



Rolling Plains Chapter NEWSLETTER

Vol.14, No. 12

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

December 2022

The Rolling Plains Chapter partners with River Bend Nature Center and Wild Bird Rescue, Inc. in Wichita Falls; Lake Arrowhead State Park in Clay County; Copper Breaks State Park in Hardeman County; Whiteside Museum of Natural History in Seymour; and Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus in Crowell. Our Chapter covers Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties.

DECEMBER 6:

Rolling Plains Chapter Meeting - 7:00pm
Coffee, Cookies and Christmas. Bring a gift under \$25 for the “Bad Santa” gift exchange. Kevin Scanlon will be our entertainment. No Zoom link. In person only. Location: 5310 Southwest Parkway in the NALC Building (next door to Wichita Valley Nursery).

VT DECEMBER 10:

Bird Outing at LASP 8:00-10:00 Join Penny Miller, other members and guests at Lake Arrowhead State Park for a bird outing. Look for and identify birds found at the park. This is a leisurely hike on level ground (handicap accessible). Binoculars helpful, but not required.

AT DECEMBER 13:

TMNTuesday 12:00 (noon)-1:00 pm “On



Here we are at the end of the year and it’s time to wrap things up. But first, I have a little serious business.

Many of you have heard of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act that is currently sitting in the US Senate. In a nutshell, this Act, if passed, will provide financial and technical assistance to states for the protection, recovery and habitat conservation of threatened and endangered species. It’s truly a big deal for Texas and our wildlife. Links are below

if you would like to encourage our Texas Senators (neither of whom have committed to this bill) to vote YES on this bill.

If you would like to contact these gentlemen, please do so as yourself and NOT as a Texas Master Naturalist. And, no, I’m sorry, you can not count your time writing or calling as volunteer hours!

If you would like more information on the Act, here is a link: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117thcongress/senate-bill/2372#:text=This%20bill%20provides%20financial%20and,list%20species%20under%20such%20laws>.

Texas Senators:

Ted Cruz: email link: <https://www.cruz.senate.gov/contact/write-ted>
Capitol Office Phone: 202-224-5922; District Office Phone: (713) 718-3057

John Cornyn: email link: <https://www.cornyn.senate.gov/contact>
Capitol Office Phone: 202-224-2934; District Office Phone: 512-469-6034

I hope you’re still reading so we can talk about the fun stuff now!

At our meeting on December 6th we will celebrate our year with a very short business meeting and election followed by a pot-luck dessert feast! Kevin Scanlin will entertain us and we will have a “Bad Santa” gift exchange (\$10 limit if you want to participate).

Don’t forget we also have a Photo and Art Contest at the party. We will keep things simple so no need to frame things or worry about fancy presentation. An 8x10 copy of your photo

leadership transitions during transitioning times” by Dr. Kenneth Taylor, a Professor of the Practice at the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service and serves as the Director of Outreach and Professional Development within their Center for Nonprofits & Philanthropy. You may watch this webinar live or its recording at a later date (as long as it is watched within the calendar year it was recorded).

VT DECEMBER 17:
Christmas Bird Count 7:30-5:30 Join Chapter members for the 123rd annual Christmas Bird Count. Members can participate as long as they want during the count (all day or a few hours) or count at their feeders (as long as the feeder location lies within the 15 mile diameter count circle). Contact Debra Halter for more information. Participation is free. Knowledge of birds very helpful, but not required.

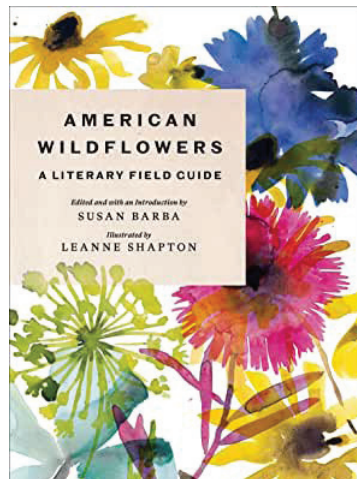
would be great and if you are working in a nature journal, we will just leave the book open to your favorite sketch or observation.

This year we will also be collecting donations for our partner, River Bend Nature Center. After the party, the Chapter will match the donations up to \$250 so, please, give generously.

I hope to see everyone at Lake Arrowhead State Park for Christmas in the Park and then again at the party! —*Laura*

PS: The party is at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at the Letter Carriers Hall, 5310 Southwest Parkway; Wichita Falls, TX 76310 (Next to Wichita Valley Nursery)

Editor's Pick



American Wildflowers: A Literary Field Guide
by Susan Barba (Editor),
Leanne Shapton (Illustrator)
ISBN-13: 978-1419760167
\$25.15 on Amazon

to Allen Ginsberg and Robert Creeley, Lucille Clifton and Louise Glück, Natalie Diaz and Jericho Brown.

The book includes exquisite watercolors by Leanne Shapton throughout and is organized by species and botanical family—think of it as a field guide to the literary imagination.

Organized as a field guide, a literary anthology filled with classic and contemporary poems and essays inspired by wildflowers—perfect for writers, artists, and botanists alike

American Wildflowers: A Literary Field Guide collects poems, essays, and letters from the 1700s to the present that focus on wildflowers and their place in our culture and in the natural world. Editor Susan Barba has curated a selection of plants and texts that celebrate diversity: There are foreign-born writers writing about American plants and American writers on non-native plants. There are rural writers with deep regional knowledge and urban writers who are intimately acquainted with the nature in their neighborhoods. There are female writers, Black writers, gay writers, indigenous writers. There are botanists like William Bartram, George Washington Carver, and Robin Wall Kimmerer, and horticultural writers like Neltje Blanchan and Eleanor Perényi. There are prose pieces by Aldo Leopold, Lydia Davis, and Aimee Nezhukumatathil. And most of all, there are poems: from Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, William Carlos Williams and T. S. Eliot

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