

Petition to State Advisory Committee
of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program
to form the “El Camino Real Chapter”

Phase I



1. Geographic boundary: Milam County.
2. Letters of acknowledgement and viability: Attached are letters from
 - a. Texas Cooperative Extension County Extension Agent (Agriculture/ Natural Resources)
 - b. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Natural Resources Specialist)
 - c. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Game Warden)
3. Chapter Goals: The goal of the El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists Program is to train and certify a corps of local volunteers that are knowledgeable in natural resource ecology and management, which will provide education, outreach and service dedicated toward the conservation and beneficial management of the natural resources in their respective communities.

Partner Mission and Goals (goals and objectives of formed partnerships):

Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE): To provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing education programs and services to the people of Texas. *(Provide leadership and guidance for developing outreach and continuing education associated with the Master Naturalist Chapter).*

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD): To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources for Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunity for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. *(Serve as a technical resource for wildlife ecology and native restoration in Milam County and identify opportunities for community service associated with the local wildlife populations on private property).*

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. *(Serve as a technical resource for soil and natural resource conservation in Milam County and identify opportunities for community service associated with the local soil and water conservation district).*

Ducks Unlimited Chapter #259 (DU): Conserves, restores, and manages

wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. *(Provide opportunities for outreach and community service associated with wetlands in Milam County).*

ALCOA Rockdale Operations: Alcoa's foundation is integrity. We are open, honest and trustworthy in dealing with customers, suppliers, coworkers, shareholders and the communities where we have an impact. *(Serve as a technical resource for range management and habitat restoration demonstration. Provide opportunities for community service associated with being the largest landowner in Milam County, specifically focused upon habitat restoration).*

Little River Basin Master Gardeners: The Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program offered by Texas Cooperative Extension and is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and improve the quality of life through horticultural projects throughout Milam County. *(Serve as a partner in providing education, outreach and service opportunities towards the conservation and beneficial management of the natural resources in our community.)*

Bat Conservation International (BCI): Based in Austin, Texas, BCI is devoted to conservation, education, and research initiatives involving bats and the ecosystems they serve. *(Provide opportunities for outreach and community service associated with Mexican Free Tailed bat migrations that cause community concern throughout Milam County).*

4. Local Chapter Coordinating Committee members include the following (signed volunteer forms attached):

Mike Mitchell – Milam County Game Warden, Texas Parks and Wildlife
Jon Gersbach – Milam County Extension Agent, Texas Cooperative Extension
Lucile Estell – Milam County Historical Commission
Jim Waldson – Brazos Valley Master Naturalist
Mary Waldson – Brazos Valley Master Naturalist
Ann Collins – Brazos Valley Master Naturalist
Paul Unger – Little River Basin Master Gardener
Katherine Bedrich – Little River Basin Master Gardener
Nancy Soechting
Lynda Lewis – Little River Basin Master Gardener

5. Proposed chapter name: El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists Program
6. Proposed Logo: Tree Frog