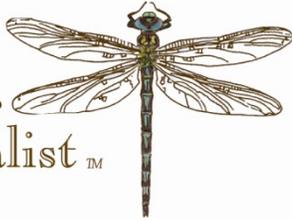


15th Annual Statewide Meeting & Advanced Training

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Mo Ranch Conference Center
Hunt, Texas
October 24-26th, 2014

OUR MISSION:

“TO DEVELOP A CORPS OF WELL-INFORMED 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.”



This year's annual meeting is proudly sponsored by:



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

(as of 8-19-14)

Friday, October 24, 2014

1:30 – 3:30 Concurrent Afternoon 2-Hour Presentations – Session A

Regaining your sense of place: A personal journey to discovering your place in your bioregion

Christine Moseley, PhD & Deepti Kharod, Jennifer Hooper and Wayne Shelden, University of Texas at San Antonio

Wendell Berry says if you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are. With a sense of place, your identity is defined – to a significant extent – by the natural features of the bioregion in which you live. Your bioregion is a unique place with its own watershed, soils, climate, plants, animals, and history. Knowing your bioregion can inspire and empower one to take action to preserve it or take part in its restoration. This session will assist participants on how to discover and interpret the natural history of their bioregion through a variety of mediums, including an online bioregion module, a sense of place discovery journal, personal sense of place digital stories, and a reflective journal writing activity.

Two Archeologists two-stepping their way into pre-history: Hill Country vs. Coastal Prairie

Diane Dismukes, Cultural Resources Coordinator & Ruth A. Mathews, Cultural Resources Coordinator, TPWD

Part 1: Discussion (1 hour): Presenters will discuss their respective regions, highlighting each unique environment; setting the stage for separate, but similar human subsistence strategies. Part 2: Student Interaction (40 minutes): The class will be divided into the two tribes, one from each region. Each tribe will recreate the life of their respective tribes, immersing themselves into the respective culture. They will develop procurement strategies to obtain the resources of each respective environment that are deemed important by each cultural group. Part 3: (20 minutes): Each tribe has 10 minutes to tell what they did and why.

Utilizing & Developing Social Media and Video for your chapter and service—A how-to for building membership and public education and engagement

Bruce Biermann, Media Productions Manager & Whitney Bishop, Social Media Specialist, TPWD

Session description pending

Into the Prairie: A Celebration of Native Prairie Grasses

Rich Jaynes

This presentation gives an overview of the role of native grasses in contributing to the high biodiversity of native tallgrass prairies. Experiences with native prairie surveys and prairie restoration efforts in the Connemara Meadow Preserve are used to illustrate approaches to helping visitors to better appreciate the central role of the tallgrass prairie in the ecological and cultural history of north central Texas. We will discuss basic terms that botanists use to describe and differentiate one grass species from another, and will review some distinguishing morphological features and ecological attributes of 10 famous native grasses of Texas tallgrass prairie. We'll also identify a few places where you can experience restored and/or surviving native tallgrass prairie areas.

Volunteer Background Checks: A review with the YPS office

Courtney Reed, Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Background Checks for TMN - Process, When Needed, Why, New Procedures

Natural History Walks: A Walking Workshop

Craig Hensley, Park Ranger, Guadalupe River State Park

So you need to lead a nature walk and you are nervous about exactly what you are going to talk about. Join Naturalist Craig Hensley for the real deal. You'll learn what kinds of things you can share with your audience even when you don't know the names of everything. Be ready to get ideas for loading your pack with sure-to-work ways to provide a meaningful, hands-on experience. Be sure to dress for being outdoors and bring binoculars, if you have them.

1:45 – 2:45 **Concurrent Afternoon 1 Hour Presentations – Session A**

TMN Website Development: Tools & Training for your chapter's web presence

Diann Mitchell-Linger, Website Specialist, AgriLife Communications

Session description pending

Get Involved with Outdoor Recruitment & Diversity Programs at TPWD

Dawn Bello, Outdoor Recruitment & Diversity Specialist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Explore volunteer opportunities with the Outdoor & Recruitment TPWD team, such as hosting expo-like events in the Houston area, training partners in outdoor skills and holding a variety of workshops and programs covering things like: Trip Planning & Preparation; Back Country Safety & Survival; Back Country Emergency Response & First Aid; Outdoor & Back Country Cooking (campfire, stoves & Dutch oven); Camping; Backpacking; Kayaking; Archery; Fishing; LNT; etc.

Take Care of Texas Program

Andre Price, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Session description pending

Novel Ideas for Outreach about Coastal Communities

Emma Clarkson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

This workshop will focus on novel methods for outreach about coastal aquatic systems. Special focus will be placed on activities and outreach concerning seagrass habitats.

Natural Resource Conservation, Education and Ecotourism Initiatives of Mo Ranch – How you can get involved too!

Dick Powell, President, Mo Ranch

Session description pending

4:00 – 6:00 **Concurrent Afternoon 2-Hour Presentations – Session B**

Driven to Discover: An overview of Citizen Science & Youth Research

Karen Oberhauser, Professor, Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology & Andrea Lorek Strauss, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

Interested in engaging youth with science? This session will describe an innovative new program from Minnesota that trains volunteers to work with youth, ages 10-16, to conduct original scientific research by starting them out with citizen science projects. Participants will learn about the curricular resources and program structures that support these activities in out-of-school settings. We will demonstrate a few sample activities and provide resources to get you started with this program. If you can't attend our full-day workshop, this session is the abbreviated version.

Texas Quail Index: Training Citizen Scientists to collect quality data

Becky Ruzicka, Extension Associate, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

The Texas Quail Index is a statewide program organized by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service using citizen scientists to help monitor various aspects of quail populations and bring attention to their importance, plight, and needs. This session will give participants a brief overview of the current quail decline in Texas, familiarize them with the methods used to monitor quail populations, and provide access to resources necessary to begin a quail monitoring program in their area.

Six hands-on Activities for Youth in Nature

Leanne Beauxbeannes, TPWD Interpretive Ranger/ TMN Hill Country Chapter class'06

Fun, fast moving, hand-on class including: Creating miniature habitats: Comparing and contrasting native critters using finger puppets: Scientific measurement using live worms and magnifying glasses; Entomology using Bug Bingo: and A closer look at nature or 'What color is Green Anyway?'

What Partnerships can do for you!

Jerry Gordon, Asst. Director of Training - Texas Game Warden Training Center, Sierra & Cheyenne Gordon

This informative presentation reveals insight on how to use partnerships to originate and coordinate conservation oriented educational outreach events. The presentation centers around the very successful District 7 4H Hunter Safety Camp and how the camp directors used partnerships not only to establish the camp but also to generate support that continues to benefit other groups and organizations. The steps outlined are simple enough that each year a different 15 or 16 year old girl has put the camp together, yet it has become an established annual event that was featured at last year's International Hunter Education Association Conference. Volunteers will receive valuable information on how to transform their ideas into actions, what steps to follow to ensure the most effective use of your resources, and most of all the "how, when, and where's" of forming and maintaining partnerships.

Whooping Crane Mysteries Unveiled!

Mark Klym, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

As we enter our third year, data from our detailed study efforts and our casual observation reports that can help us understand Whooping Crane behavior on inland sites and reinforce the value of both data sets will be presented. Observers will have an opportunity to respond to the data and help ensure that their input is being properly interpreted.

Hello Invasive Pests, Goodbye Texas Forests and Agriculture: Sentinel Pest Network Train-the-Trainer Workshop

Mike Murphrey, Texas A&M Forest Service and Justin Bush, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The introduction of invasive pests like emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle will have devastating effects to natural systems and agriculture. To protect Texas, the Sentinel Pest Network assists first detectors to assist with identification and reporting. Participants will be introduced to 12 high-risk species. Training includes identification, impacts, signs and symptoms and reporting tools of the Sentinel Pest Network. As an outcome of this advanced training, participants will receive tools and resources to host their own Sentinel Pest Network trainings, expanding the Sentinel Pest Network and the probability that these high-risk pests will be identified at introduction.

Identifying Native Plants Plant Walk

Barron Rector, Extension Range Specialist

Session description pending

Master Naturalist 911... Are you prepared for your health and safety?

Dr. Betsy Schenck, Physician

Are you prepared? Do you know the best practices for prevention and treatment of common outdoor medical emergencies? The victim may be you, a fellow Master Naturalist, or a project participant. Join us to learn strategies for dealing with wounds and injuries and illnesses cause by cold, heat, bites, stings, plants, dust and water. Know what to do after you call 911. Understand your legal responsibilities and protection. Learn what should be in your medical emergency kit, and what should be in your MN project emergency kit. Handout included.

4:00 – 5:00 **Concurrent Afternoon 1 Hour Presentations – Session B**

Texas Land Trends Updates

Roel Lopez, Texas Renewable Resources Institute

Session description pending

Texas Outdoor Family: Growing the Next Generation of Naturalists

Ky Harkey, Outdoor Education and Outreach Coordinator for Texas State Parks

The Texas Outdoor Family program provides the first camping experience to thousands of Texans every year. Come learn about how you can help give families and children their first experiences in nature and Texas State Parks through our volunteer and training opportunities. Volunteers will learn about the Texas Outdoor Family

camping workshop program, the reasons for its importance to today's generation of parents and children, as well as volunteer opportunities with the program and their Master Outdoor Leader Training (MOLT). The presentation will excite volunteers about potential opportunities to help grow the next generation of Texas State Park stewards. Life's Better Outside!

Big Bend Ranch State Park: Geology at the Crossroads

Blaine Hall, Interpretive Ranger, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Big Bend Ranch State Park

Introduction and review of the significance of the geology of Big Bend Ranch State Park and why it truly is a Crossroads of Geology. Expanding into a discussion of how the geology and climate control the landscape, how in turn, the landscape controls the cultural development of the area, and ultimately, how the cultural development over time is the history of the area. The presentation provides a strong case for how interpretation, based on something as ordinary as rocks, can reveal and create a fundamental understanding of one's surroundings and how Texas Master Naturalists can gain that insight and pass it on to others.

Naturalists Connecting the Past, Present and Future

Cullen Hanks, Texas Natural Diversity Database, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

As naturalists, we only see a snap shot in ecological time. However, naturalists from the past give us a valuable perspective on how our local biodiversity has changed over time. In this presentation, we will profile different species of birds and reptiles, exploring perspectives from the past, and what we know about them in the present. In the process, we will highlight some of the resources from the past that are available to naturalists in Texas. We will also demonstrate the value of current tools for documenting your observations. By understanding our past and our present, we will be better prepared to detect patterns of change, and to advocate for biodiversity in the future.

7:30 – 8:30 **Concurrent Roundtable Discussions, Chapter Project Presentations and other AT**

Texas Master Naturalist Quiz Bowl

Richard Heilbrun, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Session description pending

Backyard Habitat Certifications: Combining the Best of the Best—A Brazos Valley Chapter Member's Project

Molly Harris, Brazos County TMN

Molly Harris, a Brazos County Master Gardener and a Texas Master Naturalist, has property that has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat and by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department as both a Texas Wildscapes as well as a Best of Texas Wildlife Habitats. Join Molly as she shares the learning process she experienced in creating her wildlife habitat. Learn the native and adapted plants: the herbs, flowers, groundcovers, vines, shrubs, and trees that not only attract wildlife, but also do well in the Brazos Valley while providing color in the garden too. Become aware of the requirements of the National Wildlife Federation and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to have your own property, from an apartment balcony to several acres, certified as a wildlife habitat.

Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Project Presentations (15 min. each with Q&A at end)

Participating in the Texas Quail Index: The Rolling Plains Chapter's Experience

Jane McGough, Rolling Plains Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

The presentation will include the purpose of the study along with the role of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas AgriLife. It will include the recruitment and training of volunteers and various components of the research including Call Counts, Dummy Nests (with "Eggshell CSI" to determine predators), use of Game cameras and Fall Covey Counts. Along with charts, the Power Point will include pictures of Chapter members in the field with native flora and fauna.

Highland Lakes Chapter's Inks Lake State Park Interpretive Trail

Lori Greco, Highland Lakes MN

Highland Lakes Master Naturalist Class 2013 updated the existing 3.2 mile Pecan Flats Trail at Inks Lake State Park with 31 numbered features of interest and created a new Trail Guide with color photos. Features were totally updated and/or added, providing park visitors with an enhanced interpretive experience of the flora, geology and ecology of the park. This interpretive trail will be added to the existing online app called "Everytrail.com" by presentation date in October 2014.

Rio Grande Valley Chapter's Development of a Monarch Garden Project

Heidi Linnemann, Rio Grande Valley Chapter, TMN

The presentation will define the need for additional monarch habitats to help control the decline of the monarch butterfly population. Included will be a description of the Monarch flyway in Texas, site identification and planning as well as descriptions of host and nectar plants for the various regions in Texas.

Evening Round Table Discussions:

Overview and Demo of the TMN on-line Volunteer Management System

Cheryl Foster, Dale Hughling & Brad James

Session description pending

Biological Inventory Team (BIT) Roundtable and planning for the future

Marsha May, Wildlife Diversity Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

This round table will explore the future of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Biological Inventory Team project and how we can all work together to make this project successful. Team leaders and current volunteers as well as anyone interested in getting involved are encouraged to participate. A Biological Inventory Team (BIT) is a group of enthusiastic and knowledgeable experts who are able to assist landowners and TPWD biologists by conducting surveys of plants and animals on private property. The current vision for this project is to establish volunteer teams in each TPWD Wildlife Division District to meet these needs.

Master Naturalist Survey Results, info and roundtable discussion

Mary Ann Melton

Session description pending

Are you True to Texas? A future Texas, Teaming with Wildlife

Todd Sliger, Teaming With Wildlife Coalition Coordinator

There are 1310 species listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need under the Texas Conservation Action Plan and these species are struggling to cope with the pressures of poor agricultural practices, climate change, urban sprawl and energy development. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) is committed to protecting biodiversity and are limited with current funding strategies. Master Naturalists have an opportunity to assist Teaming With Wildlife: True To Texas and TPWD in generating support for wildlife conservation as part of their annual volunteer service commitment. Quantifying wildlife conservation support from diverse businesses and organizations can translate into financial support for wildlife and habitat. This short session (1hour) will provide Master Naturalists with effective communication skills and the opportunity for Master Naturalists to participate in a state-wide, grass roots organizing campaign by building and maintaining effective partnerships while achieving funding goals that will benefit Texans for generations to come.

Saturday, October 25, 2014

8:00 – 8:15 Morning Kerr WMA Volunteer Service Project participants —*meet for shuttle/car pool instructions to the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. Carpool/vans will leave promptly at 8:15 AM (King Dining Hall Main Entry)*

8:30 – 12:00 Full Day Advanced Training Sessions

(Full Day sessions run 8:30 - 12:00 AND 1:30 – 5:00 with a lunch break)

Invasive Species Citizen Science Workshop

Mike Murphrey, Texas A&M Forest Service and Justin Bush, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

This session will include an introduction to invasive species, cover identification, reporting and other tools we have developed.

Driven to Discover: Using Citizen Science to Spark Authentic Science Investigations

Andrea Lorek-Strauss & Karen Oberhauser

Interested in engaging youth with science? This session will describe an innovative new program from Minnesota that trains volunteers to work with youth, ages 10-16, to conduct original scientific research by starting them out with citizen science projects. Participants will learn about the curricular resources and program structures that support these activities in out-of-school settings. We will demonstrate a few sample activities and provide resources to get you started with this program. If you can't attend our full-day workshop, this session is the abbreviated version, indoors.

Texas Stream Team Paddlers Water Quality Monitoring Training

Travis Tidwell, Monitoring Program Coordinator, Texas Stream Team, The Meadows Center for Water and The Environment at Texas State University

This workshop will provide hands on training to certify participants to collect water quality data as part of Texas Stream Team's Paddling Program. The morning session will consist of a lecture on water quality followed by instruction on how to use and maintain the equipment. After lunch, the class will take water samples on the Guadalupe River from canoes. The canoes will be provided by Mo Ranch, but participants are encouraged to bring their own canoe or kayak. Upon completion, trainees will be able to take water quality readings and report their findings to Texas Stream Team for submission in the statewide water quality database.

8:30 – 11:30 Concurrent Half Day Advanced Training Sessions

Volunteer Service Project at the Kerr WMA – Morning Session (8:15)

(see carpool instructions above)

The Elephants in the Room: Identifying & Overcoming Organization & Board Issues so your Chapter can move forward

Rose Mary Fry, Degrees of Work Nonprofit Consultant

Board and staff are critical partners in leading nonprofit organizations and delivering programs and services to the community. As organizations confront opportunities and challenges, there are often times in which topics are not discussed. The people in the room are aware of "the elephants in the room", but they are not discussed for a variety of reasons. This workshop will highlight typical issues that can prevent an organization from moving forward. Examples include lack of focus, trust issues, outdated programs, ineffective board or staff leadership, lack of funding, or community collaborations. Participants will learn how to identify "the elephants in the room", communication strategies for dealing with challenging conversations, and techniques to move past barriers to an organization's health and growth.

Plant ID by Family Association and use of Written & Online Botanical Keys

Ricky Linex, Zone Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Participants will gain an understanding of how plants have been collected and identified through the past 150 years. Plants will first be identified by use of Family Associations and then followed by written and online botanical keys. Participants will learn how to quickly key out plants arriving at the proper identification. Session will be indoors, bring Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas if owned but copies of the keys needed will be provided for all. Magnifier, tweezers, and knife would be useful. Handouts of Family Associations and list of useful plant ID books will be provided.

Aquatic & Riparian Invasive Species: Ecology, ID Reporting and Control methods

Luci Cook-Hildreth and Monica McGarrity, ANS Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

Participants will rotate between three separate activities led by TPWD Aquatic Invasive Species Biologists. Monica will provide an overview of aquatic and riparian invasive species of interest in Texas as well as methods for reporting invasive species and available learning resources. Participants who have smartphones may want to download the "Texas Invaders" app beforehand (not required). Thomas will lead hands-on identification training on several species of concern in Texas. Cameras are welcome and participants are encouraged to take photos of specimens for personal reference. Luci will lead participants in a practical exercise to determine permits required for vegetation treatment and removal and discuss biological control options in Texas for aquatic nuisance vegetation.

Water, Water... Where is the Water?

Mark Klym, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Texas is facing a water crisis. According to the EPA, 30% of our daily water use is outdoors and 50% of that water is used on lawns! Texas Wildscapes presents opportunities to reduce water use and use gardens as a tool for water conservation. The trick is, getting this message to Texans in a way that appeals to their needs.

Traditional Media Relations Training

Tom Harvey, Texas Parks & Wildlife Media Relations Director

For our traditional media communication training, it takes about an hour to present info, then 6- 8 minutes per person to tape mock video news interviews and watch/critique them, including break time and time between interviews. So we could do mock interviews with maybe 15-20 people if we had 3 hours to work with. As you may recall, we typically have folks break up into teams and brainstorm soundbite answers to anticipate questions for mock interview scenarios, then start interviews while teams are still working. You and I would work out interview scenarios in advance, picking topics relevant for TMN work.

Become a TWA L.A.N.D.S. Field Instructor and help leave a legacy

Koy Coffer, Education Specialist, Texas Wildlife Association

Join us as we introduce TWA L.A.N.D.S. (Learning Across New Dimensions in Science) and teach you how to become one of our Field Day Instructors. Walk through a mock field day and see what students learn through their rotations. Meet other local professionals and discuss how together you can encourage career opportunities. Help leave a legacy by giving your time.

8:30 – 9:30 **Concurrent Morning 1 Hour Advanced Training Presentations – Session A**

Getting Involved with the Globe at Night Citizen Science Project

Cindy Luongo Cassidy, President, Green Earth Lighting LLC, International Dark-Sky Association Texas Section Leader & Hays County Master Naturalist

The GLOBE at Night program is an international citizen-science campaign to raise public awareness of the impact of light pollution by inviting citizen-scientists to measure their night sky brightness and submit their observations to a website from a computer or smart phone. Light pollution threatens not only our "right to starlight", but can affect energy consumption, wildlife and health. People in 115 countries contributed over 83,000 measurements during the campaigns each winter/spring over the last 7 years, making GLOBE at Night the most successful light pollution awareness campaign to date. Participants will be given tools to set up a volunteer program in their MN

Chapter to get their community involved in this citizen scientist activity do educational outreach, and raise awareness of this area of conservation.

Identifying Native Plants Walking Tour

Barron Rector, Extension Range Management Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Session description pending

An Update on Zebra Mussels in Texas

Marsha May, Texas Natural Trackers Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The highly invasive Zebra mussel made its presence first known to Texans April 2009 in Lake Texoma. Since 2009, this invasive and highly destructive bivalve is now found in several water bodies throughout Texas. This presentation will offer the latest information on the spread of this species and what you can do to help stem the tide.

Funding your Outreach Efforts

Cappy Smith, CO-OP Grant Coordinator, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Learn about the TPWD Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants designed to help introduce under-served populations to the services, programs, and sites of TPWD. Grants are awarded to non-profit organizations, schools, municipalities, counties, cities, and other tax-exempt groups. Funds may be used for direct program costs for outdoor recreation or environmental education and conservation programs. Find out if this might be an option to fund your chapter's outreach efforts.

10:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Morning 1 Hour Advanced Training Presentations – Session B

Save the Night! Why we all need natural darkness and how to protect it

Cindy Luongo Cassidy, President, Green Earth Lighting LLC, International Dark-Sky Association Texas Section Leader & Hays County Master Naturalist

Life on earth depends on natural darkness. Almost every living thing on our planet uses the cycle of light and dark to trigger life processes. So, how does our artificial light at night effect fauna and flora? This session helps us understand the effects of artificial light on living things and how we can reduce the negative effect of our lights.

Developing & Delivering State of the Art Education Programs

Judy Walther, President, Environmental Survey Consulting

Session description pending

Save Water for Wildlife: Tapping TPWD's Aquatic Resources

Johnnie Smith, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Learn about aquatic issues in Texas and how Master Naturalists can access and use the newest resources from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to enhance your knowledge and supplement your chapter's education trainings. A demo of the new Texas Aquatic Science course will be included.

Marketing & Communications—The Gateway to Improved Member Recruitment

Danielle Ormon, Marketing & Development Manager, Audubon Texas

Session description pending

Connecting to the Classroom: Reaching More Kids with Fewer Resources Through Nepris

Sabari Raja & Stasi Gaveras, Nepris

Looking for ways to share your talents with the next generation? Nepris is an online platform connecting Master Naturalists and other educators to classrooms throughout Texas (and even the US). Come see a demonstration of the service and discover how easy it is to volunteer and work with Texas classrooms without leaving your natural habitat. Share what you do, where you do it!

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH (King Dining Hall)

1:00 – 1:15 Off-site Volunteer Service Project at Kerr WMA participants—*meet for shuttle/car pool instructions. Carpool/vans will leave promptly at 1:15. (King Dining Hall Main Entry)*

1:30 – 5:00 **Concurrent Afternoon Half Day Advanced Training Sessions**

Volunteer Service Project at the Kerr WMA – Morning Session (1:15)

(see carpool instructions above)

The Board's Role in Fundraising

Rose Mary Fry, Degrees of Work, Nonprofit Consultant

All nonprofit organizations need adequate resources to deliver their programs and services to the community. This workshop will educate board and staff members about the board's role in fundraising, the relationship of volunteering and giving, the types of fundraising strategies, and techniques to increase an organization's fundraising success. It will also discuss the critical partnership between board and staff in creating a successful fundraising plan.

Introduction to iNaturalist

Cullen Hanks, Texas Nature Trackers Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

This presentation and workshop will provide a practical introduction to iNaturalist. In the presentation we will review how to make observations and add them to projects. We will also offer some tips on how to explore the data, manage your observations, and there will be plenty of time for questions and live demonstration. That evening, we will go make some observations along the river. Make sure to bring a headlamp and be ready get your feet wet if you want to.

When does a Hog act like a Hog?—What real hog behaviors can teach you about their management

Mark Tyson, Extension Associate, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

An understanding of feral hog behaviors can be highly beneficial to individuals seeking to reduce the negative impacts of feral hogs on the environment. In this session attendees will gain an understanding of common feral hog behaviors and how these behaviors can be manipulated to improve feral hog population reduction efforts. Multiple media resources such as photos and videos of actual feral hog behavior will be used to reinforce the material covered in the session. Attendees should wear appropriate clothing for the outdoors and have a drink and snack if desired.

Grab Their Attention & Don't Let Go! Exploring Secrets & Techniques to making your programs memorable

Mark Klym, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

We've all had the experience – you go to a program and forget what was presented before you leave the room! Then there is that other program – you know the one. The program that had you on the edge of your seat for the whole program. The one that you could not stop talking about! Why not make your programs one of the latter ones. This program explores techniques and tricks you can use to grab your audience and not let go!

Tools of the Trade: Monitoring Dove Populations in Texas

Shaun Oldenburger, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Texas dove populations represent a unique opportunity for Master Naturalists (MN) to be involved in monitoring populations at a statewide basis. Currently, MN across the state are involved in both banding and population surveys on doves in various locations. TPWD is seeking to expand these programs into other areas with MN. TPWD staff will present biological information on doves collected by MN. In addition, participants will be trained in dove banding protocols and possibly future survey methods on doves that will occur in 2014.

How Many Mega Pixels? Camera, Lenses and Techniques for Nature Photography

John Herron, Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

Megapixels, zoom, shutter speed, small cameras, big cameras, Canon, Sony, Nikon, Fuji ... the variety of camera choices seems unending. John Herron, a wildlife ecologist and amateur photographer, will sort through the terminology and 'focus' on the features that are important for nature photography. We'll also discuss the basics

of photo composition – how to make a good photo great! After a classroom discussion, the group will move outside for an hour of practice, then back to the classroom to look at the results. Dress comfortably for a short time outdoors and bring whatever camera you have. If you don't have a camera yet, you can try out one of John's!

1:30 – 2:30 **Concurrent Afternoon 1 Hour Advanced Training Presentations – Session C**

Oil Field Lighting and Dark Sky Places

William Wren, M.Ed., Special Assistant to the Superintendent, McDonald Observatory

McDonald Observatory is a world class astronomical research facility increasingly threatened by nighttime lighting from oil and gas related activities in and around the Permian Basin. Since 2010, the sky along the observatory's northern horizon has been steadily and rapidly brightening. Beginning July, 2013, McDonald Observatory was granted access to a working drilling rig, Pioneer Energy Services Rig#29, to evaluate the effectiveness shielding and re-aiming rig lights. Local county governments have gotten involved, and major energy producers are taking another look at how they light their activities.

Texas our Texas: Is our home on the range legacy or legend?

Kristen Tyson, Communication Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Looking back over the years, Texas has changed drastically from the "home on the range" affectionately noted in songs and folklore. Early naturalists witnessed and documented these changes during their lifetimes, but predicted a further decline of native Texas plants and wildlife as human populations soared. Attendees will be taken back in time as we review past surveys of Texas habitats and wildlife, determine if Texas has changed for the better or worse, and explore steps that can be taken to conserve what makes Texas such a magnificent and breathtaking state.

Identifying Native Plants Walking Tour

Barron Rector, Extension Range Management Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Session description pending

Practical ways to spark outdoor education initiatives in schools

Natalie James, Brenham ISD Outdoor Education Specialist; Nancy Oertli, Science Consultant, former Brenham ISD Science Curriculum Specialist; Dave Redden, Past President, Gideon Lincecum Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists

Over a decade ago, teachers and staff in Brenham ISD began to partner with volunteers in Washington County to develop hands-on, nature-based activities to better prepare students for the rigor of high school science courses. What started as a push to increase the quality of science instruction has developed into a district-wide initiative with a much larger goal. This session will provide an overview of the history and scope of the outdoor education program in Brenham ISD, the benefits to its students, and the partnerships that make the program possible. Participants will leave with practical ways to connect with teachers, how to continue building partnerships during times of transition, and tips for sparking an outdoor education movement in their area schools.

3:00 – 4:00 **Concurrent Afternoon 1Hour Advanced Training Presentations – Session D**

State Parks to Protect the Night Sky

Chris Holmes, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Session description pending

Starting out WILD

Wendy Drezck, Alamo Area Texas Master Naturalist

These high energy, engaging programs include stories, music, games, finger play, crafts and snacks based on sound ecological principles. This is a perfect way to begin or foster young children's enjoyment of the natural world. Children who learn and play outside are smarter, happier and healthier. The programs have been developed by professionals in early childhood education and include adapted elements from Project WILD's "Growing up Wild" curriculum for 3 - 7 year olds. I just wanted to fill you in on Starting Out Wild--our toddler downward

extension. I just completed the re-write of the curriculum and I have 24 lessons with plans, songs, ppts, materials etc.--the classes have been wildly popular and I think we've demonstrated a place for it in environmental education.

Intro to e-Extension

Denise Harmel-Garza, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Associate

Introduction to e-Xtension – Working within your state between chapters can be a challenge. One tool that can help you communicate better with other chapters and even other state Master Naturalist programs is eXtension (pronounced (e)-Xtension). eXtension is a national collaboration between all state extension systems associated with land grant universities across the United States. You will be introduced to several ways that people across chapters and within chapters can collaborate and communicate through eXtension. You will also discover ways that eXtension can help your chapter reach the public through Ask An Expert forums, Learn and Campus. Extension. Come discover a new tool that will help your chapter work smarter not harder.

Identifying Native Plants Walking Tour

Barron Rector, Extension Range Management Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Session description pending

6:00 – 7:00 SUPPER (*King Dining Hall*)

Sunday, October 26, 2014

10:15 – 12:15 **Concurrent Morning 2 Hour Advanced Training Presentations**

Changes to the Texas Nature Trackers Program

Cullen Hanks & Marsh May, Texas Nature Trackers Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

This year we have been reviewing the structure of the Texas Nature Tracker Program. One of our goals is to take advantage of iNaturalist. A second goal is to generate more data on Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Please join us to hear about some of the current and potential updates to the program. This will also be a valuable opportunity to contribute feedback and we will make sure there is plenty of time for discussion.

Biodiversity: Putting Concept to Practice of Ecosystem Management

John Herron, Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

What makes ecosystems tick? Learn from a wildlife ecologist about putting science into the practice of habitat management. What is biodiversity and why is important? How can we manage our properties (whether it's a backyard or a ranch) in ways that will improve habitat and increase the number of plant and wildlife species that we all love. John Herron, Director of Conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Texas and one of the founders of the Texas Master Naturalist program, has given this class as part of Master Naturalist training for several TMN chapters in Texas over the past 10 years.

WILD about Water

Kiki Corry, Project WILD Coordinator, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Cathy Wakefield & Augie Frkuska

Sample some of the activities in the newly revised Aquatic WILD. See how they connect with Texas Aquatic Science Curriculum. Learn about the water related resources Texas Parks and Wildlife provides to educators. Water quality and quantity are hot topics whether in flooding, storms, or drought. This session will focus on how to teach about aquatic topics to children and adults. Join us and engage in the best practices to lead our audiences from awareness to knowledge to responsible action.

The Microbial World

Robert Theimer, Rio Brazos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program

This presentation is intended to develop a sense of awareness about the unseen microbiological world that lies all around us. We will discuss the bacteria, fungi, and single cell animals that provide a food source that supports animals of ever increasing size and serves as the base of the food pyramid.

This ecosystem is invaluable to all the larger species, for without the microbiological workers there would be disposal and recycling problems that no one could imagine. This section covers the typical microorganisms as well as some of the animalcules that are mentioned again in the other presentations, such as Entomology.

There will also be display examples of the types of instruments used by early naturalists to investigate the microbial world.

Feathered Friends: Making Connections between Birds and Children

Nyta Brown & Craig Hensley, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Other than arthropods, birds are the most commonly encountered animals you will likely encounter on a nature walk. During this workshop, you'll learn how you can connect your audience to our feathered friends. We'll provide activities from Flying WILD, share resources including what kinds of binoculars to use with children, in particular, and spend time with concrete activities you can take back to your area. If you have binoculars, bring them along with your field guide and plan to be outside for part of the session.

Earth, Wind, Water & Fire: Natural Disaster and nature's response

Dr. Betsy Schenck, Physician

We will explore the devastation caused by natural forces, including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and prairie fires; then examine the restorative power of nature. We will see how near complete destruction allows for the regeneration and rebirth that leads to the diversity and survival of our habitat. Carrying the story a little further

into the destructive forces in society and recovery, including the damaging forces of illness and trauma in our body and the restoration that can occur.

Developing a non-profit org for your chapter: Tips, ‘Tricks’ & How-to

Al Kirchner, Texas Master Naturalist

Session description pending

Native Pollinators: Who’s doing what in your flowers?

Paul Meredith, Texas Master Naturalist

This session will explore animals that pollinate plants – pollinators, in five segments. We will go over basic of plant reproduction to see how plant morphology -- the physical form and external structure of plants -- relates to who is the pollinator and how plants reproduce. Then we will look at how plants and animals have adapted to their mutual advantages over the eons. Then we will look briefly at what critters in the animal kingdom actually assist plants in reproduction, and illustrate various ways plant-groups and their respective pollinators are intertwined through evolutionary co-adaptation.

After that, we will zero in on the best pollinators of all, native bees. Because bees are such a diverse group, we will look more closely at how their morphology -- their size, shape, mouth parts, life cycle, etc. -- impacts the pollination process and the bees’ survival as well. Once that’s done, we’ll zoom in on the best-of-the-best pollinators in Texas, bumble bees. Following the presentation will be a hands-on activity, making either a bee box or a bamboo bee habitat which participants can take home and use.

Handouts on specific specialized pollinators, construction instructions, and illustrations for construction of a social-ground bee nest will be provided to participants.

10:15 – 11:15 Concurrent Morning 1 Hour Advanced Training Presentations – Session A

Get Social! Tips & Training on Using Facebook and other Social Media for your chapter

Jennifer Buratti, Texas Master Naturalist Program

Get hands-on experience with digital forms of engagement and learn best practices of social media tools for the Texas Master Naturalist Program: Why use social media, Types of social media and how to leverage, How it is being used in TX TMN community, What works/what doesn’t, How to get started, Leveraging others work.

Are you True to Texas? A future for Texas, Teaming with Wildlife

Todd Slinger, Coordinator, Teaming With Wildlife: True To Texas

There are 1310 species listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need under the Texas Conservation Action Plan and these species are struggling to cope with the pressures of poor agricultural practices, climate change, urban sprawl and energy development. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) is committed to protecting biodiversity and are limited with current funding strategies. Master Naturalists have an opportunity to assist Teaming With Wildlife: True To Texas and TPWD in generating support for wildlife conservation as part of their annual volunteer service commitment. Quantifying wildlife conservation support from diverse businesses and organizations can translate into financial support for wildlife and habitat. This short session will provide Master Naturalists with effective communication skills and the opportunity for Master Naturalists to participate in a state-wide, grass roots organizing campaign by building and maintaining effective partnerships while achieving funding goals that will benefit Texans for generations to come.

Innovative solutions to common chapter problems presentations (30 mins. each):

Solutions to helping your chapter through stages of growth—the Rio Grande Valley Chapter’s lessons learned

Jim Najvar, Texas Master Naturalist, Rio Grande Valley Chapter

The Sabine-Neches Chapter’s experience with using Shutterfly accounts for member communications and document management

Tara Weatherford, President, Sabine-Neches Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program

11:15 – 12:15 **Concurrent Morning 1 Hour Advanced Training Presentations – Session B**

How to Love a Park to Death

Scott Whitener, Park Interpreter/Volunteer Coordinator/Natural Resources, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area
Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, located in the Texas Hill Country has been open since 1984 as a protected Natural Area. This State Natural Area sees over 250,000 visitors each year. People love this place! Sometimes a little too much. Volunteers will learn about the natural and cultural resource concerns in the park and what staff and volunteers are doing to combat issues such as social trails, litter, and graffiti. Leave No Trace/Center for Outdoor Ethics has chosen and partnered with Enchanted Rock as a “Hot Spot” park this year to assist in educating the public how recreational use can negatively impact our state’s natural resources. An optional Field Trip after the close of the TMN Annual Meeting will be arranged following the presentation.

Spiders of Central Texas

Sheryl Smith Rodgers, Texas Master Naturalist
Session description pending

Updates on the TMN Bylaws

Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist State Coordinator
Session description pending