

VMS Admin Newsletter: 2nd Quarter, 2023

From: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (tpwd@service.govdelivery.com)

To: cheryl.foster@yahoo.com

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TMN VMS Support Team Newsletter

Welcome to the New Brush Y Canyon Chapter

Chapter #49 in the Texas Master Naturalist Program is Brush Y Canyon. Located in the Concan area, they will be serving Uvalde, Kinney and Medina Counties. Meetings and training sessions will be held at Garner State Park, El Progreso Memorial Library and possibly other locations, as well.

They will be working with Garner State Park, Kickapoo Cavern State Park, El Progreso Memorial Library, Uvalde National Fish Hatchery, Nueces River Authority and Fort Clark Springs.

Mickey and Valerie Redus are leading the new chapter.

iNaturalist Guidance

We need to try to be consistent in our reporting of field research opportunities like iNaturalist and eBird. Basically, observations should only occur during approved opportunities (rather than merely making incidental observations) and volunteers can record time for the actual entry into the database, but not for the travel or observation time. Generally, chapters allow 15 minutes for data recording per day, but your individual situation may vary.

Full Details [Here](#)

Field in Focus: Impact Data...

A couple of questions have come up recently about impact data and the discrepancies between the survey and the grids.

So put on your time-travel hat and go back to 2018. If you remember, we had a dozen or more different fields to put in impact data (adult-Hispanic, youth-Hispanic, female-Hispanic, male-Hispanic, etc.). We worked with TPWD & AgriLife to see what the bare minimum amount of data was that they required. We settled on what you see in the survey - basically one set for gender, one set for age and one set for ethnicity. However, we couldn't change the field names in the system, so we had to put everything in the adult field for each set. That's why, when you look at the grid all of the data ends up in the adult field name for that set.

Opportunity Impact

Please complete the following for the number of attendees:

Adult:
Youth:

The following data will show up in the "adult" fields on the opportunity grids.

Male:
Female:
White:
Black:
Hispanic:
Asian:
American Indian:

Meridian SP: Public Outreach Log Book

☒ Specific Date Range Start Date: Jan 1 2022 Apply
☐ Relative Date Range End Date: Jun 19 2023
Applies to: Start Date Reset

☒ Details mode
☐ Summary mode

New Show All Refresh Grid Settings - TMN Standard-Impact Data (Clyde) Filters - TMN-Has Impact Data (Cheryl)

1 to 1 of 1 Rows

	TMN Ho	Service Performed	Grand Total	Adult Female 1	Adult Male Tot	Adult Sub Tota	Youth Sub tota	Adult Amer Ini
Reports	3.00	TEST FOR NEWSLETTER		15.00	10.00	10.00	15.00	5.00

Also remember, that the survey doesn't have the capacity to do math, so we removed the Grand Total field from the survey to prevent confusion.

If you need to collect specific impact data for a partner at an event and the VMS data isn't as granulated as they need it to be, you'll have to keep that tally in a spreadsheet or separate system.

NASA is getting ready for the Eclipse - are you?

NASA has prepared a program to train Master Naturalists and citizen scientists in Eclipse observation.

This is an all-volunteer group that will be learning about the upcoming solar eclipses, and how to collect data to help NASA better understand eclipses and how they impact birds, insects, and other living things. They have a "StoryMap" you can look at that is going to serve as the virtual textbook and filing cabinet, and as well as BaseCamp which will be how to collaborate and know what the schedule is for the biweekly email and monthly webinar.

Find out more: [Here](#)

If your chapter will be participating in the NASA Eclipse Educators program, we have prepared an opportunity document that we can copy to your folder for you to use. Just put in a help desk request.

Quick Links

Get quickly to the help desk: [TXMN.org/help](https://txmn.org/help)

Slack Channels: [TXMN.slack.com](https://txmn.slack.com)

Check your public facing chapter page: [TXMN.org/apply](https://txmn.org/apply)

Login Page: [TXMN.org/hours](https://txmn.org/hours)

Admin Login Page: [TXMN.org/coordinator](https://txmn.org/coordinator)

Don't forget to report your Texas Master Naturalist volunteer time!

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