



Central Texas Master Naturalist 2026 Training Schedule

Updated 1/11/2026

Saturday, March 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Miller Springs Nature Center, 1473 Farm-To-Market Rd 2241, Belton**
- Delivery of training materials, meet your Mentor, other trainees, and chapter members, have directory photo taken

Class 1: Tuesday, March 24, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Review Units
in Text: 21

- **Agrilife Extension Meeting Room 1605 N Main, Belton**
- President's Welcome, Introduction of Officers, Training Committee, TMN Sponsors (8:30 – 9:00)
- Introduction to the Texas Master Naturalist Program (9:00 – 10:00)
- Urban Ecosystems – Sam Kieschnick, Urban Biologist TPWD (10:00 – 12:00)
- Luncheon provided by CTMNM Members (12:00)

Total hours to count for VMS – 3.5

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**Class 2: Tuesday, March 31, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Review Units  
in Text: 8,  
19, 24

- **Waco Wetlands, 1752 Eichelberger Crossing Road, China Spring**
- Waco Wetlands History – Nora Schell, Wetlands Director (8:30 – 9:30)
- Overview of Volunteer Management System (VMS)—Linda Fairlie, CTMNM (9:30 – 10:00)
- Citizen Science – Wendy Anderson, TPWD Nature Trackers (10:00-12:00)
- Lunch (12:00- 12:30)
- Texas Weather and Climate – (12:00- 2:30)
- **Download apps: iNaturalist, Merlin, eBird (all optional)**

***Total hours to count for VMS – 5.5 (Course total 9)***

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Class 3: Tuesday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Review Units
in Text: 3, 4,
12

- **AgriLife Extension Meeting Room 1605 N Main, Belton**
- Texas Ecoregions – Jamey Douglass, NRCS Soil Scientist, Ret. (8:30 – 9:30)
- Historical Naturalists – Lynn Fleming, CTMN (9:30-10:30)
- Ornithology – Carol Smith, (10:30-12:00)
- Lunch (12:00-12:30)
- Birds of Texas -- Gil Eckrich, Wildlife Biologist (12:30 – 2:00)

Total hours to count for VMS – 5 (Course total 14)

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**Class 4: Saturday, April 11, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

- **Birding at BLORA**

***Total hours to count for VMS – 3 (Course total 17)***

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Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. CTMN Chapter Meeting, Belton Church of Christ

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**Class 5: Tuesday, April 21 9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.**

Review Units  
in Text: 2, 17

- **Fort Hood and Miller Springs Nature Center**
- Archaeology – Sunny Wood, Archaeologist, Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works (9:00 – 11:30)
- Travel to Miller Springs Nature Center & Lunch (11:30 – 12:30)
- Forest Ecology – Mary Ann Everett, & CTMN Members (12:30 – 2:30)

***Total hours to count for VMS – 4.5 (Course total 21.5)***

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Class 6: Tuesday, April 28, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Review Units
in Text: 7, 1

- **AgriLife Extension Meeting Room, 1605 N Main, Belton**
- VMS Refresher & FAQ's (8:30 – 9:00)
- Geology – Dr. Ray Kazusko (Dr. Rock) (9:00 – 11:30)
- Lunch (11:30-12:00)
- Land Stewardship – Lynn Fleming, CTMN (12:00 – 1:00)

Total hours to count for VMS – 4 (Course total 25.5)

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**Class 7: Tuesday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Review Units  
in Text: 13,  
23

- **AgriLife Extension Meeting Room**
- Entomology – Wizzie Brown, AgriLife Extension Program Specialist - IPM (9:00 – 11:30) with a break 10:00-10:15
- Lunch (11:30 – 12:00)
- Interpretive Skills – Danny Welch, CTMN (12:00 – 1:00)

***Total hours to count for VMS – 4 (Course total 29.5)***

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Tuesday, May 12, 6:00 p.m. CTMN Monthly Meeting, Belton Church of Christ

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**Class 8: Saturday, May 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

- **Mayborn Museum Complex, 1300 S University Parks Drive, Waco**

***Total hours to count for VMS – 5 (Course total 31.5)***

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Class 9: Saturday, May 19, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Review Units
in Text: 7,
18, 19

- **Waco Wetlands, 1752 Eichelberger Crossing Road, China Spring**
- Stream Team – Danny Welch & Crew, CTMN (9:00 – 10:00)
- Aquatic Systems (10:00 – 12:00)
- Lunch (12:00 – 12:30)
- Soils of Texas – John Sackett, Soil Scientist, NRCS (12:30 – 2:30)

Total hours to count for VMS – 5 (Course total 36.5)

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**Class 10: Tuesday, May 26, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Review Units  
in Text: 10,  
11, 22

- **Mother Neff State Park, 1921 State Park Rd 14, Moody**
- Plant ID with Walk & Talk – Jeff Brister, NRCS 9:00 – 11:30)
- Lunch (11:30 – 12:00)
- Laws, Regulations, & Ethics – Craig Hernandez, TPWD Game Warden (12:00 – 1:00)
- History of State Park System & Mother Neff – Melissa Chadwick, Superintendent, MNSP (1:00 – 2:00)
- Tour park on you own – optional

***Total hours to count for VMS – 4.5 (Course total 41)***

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Class 11: Tuesday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Review Units
in Text: 13,
22, 3

- **Cameron Park Zoo, Waco**
- Mammals, Herpetology, Tour of Brazos River Exhibit
- Lunch at Zoo then travel to Mammoth Site (11:00 – 12:00)
- Mammoth Site – Dr. Yann, Paleontologist (12:00 – 1:30)

Total hours to count for VMS – 3.5 (Course total 44.5)

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**Tuesday, June 10, 6:00 p.m. CTMN Monthly Meeting, Belton Church of Christ**

- **GRADUATION!**

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