

TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTä PROGRAM
The Rio Grande Valley Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist
P.O. Box 532129
Harlingen, TX 78553

e-mail: rgvctmn@aol.com APPLICATION FORM website: www.rgvctmn.org

Two classes will be offered in the Rio Grande Valley this spring. One will be held in Harlingen on Wed. nights at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building. The other class will be held in Edinburg at the World Birding Center on Thursday nights. Please indicate below which session you would like to attend.

 YES, I understand that the training classes will be held in **Harlingen, TX** at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building. Classes will be held on 10 consecutive Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Classes will begin on February 16 and end on April 20, 2005. There are 2 five hour field trips, which will be held on Saturday mornings during this time period. Total class time is 30 hours and total field trip time is 10 hours. This is the required 40 hours training.

*****OR*****

 YES, I understand that the training classes will be held in **Edinburg, TX** at the Edinburg World Birding Center. Classes will be held on 10 consecutive Thursday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Classes will begin on February 10 and end on April 21, 2005. There are 2 five hour field trips, which will be held on Saturday mornings during this time period. Total class time is 30 hours and total field trip time is 10 hours. This is the required 40 hours training.

IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING

 YES, I will be available for the 10 weeks of classes. I understand that I am required to attend all the classes and the two scheduled field trips, complete 40 hours of volunteer service within 12 months after program inception and complete 8 hours of approved advanced training within 12 months in order to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist.

This application must be postmarked by Saturday, January 22, 2005 to be considered for the spring training class. Please enclose the \$100 fee with this application. Make check payable to RGVCTM and mail to P.O. Box 532129, Harlingen, TX 78553.

Applicants will be notified of their selection or non-selection into the program via e-mail or telephone no later than Monday, January 24, 2005.

The class size is limited to 25 trainees. All checks will be returned if not accepted into the program. Please indicate preference below.

If not selected as a first-round applicant, please put me on the waiting list.

If not selected as a first-round applicant, please return my check. Please notify me when you have another class.

*****All selected applicants will be required to attend an orientation class:
January 27, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Edinburg, TX World Birding Center.
February 2, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at a location to be announced in Harlingen, TX.

If you feel that you cannot complete all of the requirements for this training after attending the orientation class, your fee will be returned to you. Other applicants can now advance on the waiting list.

NAME: _____
(As you wish it to appear on your formal certificate/ other documents)

NAME: _____
(As you wish it to appear on your nametag, if different from above)

Mailing Address: Street: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone: Day or work: _____ **Night or cell** _____

E-Mail address _____

Occupation, if employed: _____

If retired, what was your former occupation: _____

(In answering the following questions, you may attach another paper to complete all the relevant answers you feel necessary to best describe yourself and your abilities.)

1. Describe why you are interested in the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

2. Please indicate any organizations of which you are a member or have volunteered time during the last two years. Indicate the average number of hours you have volunteered for each organization on a monthly basis.

3. Please note your profession and/or skills or interests that would be helpful to the Texas Master Naturalist Program. (Skills may include computer, photography, typing, graphic arts, public speaking, teaching, specific knowledge, etc. If you are retired or work part-time, please include relevant training or education you have received relative to natural resources. Add an additional page if necessary.)

4. What times during the week, morning, afternoon, evening you are available for volunteer work. Please indicate the most convenient to suit your life style.

5. YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST. (Please rate each as High, Medium or Low.)

1. Speakers Bureau- presentations _____ **2. Guide/Docent** _____

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3. Children's activities _____ 4. Ecosystems: Wetlands/Brushlands _____
5. Coastal _____ 6. Forests _____ 7. Plants & Wildlife Census _____
8. Habitat Restoration Projects _____ 9. Native Plant/Seed Collection _____
10. Fund Raising _____ 11. Computer Work _____ 12. Newsletter _____
13. Photography _____ 14. Others: _____

(If your special skills are omitted here, please add an additional page to explain them.)

I have read and understand all of the requirements for this training course, its cost and its expectations. Furthermore, I will volunteer a minimum of 40 hours per year in approved volunteer RGVCTMN projects. I am encouraged to attend at least 8 of the RGVCTMN Chapter general membership meetings, which are held in the Harlingen Public Library on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Each of the general memberships meetings will feature a noted speaker in the Naturalist Field. Each meeting can count as one advanced hour training toward fulfilling your 8 yearly advanced hours training.

Our annual graduation, certification, and awards ceremony is held on the second Tuesday of May.

After I complete the 40 training hours, I will receive recognition in the form of a certificate of training completion.

After I complete all of the 40 training hours, the 40 volunteer and the 8 advanced hours required, I will become a certified Texas Master Naturalist which will be awarded to me at the annual May ceremony.

I understand that I may complete all requirements for this certification from the time I begin the classes in February until May 9, 2005. If I am able to accomplish all requirements, I will be certified at the annual ceremony on May 10, 2005 as a certified Texas Master Naturalist. I will then have one year to become re-certified. I understand that I can only be certified or re-certified once each calendar year.

After I become a certified Texas Master Naturalist, I may run for elected office of this organization. I am expected to participate as a member of a committee and work towards the goals and general expectations of this organization.

Typed or Printed Name _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Check # _____ Amount Enclosed: _____