



## Panhandle Chapter 2017 Training Course

- MARCH 25      FIRST DAY!!-ORIENTATION & ARACHNIDS      TOTAL APPROX HRS 7.5**
- 8:30-12:00      Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Tasajillo Group Pavilion in the Juniper Day Use Area  
Wow! It is finally here. What did you get yourself into?? Well...you are about to find out!! The morning will be what we call Orientation and is the most important class. Here is when you learn what the Texas Master Naturalist Program is all about and what it means to be a Certified Texas Master Naturalist. Speakers will be current members of our chapter. We will provide morning coffee and pastries and a lunch.
- 1:00-4:00      WTAMU, ANS Bldg, Room to be announced.  
This class is a new one for our chapter. It is about the creepy crawling 8 legged creatures in the Arachnid family. This class will be presented by Dr David Sissom, a professor at WTAMU. Scorpions are a particular passion for Dr Sessom and he has indicated he might share some of his collection with us. (Live or dead??) This class may run long if the interest is there.
- APRIL 8      GEOLOGY      TOTAL APPROX HRS 6.0**
- 9:00-3:00      Palo Duro Canyon State Park. We generally start at the overlook and then proceed to other areas of the park to talk about the geological features. One of the favorite places Dr Richard Hobbs of AC takes us to see is Velloso Dome which is one of the few exposures of the lowest geological layer in the canyon-the Cloud Chief Gypsum. We will take a lunch break, so pack a sack lunch. Be prepared to hike. We may hike anywhere from 2-4 miles.
- APRIL 22      BIRDING/ ORNITOLOGY      TOTAL APPROX HRS 7.0**
- 8:00-3:00      Location to be announced. This class generally starts with an introduction to binoculars. There are so many options it can be overwhelming to a novice. Susan Thompson, one of our founding members and avid birder, will lead us thru the weeds(literally) on the differences in binos and in the task of identifying birds. We will take a lunch break, so pack a sack lunch. Afterwards we will learn about bird characteristics and behavior. We will do some walking but no serious hiking, but be prepared to walk thru tall grasses and/or weeds.

**MAY 6 PLANT ID TOTAL APPROX HRS 4.0**

9:00-1:00 Palo Duro Canyon State Park. We will start once again at the Tasajillo Group Pavilion in Juniper Day Use Area with a power point presented by Joanne Toler, one of our chapter members and self taught plant person. Following the presentation, we will hit the trail to put our new found knowledge to the test. This should wind up around 12-1. At this time, training is over for the day, but if you wish to stay for the upcoming volunteer activity, bring a sack lunch and we will take a break before we head out again for an inaturalist survey.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY –inaturalist survey. You will have been introduced briefly to this project during orientation, however, this will be a good way to get your hands wet in identifying plants and posting them to our inaturalist project-Plants and Animals of the Texas Panhandle. Any time you spend in travel, identifying and posting observations to inaturalist is volunteer time. This is a fun and easy way at your leisure to earn volunteer hours.

**MAY 20 ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT TOTAL APPROX HRS 4.0**

9:00-1:00 This class will be at CrossBar Management Area. Located just north of the loop, this is 12,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land with limited public access. There we will meet with Adrian Escobar, Natural Resource Manager, who will take us to various locations on the property to discuss resource & wildlife management. Because we have to cross private land and lock gates behind us, we have to go in together and leave together. If you arrive late to class, you will miss it.  
P.S. There are no “facilities” at CrossBar once we leave the gas plant, so go easy on the morning coffee.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY-There may be another inaturalist or ebird volunteer opportunity after this class. If you wish to participate, bring a sack lunch. We will take a lunch break before we make any observations.

**WE NOW MAKE A CHANGE FROM 2 CLASSES A MONTH TO ONE A MONTH. WE TRY TO DO OUR FIELD TRIPS WHEN COOLER TEMPERATURES PREVAIL AND SAVE OUR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION DURING THE HEAT OF SUMMER.**

**JUNE 24 WEATHER & ENTOMOLOGY TOTAL APPROX HRS 7.0**

9:00-12:00 Southwest Branch Library will be the location for our weather class. This won't be your typical “tornado alley” weather program that you see on TV at the beginning of storm season. Channel 7 Chief Meteorologist, Steve Kersh, will present a program about clouds (and what they tell us), local weather patterns and why do we have such beautiful sunsets here on the high plains of Texas.

1:00-4:00+ Once again we will go down the road to WTAMU, ANS Bldg, for an encore presentation by Dr David Sissom. However, this time he will talk about the 6 legged creepy crawlers and the beautiful winged creatures that grace our sky. (My prejudice is showing, but I can't help it!) Here again, this class may run long if the interest is there.

<b>JULY 29</b>	<b>ARCHEOLOGY</b>	<b>TOTAL APPROX HRS 7.0</b>
8:00-3:00	We will leave the immediate area for this class and carpool to Lubbock for a trip to the Lubbock Lake Landmark to observe an actual archeological dig. We have not had a class here before, but due to interest I scheduled this trip. I am not sure what to expect, so we shall all see that together. We will eat lunch there, then either return home or if interest demands, we may check out the National Ranching Heritage Center close by.	
<b>AUGUST 26</b>	<b>HISTORY OF CLASSIFICATION &amp; HERPETOLOGY</b>	<b>TOTAL APPROX HRS 7.0</b>
9:00-12:00	Dr Richard Kazmaier will have us all day for both sessions. We will meet at WTAMU, ANS Bldg. Anyone who has ever had any of his classes will know how passionate he is about his subject matter. It is contagious! He has taught many classes for us over the years on various topics and is an honorary member of our chapter. This morning session will cover the history of classification and how classification criteria changed and evolved from the time of Aristotle to present day. We will take a lunch break between sessions. Trainees may eat at one of the local eateries or bring a sack lunch. There is a nice shady area right outside the building for a picnic lunch if you would rather.	
1:00-4:00+	Our afternoon session is one of the most popular classes-Amphibians and Reptiles (AKA -Herps). Dr Kazmaier will cover the many families and their characteristics. Usually he will have available part of his collection for us to see and touch. This class generally runs long because of the great interest Dr Kazmaier creates in the attendees.	
<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>RANGELAND MANAGEMENT – GRASS ID</b>	<b>TOTAL APPROX HRS 4.0</b>
9:00-1:00	JR Bell, retired award winning NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist, will take us on a field trip most likely to the Lake Meredith area. If the road is passable, we may find ourselves along Mullinaw Trail in McBride Canyon. This riparian area is rich in grass diversity. Grasses are very hard for a novice to learn, but when they are in bloom (Yes, grasses do flower.) they are easier to learn. Be prepared to hike 2 maybe 3 miles. JR Bell is also an honorary member of our chapter due to his support and help through the years teaching us about the forbs and grasses of our rangeland.  Training for the day will be over at the end of the hike....However, if you wish to participate in another inaturalist survey for more volunteer time, we will take a lunch break before we begin making observations. This will give you a chance to learn some fall flowers in addition to some of them you hopefully remembered from spring.	
<b>SEPT 30</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>TOTAL APPROX HRS</b>
	I am leaving this date open at this time to allow for rescheduling any classes that were canceled due to weather, teacher scheduling conflicts or some other reason unknown at this time.	

**OCT 14                      ARCHEOLOGY AND END OF TRAINING CELEBRATION                      TOTAL APPROX HRS 2.5**

8:30 -2:30                      The last 2 years we have finished our training at Alibates. Even though we have had an Archeology class earlier in the year, it just seems like tradition to go on the Antelope Creek Ruins Tour that the Park offers every October. It is the only time they take the public to these ruins.  
After the tour, we continue to McBride Canyon for our picnic end of year celebration. We share stores, have gag awards, eat lunch and have a very huge cake for desert. We celebrate what we have learned and accomplished after what seemed like training that would never end. (Just like this narrative!)

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

**TOTAL APPROX HRS 56**

**For those of you who are still on the fence about taking the class, please come visit us at Naturalist Day in the Canyon or our Open House at the SW Branch Library in Amarillo.**

**Naturalist Day in Palo Duro Canyon – Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 at the new Tasajillo Group Pavilion in the Juniper Day Use Area. This is a come and go event. There will be exhibits and information about our program. Members will be there to answer any questions. Refreshments will be provided. Regular park entrance fees apply.**

**If you can't make it that day, you will have another opportunity on the following Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Southwest Branch Library.**

**We will have a meet & greet from 6-7, followed by a program presented by Bernice Blasingame, retired Palo Duro Canyon State Park Interpreter, about the Native American uses of the Bison. This program will last 30-45 minutes or so. Following the program, you are more than welcome to stay, visit and learn more about our program. Refreshments will be provided and attendance is free and open to the public.**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Texas Master Naturalist Program is a statewide program sponsored by Texas Agri-Life and Texas Parks and Wildlife. It is only open to adults over 18 yrs of age. Our classes are limited to 25 in order to keep training quality high. Application deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**So go ahead and sign up. Don't be shy. It is a fun way to learn. Applications will be available at both of the above events or online at [www.pctmn.org](http://www.pctmn.org)**

**Any questions, you can browse our website [www.pctmn.org](http://www.pctmn.org) or the state's website [www.txmn.org](http://www.txmn.org) You may also contact me.**

**Thanks again for sharing an interest in our program and the conservation of our natural resources.**

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