

Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Leaders Spring & Summer News & Notes from the TMN Office

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THANKS FOR YOUR FIRST QUARTER REPORTS! NEXT QUARTER'S REPORTS COMING UP.

Our first quarter of the New Year ended on March 31st. As many of you know, the TMN program is required to report your members' documented and reported service hour totals on at least a quarterly basis. All chapters have reported their first quarter's totals. Thank you for those who were able to report on time. In the first quarter of the New Year, chapters reported a total of **52,699 hours of service!** Great work everyone and THANK YOU for your dedication as Texas Master Naturalist Chapters and Volunteers!

As a reminder, **Second Quarter** totals will be due by July 10, 2011 (This report will include the total number of service hours documented and submitted to your chapter for January 1st, 2011 thru June 30th, 2011). For this and subsequent quarters, your chapter will need to submit the **Year to Quarter Volunteer Service hours totals** as stated in the schedule here.

Third Quarter totals will be due by October 10, 2011 (This report will include the total number of service hours documented and reported to your chapter for January 1st thru September 30th, 2011)

4th Quarter totals will be a part of your chapter's Annual Report in the first two weeks of January 2012 and no special email report will need to be submitted other than your chapter's final 2011 report in the first two weeks of January, 2012. (This will be part of your chapter's Annual report documenting several things for your chapter from January 1st, 2011 thru December 31st, 2011).

SUMMARY OF 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual report information from all chapters has been compiled. Key results of the stats representing our program pillars of Volunteer Service, Training and Advanced Training data from all of our 42 chapters across the state include the following stats for the 2010 calendar year:

- **Trained 742 new TMN volunteers through 42 recognized chapters.**
- **Our TMN volunteers documented and reported 256,157 hours of service valued at \$4.995 Million and obtained 37,980 hours of Advanced Training**

Thanks again everyone for your dedication and another great year! We're continuing to work on a more full printed annual report detailing all of the requested and submitted stats for distribution later this year.

REVISED TMN MARKETING & ID GUIDELINES AND OTHER PROGRAM DOCUMENTS

Numerous guiding documents for the Texas Master Naturalist program and chapters were recently updated. They are attached with this message. Many of the changes were minor details to include necessary agency name changes for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and other address corrections or updates for state program staff that had not yet been made. As always, these documents should be the guiding documents for your chapters and any older versions you have on file should be replaced with these updated versions. Please note that no significant policy and/or procedural changes have been made to the guiding documents (Chapter Management Guidelines, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct, membership forms and reports, etc.) at this time. However, chapters should ALWAYS refer to and review these statewide guiding documents for the overall smooth operation of your chapter. Often when chapters are having trouble it is because the guidelines and procedures are not being followed as best as they should.

Likewise, chapter leaders, officers and committee chairs who are new to their positions in this year should review these documents to become familiar with them and ensure they are adequately performing the duties of their positions according to the guidelines. This would be a good practice even if you are a returning officer, committee chair or leader of your chapter as a refresher.

NEW CHAPTER COORDINATORS TRAINING HELD:

Earlier this spring the state program office held a New Chapter Coordinators Training for chapters having initiated within the last two years or intending to initiate within the next year.

NINE chapters (or potential chapters) in total were in attendance for the two-day training held at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area's new Bass Conference Center. As part of the chartering process for new Texas Master Naturalist chapters, it is required that a minimum of 2 individuals representing the chapter attend this training within their first 2 years of development. Among the chapters attending were:

- The recently established **Central Texas, Good Water, Indian Trail, Piney Wood Lakes and the Sabine-Neches Chapters.**
- The establishing **Bois d'Arc and Longleaf Ridge Chapters.**
- A potential developing chapter based out of Grayson County (Dennison-Sherman area) which may be called the **Bluestem Chapter** upon the submittal and approval of their Phase 1 application for development.
- The **Gideon Lincecum Chapter** also attended for a 'refresher course' which is an option open to any TMN chapter each time the training is offered providing there is space available.

We'd also like to thank TMN Volunteers, **John Huecksteadt and Cathy Downs of the Hill Country Chapter** for their presentations during the training too!

The New Chapter Coordinators Training is typically held each March. For more information on the next training planned please contact either Michelle or Sonny at the state program office.

SEEKING YOUR RETENTION IDEAS AND TECHNIQUES

Texas Master Naturalist Members, Chapters and Chapter leaders:

In March we asked you for your input and examples on what your chapters are doing to make your Training Class, Certification and Annual Re-certification ceremonies/events special and exciting for your members. Several of you replied with great examples and ideas. We were able to capture all of those in a document that was shared with you and new developing chapters at our recent New Chapter Coordinator Training.

We'd like to develop another tip-sheet/idea document covering **Member Retention**. What has your chapter done to maintain and/or increase member retention? This area can include many things and many ideas ranging from conducting member surveys, to your dedication to the mission of the Master Naturalist program and from holding social meetings and events, recognition events and developing member directories to recounting the special ways you thank members, etc.

Whatever it is, we'd like to hear about it and include it in another collective document with acknowledgement of you as the submitter. Information can be sent from many perspectives too-- As a chapter or chapter leader you may have tried something that you believe is working or has worked in the past. As a member, you may have been on the receiving end of something tried that makes you continue your membership as a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer in your local chapter. Whatever it is--we'd like to hear about it. Tips and techniques still in the idea stage and not tried yet are great too!

Send your thoughts, notes and examples by July 1st, 2011 to Michelle Haggerty at mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu

If you would like a copy of the compilation once its complete let us know that too!

UPDATING OUR STATE OFFICE CHAPTER FILES FOR YOU-- CHAPTER'S POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUALS REQUESTED:

It has been a couple of years since we have asked for electronic copies of your latest local Chapter Policies & Procedures Manuals (also sometimes known as Chapter Operating Manual/Handbook, or Membership Manual) and a few of your chapters have indicated you have updated these documents recently so we thought it would be a good time to ask for your most recent copies.

We'd like to update our home office chapter files with this information for each of your chapters and we ask that your chapter send its most recent electronic copy to Michelle Haggerty at mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu and Sonny Arnold at sarnold@ag.tamu.edu by July 1st, 2011

By doing this, we all help ensure that a copy is on file for each chapter thereby helping to minimize the total loss of such documents for any chapter. Some chapters have had a complete loss of such documents in the past because copies only existed with one member and thus re-creation of those documents had to have been started from scratch.

Occasionally, we also receive requests from newer TMN chapters for samples of what other chapters have come to establish for their local policies & procedures documents above and beyond what the state guidelines are. It's always helpful to have those on hand for these new chapters as they get started. It helps in sharing what existing chapters have learned over the years and makes all of our chapters stronger to learn from each other.

While you're sharing your manuals with us, please make sure your membership receives a copy too. This is a good annual practice for all chapters.

CHAPTER CURRICULUM REVIEWS TO BEGIN:

Beginning this summer all Texas Master Naturalist Chapters existing for longer than a year will need to go through a curriculum/training schedule review. All TMN Chapters are required to have their proposed curriculum and training schedules reviewed and approved as part of the three-phase development process in becoming a recognized TMN chapter, however, reviews of the subsequent curriculum/training schedules of existing chapters have never been conducted in the past. The reviews are being implemented now every couple of years to help ensure that all chapters are teaching the required state program training topics for their local area and that training across the state is consistent with the state program goals, mission and training obligations. As a result of the reviews, the state program office will work with any chapter to revise their training schedule/curriculum should it be needed for their subsequent training(s).

Chapters will need to send a copy of their upcoming training schedule/curriculum to Sonny Arnold (sarnold@ag.tamu.edu) and Michelle Haggerty (mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu)

The state program office also has copies of each chapter's original approved training schedule/curricula on file. If your chapter would like a copy of that please let us know.

GEARING UP FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST MEETING AND ADVANCED TRAINING.

Mark your calendars—our 12th Annual Statewide TMN Meeting & Advanced Training will be held **October 21-23, 2011** at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas!!! For those of you planning fall trainings, you will need to leave this weekend open for your new trainees to have an option of attending too!

Planning is already underway for the conference, and there are several areas where we need your help and participation on the conference agenda. Please read on for more information on the opportunities existing for TMN volunteers and Chapters to become involved!

FOUR opportunities exist for you to contribute to and be a part of the agenda for the Annual Meeting

For the conference we are seeking our TMN Members to be involved with features of the trainings and agenda in the four different areas of:

- Present a Volunteer Service Project
- Present an Innovative Solution to a Problematic Chapter Occurrence-A Chapter Development Opportunity
- Organize and/or Lead a Roundtable Topic
- Short Session Training Opportunity

All submissions will be reviewed upon the deadline with notice given to those chosen for the agenda shortly thereafter. Everyone will be notified as to whether their submission is able to be placed on the agenda or not. In some categories, not all submissions may be accepted due to time, topic or space. All sessions will be concurrent sessions with other items on the agenda. In some cases, pre-registration will be required for these sessions. Sessions generally would include up to 30 participants. All of the information requested is needed for your submission for the final agenda, registration materials and printed conference program. Time spent developing and delivering your training, presentations or round table discussion topic should be eligible for approved TMN volunteer service time through your chapter. **Deadlines for submissions in ALL categories is Sunday, July 17th, 2011**

Send your submissions/abstracts to Michelle Haggerty at mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu
Once received, an email reply/notice will be sent so that you will know your submission was successfully submitted by the July 17th deadline.

1. Present a TMN Volunteer Service Project Submissions

Returning by popular demand! Through these sessions, Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers can present and talk about a specific project they are working on within their chapters. Member presentations should be no more than 20 minutes in length including a minute or two for questions and using a Power Point presentation and/or hands-on activity. We're looking for any type of TMN volunteer project and some special consideration will be given to project submissions supporting your local Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and/or Texas AgriLife Extension Service programs, properties and projects as well as those projects that can be replicated in any chapter across the state. Don't let this opportunity to toot your horn pass you by!

Please include the following information with your interest for presenting a TMN Volunteer Service Project at the Annual Meeting & Advanced Training:

1. Presentation Type-(either Present A Project, Innovative Solution, Roundtable or Short Session)
2. Presentation Title (for the conference program)
3. Lead presenter name and contact information
4. TMN Chapter (no acronyms please)
5. Include a 4 to 5 sentence paragraph (abstract) describing your project and what your presentation will cover.

2. Present an Innovative Solution to a Problematic Chapter Occurrence-A Chapter Development Opportunity

Has your chapter implemented some new ideas and techniques to address a problematic occurrence within your chapter? If so, maybe you would like to consider sharing your chapter-changing success story and experiences with other program members from across the state by giving a 20 to 30-minute presentation at the annual meeting. Presentations will cover a challenge your chapter has encountered and how your group overcame that challenge as a chapter development or growth opportunity with the idea being that we can all learn from each other to make each of our Texas Master Naturalist Chapters stronger, easier to run, manage and ultimately more effective with less the hassle!

Maybe your chapter has done something new to increase recruitment, retention and/or member productivity and satisfaction within your chapter-or maybe it was something new your chapter did to increase its profile within your community, increase members' reporting of hours, raise funds for your chapter, increase your board's effectiveness and efficiency and/or better integrate your chapter's trainees with your existing members and your chapter volunteer projects. Whatever it is-or was-other chapters have and will have the same occurrences too!... So we'd like to hear about it and learn from you! These presentations should be up to 30 minutes in length including time for questions, using a power point presentation (or compatible software) and/or a hands-on training activity.

Submissions for presenting an Innovative Solution for a Problematic Chapter Occurrence should include the following:

1. Presentation Type-(either Present A Project, Innovative Solution, Roundtable or Short Session)
2. Presentation Title (for the conference program)

3. Lead presenter name and contact information
4. TMN Chapter (no acronyms please)
5. Include a 4 to 5 sentence paragraph (abstract) describing: A. What your chapter's "problem area" was, B. How you recognized it, C. What you did to change it, D. The results or expected results from the change made; and E. your lessons learned from the entire experience including what you might do differently the next time.

3. Organize and/or Lead a Roundtable Discussion Topic:

Through this opportunity you would organize and/or lead a Roundtable Discussion Topic during the annual meeting with the help of the State Program leaders. The Annual Meeting Roundtable Topics can be up to an hour in length. Roundtable Discussions shall offer an opportunity as idea-sharing or idea-generating sessions covering the topic submitted. Roundtable topics may start with a short presentation to help present the topic/ideas. The organizer will be responsible for developing the presentation; locating a note-taker for the discussion; and finding a staff or member facilitator should you think one is needed. Ideally, each of these support people identified should be individuals who will be attending the conference. (State Program Coordinators can help with identifying these people if you are unsure. Likewise, a Chapter Advisor would be a good fit for these roles too.)

To submit your interest in Organizing/Leading a Roundtable Discussion Topic please send the following information:

1. Presentation Type-(either Present A Project, Innovative Solution, Roundtable or Short Session
2. Roundtable Discussion Topic Title (for the conference program)
3. Leaders name and contact information
4. Include a 4 to 5 sentence paragraph describing the topic, why you believe it is important to discuss and what you hope to learn as a result of the discussion.

In the past, Roundtable discussion topics have resulted in the implementation of new ideas for the Statewide TMN program such as our Exemplary Project Award, Implementing the Chapter Advisor Award and other program offerings and new polices.

4. TMN Annual Meeting Short Session

Are you or a group of members in your chapter, experts on a certain subject? Do you have a 1-hour or 2-hour Advanced Training Topic applicable to any TMN member --whichever chapter they are in--that you would like to lead and present at the annual meeting? If so, let us know and you could be part of the Advanced Training Agenda for the Annual Meeting.

To submit your 1-Hour or 2-Hour Advanced Training Topic to deliver as a "Short Session" please include the following information in your submission:

1. Presentation Type-(either Present A Project, Innovative Solution, Roundtable, or Short Session
2. Short Session Title (for the conference program)
3. Short Session Length: (either one hour or two hours in length)
4. Lead presenter name and contact information
5. TMN Chapter (no acronyms please)

6. Include a 4 to 5 sentence paragraph (abstract) describing your short session training-including what the training will cover, why is it important for every Master Naturalist to have this training and what Texas natural resource need it addresses, what the participant will learn/take home to advance their quality of volunteer service; if the participant will need to bring any items with them for the training and the limit of participants you will be able to handle in the training.

ADVISOR AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN:

The Texas Master Naturalist program is now accepting applications for the Advisors Award. Nominations for the award are being accepted through September 1, 2011. Please be thinking about the chapter advisors you would like your chapter to nominate for this year's award. A NEW feature of this year's award is that a TEAM of Advisors may now be nominated for the award. The individual advisor nomination is still an option for chapters too. Nominations will be accepted for activities and advisors who have been a part of and contributing to your local chapter efforts during the past year. Deadlines for nomination submissions in the format requested will be due no later than September 1st, 2011. Nomination Form and Guidelines are attached.

TMN EXEMPLARY PROJECT AWARD COMPETITION

We are again planning to have the Exemplary Project Award Competition at this year's annual meeting. Award criteria and guidelines for the year are in the process of being finalized but, in the meantime, please be thinking about a potential project your chapter might want to submit. More details to come soon. We will again ask for chapters to submit their entry with a poster or display and supporting information. Information regarding last year's project criteria can be found on the TMN website.

SEEKING CHAPTER SPONSORSHIPS FOR THE TMN ANNUAL MEETING

For the first time, we are seeking sponsorships and support for the annual meeting from our Texas Master Naturalist Chapters. Your support would help us to be able to schedule and bring in top-rated speakers and trainers for specific topics. Your support would also allow us to help keep overall per person registration costs to a minimum as well.

Chapters and/or Individual members may contribute at the following levels:

Gold = \$500

Silver = \$250

Bronze = \$150

Individual Supporter = \$75

All sponsorships will receive special recognition through conference communication, fliers, announcements and programs. Contributors at the Gold Level will receive a discount off of one standard registration rate for the conference.

For more information contact Michelle Haggerty at (mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu) or 830-896-2504.

SPONSORS/ORGANIZERS FOR ANNUAL MEETING EVENING CAMPFIRES NEEDED:

Evening Campfires are sponsored by a Texas Master Naturalist Chapter at the annual meeting each year. We're seeking a couple of chapters to be the sponsors-- or even an individual member to be the host(s) of each of the campfires during this year's annual meeting. Campfires can be sponsored by an individual, one chapter, or a group of chapters each night. The typical cost of the campfire is the \$50 required by the conference facility to set up the fire, the firewood and for cleanup afterward. Some chapters in the past have chosen to sponsor hot chocolate and/or smores-either by bringing the supplies themselves or purchasing them through MO Ranch with the assistance of our TMN State office contract contact. As a sponsor of one of the evening campfires you have the opportunity to make the event your own. Other chapters in the past have lead story telling, stargazing, sing-a-longs, musical instruments, and just plain socializing and time for camaraderie and fun! If you or your chapter is interested in this opportunity, please contact Michelle Haggerty at: mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu

GULF COAST CHAPTER MEMBERS TO LEAD SILENT AUCTION FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to the Gulf Coast Chapter members for taking on the Silent Auction Committee activities for this year's annual meeting!!! Anyone can start gathering donations at any time. Just bring them with you --or send them with a friend-- to the annual meeting in October. Please let the Gulf Coast Chapter know what you intend to bring so that we may plan enough table space. Gulf Coast Chapter members Diane Kerr diane2001.gcmn@gmail.com and Jerrell Geisler jerrelgeisler@sbcglobal.net will co-chair this year's silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction support future partial scholarships to the event as well as fees to bring in a well-renown speakers and trainers.

STAYING CONNECTED AND KEEPING CURRENT WITH MASTER NATURALIST NEWS:

Several of you have asked how you could stay better informed and receive the most up to date information about what is going on in the program. All program information is distributed two ways...

1. Through our Texas Master Naturalist Listserv; and
2. Through direct communication with you, our chapter leadership teams like we are doing now with this message (i.e. your chapter officers, committee chairs and advisors). Be sure that information is forwarded on to your members and your chapter communication outlets.

We invite any and all Texas Master Naturalist volunteers to sign on to our "TMN Listserv"

How to subscribe to the TMN list:

To join the TMN LISTSERV mailing list, send an email to listserv@tamu.edu No "Subject" is required. You do not need to include your email address in your message. LISTSERV automatically uses the address from your email. Future subscribers can enroll by sending a message to listserv@tamu.edu with a simple "subscribe tmn" in the body of the message. The

person signing on to the list will receive a response asking them to confirm this request, giving them both a web and email option for confirming that subscription.

Remember the TMN listserv continues to be one of the first-line portals of communication for the Texas Master Naturalist program. Over 800 members are enrolled. Please encourage others to sign on and contribute to the list. One word of caution for posting messages to the list serve is that it will not support attachments to a message. This is a security feature of the listserv software since a lot of computer or email bugs and viruses can be sent as attachments. If you have information that you would like to send out over the listserv, please send it in the text or body of your message with a web address/link if there is other information that needs to be referenced.

Once you sign on you can select how you receive news and info from the program either as it goes out (message by message) or in what is called 'digest' format which is a collection of recent messages sent in one message to your in-box. The TMN listserv averages about 1 or 2 messages a week, however sometimes, like leading up to the annual meeting and registration, notices are a little more frequent though not extensive. The listserv is moderated so that spam and other non-necessary messages of that sort do not come through.

GETTING READY FOR THE FALL TRAINING SEASON (YES, ALREADY!)

Its only spring (or is it nearly summer?) but fall will be here before you know it! As the fall training season approaches, chapters planning to conduct a fall class are beginning to make plans. We want to help you get the word out.

Once again the state office will prepare a news release to be distributed by Texas Parks and Wildlife to media outlets across the state. Your training information is needed **by June 15** to be included in the release. The following information is needed: **(a)** chapter name, **(b)** city location where the class will assemble, **(c)** starting date for the class, **(d)** the registration deadline and **(e)** the contact information including email address, web address and telephone number. Information should be sent to Sonny Arnold sarnold@ag.tamu.edu We will also post this training schedule on the state Texas Master Naturalist web site.

SAFETY NOTE:

It has heated up outside. Please take a minute to review safe procedures within your chapter and while on volunteer service projects. It is especially important to know and recognize the signs of heat exhaustion at this time of year. For more information and tools please visit the following web portals for a multitude of resources covering Aquatic Safety, Terrestrial Safety and Laboratory Safety. <http://wfscnet.tamu.edu/jobboard/jobsafety.htm>

LOTS OF QUESTIONS IN THE EARLY PART OF THE YEAR...

The state office receives a lot of questions from new officers and committee chairs during the first several months of the year on several topics--mostly related to policies and procedures, program guidelines and timelines. We have attached the documents that will help you answer a

lot of these questions. These documents should be shared with your members and successors as well. The documents may also be found at the TMN State Website at www.txmn.org

Throughout the year, we will be following up with chapters to get your chapter file up to date with your state bylaws, and all other documents required of sanctioned Master Naturalist Chapters.

Documents attached:

- TMN Chapter Bylaws Template
- TMN Code of Ethics
- TMN Standards of Conduct
- Sample TMN Chapter Operating Handbook (AKA: Local Chapter Policies & Procedures manual)
- TMN Program Chapter Management Guidelines
- TMN Marketing & ID guidelines with Trademark info.
- Calendar of TMN program events and deadlines

FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT CORRECT USE OF THE TMN CERTIFICATION AND TITLE AND OUR 'NO ADVOCACY' POLICY:

At this time of year approximately half of our 42 chapters across the state are at some stage of holding a training class for new Master Naturalist Volunteers, so its always a great time to review our policy on appropriate uses of the Texas Master Naturalist Title and Certification. Both the Title and the Certification are for our program volunteers to use while conducting unpaid volunteer service pre-approved by their chapter using the state program guidelines. The TMN certification is not a certification or an endorsement for one's place of business and/or profession. The "Master Naturalist" title and "Texas Master Naturalist" title as well as the Certification are registered trademarks and service marks of the TMN Program with TPWD and Texas AgriLife Extension as the owners. The Texas Master Naturalist title **may not** be used for advertising or other business, personal or professional purposes. Knowingly and blatantly utilizing the title and certification in a manner other than for its intended purpose is grounds for dismissal and removal from the program as the possible minimum first course of action.

Likewise, the Texas Master Naturalist program has a strict 'No Advocacy' Policy with no tolerance. The Texas Master Naturalist program is a public service program operated by Texas AgriLife Extension and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to provide accurate, unbiased natural resource information and service for the State of Texas. The Texas Master Naturalist title **may not** be identified with any particular political viewpoint and **may not** be used by groups or individuals as they participate in any type of advocacy. The title is to be used **only** when doing unpaid volunteer work associated with and approved by the program.

Should you decide to voice your opinion to national, state, and/or local legislators, lobbying groups or otherwise please know that you have the right to do so as a **private citizen** but not in the name of the Texas Master Naturalist Program or as a Texas Master Naturalist program Volunteer. Please remember, lobbying for or against legislation as a Master Naturalist or a chapter is against the TMN Program's bylaws, code of ethics, and standards of conduct and could result in dismissal from the program. ***Violation of the policies are grounds for removing the certification of a member or possible grounds for revoking the charter of a chapter.***

As a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer you are representing the state agencies that sponsor you. Therefore, as a Master Naturalist representative you can't lobby. As an informed or concerned citizen you are representing your own personal views and can lobby for or against whatever you personally choose.

For additional information on these subjects please refer to the TMN Bylaws, the TMN Chapter Management Guidelines and the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct for Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers.

SOME DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

June 15, 2011-- Fall Training applications, dates and information due into state office for inclusion into the statewide news release.

July 1, 2011 – Member Retention ideas and Chapters' Policies & Procedures (Operating Handbooks) electronic copies due to state office.

July 10, 2011 – Second Quarter TMN Service hours report from chapters due to state office

July 17, 2011 – Deadline for submitting TMN Annual Meeting Volunteer Service Projects Presentations, 'Innovative Solutions to Problematic Chapter Occurrences Presentations, roundtable discussion topics and Short Session Training Opportunities Presentations Proposals to State Office for consideration of being included in the Annual Meeting agenda.

September 1, 2011 – Advisors Award Nominations due to state office

October 10, 2011 – Third Quarter TMN Service hours report from chapters due to state office.

October 21-23, 2011 – 12th Annual Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Meeting & Advanced Training, Mo Ranch, Hunt, Texas

Mid November 2011 -- Spring Training dates and application information due into the state office for inclusion into the spring training statewide news release published in late November/early December.

January 15, 2012 -- Chapter Annual reports due into state office for compilation of a statewide report.

January 15, 2012 -- Chapter Contact information due into state office for new incoming chapter leaders and officers.

October 26-28, 2012 -- Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas (being hosted by the Cinco Tierra Chapter as they celebrate their 5th Anniversary this year)

HAVE A GREAT SPRING AND SUMMER SEASON VOLUNTEERING AS A TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST!

The pleasant spring weather hopefully has made it enjoyable for you to get out and work on some of your favorite TMN volunteer service projects. As we approach the summer season please think rain and be safe as you continue to work as a dedicated Texas Master Naturalist Chapter and volunteer. Thank you for all you do on this and every day as a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer for the State of Texas!

Michelle & Sonny