

WELCOME Class of 2023  
We're so glad you're finally here  
We've been waiting for the chance to meet you  
Our new Master Naturalists this year

In case you don't know me  
My name is Dot Maginot  
I've been helping you all get here  
Right from the very get-go

But before I get started  
Please let's all be very clear  
From right this very moment,  
We want you to volunteer

We have garden weeding and trail cleaning  
All jobs big and small  
Board of Directors and Committee Members  
There are opportunities for you all

But now it's my time to introduce all of you  
And so I'm going to tell  
A little bit about each one of you  
So please listen for a spell

I promise not to embarrass you  
To watch you wince and squirm  
All I know is what you've written  
In your eagerness to learn

There are 32 students  
So this could take a minute or two  
But hang in there with me  
You'll be so glad when I am through

When I call your name  
Please stand. It will be quite brief  
Then you can sit back down  
And breathe a sigh of relief

We're going through the alphabet  
I know you can follow along with me  
We're on a first name basis  
So we'll go from A to Z

But sometimes I have added last names  
When we have multiple firsts  
Wouldn't want to recognize the wrong person  
That would be the worst

So.. let's get started!

A is for Aimee  
A retired professor who taught math  
But she's ready for a change  
Down a completely different path

A is also for Allen  
An Eagle Scout in his youth  
Likes birds, plants and astrophotography  
If you want to know the truth

B is for Barbara  
She loves being outside  
Where no one can find her  
And plenty of places to hide

C is for Carl  
Owns a big family ranch in the distance  
Got in over his head  
And now he needs some assistance

C is also for Chip  
Geology is his affection  
We have plenty of that to study  
He'll "Fly" through that section  
(That's a joke. His last name is Fly. Get it?)

Ds –  
We have several of those  
We'll go through them randomly  
To keep you on your toes

D is for Denise  
Info tech was her vocation  
Worked in the same place as her husband  
She deserves a standing ovation

Next up is Dierdre  
She has a beautiful pollinator space  
But the deer eat all the flowers  
And everything else at her place

Third on the rung is David  
Working at Cibolo is not a bad perk  
But finding volunteers to remove invasives?  
Who wants to do all that work?

Finally in the D's we have Dennis  
Lived in Houston like some of the rest  
But couldn't wait to get back to Fredericksburg  
To the land that he knows best

No Es but we have an F  
Fletcher has that big ranch a little out west  
He and Carl are taking the class together  
To learn how to manage it best

Next up is Gordon  
He's a medical doctor by career  
It's not a requirement for a Master Naturalist  
Or there would be nobody else here

Another G for is Grant  
His favorite past time is taking pics  
Of nature photography  
Way out in the sticks

No H's or I's  
But they're important letters  
If you went to High School in Indiana or Idaho  
They're on some of your sweaters

J is for Julie  
Became a Master Gardener just fine  
Now working on a pollinator garden  
Maybe Sheryl can get her a sign!

K is for Katie.  
Co-owner of a big ranch named "Roam"  
If you don't know about it yet  
Google it when you get home

K is also for Karla  
She's a petroleum engineer  
That'll really come in handy  
If she strikes oil here

K is also for Kirk  
He and Karla's careers are the same  
They own 30 acres of land in Boerne  
That they are working to reclaim

Up next are the 3 Lady L's  
Laura, Lucy and Lou  
I'll introduce them individually  
So you can get to know them too

Lou moved here from Nachadoches  
Greeted by storm Uri that year  
Moved across the street from her mentor  
Three guesses how she ended up here

Next up is Lucy  
Wants to work with bats at the park  
Old Tunnel would love volunteers  
If you can see after dark

The last L is for Laura  
She makes maps and is a nature walker  
Counting butterflies and birds  
She admits she's their stalker

Two M's for Michael McCrea  
A home in Vanderpool is his charm  
He's creating a wildlife preserve  
and a natural urban farm

M is for Mark  
Being a land steward is his goal  
He grew up in the Midwest  
But Texas is in his soul

M is for Mary Alice  
Cello is an instrument she plays  
She spent years teaching kids orchestra  
But that's not what she's doing these days

N is for Nancy  
Fox, skunks and birds visit all year  
To a natural spring on her property  
Must be great when they appear

O no. We have no O's  
Guess we'll move on to P  
I told you this would be easy  
To follow along with me

P is for Phil  
His past has a lot to show  
He was a very successful educator  
But can he teach his plants to grow?

Big Q Little Q  
What begins with Q  
The Quick Queen of Quincy  
And her Quacking Quacker-oo

R is for Randee  
She has loved nature since a small child  
Now enjoys birding and taking pictures  
And seeing things in the wild

R is also for Rae  
Wants to attract wildlife to see if they appear  
But they'll eat her pretty flowers and shrubs  
She'll be putting up fences next year

Four S's, a T and a V left  
Almost to the end  
Are you sad this is almost over  
Or can you at least pretend?

S is for Susan Lilystrand  
Saw a porcupine out of the blue  
On the River Walk in Kerrville  
I wish I could see one too

S is also for Selina  
Looking at Dark Skies and the Nature Center  
There are so many opportunities for her  
She'll need to get with her mentor

S for Susie McCalla  
Spent 26 years with the Marine Corp  
And taught high school as a second career  
And she's done a whole lot more

S is for Sandi  
She took the class a long time ago  
Before there was a textbook  
She transferred from San Antonio

T is for Taylor  
He's here with Katie, his wife  
Remember to Google Roam Ranch  
It's completely changed his life

Big U little U  
What begins with U  
Uncle Ubb's umbrella  
And his Underwear too.

V is for Vicki  
She loves nature, it's her thing  
She's in good hands with her mentor  
Who taught this class last spring

W X Y Z  
I'll just drop them here at the end  
They're important letters  
When writing Xylophone or Zen

Since I'm finished with intros  
I'll share a few thoughts that I had  
We have a whole bunch of photographers  
And that is not bad

For I am a photographer  
And Trudy is one, I swear  
We'll be taking field trip pictures  
If you take some, please share

We love all of your interests  
In nature and conservation  
This class will be perfect  
For the next step in your education

With that my rhyming thing  
Comes to close with no more to say  
Except we're so happy to have you  
And we'll see you on Saturday.