

El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ program

2008 Training Agenda

Classroom: Tuesdays, 8:30 – 11:30 am at the Cameron Chamber of Commerce

Field Trips: Tuesdays, mornings, carpool times and specific directions to be announced

 **Accessibility: Field trips include a walking tour, river boat ride, and mountain climb.**

Please advise as soon as possible of auxiliary service or aid that you require.

This agenda is subject to change.

Visiting students and other chapter members are asked to contact this chapter prior to attending lectures, as classroom space is limited.


Visitors must contact the chapter advisor(s) prior to attendance of any field trip, as liability insurance and admittance fees must be pre-arranged.

| # | Date | Topic | Location | Speaker |
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| 1 | Tuesday, Jan 15, 2008 | Introduction & Texas Naturalists prior to World War II, Volunteers as Teachers | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Mr. Sonny Arnold Assistant State Coordinator Texas Master Naturalist Program |
| 2 | Tue, Jan 22 | Ecological Concepts, Ecological Regions of Texas, Ecosystem Management | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Dr. Jane M. Packard Associate Professor Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Faculty Texas A&M University |
| 3 | Tue, Jan 29 | Nature of Naming; Plants | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Florence M. Oxley Director of Conservation and Education Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin |
| 4 | FIELD TRIP #1 Tue, Feb 5† (31 miles) | Blackland Prairie Ecosystem | Blackland Research and Extension Center, Temple | Dr. Tom Gerik Professor and Interim Resident Director Dennis Hoffman & June Wolfe Blackland Research & Extension Center |
| 5 | FIELD TRIP #2 Tue, Feb 12† (60 miles) Bus provided | Wildlife & Fauna of Texas | Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, College Station | Mrs. Heather Prestridge Assistant Curator Vertebrate Collection Arrive 9:00 am Mr. Dale A. Kruse, Curator S. M. Tracy Herbarium Herbarium tour 10:30 am |

The Texas Master Naturalist program activities are coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas Master Naturalist programs serve all people regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

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| 6 | Tue, Feb 19 | Entomology | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Dr. John A. "Jack" Jackman, Professor and Extension Entomology Specialist Department of Entomology and Texas AgriLife Extension Texas A&M University |
| 7 | Tue, Feb 26 | Ornithology | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Dr. Craig Farquhar Wildlife Diversity Branch Texas Parks & Wildlife Department |
| 8 | FIELD TRIP #3 Tue, Mar 4† (108 miles) Bus provided | Ichthyology & State of Texas Waters, including boat tour highlighting springs, waters, and fish | River Systems Institute at Texas State University, San Marcos | Dr. Andrew Samson Executive Director River Systems Institute Doyle Mosier Director, River Studies Program Texas Parks & Wildlife Jason Pinchback Texas Stream Team Senior Monitoring Coordinator & Project Development Specialist Ethan Chappell Lake Manager 9 am – noon. High travel time. Admission charged but included in tuition. |
| 9 | Tue, Mar 11† | Geology and Soils of Texas | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Dr. Sam Feagley State Soil Environmental Specialist Soil and Crop Sciences Texas AgriLife Extension |
| | Tue, Mar 18 | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK | | |
| 10 | Tue, Mar 25 | Herpetology | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Dr. Toby J. Hibbits Curator of Herpetology Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection |
| 11 | Tue, Apr 1† | Mammology | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Dr. John Young Nongame Mammologist Texas Parks & Wildlife Department |
| 12 | Tue, Apr 8† | Archeology | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Dan Potter Archeologist Brazos / Lakes Division Texas Historical Commission Dr. Dee Dee Green Milam County Museum |

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| 13 | FIELD TRIP #4 Tue, Apr 15 (18 miles) | Local History / Role Indians Played Here / Archeology / Unique Plant Composition | Sugarloaf Mountain (Mountain is about a 10 minute climb. No open-toed shoes. Directions and parking suggestions will follow. Carpooling encouraged.) | Dr. Alston V. Thoms Associate Professor Department of Anthropology Texas A&M University Dr. Fred E. Smeins Professor Ecosystems Science & Management Texas A&M University |
| 14 | Tue, Apr 22 | Forest, Wetlands, and Aquatic Ecology | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Rob Grotty (1 st hour) Staff Forester Texas Forest Service Corey Mason (2 nd hour) Waterfowl Biologist for East Texas Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Melissa L. Mullins (3 rd hour) Environmental Educator, Marsh Madness Program Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Baylor University |
| 15 | FIELD TRIP #5 Tue, Apr 29 (18 miles) | Grasslands & Range Management, then walking tour of reclaimed grasslands | ALCOA Rockdale Operations, Lake Training Center 1 ½ hours lecture 1 ½ hour field | Welcome by Richard L. Burns ALCOA Resource & Reclamation Supervisor Dr. Barron S. Rector Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist Texas A&M University |
| 16 | Tue, May 6 [†] | Feral Hog Control (1½ hours) then What Can Parks & Wildlife do for Me? (1½ hours) | Cameron Chamber of Commerce (CoC) | Michael V. Mitchell Game Warden Texas Parks & Wildlife Department |
|  | Tue, May 13 (15 miles) | Graduation | Apache Pass, historical Indian Site at the San Gabriel River | Lunch, followed by local history by Dr. Dee Dee Green and Kit Worley, whose family has owned the property since the late 1800s |

Updated: May 8, 2008

Notes: Reading binders will be distributed on the first class day. Otherwise, pre-read for the topics *prior* to attending the class. Dates marked with a † require students to vacate the Chamber of Commerce classroom by 11:45 am due to incoming meetings. Distances for field trips are determined from Cameron. Credit will be given for travel time. The requirement is 40 hours of training curriculum. The above curriculum is estimated to offer 53 hours, including estimated travel time, if the backup class is unused. This curriculum does not permit advanced training for current Master Naturalists, should they attend the classes. Advanced training will stand apart from the basic course. Current Master Naturalists may claim volunteer credit hours if approved by their home chapter. Don't forget our chapter website at <http://grovesite.com/tmn/ecrmn>.

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