



Rolling Plains Chapter NEWSLETTER

Vol.16, No. 2

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

February 2024

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 Count,; 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.

FEBRUARY 6: Rolling Plains Chapter Meeting - 7:00-9:00pm at MSU's Bolin Science Hall, room 209. If you would prefer to attend via Zoom, watch for the link to the meeting in your email. Either way, I hope you will join us.

AT The program: Learn about eBird and the Chapter's volunteer opportunities utilizing it with Debra Halter.

AT FEBRUARY 6: Texas Nature Tracker mini-series 11:00am-1:00pm In this episode, the Texas Nature Trackers (TNT) program is looking for Master Naturalists interested in becoming TNT certified iNaturalist workshop trainers across Texas. Only TMNTuesdays and Texas Nature Tracker mini-series webinar recordings can count as AT.



Hello, to a fabulous February! There are so many fun things to look forward to this month, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Home & Garden Festival.... One thing I hope you are looking forward to is our Monthly Meeting on February 6th. Debra Halter is going to do our program on eBird and how to use it to our best advantage.

Concerning our February meeting, **we have some very important information!** As you may know, work on the Bolin Science Hall is proceeding and as a result, most of the parking lot as well as access from the library side is behind a fence. **For parking, please use the lot closest to the Coliseum and use the FRONT entrance doors to enter the building.** (The front of the building is the side that is facing Taft Street.) We will use this entrance until we hear otherwise. For now, we are still in the same room, Bolin 209.

I would like to take a minute and thank the Board members for their time and hard work at our January Retreat. We got a lot done! Thanks also to Ranger L and Lake Arrowhead State Park for letting us meet in a nice warm space on such a cold, blustery day. We have a lot planned for the Chapter this year and to help get you in the mood, we are going to do the Scavenger Hunt again.

Scavenger Hunt cards will be available at the February meeting or you can download your own from the website. Our prize is again a Monarch Tagging Kit - 25 monarch tags all your own! The dates of the hunt will be February 1 through July 31 and you will need to turn in your cards on or before the August 6th meeting. You only need 50 points to get your name in the drawing for the tagging kit. I hope you will have fun with the hunt and rack up some points!

Please note these Home & Garden volunteer opportunities too – booth work and hike help is needed and we will have sign-up sheets at the meeting. This will also be your last chance to get tickets from Kevin.

I am looking forward to seeing you all during this fabulously fun and festive February! (Hopefully we will all be to busy to notice any freezing!) —*Laura*



The hometown show you know and love!

**FEB 24 & 25
2024**

Training Class Schedule for 2024

AT FEBRUARY 13:
Beyond the Backyard: All About the Great Backyard Bird Count 12:00-1:00pm Panelists will explain how to participate in this exciting global event and how participation might extend past your back door.

AT FEBRUARY 13:
TMN TUESDAY 12:00-1:00pm Rattlesnakes with Chip Ruthven, project leader for the Panhandle Wildlife Management Areas.

AT FEBRUARY 15: *In the Life of Threatened Fireflies 12:00-1:00pm* Join endangered species conservation biologist Richard Joyce for a presentation about the fireflies of the USA

FR FEBRUARY 16-19:
Great Backyard Bird Count all or part of day

PO FEBRUARY 24-25: *Home & Garden Show 9:00am-6:00pm* Sign up to help man the Chapter's booth during the show.

March

Classes begin March 21 to July 25 at MSU Bolin Hall room 213
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Thursdays with 4 Saturday field trips between 9am and noon

March 13: Deadline for class registration

Registration limited to 25 trainees

March 2: Orientation at River Bend, volunteer opportunities: *Chapter Partners*

April

April 4: Introduction to Rolling Plains Chapter: *Laura Gillis president, RPC*

April 1: Ornithology: *Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden*

April 18: Fish Biology: *Wes Dutton, Inland fisheries TPWD*

April 20: FIELD TRIP to Lake Arrowhead, electro-fishing, with TPWD

April 25: Geology: *Dr Jonathan Price*

May

May 2: Botany, Invasive Species: *Dr Timothy Pegg*

May 4: FIELD TRIP to Lake Arrowhead, history, natural resources, with Ranger L

May 9: Ecological concepts: *Dr Kashif Mahmud*

May 16: Paleontology: *Dr Steven Rosscoe*

May 18: FIELD TRIP to Mineral Wells, fossil dig with Dr Rosscoe

May 23: Insects: *Dr Roy Vogstberger*

May 30: Mammals: *Dr Ray Willis*

June

June 6: Waterways: *Daniel Nix, Executive Director Texas American Water Works Association*

June 13: Mycology: *Dr James Masuoka*

June 15: FIELD TRIP to Lucy Park, water testing, Lynn Seman

June 20: Forest Ecology: *Kimberlee Peterson, Texas A&M Forest Service*

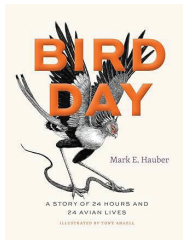
June 27: Pollinators: *Cedar Sanderson, Master Naturalist*

July

July 11: Weather: *Michael Bohling, KFDX Chief Meteorologist*

July 18: Rangeland Ecology: *Ricky Linnex*

July 25: Final Review



Check it Out

An hourly guide that follows twenty-four birds as they find food, mates, and safety from predators.

From morning to night and from the Antarctic to the equator, birds have busy days. In this short book, ornithologist Mark E. Hauber shows readers exactly how birds spend their time.

Chapter Contacts:

Laura Gillis, President, 733-4467, gillis.laura5319@gmail.com; Alex Nelson, Vice President 882-0936, alenelson96@gmail.com; DeAnna Bullock, Secretary, (972)523-8108, deanna@dfwnetworking.com; Kevin Seager, Treasurer, (505) 715-7324, Kevindseager@gmail.com

Committees Chairperson:

Paula Savage, Newsletter Editor and Designer, 940-s691-0231, pasavage15@gmail.com; Debra Halter, Website Manager 632-8557, chickadeekees@aol.com; Debra Halter, Communication Chair 632-8557, chickadeekees@aol.com

Advisor: Laura Clepper