

TMN/VMS Newsletter

T E X A S



FOR TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS VMS ADMINISTRATORS

Volume 23

Third Quarter, 2017

Harvey...

The effect of Hurricane Harvey on the Texas Gulf Coast was devastating. The remnants of the storm will be felt in the area for decades to come.

The admins for the chapters in the region used VMS to contact their members and do wellness checks on their volunteers. Disasters can happen anywhere and anytime—keeping those profile documents up to date can come in handy when you least expect it.

We are still trying to assess what the impact of the storm is on our natural resources in the area. From the agency perspective, we don't know what we need to do or where we need to focus our energies, but we will keep you informed if there is something you or your chapter can do.

We expect that there will be an update at the Annual Meeting and a possible aid project opportunity.

Special points of interest:

- ◆ HARVEY
- ◆ 2017 ANNUAL MEETING
- ◆ CBC STATUS
- ◆ TRAINING CLASSES
- ◆ NEWSLETTER CHANGES
- ◆ 2017 VMS REVIEW
- ◆ FIELD IN FOCUS: CHAPTER NAMES

The 18th Annual Master Naturalist Meeting

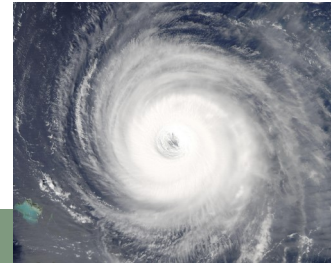
Omni Corpus Christi, TX, October 20th through 22nd, 2017.

There will be plenty of opportunities for Chapter input—Videos/Photos, Projects and Silent Auctions items.

We will be offering VMS Admin 201 and a VMS Reporting class along with a VMS Roundtable and our help desk will be open throughout the weekend.

Criminal Background Checks (CBCs)

CBCs should be up to date. We will continue to monitor the list of expired and expiring CBCs and contact TPWD as soon as we see the volume increasing.



Management Team

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2017 VMS Data Reviews

We are currently working on the Prairies & Lakes region.

We are looking at officers, CBC data, milestones, some new reporting ratios and follow-ups from the last review.

Field in Focus: Chapter Name Fields

There are three Chapter Name fields in the User-Defined tab/ Certifications Group of the volunteer profile. Chapter Trained In, Chapter Certified In and Current Chapter.

The Current Chapter is really useful at the state level. When we are looking at volunteers in the All Data folder, we need to see quickly which chapter the volunteer is or was last associated with. Be sure to update that field for your new training classes.

Chapter Trained In should be completed when the volunteer joins your training class. When they complete their certification, fill out the Chapter Certified In field.

If they didn't finish the training class or leave before they are certified, put a note in the Comments field.

Training Classes

We offer a variety of training classes for your admins and Advisors.

Basic Admin: Required for all new administrators

Reporting: Getting the most out of VMS

Refresher Admin: Admin tune-up and a great place to ask questions

Read Only: for Advisors or others that just need to see the data.

Sign up for the classes through the help desk at txmn.org/help

VMS Newsletter Changes

We've passed the roll-out and implementation phase of the VMS software deployment. We have an established training program and a busy help-desk system. As the chapters have gotten up to speed on the software and our procedures, we no longer need a monthly newsletter. So we're changing to a quarterly publication.

If you have anything you would like for us to cover—shoot us an email.

Need Help? Find it here: txmn.org/help

Quick Login for hours: txmn.org/hours -or- tpwd.samaritan.com

Quickly go to the search page: txmn.org/apply