

**SILENT AUCTION**  
**TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 18th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Omni Corpus Christi Hotel**  
**OCTOBER 20-22, 2017**

We are months away from the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Annual Meeting at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel. It is time to prepare for getting donated items for the silent auction. Money raised by the silent auction is used for TMN project grants, scholarships to the annual meeting, and to bring in speakers and trainers for future annual meetings.

We are asking each TMN chapter to donate a minimum of \$100 in items or cash to the auction. There are many types of items that are appropriate for the silent auction. Cash will be used to purchase great items at below market prices and/or to package items attractively. Below are some ideas from previous years.

- Travel packages, vouchers and gift certificates for trips, tours, experiences, hotels and sights. These always stimulate heavy bidding and high bids.
- Items and gift certificates solicited from businesses
- Purchased items such as outdoor gear, tools, nature guides, books about nature and generally anything related to nature.
- Hand crafted items such as art, paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, wood objects and natural arrangements.
- Theme baskets and grouped items. These may represent your region and members may join together to complete these. Some theme ideas include coastal, birding, outdoorsy, décor items, kitchen, cooking, regional cuisine, etc.

Use your imagination and keep naturalist themes in mind. If it's something you would like to have, someone else probably would too! Items in new condition with a value of at least \$25 may be donated.

Items should be brought to the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 20, if possible but will also be accepted Saturday morning. Each item should have a Silent Auction Bid Sheet with it, filled out in advance (see attached), identifying the item(s), the donor, estimated value and suggested minimum bid. Silent Auction Bid Sheets will also be available at the Conference.

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter is the host chapter for the silent auction. Linda Butcher of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter is chair for the Silent Auction. Please let us know in advance what you plan to contribute so we can plan the space accordingly. Contact Linda or M. Lee Brown if you have any questions about the Silent Auction or need to ship items.

Please consider contributing to this event. It's a great way to support the TMN mission. We look forward to seeing you at the Omni Corpus Christi!

Sincerely,  
Linda Butcher  
Rio Grande Chapter - Silent Auction Chair  
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