

## Texas Waters Specialist Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) has developed an extensive program on water education with workshops, materials and media designed to benefit both adults and youth. Under the umbrella of a Texas Waters Curriculum, TPWD has developed a specific program designed for master naturalists and others to become certified Texas Water Specialists.

Per TPWD, “The goal of the program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats within their communities for the state of Texas.”

***Eight hours of advanced training utilizing the Texas Waters curriculum are required to achieve specialist certification. Ten hours per year doing approved water-related volunteer activities are required for annual renewal of the Texas Water Specialist designation.***

The **eight hours of advanced training** may be accumulated from among one or more of the following:

- Attend Texas Waters events, sessions, and field trips at the Texas Master Naturalist annual meeting
- Attend Texas Waters webinars. [Note – if you miss any of the webinars at the time they were first presented, you can still use them to earn AT by forming a small interactive study group and watching the recorded webinars followed by study group discussion.]
- Participate in a small, interactive study group using the Texas Waters Curriculum. There are questions after each chapter that may be used to guide the study and discussion. (Note – contact COT AT Director Larry Ruhr if you need a copy of the curriculum book.)
- Participate in approved Texas Waters learning activities such as Texas Stream Team or CoCoRoHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network). Note that each of these is approved for 4 hours only towards the Water Specialist Certification.

- Water-related training and workshops provided by the chapter may be used **ONLY IF** they have been approved by TPWD. COT AT Director Larry Ruhr will facilitate all approvals of chapter training with TPWD.

The **ten hours of volunteer work** required annually may be obtained from chapter approved volunteer service projects in the area of water and watersheds. COT approved volunteer efforts include monthly water quality monitoring for Texas Stream Team and participation in TCWP (Texas Coastal Watershed Program) aquatic wetlands activities.

**All hours accumulated for training and volunteer service related to the Texas Waters Specialist program must be recorded in VMS.**

- **Advanced training:** record training under the code AT: TX Waters Specialist rather than the standard “AT: I received training” code. If you want to work on this certification but do not have the code on your list, contact COT Volunteer Director Oron Atkins to get it defined. Note – for Texas Stream Team training, record the first four hours under the “AT: Texas Waters Specialist” code and any remaining hours to the standard AT code.) AT hours from both codes are automatically added together in VMS when determining the 8 hours required for annual master naturalist re-certification.)
- **Volunteer service:** record service hours as always under the correct code, e.g., RM: Resource Management. Check the box on the entry screen that says “[x] Texas Waters Specialist.”

A full description of the program may be found at <https://tinyurl.com/TexWaterSpec>

A list of some of the approved volunteer activities may be found at

<https://tinyurl.com/TexWaterVolOp>

For the Cradle of Texas Chapter, the AT portion of the program will be coordinated by Larry Ruhr.

Contact Larry if you have further questions  
[larryruhr@tmn-cot.org](mailto:larryruhr@tmn-cot.org)

