

# Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6, No. 11

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

November 2014

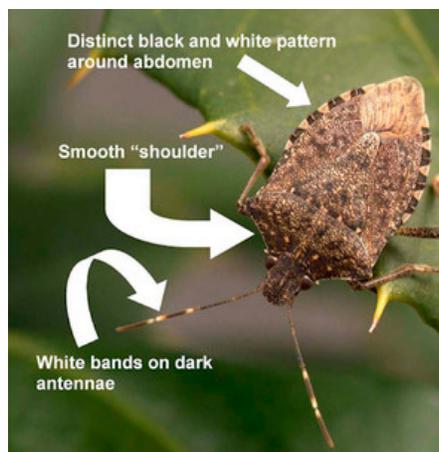
### Wrapping Up 2014 2015: New Beginnings

1. **Turn in** your 2014 Monarch Watch Tagging Data sheet. Return those sheets and any left-over tags to Laura Gillis.
2. Turn in you October Hours Sheet as well as any previous months you might not have submitted.
3. **NOVEMBER 4TH MEETING** will be *member presentation month*. Members are asked to pick an animal and give a brief report on it. Remember, the time you spend researching your report will count as Advance Training.
4. **2015 dues are payable now.** If you don't remember the dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for two. I know, it's just November but Larry wants to get started early this year for those of you who want to get it out of the way quickly and not put Larry into his begging mode.
5. **CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 2** We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Letter Carrier Union Hall, 5310 Southwest Parkway. Food will be supplied by Monarch Catering. Members are encouraged to bring desserts. Members are invited to participate in the Christmas gift exchange by bringing an inexpensive gift or re-gifting an item they no longer want. A table will be set up to accept donations for our chapter partner Wild Bird Rescue.

### Invasive Spotlight: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (Halyomorpha halys)

The brown marmorated stink bug, which came to the United States from Asia, is not only threatening to destroy vegetable crops and orchards where established, but is also causing homeowners to walk around holding their noses.

Though the majority of it's lifecycle is spent outdoors, the insects become a smelly indoor nuisance when they invade homes seeking shelter. As



### LOCALS

**NOVEMBER 4:** Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is at River Bend Nature Center. **Location:** 2200 3rd Street, Wichita Falls, Texas. **Time:** 7:00 PM. **Program:** Members will make presentations on their favorite animal or maybe not so favorite.

**DECEMBER 2:** Rolling Plains Chapter Christmas Party and Gift Exchange **Location:** Letter Carrier Union Hall, 5310 Southwest Parkway **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**DECEMBER 20:** Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the Audubon Society. **Location:** TBA **Time:** Dawn to Dusk Volunteers will join one of three teams to count bird species. **VOLUNTEER EVENT**

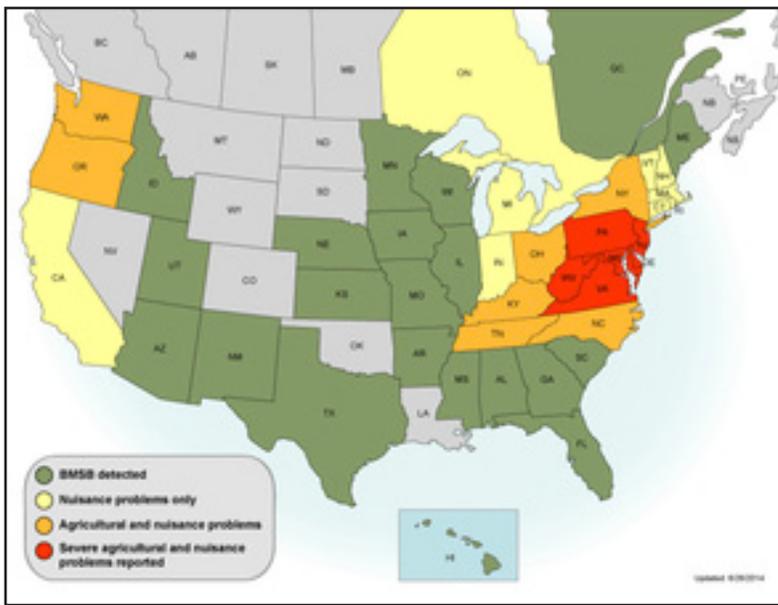
### 2015 Officers Nominees are:

Jim Hensley  
*President*

Kay Murphy  
*Vice President*

Cynthia Archibald  
*Secretary*

Larry Snyder  
*Treasurer*



temperatures drop in Texas, pests will begin to search for shelter from the winter elements and often end up in homes and other structures.

Brown marmorated stink bugs feed on *Eucommia elmoides*, a small tree threatened in the wild in China, which is commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine. Here however, this pest also attacks a variety of fruit and ornamental trees, including peach, pear, apple, plum and mulberry.

The invasive pest was accidentally imported from Asia into North America in the late 1990s and was first identified in 2001. By 2004, the stink bug was widely identified on farms and forests throughout the mid-Atlantic states, with

some growers of sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, apples, and peaches reporting total losses that year.

Since introduction, this pest has rapidly spread across the United States. It has been detected in Texas on multiple occasions, including multiple adults from a camper trailer in September of 2014.

## October Chapter Activities

### 2014 Monarch Watch

Chapter members along with public school students participated in the 2014 Monarch Watch Tagging event at Lake Wichita. The number of monarchs passing through this year was down from past years but up somewhat from year before last.



**Top:** Lynn Seman invited students to tag monarchs at Lake Wichita Park. **Far Left:** One of Lynns student holds a monarch. **Left:** The Snyder clan works together as a team to tag monarchs.

### BIG SIT Results

Chapter members participated in BIG SIT event at Wild Bird Rescue located at Lake Wichita. 25 bird species were identified which included the following:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Great-tailed Grackle                        | Yellow Warbler         |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher                   | Mourning Dove          |
| Canada Goose                                | Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| Blue Jay                                    | House Finch            |
| European Starling                           | Killdeer               |
| American Robin                              | American Crow          |
| Red-winged Blackbird                        | Great Blue Heron       |
| House Sparrow                               | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Northern Cardinal                           | Rock Pigeon            |
| Northern Flicker                            | Red-tailed Hawk        |
| ( yellow-shafted race,<br>red-shafted race) | Sharpshinned Hawk      |
| Baltimore Oriole                            | Cooper's Hawk          |
| Eurasian Collared Dove                      | meadowlark specie      |



**Above:** June and Penny compare notes from the Big Sit October 12 at Lake Wichita.

# Report from the State Meeting

Seven members of the Rolling Plains Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists attended this year's State Meeting at Mo Ranch. The attending members were Betty Brown, Dee Decker, Jane McGough, Kay Murphy (and her husband Vince), Lynn Seman and Larry and Judy Snyder.

Jane McGough and Laura Gillis did an outstanding job putting together the Texas Quail Index presentation for the state convention. Laura put the Project Board together using pictures from just about everyone. She and Jane provided grasses and prickly pear cactus for the display. Lynn Seman made the DVD of pictures taken at the site that looped through continuously AND she jury rigged a set up when the display space was 3 feet by 18 inches instead of the 3 feet by 3 feet we had been told we would have PLUS she did a major part of the set-up.



Evelyn Staten provided the quail mounts.

Unfortunately, we didn't win anything with our project for the Project Fair portion of the State Meeting. However, Lynn and Jane spent a lot of time talking to people about the Quail Project, and there was a lot of interest.

A big CONGRATULATIONS! goes to Larry Snyder for winning a special award from the state Texas Master Naturalist

office for his outstanding work with the TQI project. He has spend numerous hours working on this project for our chapter and the state. We are very proud to see him receive a special Texas shaped plaque from the big bosses for his work above and beyond.

Larry will be covering some things about a new initiative that's begun at this months meeting.



## Bobcat

Bobcats are elusive and nocturnal, so they are rarely spotted by humans. Although they are seldom seen, they roam throughout much of North America and adapt well to such diverse habitats as forests, swamps, deserts, and even suburban areas.



Bobcats, sometimes called wildcats, are roughly twice as big as the average house cat. They have long legs, large paws, and tufted ears similar to those of their larger relative, the Canada lynx. Most bobcats are brown or brownish red with a white underbelly and short, black-tipped tail. The cat is named for its tail, which appears to be cut or "bobbed."

Fierce hunters, bobcats can kill prey much bigger

than themselves, but usually eat rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels, and other smaller game. The bobcat hunts by stealth, but delivers a deathblow with a leaping pounce that can cover 10 feet (3 meters).

Bobcats are solitary animals. Females choose a secluded den to raise a litter of one to six young kittens, which will remain with their mother for 9 to 12 months. During this time they will learn to hunt before setting out on their own.

In some areas, bobcats are still trapped for their soft, spotted fur. North American populations are believed to be quite large, with perhaps as many as one million cats in the United States alone.

### Environmental Detectives Use DNA to Track Invasive Species

Across the world, humanity is dealing with the difficult environmental, economic and emotional effects of coping with invasive species. Now, new DNA tech-

niques are allowing scientist to locate, measure and track invasive species. Scientists hope this will lead to better invasive species identification, management and mitigation.

Learn more by visiting [PRI.org](http://PRI.org).

# FACTS FUN



The creature with the most eyes is the chiton, a type of mollusk. This ocean dweller has thousands of eyes embedded in shells on its back.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds beat their wings at a rate of 53 times per second, and up to 200 times per second in courtship dives. They can fly backwards and upside down in addition to hovering.



A desert locust swarm can be 460 square miles in size and can consume 423 million pounds of plants in a single day. A swarm can be made up of as many as 40 billion insects. They can fly for up to 15 hours at a time.

## TX Invasives Mobile App Update: New Invaders and Information

TX Invasives mobile application users, the Texasinvasives.org team has added new species to the Invasives Database as well as updated information within existing species records. In order to access the most up-to-date information from your mobile device, please refresh your species list.

To refresh the species list within an Apple iOS device, launch the TX Invasives app with a WIFI connection. From the app home-screen, tap the More Options icon. You will then see four options, please select the Reload Species List button. The app will then download all new

updates from the Texasinvasives.org server.

To refresh the species list within an Android device, launch the app with a WIFI connection. From the app home-screen, tap the More Options icon. Within More Options, choose the Refresh Database button. The app will then download all new updates from the Texasinvasives.org server.

If you have any issues with this species list update, we are happy to assist. Please email [invaders@texasinvasives.org](mailto:invaders@texasinvasives.org) with your request and our team will assist you.

# RESOURCE CORNER

*Kestrel 2500 (0825) Pocket Weather Meter, Digital Altimeter Overview*  
[www.allkestrel.com](http://www.allkestrel.com)  
 Sale Price: \$149.00



Nature can turn on you at a moment's notice. Predict what's headed your way with the perfect instrument for any outdoor activity.

The Kestrel 2500 takes the great features of the Kestrel 2000 and adds in a pressure sensor. Predict fish and wildlife activity as well as when bad weather is headed your way with the three-hour pressure trend indicator. With its easy-to-use digital pressure altimeter, you have the perfect instrument for any outdoor activity - get conditions in seconds right in the palm of your hand. In addition to predicting weather activity, barometric pressure also influences a bullet's trajectory, which is why the Kestrel 2500 is used by shooters and hunters when accuracy is important.

Includes: Neck Lanyard, Slide-On-Cover, CR2032 Coin Cell Battery (average life 300 hours) and Kestrel Certificate of Conformity.

### MEASURES

- Altitude
- Barometric Pressure
- Temperature
- Wind Chill
- Current Wind Speed
- Maximum Wind Gust
- Average Wind Speed

### Chapter Contacts:

Jim Hensley, President 569-4713; Rebecca Herd, Vice President 232-5607; Cynthia Archibald, Secretary 704-8474; Larry Snyder, Treasurer 569-4534

### Committees Chairperson:

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