

MCTMN Community News

'Belated' January 2024



OLD NEWS....

HummerFest 2023 - 2023 Native Plant Sale Recap

What an amazing event! It serves our mission to provide education, outreach and service and at the same time raises money for our chapter to fund future projects. It's the event that keeps

giving.

This year we had an unexpected challenge. The Hummerbird Celebration organizers were forced to relocate all the outdoor vendors due to construction at the Rockport-Fulton High School. The Plant Sale Team rallied and came up with a solution that was well received by our customers. Weather was another challenge but the crowds were not deterred by the threat of rain.

Fourteen hundred plants were purchased from nurseries that specialize in Texas Natives. Formosa Agricultural and Environmental Research Center provided 180 and our Chapter Members propagated and cared for approximately 300 plants. Hundreds of seed packets prepared by members were also available for sale. Of the 1900 plants we had on-hand at the beginning of the sale, we sold all but a few dozen plants. Fifty went back to Formosa for another year of grow-out for next year's sale. The remaining plants went to a coordinated landscaping project at Wings Rescue Center in Rockport.

As always, our knowledgeable TMN Members were present to answer questions and help customers make viable selections. In addition, we added a section of the sale devoted to native milkweed sales and education about the importance of native milkweed for the Monarchs. Over 100 milkweed plants were purchased by customers. We sold out early! Next year we plan to increase the number of milkweed plants and fine tune the educational aspect. The bottom line, literally, for a fundraiser is the net profit. We made \$6751.80! Yay! That is over \$1000 more than we budgeted.

Thank you to a dedicated bunch of volunteers who really care about the success of this event! It takes many hands doing a wide range of activities to pull this off. I really can't say this enough...THANK YOU to EVERYONE who worked to make this event a huge success! Anyone wanting to be involved in this fun and important event is welcome to contact me. I'm looking for someone who enjoys event leadership to learn the ropes in 2024 and step up to Plant Sale Manager in 2025.

Call me if you have questions.

Debbie Minns, Plant Sale Manager
830-928-5076



Ray Kirkwood engaged with the crowd while releasing Monarch and Painted Lady butterflies at the end of Hummer/Bird Fest.



Debbie the plant sale start and her energy making customers 'want to buy' plants!



We had a good variety of natives, thanks propagators and lets make next one even better... get your pots ready!



The skulls and fur were a huge success!...



Milkweed and Monarch talks by Patrick and his team... a great opportunity to spread the word!



Kris and Ray Kirkwood at work... can you please thank them enough for everything they do for this chapter and beyond!



Thank you to all who came out to **Monarch Madness!** It was fun!

Kids of **all ages** enjoyed the nature scavenger hunt and looked for specimens of all kinds to get a closer look and study! Bill Burges entertained and educated his own grandkids and others!

Mary Ann Carr-Facebook comments...

The children were amazing, so interested in their outdoor world a great event for learning while having fun. D'Ann Janysek Williams kudos, her creative personality is catching. The child who found the spider also likes inaturalist app to identify plants, Insects just about anything growing.




2023 TX Ecoregions Award - November meeting

Congrats to all....

Top Row from Left: Rusty Crane, Allan Berger, Steve Ferguson, Jeremy Miller, ?

Bottom Row from Left: Denise Crane, Janet Cunningham, Amy Nowlin, Janet Price, ?, Linda Swickheimer

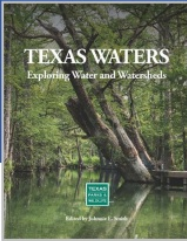


Texas Waters Specialist Program

Start Your Advanced Training Today!

About Texas Waters Curriculum

To inform and educate the citizens of Texas about the most precious natural resource Texas possesses, its water.



Certification Requirements

Obtain at least 8 hours of Advanced Training from a combination of the following:


- Attend Texas Waters webinars - live webinars and/or view recorded webinars
- Read Texas Waters curriculum and answer Questions to Consider and pass quizzes
- Attend Texas Waters Day event, sessions, or field trips at the Master Naturalist Annual Meeting
- Other approved aquatic or watershed learning activities or trainings (*up to 4 hours*)

New Specialists earn a Certificate of Recognition and a heron pin!

Annual Renewal Requirements

- Participate in at least 10 hours of volunteer service in the area of aquatic conservation, ecology, education, or stewardship

Examples: Habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, storm drain marking, clean-ups, and educational events.



2024 Webinar Series

6:30-7:30 PM CT

Jan	San Antonio Water: Sole Source to Diversity
Feb	Proposition 6: What that means for Texans
Mar	Aquatic Habitat Management on Private Land
April	Desalination
May	Feral Hogs and Water Issues
June	Chihuahuan Desert - Aquatic and Riparian Restoration
July	Stewardship for Birds in Aquatic & Riparian Habitats
Aug	Rainwater Harvesting

For more information and FREE webinar registration, visit <http://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>

2024 Texas Waters Webinars

It's the New Year and time to celebrate the announcement of the Texas Waters topics. Enjoy learning about improving water quality, water quantity, conservation practices, water law, and aquatic habitats. Join us throughout the year for FREE.

Visit the [Texas Waters](#) webpage for information on becoming a certified [Texas Waters Specialist](#) and view recorded webinars from 2017-2023.

Are you part of a Texas Master Naturalist chapter, partner organization, in the aquatic/watershed field, a natural resource student, or know anyone else interested?

Share the link below or print the flyer and post in a common area.

[Texas Water Specialist and Webinar Flyer 2024](#)

Bay Education Center

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES



@ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

January 10: Whooping Cranes
January 17: Watershed Health & Water Quality
January 24: Remote Sensing & Salt Marsh Biomass
January 31: Fish Acoustics
February 7: Ocean Acidification
February 14: Human-influenced stressors on Coral
February 21: Shining Light on Harvest & Effort for
the Recreational Flounder Gig Fishery in Texas

121 SEABREEZE DR, ROCKPORT, TX 78382
SARAH.FAILLA@AUSTIN.UTEXAS.EDU

Bay Education Center - Winter Lecture Series

AT: 2024 BEC Wednesday Lecture Series

Bay Education Center, 121 Seabreeze Drive,
Rockport, TX 78382

Report as AT: Lecture Series Presentation
Lectures sponsored by the UT Marine Science
Institute will be presented at 2:00 pm each
Wednesday, Jan–Feb 2024

- January 10: Whooping Cranes
- January 17: Watershed Health and Water Quality
- January 24: Remote Sensing and Salt Marsh Biomass
- January 31: Fish Acoustics
- February 7: Ocean Acidification
- February 14: Human-influenced Stressors on Coral
- February 21: Shining Light on Harvest and Effort for the Recreational Flounder Gig Fishery in Texas

For more information, contact Sarah Failla
at sarah.failla@austin.utexas.edu



Sea Turtle Training

AT: Sea Turtle Training

Specific Task

- 2024 Virtual Nesting & Stranding—All individuals interested in participating in the 2024 Nesting Season must register and attend one of the virtual Nesting & Stranding sessions
- UTV Training—In addition to attending the 8-hour Nesting and Stranding Training, all individuals who wish to patrol at Padre Island National Seashore during the Kemp's ridley nesting season (April to mid-July) must register for one UTV virtual session (delivered via Microsoft Teams webinar) AND one beach driving practical session
- Nesting Egg Packing and Tagging Training—Learn how to properly excavate and pack a nest for transportation to our incubation facility at Headquarters and how to tag (metal and PIT tag) when you encounter a nesting sea turtle!

See details and registration for all sea-turtle training on our website at: <https://midcoast-tmn.org/turtle-rescue-recovery/> To register, please click on the registration link with the session date that you would like to attend. If you have difficulty registering or have questions, contact pais_seaturtlevolunteer@nps.gov or 361-949-8173, ext. 268.

If you missed... call them to ask to be in a waiting list?!

The registration links for both the January 23 and February 6 webinars can be found on the [#TMNTuesdays page](#) on our website, or you can follow the link below to head to the TNT Mini Series section directly. [#TMNTuesdays - Texas Nature Trackers Mini Series \(tamu.edu\)](#)

AT: Michael Forseberg lecture at FAMI annual meeting

Aransas National Wildlife Area Visitor Center
Saturday, January 27, 2024, 11:00 AM

Report as AT: Single Presentation

Michael Forseburg is a North American conservation photographer, writer and speaker. He will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. He will be presenting details from his latest project: The Whooper Highway which documents the migration of the Whooping Cranes from ANWR to Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada

More Information: Bill_burge@yahoo.com

AT: Dept of Rangeland, Wildlife, & Fisheries Management Webinar Series

Fee: webinars are \$35 each.

Report as AT: Lecture Series presentation

All sessions are Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:00 pm:

- Mar 7, 2024—Integrated Toxic Plant Management
- Apr 4, 2024—Pond Evaluation and Preparing for a Professional Site Visit
- May 2, 2024—IPM Approaches to Feral Hog Management
- Jun 6, 2024—Managing Vultures on the Texas Landscape
- Jul 11, 2024—Stop and Stay Awhile: Building Habitat to Benefit Migratory Birds
- Aug 1, 2024—Aldo Leopold's Cow: Friend or Foe for Wildlife Habitat Management on Texas Rangelands
- Sep 5, 2024—Geospatial Tools and Resources for Texas Landowners
- Oct 3, 2023—CWD and Whitetail Deer Health and Management
- Nov 7, 2024—Drones and Technology for Rangelands

Information & Registration: <https://texasrangewebinars.tamu.edu/welcome/events/>

This series is posted on the chapter website.

Kris Kirkwood



2024 Basic Training Classes

Many of our Texas Master Naturalist chapters are getting ready for a new crop of volunteers to join the TMN program! We would like to share these classes through our statewide press channels. We encourage each chapter to utilize their local press, marketing avenues, and the handiest recruiting tool of all – word of mouth!

Please only fill out the form below if your chapter has an upcoming training that starts anytime in 2024.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Texas Master Naturalist, Mid-Coast Chapter

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<https://midcoast-tmn.org/>



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department sponsor the Texas Master Naturalist program.

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/>



Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalists | PO Box 760, Fulton, TX 78358

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