

The Bandera PROPHEET

February 7, 2024

Apache Corporation donates native trees to Texas Master Naturalists

Contributed

The Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter (HCTMN) is busy planting trees, after receiving a grant from the Apache Corporation in Houston for native trees that will be planted in Bandera, Kerr, Kendall and Gillespie counties. Trees improve the air we breathe, provide food, shelter, and help reduce soil erosion.

The Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program focuses on large-scale conservation, protection of habitats for wildlife and native species, as well as the restoration and enhancement of public greenspaces. This award-winning environmental stewardship initiative is helping Apache leave a lasting positive impact for current and future generations in the areas where we live and work.

Since 2005, the Tree Grant Program has provided more than five million trees to more than 900 nonprofit charitable partners and government agencies in the U.S. They donate trees to a wide variety of organizations, including cities, counties, schools, parks, universities, youth associations, wildlife refuges and charitable service groups. In addition to the development and improvement of public parks and greenspaces, community partners often request trees to support a broad range of conservation efforts, including preservation of natural habitats and reforestation.

With over members throughout 10 Hill Country counties, the HCTMN has contributed volunteer hours since inception in 2002. Coordinated jointly by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department the TMN mission is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

TNM sees planting native trees throughout the Hill Country as an investment in the future to keep the Hill Country beautiful, diverse, and providing food, and cover for the wildlife we all enjoy. Like so many areas in Texas, the Hill Country has experienced a decrease in naturally occurring young trees due to over browsing of emerging tree seedings by deer and exotics. The trees from Apache will be used to replace trees approaching their natural end of life throughout our region. Tree varieties include Texas Redbud, Chinquapin Oak, Lacy Oak, Cedar Elm, and Mexican Plum. TMN graduates, with Apache's help will be doing their part to reverse this decline.

December and January are the very best times to plant trees. Winter gives them time to begin the rooting process before spring growth arrives. A key to fast establishment. To ensure success, trees will be caged to protect them from browsing until they are large enough to fend for themselves.

TMN encourages citizens of the Hill Country to consider planting one native tree each year to help with the reforestation and diversity of the Hill Country.