Web – Amanda Chau, Chair –

M. Program – Janet Quiram, Chair -

III. Old Business

A.

IV. New Business

A.

V. **Announcements**

A. Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. **TMN Summer and Fall Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
August 9, September 13,
October 11, November 8
2. **2012 TMN State Conference** - October 26-28th, 2012, Camp Allen, Navasota – see pages 9 through 15 agenda for details
3. **Monthly Meeting speakers (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit):**
 - A. July 12— John Herron, Director of Texas Conservation and Science, will speak about The Nature Conservancy
 - B. August 9—Lucy Coward "The Horned Lizard: Where Are They?"
 - C. September 13—Dr. Charles Randklev, Texas A&M Institute of Natural Renewable Resources, "Fresh Water Mussels of the Brazos Valley"
4. **2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series (count as Advanced Training credit)**
<https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> to log on to the live webinars. For more information contact Courtney Brittain, Texas Wildlife Association, Education Program Coordinator
2800 NE Loop 410, Ste. 105; San Antonio, TX 78218
(210) 826-2904 ext. 122, (210) 826-4933 – fax, (210) 393-3467 - mobile
www.texas-wildlife.org, cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org
July 19 * West Texas Wildlife Management, Louis Harveson
August 16 * Rainwater Harvesting, Billy Kniffen
September 20 * Deer Nutritional Requirements & Implications for Management, Dave Hewitt
October 18 * Native Prairie Restoration, Forrest Smith
November 15 * Endangered Species Management, Brian Hays
December 20 * Forestry Management for Wildlife, Chris Comer
5. **Regional Meeting for TMN's in Southeastern Texas--July 14th (Sign up by July 10th)**
Contact for more info: teri.macarthur@mctx.org See pages 7 and 8 below
SAVE THE DATE: Master Naturalists in the southeastern part of Texas are invited to a regional meeting on July 14, 2012. Meet at the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center in Spring, Texas for a day of food, fellowship and advanced training. The topic for this year's event will be landscaping with native plants to create habitat gardens. At least 7 hours of advanced training will be provided. A registration form will be available shortly. Contact Teri MacArthur of the Heartwood Chapter to request an agenda and registration form as soon as they are released. Fee of \$15 per person to attend will cover breakfast, break snacks, and lunch. Watch for updates on the Heartwood website as well.
To contact Teri: teri.macarthur@mctx.org or to visit the Heartwood website: www.heartwoodtmn.org
Teri MacArthur, Manager, Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center, Commissioner's Office, Montgomery County Precinct 3, 1300 Riley Fuzzel Rd, Spring TX 77386
281.364.4225, teri.macarthur@mctx.org, www.springcreekgreenway.org
6. **Flying WILD Educator Workshop at TCWC on July 21, from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.** See pages 16 and 17 below for details
Flying WILD celebrates birds and emphasizes on bird conservation. This workshop will be led by Mary Ann Weber from Houston Audubon Society. Good news! If you are members of TMN Brazos Valley Chapter, you are qualified to register for the Flying WILD Workshop for FREE. Please see the attached flyer (last page) for details regarding the workshop and registration.
7. **North Texas area land mgmt workshop sponsored by North TX TMN Ch July 27th**

More information and registration are available online at www.ntmn.org/landownerwkshp or by calling Fred Burrell, County Extension Agent 214-904-3050 or Brett Johnson, TPWD Urban Biologist 972-293-3841.

Landowners interested in learning methods to conserve or rehabilitate wildlife habitat will want to plan on attending a land management workshop presented by Texas Parks & Wildlife and AgriLife Extension Service, with support from the North Texas Master Naturalist chapter, to be held on Friday, July 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Urban Solutions Center, 17360 Coit Road, in north Dallas. Workshop topics will include maintaining habitat quality for wildlife, pond management and aquatic weed control, prescribed burning, erosion control and drought management, and wildlife tax valuation. The cost for the day-long workshop is \$50 and includes lunch.

Presenters include Dr. Dale Rollins, quail expert and founder of the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch in Roby, who is a wildlife specialist at the AgriLife Extension & Research facility in San Angelo, Texas, and will share his expertise on managing habitat for wildlife. Billy Higginbotham, Professor and Extension wildlife and fisheries specialist headquartered at the AgriLife Research & Extension Center at Overton, will speak on pond management and weed control. David Sierra of the East Texas Ecological Education Center in Tyler, will cover techniques for prescribed burning, and Michael Brooks of the Natural Resources Conservation Service will speak on drought management and erosion control. Additionally, Brett Johnson of Texas Parks & Wildlife will speak about the fundamentals of Wildlife Tax Valuation.

The event is being coordinated by the Texas Parks & Wildlife and AgriLife Research and Extension, and the North Texas Master Naturalist Chapter. Sponsors include Lone Star Ag Credit. Vendor booths and information tables are available. More information and registration are available online at www.ntmn.org/landownerwkshp or by calling Fred Burrell, County Extension Agent 214-904-3050 or Brett Johnson, TPWD Urban Biologist 972-293-3841.

8. Texas Bat Symposium-- August 11, 2012 (in North Texas)

BATS IN CRISIS – WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Imagine a Texas with little or no tequila (for margaritas, shots, and sunrises), no corn, (for animal feed, Coca-Cola, moonshine or on the cob), no cotton (or cotton brokers, Q-tips, underwear or T-shirts), no cucumbers (for summer salads, juices, and eye washes), no tomatoes (for slicing, catsup or Bloody Marys), and no pine trees (for pine straw, shade, lumber and just plain smelling good).

Imagine a Texas overcome by the uncontrolled spread of West Nile Virus, EEE and WEE (encephalitis of humans and horses), Dengue Fever, Dog Heartworm, and the reoccurrence of malaria and yellow fever. Death, grief; debilitation, grief; exorbitant medical costs, grief.

Without our bats, that is some of what we potentially face in the not too distant future.

NASA has routinely clocked, by Doppler radar, *Mexican free-tail bats* (the official state mammal of Texas) *at an altitude of 10,000 feet* (that is two miles, don't you know) chasing down and killing corn earworm, army cutworm and cotton boll worm moths.

Every night, the *34 species of bats in Texas* kill primarily agricultural and forest pests and insect disease vectors such as mosquitoes, flying roaches, pine tip moths, cucumber beetles (which are also the adult stage of the corn rootworm larva), hornworm moths, stink bugs, June bugs, leafhoppers, and even scorpions. Each tiny bat eats between 1000 and 1200 insects *per hour* of every night out hunting. *One single colony of free-tails in Bracken Cave devours 400,000 pounds of insects every single night. Four hundred thousand (400,000) pounds equals two hundred (200) tons.*

Bats are then clearly a bulwark in our fight against crop damage and disease. But there is more....

Three of those Texas bat species are solely responsible for pollinating giant cacti and agaves, and *are considered a keystone species* along the U.S./Mexican border. Keystone means that if

the bat goes, so goes the agave, and so goes the rest of that ecosystem in a domino effect of destruction and extinction. Not to mention that tequila...

These nectar-feeding bats also largely pollinate our figs and peaches in the Valley (no more peach cobbler, peach schnapps, peach festivals or Fig Newtons).

Bats are not prolific. The females have only one pup each year and are devoted nursing mothers. Anything that affects their population can be devastating very quickly. For example:

In 2005, *the little brown bat* species comprised 85% of the entire population of all bat species in the northeastern United States. **Again:** eighty-five percent.

In 2005, an invasive disease of European import called *White Nose Syndrome* (WNS) was discovered as the cause of bat deaths in the Northeast.

As of 2011 (that is only six years), *this disease alone has claimed the lives of 90 % (ninety percent) of the little brown bat* in that part of our country. Fifteen percent of the entire bat population, with a pitifully few little brown bats, is all that now shockingly remains to stand against human/animal disease and agricultural/forest loss in a significant portion of our land.

In 2011, White Nose Syndrome jumped the Mississippi River and was confirmed in Oklahoma. You remember Oklahoma? The state right across the Red River border of Texas? ...

As naturalists, researchers, rangers, botanists, agriculturists, biologists, foresters, cavers, zoologists, animal lovers, epidemiologists, and others, we need to become aware of this crisis and educate ourselves so that we can spread the word quickly and educate the community as to the benefit of bats and the serious and overwhelming danger they now face. We must broadcast the danger of WNS and pressure elected officials to commit resources to defeat its spread and to rescue the remaining bat population. As ardent observers of the land and its flora and fauna, it is incumbent upon us to learn what normal bat behavior is so that we can report unusual or unexplained behavior in a timely and educated fashion to the TPWD, the USDA and to bat rescue groups and others. *Importantly, we should network with each other in search of solutions against this seminal critical event.*

THEREFORE, THE BAT WORLD SANCTUARY (BWS) AND THE BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS (BRIT) HAVE TEAMED UP TO OFFER A ONE-DAY BAT SYMPOSIUM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2012 AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR US ALL. THE REGISTRATION AND AGENDA DETAILS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

Dottie Hyatt and Kate Rugroden will be your trainers from **Bat World Sanctuary**. **Bat World** and its mission has been featured on *David Letterman, 20/20, Animal Planet, The Disney Channel, the CBS Morning Show, Nickelodeon* and many other TV programs, news shows, radio shows and in feature articles. The volunteer staff members at **BWS** are serious bat care specialists. They routinely train veterinarians, zoologists and wildlife rescuers in one-week and two-week seminars. But they have condensed some of it into this manageable one-day offering that will enable a broad spectrum of folks to take part in a way that will **not** require hundreds of dollars in costs for a rabies pre-exposure vaccine (*live, rescued bats will be an integral part of the instruction throughout the day, but participants will not be handling them for the purposes of this symposium*). There will be a certificate of completion awarded, as well as a DVD, a book, a magazine, bat information cards and a membership to Bat World Sanctuary.

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) is the proud host and partner for this workshop in their brand new, award-winning “green” facility on the very edge of the *Fort Worth Cultural Arts District’s Botanical Garden*. **BRIT** knows the value of bats as pollinators and as keystone species for our plants world-wide- plants that provide us with medicine, food, clothing, and quality of life. **BRIT’s** researchers, scientists and botanists are daily at the forefront in educating themselves, other professionals and the public about the world’s flora and the ecosystems that support it. **The Institute’s** beautiful facility is conveniently located near the

museums, the Coliseum and downtown's Sundance Square for those who wisely choose to attend the symposium and to make a weekend of it in Fort Worth.

*****THE COST OF THE SYMPOSIUM WILL BE USED TO FUND A NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART SANCTUARY FACILITY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE, BREEDING, MAINTENANCE AND EVENTUAL RELEASE OF BATS AFFECTED BY WNS.*****

Thank you for your support and for your dedication to the natural resources and quality of life of the State of Texas and our great country. Please open the attachments to preview the symposium. You may register at BWS <https://www.batworld.org/shop/brit-sign-up/> or BRIT <http://www.brit.org/>.

Carrie McLaughlin, Texas Master Naturalist, carrie.mclaughlin58@gmail.com, 682-459-1684

9. Invaders of Texas workshop with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center- Houston Arboretum, on September 15

10. Training opportunities at Spring Creek Nature Center (approved for AT credit)

TWO great training opportunities for MNs who like to teach:

September 15 – Project WILD and Project WET, 8am to 6pm.

Texas Parks & Wildlife program and materials.

Teacher CPE credit is available. See attached flyer for details.

Fee and registration required.

October 6 or Feb 2 (2013) – Flying WILD

Audubon Society program and materials.

Teacher CPE credit is available. See attached flyer for details.

Fee and registration required.

ALL DATES are offered at the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center in south Montgomery County (Texas), and co-sponsored by Heartwood Chapter Texas Master Naturalist.

Questions? Call Teri MacArthur 281.381.3281 or email teri.macarthur@metx.org

11. We are happy to announce that this year Coastal Prairie Partnership and Native Prairies Association of Texas will be teaming up with Texas A&M Kingsville and the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute to present the 4th Annual State of the Prairie Conference in Kingsville, TX from December 6-9, 2012.

Each year this conference brings together the brightest and best prairie restorationists, educators, and conservationists to deliver high-impact lectures and field experiences that connect people from all across Texas and Louisiana to learn the best techniques for restoring, conserving, and teaching about our prairies. This year will be bigger and better than ever, with two days of field trips and lessons about everything from economics of prairie restoration to evaluating which restoration tools to use to building better wildlife corridors.

If you would like to help with the conference, such as with registration and other logistics, please contact Cheryl Sedivec, 281 346 0099 orcheryl_sedivec@comcast.net (please note that there is an underscore between Cheryl and sedivec. and we can really use your help) Thanks Cheryl

Jaime González, President, Coastal Prairie Partnership, 281.660.6683 (cell)

12. List of Plant Walks and Fieldtrips across north Texas

My name is Jeff Quayle and I member with the Cross Timbers chapter of TMN since 1998. I lead plant walks, fieldtrips, and conduct botanical surveys across much of north Texas, particularly areas in the Cross Timbers and Prairies region.

Please e-mail for a list of walks and fieldtrips, or visit my Yahoo Groups Field Trips Announcement Page at http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/CTMN_Fieldtrip_List/

You will need a Yahoo ID to join my page. But joining allows you to receive automated announcements up to 2 weeks before one of my walks. It also allows you access to plant lists, photos and some plant data.

Jeff Quayle s-quaylei@att.net

Yahoo Groups Fieldtrip Announcement List

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/CTMN_Fieldtrip_List/

13. Year of the Bat Resources for 2012

The Year of the Bat group in collaboration with Bat Conservation International has compiled a plethora of resources to use for any YOTB event (found at <http://www.batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/year-of-the-bat/subcategory/596.html>).

Feel free to download any and everything you find useful for your own batty events!

14. We would like to get interesting photos of native plants and stories within the North Central Texas area.

The March-April issue of the Reverchon Naturalist newsletter is now available on the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Service home page and can be found at this link: <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/bio/reverchon.html>

Please forward to anyone you believe would be interested. We would like to get interesting photos of native plants and stories within the North Central Texas area. Submit articles of 350-700 words. Longer articles are also accepted. Please take the time to submit your items and share with other plant geeks.

Ricky Linx, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 532 Santa Fe Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086, 817-596-2865 Ext. 105 (O), 817-304-5266 (C)

15. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Launches Interactive Website on Endangered Species

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program has launched a new, web-based interactive map with information about endangered species success in every state: stories of species making strides towards recovery, audio interviews and podcasts with Service biologists about on-the-ground endangered species conservation, and videos that highlight the Service's partners.

The interactive map can be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/> and also has links for the Endangered Species Program's new weekly e-newsletter and ways to connect via social media.

The Endangered Species Act provides a safety net for America's native fish, wildlife and plants. The Service is actively engaged with conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/usfws, watch our YouTube

Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws>.

News releases are also available on the World Wide Web at <http://news.fws.gov>

16. May-June Reverchon Naturalist

The May-June issue of the Reverchon Naturalist newsletter is now available on the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Service home page and can be found at this link:

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/bio/reverchon.html>

Please forward to anyone you believe would be interested. We would like to get interesting photos of native plants and related stories within the North Central Texas area. Submit articles of 350-700 words. Longer articles are also accepted. Please take the time to submit your items and share with other plant geeks.

Ricky Linx, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 532 Santa Fe Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086, 817-596-2865 Ext. 105 (O), 817-304-5266 (C)

Ricky.Linx@tx.usda.gov

**Texas Master Naturalists
Second Annual Southeast Regional Meeting
July 14, 2012
Sponsored by Heartwood Chapter Texas Master Naturalists
Location: Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center
1300 Riley Fuzzel Road ♦ Spring TX 77386 ♦ 281.364.4225**

This fun one-day event will offer plenty of opportunities to meet fellow MNs from our region to share ideas and success stories, in addition to providing up to Seven Hours of Advanced Training.

The schedule for the day accompanies this registration form, and includes several presentations related to native plant landscaping for wildlife. As a bonus, Leeann Linam with TPWD will update us on the NatureTracker Program and invite participants to help monitor wildlife! **The \$15. Registration Fee covers breakfast and break snacks/ drinks, plus a catered lunch.** Be sure to include your email address on the form below so we may contact you with a reminder and directions closer to the date!

The day will begin at 7:30am with sign-in and continue until about 4pm. **Sign up by July 10**, please, so we may have a head count for lunch ordering purposes. *After July 10 please call* to advise us you will attend so we can try to order lunch for you.

Directions to the Nature Center will be sent by email to registrants during the week ahead of the meeting as acknowledgment of your registration. If you do not use email, please call for directions.

Questions? Please call or email Teri MacArthur: 281.364.4225, or teri.macarthur@metx.org

Registration Form. Complete and mail before July 10, please. *Registration fee of \$15 per person* includes breakfast and break snacks and lunch.

SIGN ME UP FOR THIS EXCITING MEETING! (Please complete one form for each participant.)

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City/ZIP _____

Chapter Affiliation (Chapter name/City) _____

Email address _____

PLEASE CHECK HERE if you wish a VEGETARIAN MEAL.

PLEASE CHECK HERE if you are a TEACHER and wish to receive a TEA CPE hours certificate.

Complete and **mail before July 10**, with **check payable to Heartwood TMN** to:
TMN Regional Meeting
SCG Nature Center
1300 Riley Fuzzel Rd
Spring TX 77386

After July 10, please call Teri MacArthur to assure we can have lunch ordered for you: 281-364-4225

Texas Master Naturalists Second Annual Southeast Regional Meeting -- July 14, 2012
Sponsored by Heartwood Chapter Texas Master Naturalists
and Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center
 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road • Spring TX 77386 • 281.364.4225

AGENDA

7:30am - 8:00am	Sign In and Breakfast Snacks with Coffee/Juice	
8:00am - 8:15am	Welcome and Program Introduction Teri MacArthur, Heartwood president/Nature Center manager	.25 hrs
8:15am - 9:00am	Wildlife Monitoring through NatureTracker Programs Leeann Linam, TPWD Wildlife Biologist/Wildlife Diversity	.75 hrs
9:00am - 10:15am	Landscaping for Wildlife, an Overview Diana Foss, TPWD Wildlife Biologist	1.25 hrs
	Break	
10:30am - 11:45am	Preparing Your Garden Area: Soils, Composting & More Tom Hallowell, Heartwood Chapter	1.25 hrs
11:45am - 12:30pm	Choosing Native Plants for Wildlife Linda Crum, Heartwood Chapter/Tx Master Gardener	1.25 hrs
12:30pm - 1:15pm	Lunch (provided)	
1:15pm - 2:30pm	Water for Wildlife, Choices and Design Concepts Bob Dailey, Heartwood Chapter/Tx Master Gardener	1.25 hrs
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Applying What We Learned – Volunteering Options Presenter to be confirmed	1.0 hrs
		7.00 hrs total

Teachers may receive a certificate for CPE credit hours by making a request on the registration form.

Maps will be available to access nature trails around the facility for any participant who wishes to skip a presentation, or for a walk at the end of the day.



DEADLINE NEARING FOR CHAPTER SUBMISSIONS TO PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

We are continuing to accept chapter submissions for the annual meeting agenda through July 8th, 2012. Descriptions and details for each of the opportunities are attached to this message. Chapters are able to submit any number of abstracts or descriptions for the following agenda categories:

- * Present a Volunteer Service Project
- * Present an Innovative Solution to Chapter Development
- * Lead a Roundtable Topic
- * Short Session Advanced Training

ADVISOR AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN:

The Texas Master Naturalist program is now accepting applications for the Annual Advisors Award. Nominations for the award are being accepted through September 1, 2012. Please be thinking about an individual or team of chapter advisors you would like your chapter to nominate for this year's award. Nominations will be accepted for activities and advisors who have been a part of and contributing to your local chapter efforts during the past 12 to 16 months. Deadlines for nomination submissions in the format requested will be due no later than September 1st, 2012. Nomination Form and Guidelines are attached.

TMN EXEMPLARY PROJECT AWARD COMPETITION

We are again planning to have the Exemplary Project Award Competition at this year's annual meeting. Award criteria and guidelines for the year are in the process of being finalized but, in the meantime, please be thinking about a potential project your chapter might want to submit. More details to come soon. We will again ask for chapters to submit their entry on-site at the annual meeting with a poster or display and supporting information. Information regarding last year's project criteria can be found on the TMN website.

CROSS TIMBERS CHAPTER MEMBERS TO LEAD SILENT AUCTION FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to the Cross Timbers Chapter members for taking on the Silent Auction Committee activities for this year's annual meeting!!! Anyone can start gathering donations at any time. Just bring them with you --or send them with a friend-- to the annual meeting in October. Please let the Cross Timbers Chapter know what you intend to bring so that we may plan enough table space. Chapter member George McBride imaccordion@aol.com will chair this year's silent auction committee. Proceeds from the silent auction support future partial scholarships to the event as well as fees to bring in a well-renown speakers and trainers.

Send your submissions to Michelle Haggerty at mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu

13TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST MEETING AND ADVANCED TRAINING.

Mark your calendars-- 13th Annual Statewide TMN Meeting & Advanced Training
October 26-28, 2012

Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas.

Planning is underway and there are several areas where we need your help.

- * Present a Volunteer Service Project
- * Present an Innovative Solution to Chapter Development
- * Lead a Roundtable Topic
- * Short Session Advanced Training

All submissions will be reviewed and notice given if accepted (we may not have time or room for all).

Sessions run concurrently and pre-registration may or may not be required.

Complete information is needed for the final agenda, registration materials and conference program. Time spent developing your submission and presentation is eligible for TMN volunteer service time.

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Type (Present A Project, Innovative Solution, Roundtable, Short Session; discussion, PowerPoint or hands-on activity)
- b. Presentation title for the conference program
- c. Lead presenter name and contact information
- d. TMN Chapter (no acronyms)
- e. 4 to 5 sentences (abstract) describing what your presentation covers.

Deadline: July 8, 2012.

Submit to Michelle Haggerty: mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu.

You will receive an email confirmation of your submission.

1. Present a Chapter Volunteer Service Project (Returning by popular demand!)

Volunteers talk about a specific project they are working on; no more than 20 minutes including time for questions; any type of TMN project with special consideration to projects that support Texas Parks & Wildlife Department or Texas AgriLife Extension; projects that can be replicated in any chapter across the state. Don't let this opportunity to toot your horn pass you by!

2. Present an Innovative Solution to Chapter Development

Has your chapter implemented new ideas and techniques? Share your chapter-changing success story and experiences in a 20 to 30-minute presentation on how your group overcame a challenge in chapter development or maintenance and/or created a growth opportunity; the idea being that we can all learn from each other to make chapters more effective with less hassle! Maybe your chapter increased recruitment, retention, productivity or satisfaction; or maybe your chapter increased its profile within the community, raised funds, or improved efficiency and reporting. Whatever "it" is, other chapters would like to learn from you! Include what the problem was; how you recognized it; what you did to change it; results or expected results; and lessons learned, including what you might do differently.

3. Lead a Roundtable Topic:

Discussions can be up to an hour and offer idea-sharing or idea-generating sessions covering the topic submitted. Topics generally start with a short presentation and the leader is responsible for developing the presentation, locating a note-taker and finding a facilitator, if needed. Ideally, each of these support people should be attending the conference. (The State Coordinator can help with identifying these people or a Chapter Advisor would be a good fit.) Roundtables have resulted in new ideas for the Statewide TMN program such as our Exemplary Project Award, Chapter Advisor Award and other program offerings and policies.

4. TMN Annual Meeting Short Session

Are you or members in your chapter experts on a certain subject? Do you have a 1- or 2-hour Advanced Training Topic to present at the annual meeting? Let us know and you could be part of the Advanced Training Agenda. Tell us whether your program is one hour or two, and include what the training will cover, why is it important for every Master Naturalist, and what Texas natural resource need it addresses. State what participants will learn and take home that will advance the quality of their volunteer service. List any items participants need to bring or wear for training, and how many participants you can handle in the training.

**TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
CHAPTER ADVISORS AWARD
2012**

Overview and Goals

The Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) presents the Chapter Advisor Award and Chapter Advisor Team Award to outstanding advisors and teams of advisors each year. The goal of the awards program is to encourage and recognize exceptional work and support of local chapter advisors. The team category was established to recognize the exceptional support of TMN chapter advisors working in partnership to support a chapter just as the TMN program is supported by a partnership of TPWD and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at the statewide level.

Prior Chapter Advisor Award Winners have been:

- 2008: Inaugural Award Year: Fred Burrell, Jr., Texas AgriLife Extension, Dallas County, Advisor to the North Texas Chapter
- 2009: Julie Massey, Texas AgriLife Extension, Galveston County, Advisor to the Galveston Bay Area Chapter
- 2010: Bernice Blasingame, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Advisor to the Panhandle Chapter
- 2011: Brett Johnson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Dallas Urban Wildlife Biologist, Advisor to the North Texas Chapter
- 2011 TEAM Award: Amanda Adair, TPWD and Roy Stanford, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Advisor Team to the Sabine-Neches Chapter

Application Guidelines and Procedures

The Chapter Advisor(s) of the Year award can be presented annually to one TMN Chapter Advisor or a team of TMN Chapter Advisors for exemplary contributions to the organization's mission and goals. The winners will receive, at a minimum, a plaque at the TMN annual conference awards ceremony detailing their accomplishments. Past years' awards have included additional "perks" when available such as a cash award.

Chapters are invited to nominate their advisor for the award(s) by completing the attached application form and submitting it to Michelle Haggerty, TMN Program Coordinator. A single advisor receiving the award in the immediate previous year is not eligible to be selected for the single advisor recognition in the following award year. Advisors receiving a team award in the previous year are still eligible for the single advisor award in the following year.

A recipient of the Chapter Advisor(s) award may excel in one or several areas. The award selection committee will consider the organization's goals and criteria in making a selection. Chapter nominations should provide a complete and concise description of their nominees activity in each of the areas described; new initiatives (rather than ongoing programs or projects) should be emphasized. Nominations must document the level of advisor participation in the various activities/initiatives, accomplishments, and their ability to empower members, and their resource management knowledge and activities.

In addition to the nomination form below, all other nomination information must fit on a **total of 2 pages and a picture of the nominee(s) must be included** either electronically or attached with a hard copy of the nomination package. Information provided should cover the previous 12 to 16 months of activities.

THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
CHAPTER ADVISORS AWARD APPLICATION
Application Deadline: September 1st each year.

To be filled out by a chapter member or officer.

Please provide information only on the previous 12 to 16 months of activities.

Fill in below and/or include this following information along with a maximum of 2 additional pages of information supporting your nomination for the goals described below. Samples, agendas, and/or materials may be attached where appropriate as appendices.

List Advisor(s) Name(s): _____

List Advisor(s) Organization(s) they represent: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information for individual completing nomination form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____

GOAL 1: DEVOTION TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE CHAPTER

- A. Describe nominee's enthusiasm and passion for Texas' natural resources.
- B. Describe nominee's ability to relay and instill this enthusiasm to chapter volunteers.
- C. Describe nominee's ability to interact with chapter volunteers.

GOAL 2: ENHANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE CHAPTER

- A. Describe nominee's work to accomplish Goal 2. This may include her/his involvement in workshops, outreach, symposia, conferences and/or meetings to accomplish this goal. Describe purpose, program/agenda, and participation for each.
- B. Describe nominee's role in creating or enhancing opportunities for volunteers to become involved in projects, education, and chapter involvement.

Please email/send completed nominations to:

| Michelle Haggerty,
TMN Program Coordinator
309 Sidney Baker South
Kerrville, TX 78028
Phone: 830-896-2504
Fax: 830-792-6167

Email: mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu

Meeting Overview

The TMN Statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced Training is geared toward Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers, their Chapters, Agency Advisors, partner organizations and supporters of the Statewide TMN Program. The meeting provides an opportunity for our volunteers and affiliates to receive all of their Advanced Training requirements for the year within one weekend. It's also an opportunity for program participants and supporters to network, share new ideas and projects and to learn from one another. As a workshop presenter, you would have the opportunity to inform and train TMN members from across the state on various natural resource topics providing more in-depth information than their initial core training and curriculum. You are also encouraged to make this an opportunity to enlist and train our program volunteers to assist you, your program, and your work as part of their annual volunteer service commitment.

Annual Meeting & Advanced Training Workshop and Themes

Proposals for workshops are being requested for the 13th Annual Statewide Texas Master Naturalist Meeting & Advanced Training. All training workshops relevant to the Texas Master Naturalist mission will be considered. Special consideration will be given to proposals that address one or more of the following themes:

- **Special topics for 2012 include** – *Nongame diversity, the importance and implementation of the Texas Conservation Action Plan, the value of nongame regulation and the importance of diversified nongame funding for wildlife.*
- **Traditional disciplines of a naturalist--** *botanists, entomologists, ornithologists, mammalogists, herpetologists, paleontologists, and geologists*
- **Ecological concepts and/or Eco-regions of Texas**
- **Management of natural systems and systems management tools--** *including forest, rangeland, wetland, aquatic and urban ecology & management and hunting and prescribed fire as management tools.*
- **Interpretation and communication--** *including working with diverse audiences, techniques and developing interpretive programs for all ages.*
- **Historical perspectives of naturalists in Texas**
- **Citizen Science programs—***hands-on train the trainer type workshops encouraged.*
- **Program and Chapter Management topics--** *including marketing, branding, local program evaluation and assessment, building and maintaining effective partnerships, leadership skills, volunteer management techniques and educational technology relevant to natural resource conservation, education and outreach.*

TMN Advanced Training (AT) Workshops:

Advanced Training workshops provide training on a specific skill, technique, or process and may involve one or more instructors. Workshops are intended to emphasize learning through participation, discussion, and “hands-on” and field activities where possible. AT Workshops should also aim to provide participants with new skills to apply in their area of service or better prepare them to provide service in the topic area you are teaching. Training workshops typically are scheduled to run concurrently with other conference sessions. Training workshops may range from just 2 hours in length to a total of 12 hours in length spanning the course of the weekend. Typical workshop attendance ranges from 15 to 50 while the conference attendance ranges between 225 and 300 total registrants.

TMN Advanced Training Short Sessions (1 hour):

Short Sessions may include presentations introducing a natural resource topic or program to solicit the interest of TMN volunteers or to present resources and partnerships that may assist Master Naturalist chapters in their communities. They may also be very short, hands-on and interactive presentations on natural resource topics

that model good interpretive methods. Short sessions are scheduled to run concurrently with other conference events and topics and are open to all meeting registrants on a walk-in basis. Typical attendance at short sessions can range from 10 to 50 registrants.

Additional Characteristics of TMN Advanced Training Workshops & Short Sessions may include:

- Promotes continued learning and development of naturalist skills
- Provides Master Naturalists with knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts
- Directs trained volunteers toward specific programs in need of their services
- Provides practical information and training for application in volunteer efforts
- Takes advantage of state and local partnerships
- Provides Texas Master Naturalists with an opportunity to focus their interests in one or a few specific topics
- Builds on the core curriculum initially provided by the program and the local chapter
- Provides natural resource management issues and information applicable to Texas
- and for the statewide annual meeting—applies to and addresses a broad range of TMN volunteers (geographically, etc.) across the state.

Examples of Past TMN Annual Meeting Advanced Training Workshop Titles

- Developing TPWD Biological Assessment Teams
- Monitoring Habitat for Quail and other Upland Birds, Monitoring Invasive Organisms
- Become a part of the TPWD Dove Banding Program
- Riparian Area Assessment & Management
- Leopold Education Project, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree and Flying WILD Facilitator Trainings
- Brush Busters: Tactical Brush Management Technology for the Landowner
- Marketing & Identity for Master Naturalist Chapters, Becoming an Effective Messenger
- Providing Interactive & Experiential Programs and Junior Master Naturalist Activities
- Wind Development, Transmission and Texas Natural Resources
- Introduction to Wildlife Tracking
- Introduction to Climate Change in TX, Project BudBurst, & the National Phenology Network
- The Texas Master Naturalists role in implementing the Texas Conservation Action Plan
- How to Establish a Land Management Assistance Program in your chapter
- Wildfire Preparedness: History, Property Evaluation & Guidelines
- Natural Resource Laws, Regulations and Ethics for Every Master Naturalist
- Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Project
- Planning and facilitating effective meetings for your chapter
- Partnering with Youth & Schools through Service Learning
- Prescribed Fire Training, Geospatial Technologies Training, Land Photodocumentation
- Teaching Successful Habitat Restoration

Submission Requirements

The Texas Master Naturalist Program welcomes your training workshop contributions to our agenda! Individuals wishing to present are invited to email a proposal abstract with the following information **by June 30, 2012** to mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu or michelle.haggerty@tpwd.state.tx.us A notice of receipt will be sent by e-mail. If you do not receive notification of receipt within 10 days or have any questions about proposal submission, please contact Michelle Haggerty. Proposals received after the deadline and before registration opening may be considered if space is available. Trainers will need to bring their own presentation equipment (laptop, projector, etc.). However, screens will be provided in each meeting room.

Please include the following in your proposal abstract:

- Session Type: (either AT Workshop or 1 hour Short Session)
- Session Length (in hours)
- Session Title
- Will an enclosed classroom be required? (or can the session be held entirely outdoors?)
- Contact of primary presenter/training team lead (mailing address, phone, cell phone, email)
- Trainer(s)/Presenter(s) names, titles and organization(s)
- Your preferred class size:
- A short description of the session--3-5 sentence paragraph (~100 words) describing the session, what volunteers will learn, what they will need to wear and/or bring with them, etc. (This information will be used to describe the session in our registration materials)

Proposal Evaluation and Notice of Decision

All training proposals will be considered and evaluated on timeliness of the subject, importance of the training to a broad range of TMN volunteers and their further contribution to our program mission. Applicants will be notified whether their proposals have been accepted or not.

About the Texas Master Naturalist Program

The Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer program is sponsored statewide by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The mission of the program is *to train volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas*. The program currently supports 7,300 volunteers in 44 local chapters across the state. Last year, TMN volunteers provided over 283,000 hours of service. Many communities and organizations rely on these citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. Texas Master Naturalist volunteers are required to receive 40 hours of basic training, obtain a minimum of 8 hours of advanced training and perform 40 hours of volunteer service prior to being certified as a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer. To keep their certification current each year, TMN's are required to obtain an additional 40 hours of service and 8 hours of advanced training. For more information visit our statewide website at: <http://txmn.org>

Flying WILD

Workshop Registration Form

Flying WILD is an exciting new education program that introduces students to bird conservation through school bird festivals, hands-on classroom activities, and community service projects. This workshop is suitable for formal educators, non formal educators, home schooling parents, scout leaders, and youth leaders. Through a partnership with the Council for Environmental Education (the national office for Flying WILD and Project WILD) the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) is offering Flying WILD training and materials. Each workshop participant will receive the program publication, *Flying WILD: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds* plus additional materials and booklets.

To register, please complete and return this form. Please email form to [Mary Anne Weber maweber@houstonaudubon.org](mailto:maweber@houstonaudubon.org) or Or mail to: **Houston Audubon 3997 River Drive, Houston, TX 77017**

Space is limited, so registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.

Name:

Please wear comfortable clothing for indoor and outdoor activities. Bring a sack lunch, drinks and snacks for the day. For more information and a map - please email maweber@houstonaudubon.org or call 713.640.2407

DATE: **CHOOSE ONE DATE**

October 6, 2012 9 AM – 2:30 PM Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center \$15.00 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring TX 77386 (281-364-4225)

February 2, 2013 9 AM – 2:30 PM Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center \$15.00 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring TX 77386 (281-364-4225)

Mailing Address

Amount

\$

Street:

Enclosed

(www.houstonaudubon.org to use a credit card)

City & Zip:

Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Fax Number:

Affiliation:

Subjects you are Teaching:

Grade Level Teaching (if applicable):

This 5-hour workshop may be credited toward Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements set by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). Houston Audubon is registered as an approved CPE Provider.

ANNOUNCING A PROJECT WILD/ AQUATIC WILD WORKSHOP

FEATURES

- Conservation & educational activities emphasizing habitat and wildlife.
 - Ideally suited to nature and environmental education
- Games and activities can be used for troop pack and den meetings.
 - Have also been used at council and district camporees.
 - Can be tied to Scout advancement.
 - Participants receive two books with over 160 activities.
 - Also receive considerable supporting materials.
- Teachers can also receive TEEAKS credit for each training attended

WHEN

Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 8:00am to 6:00pm

WHERE

Montgomery County Pct 3 Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center
1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring TX 77386

COST ** is \$35 per person and includes lunch

The first 20 registrants, based on receipt of registration forms and payment, will have their fee reduced to \$15 thanks to a grant from BP!

See the instructions below, and SIGN UP EARLY for the discount!

HOW TO REGISTER

Space is limited to 25 on a first come, first served basis.

Registration DEADLINE is September 4.

Must be received by September 4 to register. Mail a check for \$15, payable to Heartwood TMN, to:
Project WILD/SCG Nature Center
1300 Riley Fuzzel Rd
Spring, TX 77386

Need more information?
Email Glenn R Buckley: grbuckley419@comcast.net Or
call Teri MacArthur: 281.364.4225 (9am – 5pm)

Name _____
Address _____ City/ZIP _____
Phone _____ Email _____

** The state now charges \$35/participant for books and materials. The reduced fee for the first 20 registrants is being subsidized by a BP grant. In addition to books and materials supplied by TPWD, we will provide considerable supplemental materials from the NRCS, TCEQ and Houston Wilderness. Don't miss this opportunity to obtain excellent program ideas and materials . *You will be notified by EMAIL if you will need to pay an additional \$20.*