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Find us on Facebook too!

Rolling Plains Chapter

Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

August 2025

From The President

This is the time of year I am just trying to persevere to get through the heat. The heat should start abating in September, and chapter activity will pick up. The calendar on our website is still an issue. We are not the only chapter having this problem. Our website is hosted by AgriLife, so we need to wait for them to fix it. In the meantime, watch for Debra's Event Calendar email, which contains all of the information on volunteer and advanced training opportunities.

The registration for the annual meeting should be opening next week. It is a good idea to register as soon as possible in order to ensure you can get into the sessions you want. This is especially true for the field sessions as the number of participants is restricted. If you want to attend a field session, be aware that transportation is not provided. You should get an email about the date/time the registration will open, if you are signed up for the TXMN Digest email. If you are not, we will post the information as soon as we get it on Facebook and send out an all-members email. You can see the schedule now on the Texas Master Naturalist website. You will need to select your sessions when you register, so it is a good idea to have a primary and alternate choice made ahead of time. Early-bird registration for the full event is \$480, which includes meals, but not lodging. You'll need to arrange that separately. Information on lodging is on the website. The registration cost goes up after August 31.

For those who may be interested in getting more involved with the chapter, but don't want to plunge into the deep end right away, we have two projects we'd like to get someone to manage. Time spent is counted as volunteer time.

First is the Adopt-a-Highway coordinator. We do a highway cleanup on FM1954 outside Lake Arrowhead SP quarterly. The person in charge sets the dates for the cleanup, makes sure we have adequate supplies, and reports back to TXDOT. It isn't a time-consuming job, but it is needed. Lynn Seman can give you more information..

The second opportunity is our monofilament recycling program. We have a few containers that need to be checked and emptied periodically and the monofilament line sent in for recycling. There is the possibility of adding additional containers (funding permitting), but that is entirely dependent on whoever is managing the program. The time needed for this varies, depending on the time of year. Larry Snyder or Lynn Seman can give you more information.

Don't forget our chapter meeting on August 5. We will still be in Dillard College, Rm 328. I hope to see you there. – Penny Miller

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 • 7:00 PM

MSUTexas: Dillard College of Business, Room 328

Program: Alex Nelson, "Plants and Invasives"

A Zoom meeting link will be emailed before the meeting.

Request a link at rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com

Thank you

to all who participated in the 2025 training class.

We could not have done it without our guest lecturers: Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden, Wes Duttor and the staff at TPWD Inland Fisheries, Dr. Jonathan Price, Dr Tim Pegg, Dr. Steven Roscoe, Dr Kashif Mahmud, Michael Bohling, Daniel Nix and Kevin Seman. Thanks also go to our chapter members that gave of their time to teach classes and lead field trips:

Hale, Marla Havins, Taylor Kennedy Frenchi, Dana Leonard, Kylah McCoy, Jessica Morgan, Ruben Orozco, Elijah Pascal, Julie Pascal, Rachel Roth, Ashley Sisk, Dynnah Van Alstine, Katherine Van Alstine and Jahkeel Warner. I know a few of you are still working for certification, but you are not out of the loop.



Training will continue at your own speed – life has a way of diverting our attentions, and we are willing to work with you. As the weather cools we have several events slated: come September, join us as we begin tagging monarch butterflies!

A reminder that your adventure has just begun! For those that wish to continue with the Rolling Plains Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, we welcome you to our monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month in MSU Dillard room 328. You are also invited to participate in our field trips and outings...keep an eye out for announcements, and keep checking our web page!

See you in the field!
Terry McKee
Training Class Coordinator



Melissa Rose, Dr. James Masuoka, Larry Snyder, Cedar Sanderson, Laura Gillis, Cynthia Blanchard, Lynn Seman, Debra Halter, Alex Nelson, our president Penny Miller and our advisor, Ranger L Clepper.

To our trainees, we hope you learned a little something about the natural landscape in the Rolling Plains, made some new connections and new friends. I know I learned something from all of you as well. We had a great class thanks to our trainees: Indigo Burke, Meredith Cameron, Hannah Coper, Cara Epps, Jeanel Georges Insalaco, Terri



An update and a call for volunteers

They Grow Up So Fast!!

An update on The City View Pond Restoration Project, made possible by the HEB Pollinators for Texas Award

The little milkweed plants grown and nurtured from seed by Lisa Griffin and her students are now in the care of a slightly overwhelmed foster plant parent! About 80% of the antelopehorns and all of the green milkweed seedlings have been upsized to either one-gallon or 4-inch pots, and they will soon be ready for transplanting at the City View Pond in the fall. A repurposed dog kennel is keeping the big critters away, and the natural predators of the tasty aphids are doing great work. Thank you Penny,

for donating pots to this cause!

While there is no concrete date set, there will be one or

several “prairie parties” out at the Pond at City View Jr/Sr High’s campus to put milkweed plants, seeds, and frogfruit plants in the ground during the upcoming fall

semester. In addition to the work of planting, we would like to have trained

TMN volunteers help coordinate the efforts and conduct outreach. If you want to help, we can find

a role for you that suits your interest and abilities, whether that’s spreading the word of the event(s) to your circles, making flyers, on-site outreach and education, taking pictures at events, passing out waters and snacks, planting, watering, handing out seeds, or any other way you can think to contribute!

If you’d like to be on the list to receive the calls for volunteers, send Alex an email: alenelson96@gmail.com



***MANY HANDS WILL
SOON BE NEEDED!***



In The Field



August Events

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Events and opportunities are subject to change at any time.

Due to issues with the website calendar, watch your email for the latest changes and updates.

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| 8/2 | 8:00 am | Monthly Hike: Hardeman County
Join us at Copper Breaks State Park for a hike on the beautiful Bull Canyon Trail. Park fees apply. |
| 8/3 | 8:00 am | Horned Lizard Survey: 3Rivers Ranch, Crowell, TX
Contact Lynn Seman for more information |
| 8/5 | 7:00 pm | Chapter Meeting
<i>Program: Alex Nelson, "Plants and Invasives"</i>
MSU, Dillard College of Business Building, Room 328.
Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for the Zoom link. |
| 8/8 | 9:00 am | Texas Stream Team Water Testing
Meet at the boat ramp on Lake Wichita, across from the State Hospital on Kemp Blvd. |
| 8/9 | 8:00 am | Bird Outing with Penny Miller |
| 8/12 | 12:00 pm | TMNTuesday <i>Approved Webinar</i>
Title: Combatting Chronic Wasting Disease through Citizen Science
Speaker: J. Hunter Reed, DVM, MPH, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Senior Wildlife Veterinarian |
| 8/14 | 6:00 pm | Webinar: The State of the Bees
See Debra's Weekly/Monthly Events Calendar for link |
| 8/15 | 9:00 am | Water Testing at Lake Gordon, Iowa Park |
| 8/21 | 6:00 pm | Webinar: Gardening for Hummingbirds
See Debra's Weekly/Monthly Events Calendar for link |
| 8/25 | 5:30 pm | Board of Director's Meeting
Wilson Office Supply, 8th and Lamar.
All members are welcome to attend. Not a public event. |



From The Bookshelf

The Nature of Texas: An Introduction to Familiar Plants, Animals and Outstanding Natural Attractions

by James Kavanagh (Author), Raymond Leung (Illustrator)

The opportunities for enriching nature study are endless in Texas, where 5,000 plant species grow, and numerous iconic animals can be found. This beautifully illustrated field guide serves as an introduction to the natural history of the Lone Star State and includes the stirring essay by James C. Rettie, who worked for the National Forest Service in

1948. Rettie's elegant words set the tone for a guide that features 350 common plants and animals, nine maps depicting major wildlife-viewing areas and parks throughout the state, as well as full checklists and indices for educators, learners, naturalists, birders, botanists, and wildlife enthusiasts to document their sightings of flora and fauna in Texas.