



Texas Master Naturalist Program
Hays County Chapter
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
200 Stillwater Dr.
Wimberley, Texas 78676
Phone: 512-393-2120, Fax: 512-393-2136
E-mail: hays-tx@tamu.edu

Dear Texas Master Naturalist Program Applicant,

The Texas Master Naturalist program is a natural resource-based volunteer training and development program jointly sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The mission of the program is “to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the state of Texas.”

In the Hays County Master Naturalist program, recognized experts in the field teach wildlife and conservation management, focusing their instruction on the native ecosystem of Hays County. If you are accepted as a trainee in the program, you will be required to attend classes, perform approved volunteer work, and attend advanced training in your areas of interest. The course gives you opportunities to learn about many of our natural resources, to meet and associate with others of similar interests, and to visit places in the county that you might otherwise never see.

The program, including the training classes and chapter activities, will span approximately eight months. The training program begins in February and finishes in October in order to take advantage of seasonal environmental changes. Ten of the classes will be held on Tuesday evenings, and two on Saturday mornings. You are also required to attend two site visits to complete the instructional portion of the program. Five optional field trips are scheduled. The Tuesday classes are held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at sites throughout Hays County. The first class will be February 6, 2018 at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 101 Spoke Hill Drive, Wimberley, TX. You will be required to attend all classes or make up any missed classes in order to graduate. You may make up no more than two class meetings and still graduate with your class.

The total cost for the program is \$175.00. A deposit of \$25 must accompany the application. The remainder of the tuition may be paid in full with the application, at the first class, or you can pay \$100.00 at the first class and the balance by the class in June. There are three scholarships available for Hays County residents, each for \$100.00. Information about the scholarships is included with the application. If other payment options are needed, please contact the Extension Office.

To become a “Certified Texas Master Naturalist” on graduation day, you must have attended or made up all classes, completed forty hours of approved volunteer service, and attended two site visits as well as eight hours of additional advanced training.

As a Texas Master Naturalist you will join a corps of volunteers who serve the local community. Many members are involved in ongoing projects such as Jacob’s Well in Wimberley, the Greenbelt Alliance in San Marcos, and Charro Ranch in Dripping Springs. Some of our members are active in educational activities with local schools and make presentations at various local and regional fairs and expositions. Still others monitor water quality or amphibian viability. You might work with small landowners,

helping them with good natural resource stewardship. You do not have to volunteer with one of the projects already in place, but instead, following guidelines, you may create your own project.

Class enrollment is limited to 42 members. Applications open on November 27, 2017 and are due no later than January 5, 2018, but applications are considered based on when they are submitted, so apply as soon as you can. The program is only offered one time each year in Hays County. **Your signed Liability Release must be included in order for your application to be deemed complete.** Applicants will be notified by Wednesday, January 17, 2018 of their acceptance into the class. Please call the Extension Office (512) 393-2120 if you need more information.

Jason Mangold
Hays County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent
Agriculture / Natural Resources

**HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM
2018 CLASS APPLICATION**

Note: You must have email

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
200 Stillwater Drive
Wimberley, Texas 78676
Phone: 512-393-2120, Fax: 512-393-2136
E-mail: hays-tx@tamu.edu

The Master Naturalist Program is open to all persons 18 years of age and older. Please type or print clearly and return the application with the minimum \$25 deposit (to be applied to your tuition) and **signed Liability Release** to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office between **November 27, 2017 and January 5, 2018**.

Early applications are highly recommended since the class size is limited and the program is only offered one time each year. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received.

The application will be deemed complete only if both the deposit and **signed Liability Release** are included. Applicants from Hays County will have first priority for openings in the class. Applicants will be notified by **Wednesday, January 17, 2018** of their acceptance into the class. If you are not accepted into the class, your deposit will be returned. Classes begin **Tuesday, February 6, 2018** with an optional pre-class social on **Tuesday, January 30, 2018**.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Physical Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County of residence _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

Work Phone if we may call you there _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Employed at/Occupation _____

If retired, what was your former occupation? _____

Please describe why you are interested in the Master Naturalist Program.

Please note any skills or interests that you have related to native plants, wildlife, ecology, natural history, water conservation, agronomy, geology, etc.

What volunteer activities have you participated in previously?

I understand that to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist, I commit to the following:

1. **Attend 40 hours of structured training** to include:
10 classes held on Tuesdays from 6:00 – 9:30 pm, February through October
2 classes held on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2 required site visits, 2 hours each
2. **Attend 8 hours of approved Advanced Training.**
3. **Provide 40 hours volunteer service within 15 months of the first class** (by May 6, 2019)
4. Pay \$175 for tuition. Three \$100.00 scholarships are available for Hays County residents. The Scholarship application should be attached to the class application when it is submitted to the Extension Office. Guidelines are included in this packet.

Signature

Date

**CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT VARIOUS
LOCATIONS IN HAYS AND ADJACENT COUNTIES.
See next page.**

BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION

Our sponsors, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and our local Hays County chapter require volunteers in the Master Naturalist Program to participate in the background history check program. You will be asked to complete a form within the web based Volunteer Management System (VMS) for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to complete the background history check. All the information you provide for the screening as well as the results of the screening remain completely confidential to you and the Extension Service agent in the Extension office in Wimberley. No one in the chapter, including the officers and members of the board, will be involved in the process or have access to the results of the screening.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

We distribute to all trainees a directory containing the contact information that you supplied on the front of this sheet. This information is not shared with anyone outside the Hays MN chapter. Is there any of this information you do not want included in our directory? If so, what? _____

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR FILES.

2018 Hays County Master Naturalist Training Calendar - (Tentative, November 2017)

Class	Date	Location	Time	Topic
	Tuesday, January 30, 2018	Wimberley	6:30 - 8:30	Social (Attendance not required)
1	Tuesday, February 6, 2018	Wimberley	6:00 - 9:30	Welcome to Class What is a Texas Master Naturalist?
2	Tuesday, February 20, 2018	Wimberley	6:00 - 9:30	Texas Weather Class administrative procedures/website resources
3	Tuesday, March 6, 2018	Kyle	6:00 - 9:30	Archaeology Hill Country Birding by Sight and Sound
SV	Saturday, March 24, 2018	TBD	9:00 - 11:00	Site Visit #1 (Saturday)
4	Tuesday, March 27, 2018	Kyle	6:00 – 9:30	Laws and Ethics Texas Geology
FT	Saturday, March 31, 2018	Canyon Lake	9:00 - 12:30	Canyon Lake Gorge
FT	Saturday, April 7, 2018	Hornsby Bend	7:30 - 10:00	Bird Walk
5	Tuesday, April 17, 2018	San Marcos	6:00 - 9:30	All About Plants Volunteers as Teachers
SV	Tuesday, May 1, 2018	TBD	6:00 - 8:00	Site Visit #2
6	Saturday, May 5, 2018	San Marcos	9:00 - 1:00	Insects (Especially Butterflies) Field Exercise : Butterfly and other insects, search and ID
FT	Saturday, May 19, 2018	Round Mountain	9:00 - 11:00	Westcave Preserve Field Trip
7	Tuesday, June 5, 2018	San Marcos	6:00 - 9:30	Glass Bottom Boat Ride Wetland Ecology Water Resources
FT	Saturday, June 9, 2018	San Marcos	9:00 - 11:00	Plant Walk
SV	Tuesday, June 19, 2018	TBD	6:00 - 8:00	Site Visit #3
8	Tuesday, July 10, 2018	Dripping Springs	6:00 - 9:30	Range Management/Land Fragmentation Invasive Plants of Hays County
9	Tuesday, August 14, 2018	Dripping Springs	6:00 – 9:30	Herps of Texas Conservation Easements
10	Tuesday, August 28, 2018	Dripping Springs	6:00 - 9:30	Wildlife Mammals Trees
SV	Tuesday, September 4, 2018	TBD	6:00 - 8:00	Site Visit #4
FT	Saturday, September 22, 2018	Bamberger Ranch	9:00 - 12:30	Bamberger Field Trip
11	Saturday, September 29, 2018	Wimberley		Fishes Amphibians/Mollusks Aquatic Macro-Invertebrates
SV	Saturday, October 6, 2018	TBD	9:00 - 11:00	Site Visit #5 (Saturday)
12	Tuesday, October 9, 2018	San Marcos	6:00 - 9:30	Grass Walk Grasses Now that I am a Master Naturalist.....
Gala	Saturday, November 10, 2018	Wimberley	6:00 - 9:00	Graduation/Gala

FT – Field Trip, SV – Site Visit

Hays County Master Naturalist

RELEASE, WAIVER AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

The undersigned agrees to and acknowledges the following:

- (a) For purposes of this Agreement, the term “Authorized User(s)” includes the undersigned trainee or member of Hays County Master Naturalist (“HCMN”) who has reviewed and signed this Release, Waiver and Covenant Not to Sue.
- (b) The undersigned Authorized User agrees that the Released Parties (described below) have no responsibility for any loss of the Authorized User’s personal articles, clothing, or other property while attending or participating in any meeting or activity arranged, promoted, endorsed or organized by HCMN.
- (c) The undersigned Authorized User recognizes that attendance or participation in some HCMN activities involves an inherent physical risk and, thus, the risk of injuries including, but not limited to, minor injuries to major injuries, such as catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death. The undersigned Authorized User hereby solely and voluntarily assumes all such risk arising out of or related to attending or participating in any meeting or activity, including but not limited to field trips and site visits, arranged, promoted, endorsed or organized by HCMN (“HCMN Activities”).
- (d) **THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORIZED USER AGREES TO WAIVE A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO OR THEIR SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, ON ALL ISSUES ARISING FROM, OR RELATED TO, THIS “RELEASE, WAIVER AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE” AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES.**
- (e) In consideration of any landowner who provides a venue for a HCMN Activity (“Landowner”) and HCMN providing me with the ability to attend or participate in any HCMN Activity, on my behalf and on behalf of my heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns,

I HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS ANY LANDOWNER AND HCMN AND ITS PARENTS, SPONSORS, AGENTS, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND INSURERS (“RELEASED PARTIES”) FROM ANY AND ALL RIGHTS, CLAIMS, ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTION, DAMAGES, FEES AND COSTS ARISING FROM OR RELATED TO MY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN ANY HCMN ACTIVITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY PERSONAL INJURY, PARALYSIS, DEATH, MENTAL INJURY, ECONOMIC LOSS OR LOSS OF PROPERTY, EVEN IF SUCH INJURY, DEATH, OR LOSS ARISES FROM OR IS RELATED TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASED PARTIES. I FURTHER PROMISE THAT I WILL NOT SUE RELEASED PARTIES FOR ANY CLAIMS ARISING FROM OR RELATED TO ANY HCMN ACTIVITY.

