

# Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 9

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

September 2018

### Presidents Report

by Terry McKee

We have several activities scheduled for the first week of September, and we will need all volunteers ready.

**Saturday, September 8, is the Chapter's annual Sikes Lake Cleanup.** The cleanup officially begins at 9 am, but we are asking members to show up at 8:30 to hang the banner and ready the grabbers and bags to hand out. Larry and Norman have volunteered to cook hot dogs supplied by MSU, but starting around 10:30 am to 11 am we need members to pass out food to feed our hungry volunteers.

The Sikes Cleanup generates a lot of interest for our chapter and good will between MSU staff and students and we urge everyone to attend.

The same day from 10 am to 4 pm, the chapter will also have a booth at the Kemp Center for the Arts on Lamar. We would welcome anyone that would like, to man the space in the great hall at the Kemp.

We will have more details at the meeting, September 4. Our guest speaker will be Dr. James Estes. His topic is "Thinking Like A Plant". **We will be meeting in room 207 which is the lab next to our regular meeting place.** Members will be observing plants through microscopes, It should be interesting! See you there!

### Dr. James Estes



James Estes is a Wichita County native. His early years were spent northwest of Burkburnett, where the native plants and landscape contributed to appreciation of the hardy native trees and grasses of the Rolling Plains. Jim has been a long-time proponent of using native plants in our lawns and gardens.

Estes received his BS in biology from Midwestern University, and served two years in an artillery battery in West Germany. He and Nancy Arnold of Wichita Falls were married just before Christmas in 1962. Jim received his Ph.D. from Oregon State University in botany in 1967 with an emphasis on plant systematics, and his dissertation analyzed chromosomal evolution in green sagebrush (*Artemisia*). He joined the faculty of the

### E LOCALS

**AUGUST 7:** Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is *in Bolin Science Hall room 207 at Midwestern State University* Time: 7:00 PM. **The program:** Dr James Estes will be presenting: "Thinking Like A Plant".

**SEPTEMBER 8:** Sikes Lake Clean-Up on the MSU campus starting at 9 am.

**SEPTEMBER 8:** Bird Walk at LASP from 8am – 9am. Meet at the dump station in the camping area.

**SEPTEMBER 8:** Wetland Tour at Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, Oklahoma 73530, USA from 9am – 12pm. Advance Training Opportunity - Only one wetland tour may be used for AT. Reservations required: Contact Melynda.hickman@odwc.ok.gov or 405-990-4977

**SEPTEMBER 22:** Night Hike and Scavenger Hike at LASP from 8:30pm – 9:30pm.

**OCTOBER 26-28:** Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center, Georgetown, TX. For more information: [www.txmu.org/2018-annual-meeting](http://www.txmu.org/2018-annual-meeting)

Department of Botany & Microbiology at the University of Oklahoma in the fall of '67. He also curated the Robert Bebb Herbarium. His research focused on systematics, pollination biology, and floristics. In 1974, he was a visiting faculty member at the University of California at Davis (UCD). While at UCD, he studied pollination biology and bee ecology. He also was on leave from OU for two terms to serve as a visiting scientist at the National Science Foundation. Jim retired from OU in 1996 and became Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum, one of the largest natural history museums in the U.S. Jim has edited seven books and published about 120 articles. He was elected President of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists—the major scientific society in his field. He served as an editor for *Flora of North America* and *Flora of Oklahoma*. His specialty is the sunflower family.

Jim and Nancy retired in 2002, and they moved to Burkburnett.

While in Lincoln, Jim served on the Board of the Lincoln Arts Council and was President for LAC for one year and he was Vice President of the Board of the Botanical Garden. He has been on the Board for the WF Symphony Orchestra and River Bend Nature Center.

Estes has worked as a consultant for the World Bank, Texas Attorney General, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. State Department. His research has taken him to Jordan, Israel, Germany, Mexico, Canada, and Indonesia.

## New Rules Prohibit Commercial Harvest of Four Turtle Species in Texas

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission this week voted to prohibit the commercial collection of four species of freshwater turtles in Texas—the common snapping turtle, red-eared slider, smooth softshell and spiny softshell.

Previous state rules passed in 2007 prohibited commercial collection of wild freshwater turtles in Texas, but exempted these four species on private waters, meaning they could still be collected from private ponds. The new rules prohibit wild collection of the four turtles anywhere in Texas.

On Oct. 3, 2017, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department received a petition for rulemaking saying that continued commercial harvest of the four turtle species is unsustainable. Scientific evidence bears this out, since localized turtle declines have been documented in parts of Texas, and research in recent years has shown these species are vulnerable to overharvest.

In 2008, the state agency funded a 5-year research investigation of freshwater turtle populations in Texas. This showed turtles are highly sensitive to commercial harvest, that even modest commercial harvest leads to long-term population declines, and that illegal commercial harvest of turtles continues.

Under the new rules, recreational collection of wild turtles by children or individual citizens remains allowed, captive breeding and sale of lawfully obtained brood stock remains legal for permitted nongame dealers, and private property rights remain unchanged.

The rules will take effect this fall.



## Texas Pollinator BioBlitz

October 5 - October 21, 2018

- Pollinator BioBlitz participants observe and identify pollinators between October 5 - 21, 2018.
- All ages and abilities are encouraged to find pollinators and nectar-producing plants.
- Share observations by posting a photo or video to Instagram, iNaturalist, or Facebook .
- Daily observation challenges will add to the fun.

### Did you know:

- The monarch population across the Eastern United States, Canada, and Mexico has declined by nearly 80% over the past 20 years.
- Besides monarchs, 30 native pollinator/flower-visiting species (bees, butterflies, and moths) are designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
- Pollinators (butterflies, bees and moths, bats, hummingbirds, wasps, flies, and beetles) sustain native plant species, human food crops, and even crops for livestock.

You can help! Learn about pollinators and pollinator habitat. You can help by planting native, nectar-producing plants and pollinator gardens in communities, schools and backyards across Texas.

For more information visit: [tpwd.texas.org](http://tpwd.texas.org).

# FACTS FUN

Long-time bird watcher and nature writer Candace Savage has observed that crows are so intelligent they can play pranks on each other.



Oysters can change gender depending on which is best for mating. While some oysters have two sexes, their reproductive organs contain both eggs and sperm. Because of this, it is technically

possible for an oyster to fertilize its own eggs. Once the female is fertilized, she discharges millions of eggs.

Squirrels will adopt other squirrels babies if they are abandoned. Babies are called kits or kittens and are born blind. Females care for their babies without the help of males.



## Dangerous Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



If you thought that poison ivy was the worst plant to rub against, think again. Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is worse. Instead of causing an itchy rash, this invasive plant causes severe chemical burns and can even cause blindness.

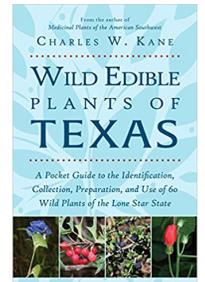
The sap of giant hogweed, which is a native of the Caucasus Mountains, contains chemicals that when exposed to ultraviolet light cause severe skin irritation, blistering, and potentially blindness. It's hard to believe, but it was brought to the United States as an ornamental plant!

Thankfully, giant hogweed is not found in Texas – yet. Let's keep it that way! Please keep your eyes open for it: it prefers moist, disturbed sites. If you find it, please report it as soon as possible using [Texasinvasives.org](http://Texasinvasives.org)'s Sentinel Pest Network "Report It!" tool online or in its Texas Invasives mobile app (iOS or Android).

# RESOURCE CORNER

*Wild Edible Plants of Texas*  
by Charles W. Kane  
Paperback: 72 pages  
ISBN- 978-0977133390  
Price: \$8.45 on Amazon

Designed as a light-weight and field-portable reference booklet, *Wild Edible Plants of Texas: A Pocket Guide to the Identification, Collection, Preparation, and Use of 60 Wild Plants of the Lone Star State* highlights the Lone Star State's most important edible wild plants. To the point and understandable, this guide best suits the prepper or outdoor enthusiast in need of a salient introduction to the field. No fluff. Just the facts.



Each of the 60 (actually 62) entries are comprised of the following sections: Range and Habitat, Edible Uses, Medicinal Uses (when applicable), Cautions, and Special Notes. Both common and scientific names are listed. Over 100 color photos assist in identification and in many cases showcase each plant's choice edible part. Every profile is assigned a Texas-only location map and a seasonal guide on the best harvesting time. A general index is included as are a dozen photos of the state's poisonous plants.

Some of the entries have a greater-than Texas range, however many are uniquely Texan, and hail from a specific region. West Texas' Chihuahuan Desert, the Hill Country of the Edwards Plateau, the Plains of the Panhandle, and the Piney Woods and Swamplands of the state's Coastal Plain all are botanically represented.

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