

2026 Initial Training Schedule

Introduction & Orientation

Jan 24, 9:00 am-3:00 pm—Aransas County AgriLife, Rockport
TMN & Mid-Coast Chapter history, Why Master Naturalists are needed, Initial Training Requirements, Introduction to Volunteering, Member Volunteering Experiences, Using the Volunteer Management System and Chapter website **This session is critical.**

Geology and Ecozones

Feb 5, 5:30-7:30 pm—Virtual via Zoom

- Geology of the World
- Texas Geology
- Texas Ecological Regions

Archaeology and Early Texans

Feb 7, 9:00 am-2:30 pm—Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria

- Introduction to regional cultural history and archaeology
- Tour of the museum
- Overview of citizen archaeology work
- Volunteering opportunities

Upland Ecology, Birds, Soils, & Rangeland

Mar 5, 5:30-7:30 pm (virtual) and

Mar 7, 7:15 am (at the gate)-3:00 pm—Welder Wildlife Refuge, Sinton area

- Introduction to regional cultural history and archaeology
- Tour of the museum
- Overview of citizen archaeology work
- Volunteering opportunities
- opportunities

Mid-Coast of Texas Ecology

Mar 19, 5:30-7:30 pm (virtual) and

Mar 21, 9:00 am-3:00 pm—Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Austwell area

- Introduction to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and volunteering opportunities
- Introduction to iNaturalist and eBird
- Tour of the Refuge as presented to visitors
- Nature Journaling/Taking Field Notes
- Learning to use a plant key on Heron Flats Trail

Interpreting Nature

Apr 9, 5:30-7:30 pm (virtual) and

Apr 11, 10:00 am-3:00 pm—Lake Texana

- Overview of Interpretation—How to present what you know
- Interpretation Theory
- Preparation and Message Delivery—Tips & Techniques
- Herpetology
- Volunteering opportunities

Riverine & Riparian Ecology

Apr 21, 5:30-7:30 pm (virtual) This is the only Tuesday Zoom

Apr 25, 10:00 am-3:00 pm—Fennessey Ranch, Refugio area

- Riverine Ecosystems
- Riparian Ecosystems
- Volunteer Opportunities

Bay & Barrier Island Ecologies

Apr 30, 5:30-7:30 pm (virtual) and

May 2, 7:30 am-3:00 pm—R/V Katy & Mustang Island SP

- Introductions to Bays and Barrier Islands
- Coastal Fisheries and Ecosystems Management
- Geologic/Beach Processes and Future of Texas Barrier Islands
- Barrier Flats and Salt Marsh Ecology/Geology
- Bay, Gulf of Mexico and Barrier Island Inhabitants
- Volunteer Opportunities

Coastal Ecology & Oyster Mariculture & Restoration

May 14, 5:30-7:30 pm (virtual) and

May 16, 9:00 am-3:00 pm Marine Education Center, Palacios

- Oyster Biology and Life History
- Ecological Importance of Oysters
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Wetland Ecology
- Volunteer Opportunities

The Importance of Native Plants & Graduation

Jun 4, 5:30-7:30 pm (virtual) and

Jun 6, 9:00 am-3:00 pm—Barnhart Ranch, Goliad area

- Importance of Native Plants in Mid-Coast Ecologies
- Plant Identification on a local Nature Trail
- Graduation of the Class of 2026 Members-in-Training