



# Engaging The Master Naturalists

## WERA 2020

### Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Texas Master Naturalist

# CoCoRaHS

***“BECAUSE EVERY DROP COUNTS”***

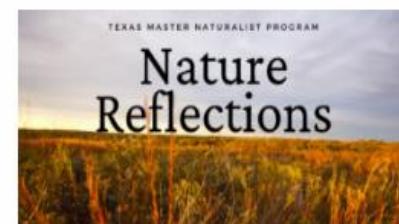




## The Mission

The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation efforts.

[Find Your Chapter](#)[Log Volunteer Hours](#)



# Contact

**Before You Email, Have You .....**

**Checked out our Email Listserv to stay up to date on daily & weekly events, trainings and opportunities?**

The purpose of the Texas Master Naturalist Listserv is to provide a means of quickly distributing news, announcements, notification of events, grant opportunities and other items pertinent to Texas Master Naturalist members. To sign up for this free service (you may unsubscribe at any time), please complete and submit the form [Texas Master Naturalist Listserv Sign-up](#) hosted by Texas A&M.

**Checked out our Frequently Asked Questions page?**

Many of your questions may be answered already! Check out the FAQ page:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**Checked out your Local Chapter?**

Contact your local chapter if you have questions about their next training cycle or local volunteer opportunities. To find which chapter is closest to you, use the [Chapter Map](#) and select your county.

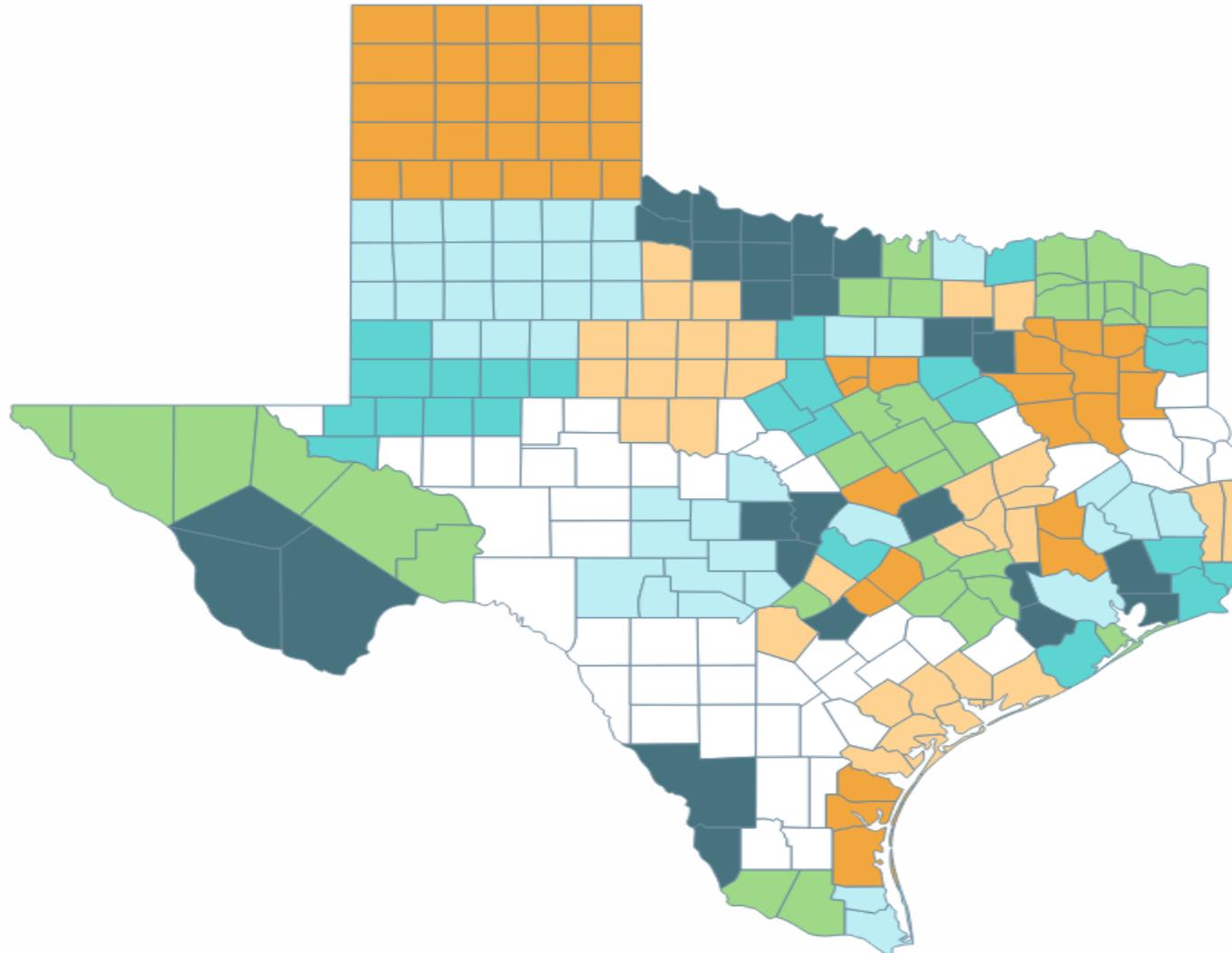
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Or, you can contact us directly by contacting

Michelle Haggerty  
State Program Coordinator

Mary Pearl Meuth  
Assistant Program Coordinator

# Texas Master Naturalist Active Chapters



# In the Beginning...

- While working at NWS EWX, was asked to become a CoCoRaHS Regional Coordinator. (2007)
- Researched Texas Master Naturalist program to find Program Coordinator. (Spring 2007)
- Contacted TMN State Program Coordinator to inquire if they needed guest speakers for Annual Conference. (Spring 2007)
- Submitted 4 Abstracts for guest speakers. 3 focused on Texas Weather: Climate, Floods/Flash Floods & Drought. 1 on CoCoRaHS. All were accepted. (Spring 2007)
- At the TMN Annual Conference, all 4 Sessions were well attended with at least 60 people per session. (Oct 2007)
- As a guest speaker, I heard about Community Service Hours. (Oct 2007)
- Immediately following our first conference, I contacted the State Program Coordinator to inquire about Community Service Hours and participant feedback from our 1<sup>st</sup> TMN Conference. All 4 NWS speakers received the highest reviews.  
**\*Interesting Note:** After the CoCoRaHS presentation TMN members requested my return the next year and community service hour credit for participation in the CoCoRaHS program. (Nov 2007)

# Building the TMN Relationship...

- Since 2007...I have missed only 3 years as a guest speaker...because I had already scheduled 2 vacations and once because I already had another speaking engagement. However...one of the Texas Regional Coordinators was invited to be a guest speaker in my absence. (2007 to present)
- To date I have spoken to 40 of the 48 active TMN chapters in Texas. Several have invited me to be their guest speaker more than twice.
- Each year, all 48 chapters of the TMN conduct a training class for newcomers, some twice per year. Each new member is informed of their responsibility to earn community service hours. CoCoRaHS is the overwhelming favorite program.
- New Membership in TMN ensures the growth of CoCoRaHS network in Texas.
- We are now in the process of duplicating the same great success in the Texas Master Gardener Program.
- The Texas Master Naturalist program has recently teamed with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to create a sub-group called the Texas Water Specialists. CoCoRaHS is part of the Advanced Training for the Texas Water Specialist Program.
- With over 3,000 members in the Texas Master Naturalist Program...they have long been the largest organized group of CoCoRaHS participants in Texas!
- TMN are the gift that keeps on giving!