

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

June 2019

TMN Quiz Bowl!

Do you know bird calls? Can you identify plants? If so, you and other Rolling Plains Chapter Members are all invited to the TMN Quiz Bowl! Join us at the June chapter meeting for a “friendly” master naturalist competition involving questions from our extensive curriculum. Study up for a fun-filled educational experience of teamwork! The top team will get bragging rights and the illustrious quiz bowl trophy for this year. Hope to see you all there!

It's Time to Catch Some Fish!

Photos by Lynn Seman

Lake Arrowhead State Park hosted the 25th annual Mark Howell Memorial Fish Rodeo on Saturday, June 1, 2019. The weather was great as was the turn out.



25th Annual
Mark Howell
Memorial
Kid Fishing
Rodeo
2019



E LOCALS

JUNE 4: Rolling Plains Chapter training meets *in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Midwestern State University Time: 7:00 PM.*
The program: TMN Quiz Bowl!

JUNE 6: Region 9 Education Service Center Math/Science Conference from 9:00am to 4:00pm - We will have a booth set up for this event.

JUNE 8: 5th Anniversary of Whiteside Museum of Natural History in Seymour - We will have a booth set up. (need volunteers to be at booth from 10:00am to 4:00pm) This will be an amazing fun event!!! New exhibits, new things to come see!

MAY 14: Bat Tour at Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway from 7:00p to 10:00p Join us on a guided vehicle tour to historic Clarity Tunnel for the bat emergence flight. Tours take at least 2 hours to complete. Registration is required with a \$10 fee per seat. Please call the park at (806)455-1492 for reservations or for more information. During these guided vehicle tours along the Trailway, visitors can view the bat emergence flight and enjoy spectacular views of the rugged and beautiful breaks of the Llano Estacado.

Rolling Plains Chapter Members Plant Milkweed

Photos by Terry McKee

Prior to discussing the value of and types of milkweed seen in Lake Arrowhead State Park on May 10, chapter members cleaned the butterfly garden and planted milkweed by the park headquarters.

Thanks to Laura, Lynn, Susan, Jim, June and Debra for their hard work.



Parrots are Flocking to Texas

Texas appears to be a paradise for parrots. A new study puts Texas at No. 3 among the states with the most sightings in the wild of these one-time exotic pets.



From 2002 to 2016, bird watchers recorded

23,992 sightings of parrots in the outdoors in Texas, according to the study, recently published in the Journal of Ornithology. Florida ranked first for parrot sightings (39,054), and California ranked second (32,418).

In all, the study tracked sightings of 56 species of parrots in the wild in 43 states. "Naturalized parrots" are now widespread in the continental U.S., the study said, with 25 species established

Monk parakeets can be found all over Austin — including UT's intramural fields in Hyde Park. Photo by Andrew Lankes

Species Institute, Austin is among the most popular places in the U.S. for monk parakeets. These birds typically use power lines to support their stick-formed nests.

Researchers behind the parrot study say tens of thousands of monk parakeets were imported from South America to the U.S. as exotic pets in the 1950s and 1960s. Inevitably, many *continued on page 3*

and breeding in 23 states.

The most common parrot species in the U.S. is the monk parakeet, distinguished by its bright green feathers and incessant chatter. According to the Texas Invasive

Congratulations Rolling Plains Chapter Members

Lynn Seman has eclipsed the 2,500 volunteer hour mark!

Norm Mason has reached the 250 hour volunteer milestone!

Warren and Sue King have both recertified for 2019!

L Clepper has recertified for 2019!

Donna Beaver, Debra Miller and Larry Harvey have obtained enough Initial Training Hours to graduate from the TMN course.

Congratulations to all!

REMINDER Report Your Hours in a Timely Manner!

I know it is easy to forget to submit hours, but it is imperative that we do so. Perhaps it would be helpful to mark your calendar for the 1st of each month to submit those hours earned the previous month. Remember you EARNED those hours and they do need to be submitted in a timely manner.

If you attempt to enter hours past the 45 day limit:

- TPWD is now enforcing the 45 day rule for chapter admins as well as volunteers.
- Your chapter president can request a change/ addition past 45 days via a help desk ticket after vetting and approval by the chapter board.
- These requests should be a rare occurrence and only happen given extenuating circumstances (hospitalization, family emergencies, etc.). Forgetting to put them in is not legitimate.
- Volunteers need to put in their hours well before the 45 day limit to enable Larry the time to review and fix the entries.

FACTOIDS FUN

All though it looks like an ordinary lizard, the tuatara is anything but. This scaly senior is a close relative of the dinosaurs that ruled the planet long before humans came along. More specifically, tuataras are the only surviving animals from the order Phynchocephalia, a group of reptiles that flourished during the Mesozoic Era approximately 200 million years ago. They are only found in New Zealand.



The opossum is a slow moving creature by nature. It can spend a whopping 18 to 20 hours a day sleeping. When the opossum is not sleeping, they use their tongue and paws to groom themselves frequently and thoroughly much like house cats.

Going for a meal is a classic first-date scenario and is one used by the rooster. When a male is in the mood to mate, he will call out to a nearby female and drop some of his food. If she doesn't respond, the male will pick the food back up and drop his offering a little closer. Once the female's interest is aroused, the male will drop a wing and begin a slow dance around her.



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of these birds made their way into the wild and began breeding.

Just three states — Texas, California, and Florida — support all 25 known breeding species of parrots, the study says. In Texas, these include the yellow-crowned amazon, the red-crowned amazon, the budgerigar, and the green parakeet. The Audubon Society says hundreds of green parakeets can also



be found flying around neighborhoods in the Rio Grande Valley.

Why these parrots are scattered across the U.S. stems

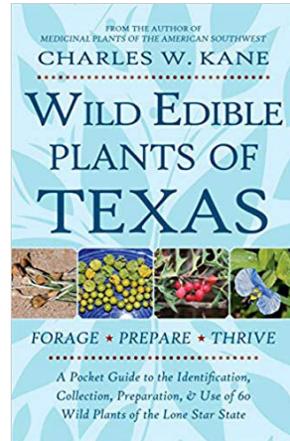
from a “complicated interaction” of environmental, ecological, and climate factors, the study explained. With the possible exception of the red-crowned amazon and green parakeet in South Texas, all of the parrots now winging it in this country were initially brought here to be kept as caged pets, according to the study.

Researchers say parrots have settled in Texas, California, and Florida to take advantage of the warm climates (just like humans do).

Parrots are no longer native to the U.S. Originally, the U.S. claimed two native parrot species: the Carolina parakeet and the thick-billed parrot. According to the study, the Carolina parakeet is now extinct, and the thick-billed parrot, a Mexican species, was driven out of the U.S.

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 lightweight and field-portable reference booklet, *Wild Edible Plants of Texas* 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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