

Naturalists training program set

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ABILENE — The Big Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists is now taking applications for its next Master Naturalist volunteer training class. The application deadline is August 1, 2016.

Naturalists are students of natural science or natural history. If you are interested in the beneficial management and conservation of

our natural resources such as land, minerals, plants, birds, animals, and insects and sharing that love with your community, then the Texas Master Naturalist program is for you.

The training program begins on Aug. 9 and runs

through Oct. 20. Classes are held weekly, typically on Tuesday nights from 6-9 p.m. However, scheduled fieldtrips will move some sessions to Thursdays or Saturday.

Those completing classroom training and passing

the final exam will be required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service within a one year of training graduation.

Individuals completing the training become certified Master Naturalists, assisting both the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department through community education in natural resources.