



Call for Presenters!

Join us for our Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting to gather, learn and celebrate our 20th Anniversary. This year's event will kick off Friday October 26th and run through the weekend to October 28th, and is being hosted at the Sheraton Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center.

Georgetown is uniquely located on the northeastern edge of the Texas Hill Country, split by the Balcones Escarpment, with areas to the east characterized as the Blackland Prairie and karst-like hilly terrain to the west. The city is also split by the north and middle Forks of the San Gabriel River that run through the heart of the urban areas. Along with the natural geography of the area, the unique confluence of habitats around Georgetown provides for many songbirds and terrestrial mammals. Georgetown is home to five endangered species. Two are songbirds protected by the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve in Travis and Williamson Counties. Invertebrate species found only in Williamson County live in the cave-like fissures on the west side of Georgetown. Most interestingly though, Georgetown has been the site of human habitation since at least 9,000 BC, and possibly considerably before that. The earliest known inhabitants of the county, during the late Pleistocene (Ice Age), can be linked to the Clovis culture, a Paleo-Indian culture characterized by the manufacture of distinctive "Clovis points".

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.



TMN Advanced Training Sessions Requirements

The Texas Master Naturalist Program welcomes your proposals as contributions to our agenda! Individuals wishing to present are invited to submit their proposal on the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting website: <http://txmn.org/2018-annual-meeting/>.

The deadline for submissions is **April 30th**. A notice of receipt will be automatically generated and sent by e-mail. If you do not receive notification of receipt within 10 days or have any questions about proposal submission, please contact Mary Pearl Meuth (mpmeuth@tamu.edu). Proposals received after the deadline and before registration opening may be considered if space is available.

Advanced Training Sessions include training on a specific skill, technique, or process and may involve one or more instructors. Sessions are intended to emphasize learning through participation, discussion, and hands on interactive presentations on natural resource topics that model good interpretive methods. Advanced Training Sessions 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. These could also 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 are also typically hands-on Sessions scheduled to run concurrently with other conference events and topics and are open to all meeting registrants on a walk-in basis. Training sessions may range from 1 hour to 4-hour blocks. Typical attendance at sessions can range from 10 to 50 registrants.



Proposals Requested

Proposals for workshops are being requested for the Texas Master Naturalist 2018 Annual Meeting. 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 2018 include** – *Developing and utilizing social media resources; Non-game species and the roles they play in conservation across the state; engaging diverse audiences in the Master Naturalist programs – as members and as an audience; leadership skills for managing groups of volunteers when conflicts arise; the shared roles of hunters & recreational natural resource users in the larger plan for conservation*
- **Citizen Science programs**—*hands-on, train the trainer type workshops strongly encouraged. Workshops covering iNaturalist, other apps, and technology resources for volunteer monitoring programs also strongly encouraged. Taking the next step with citizen science tools and linking them together.*
- **Program and Chapter Management topics--** *including marketing, branding, local program evaluation and assessment, building and maintaining effective partnerships, leadership skills, volunteer and group management techniques and educational technology relevant to natural resource conservation and stewardship.*
- **Interpretation and communication--** *including working with diverse audiences, techniques and developing interpretive educational and outreach programs for all ages, targeting non-traditional audiences for natural resource programs.*
- **Traditional disciplines of a naturalist--** *botany, entomology, ornithology, mammalogy, herpetology, paleontology, geology, archaeology, ichthyology, etc.*
- **Management of natural systems and systems management tools--** *including forest, rangeland, wetland, aquatic and urban ecology & management, hunting and prescribed fire, and other management tools.*

Examples of previous years' TMN Annual Meeting agendas with workshop and session titles and descriptions can be found on the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting archives website, <http://txmn.org/past-meetings/>.

Additional Characteristics may include:

- Promotes continued learning and development of naturalist skills
- Provides Master Naturalists with practical information, knowledge and skills to apply in volunteer efforts
- Directs trained volunteers toward specific programs/partnerships in need of their services
- Takes advantage of state and local partnerships
- Provides TMNs 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 information applicable to current natural resource management issues in Texas
- Applies to and addresses a broad range of TMN volunteers (geographically, etc.) across the state.

Information required for a Proposal:

- **Presentation Title** (make it catchy!)
- **Presentation Abstract** – A short description of the session--3-5 sentence paragraph (about 100 words) describing the session, what volunteers will learn, what they will need to wear and/or bring with them. (This information will be used directly in our Full Agenda)
- **Presentation Theme** – taking a cue off the themes of the TMN program & curriculum
- **Duration** – Length of time (in hours) requested for presentation
- **Maximum Class Size** (12 - 60 or more)
- **Presentation Environment** needs for presentation: Indoors classroom? Outdoors? Field Trip?
- **Technology Needs** for presentation and participants where applicable

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's mission. Applicants will be notified whether their proposals are able to be accepted or not. All presenters will also need to register for the conference once registration is open – www.txmn.org/2018-annual-meeting .

About the Texas Master Naturalist Program

The Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer program is sponsored statewide by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The program, celebrating its 20th Anniversary, has the 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*. The program currently supports 11,000+ volunteers in 48 local chapters across the state. Last year, TMN volunteers provided over 400,000 hours of service. For more information visit our statewide website at: <http://www.txmn.org>



Any additional questions about the Texas Master Naturalist 19th Annual Meeting or the Program in general can be directed to Michelle Haggerty (mmhaggerty@tamu.edu) or Mary Pearl Meuth (mpmeuth@tamu.edu).

