

Chapter Contacts

President

Penny Miller
green.wichitafalls@gmail.com

Vice President

Tiffany Herring
therring2413@gmail.com

Secretary

Sandy Underwood
sandyleau@gmail.com

Treasurer

Larry Snyder
lastime64@gmail.com

Past President

Laura Gillis
gillis.laura5319@gmail.com

Education & Outreach

Lynn Seman
rlynnseman@gmail.com

VMS Administrators

Larry Snyder
Lynn Seman

Website Coordinator

Debra Halter
chickadeekees@gmail.com

New Class Representative

Michael Lopez
michael.j.lopez.tx@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Laura Gillis
gillis.laura5319@gmail.com

Chapter Advisor

Laura "L" Clepper
Laura.Clepper@tpwd.texas.gov

Chapter email

rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com

Chapter Website

<https://txmn.org/rollingplains/>

Find us on Facebook too!

Rolling Plains Chapter

Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

November 2025

From The President

It seems October went by in a flash and if history is any indicator, the rest of the year will race by like a runaway train. Be sure to watch the events email from Debra Halter carefully, as we have quite a few activities coming up. This is your chapter, so get involved. There is still time to get in some volunteer or advanced training hours if you need them.

As usual, the annual meeting was full of interesting classes and field trips, as well as information about the program from the state. The 2026 recertification pin will be the bobcat. (Photo above.)

Our November speaker is unable to make the meeting after all, so we are going to substitute a resource night. These have been very popular in the past. You don't have to take an active part in either of these events if you don't want to, but they will be fun and educational to watch.

Members may share one resource they have found to be valuable as a Master Naturalist, especially if you think it is something others may not know about. It could be a book, an app, a website, an exploration tool/gadget of some kind, etc. If you could send info (like title/author, app name, website URL, name and source for your gadget) to Sandy Underwood, we can try to put together a list and send it out to members after the meeting. At the meeting, show the item (if possible), and give 1 or 2 sentences about what it is and why you like it.

Following the resource share (as long as we don't take too long), we'll have a nature trivia game. I am putting together the questions. They will all have something to do with plants/animals in our ecoregion, the environment, organizations we support, or Texas Master Naturalist. Since it will be difficult for our remote attendees to participate, they will be our judges panel.

See you Tuesday!
Penny



MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, November 2, 2025 • 7:00 PM
MSUTexas: Dillard College of Business, Room 329**

****Note New Room Number!****

Program: Resource Share and Nature Trivia Game
Bring your favorite resource to share with the Chapter.

A Zoom meeting link will be emailed before the meeting.

Request a link at rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com

Antelope Milkweeds Need Patient, Loving Homes!

Plants raised from seed this spring have been in the care of Alex Nelson for the City View Sr/Jr High pollinator garden project, and they need winter homes before they go dormant. These plants need full sun. They are very tough, but they grow slowly. Plants will look 'dead' very soon, but trust that the roots are just saving their energy for spring. Plant them in the ground and water occasionally through the winter if the soil seems dry. 4" pots for sale at the TMN chapter meeting for \$5 a plant. Or, 5 plants for \$20.

Bring cash or a check if you want to purchase any antelopehorn milkweeds (*Asclepias asperula*) and support the project. All proceeds go directly to the chapter and are earmarked for the pollinator project at City View!



\$5/plant or 5 plants for \$20.

Meet Alex in the Dillard parking lot around 6:40pm before the meeting on Tuesday, November 4. First come first served. Make checks out to the chapter.

Texas Water Specialist

Larry Snyder tells me we have several people who are participating as a Texas Water Specialist (TWS). For those who are new, the Texas Water Specialist is a separate designation you can earn. It is separate from, but intertwined with the Texas Master Naturalist program.

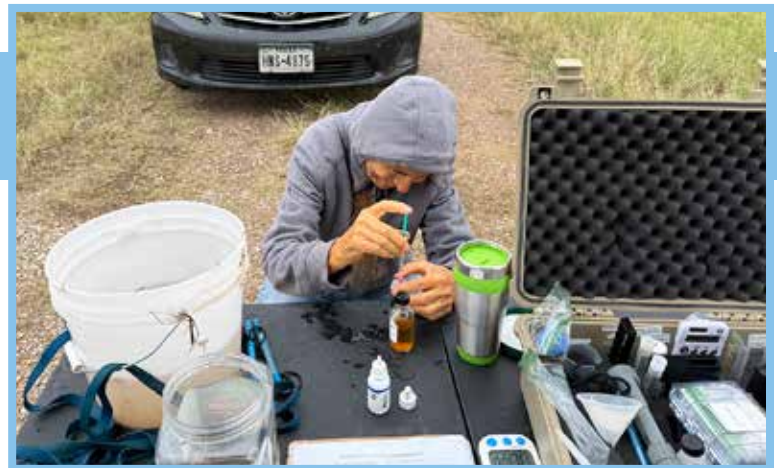
The purpose of the TWS program to develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats within their communities for the state of Texas. To read more about the program see <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>

If you would like to be a TWS, you are required to attend 8-hrs of approved AT and to do 10 hours of approved VT annually. The AT

is a one-time requirement, although it is a good idea to continue training during your time as a TWS. The 10-hr VT is an annual requirement (and your TWS hours also count for your TMN VT).

If you decide you would like to be a TWS, the first step is to take an AT class. After you complete 1 hour of any approved training, you will be able to start updating VT. HOWEVER, be sure VMS is updated to allow you to do so. You record your AT under AT:TX Waters Certification. This is the trigger to move you into the "In progress" designation so the Texas Water Specialist check box shows in VMS.

What counts as VT? Lake/river cleanups, erosion control, litter cleanup anywhere (like



Adopt-a-Highway), Stream Team, COCORAHS, water conservation projects. You need to describe clearly how the volunteer work contributes to these items. The state TWS office determines if the VT will count for TWS, not our chapter, so the description is very important. However, hours will still count for TMN VT.

You will receive a certificate once you have completed 8 hours of AT and 10 hours of VT. The certificate comes from the state office, so it may take a few months.

If you have any questions about TWS, contact Larry Snyder or Penny Miller.

Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick Up

Adopt A Highway trash pickup will be the week of November 10th through 15th with **Saturday, November 15th, a group pick up day.** Wear your orange vest and follow all safety rules. Trash bags, grabbers will be available. Meet at the intersection of FM 1954 and FM 2606, just north of the Lake Arrowhead State Park entrance.

Report as: RM: Litter/Trash/Clean Up



NOTE: We need a volunteer to coordinate the Adopt-A-Highway project beginning in 2026. Please, please consider volunteering for this VERY important job. If you would like more information as to what is required, see Lynn Seman and she will fill you in.



Please... Don't forget to turn in your monarch tags or data sheets to Laura at the November meeting. If you have already entered your data on the Monarch Watch website, **thank you!**

-- Coming Up In December -- *Ho! Ho! Ho!*

The holidays are right around the corner!

Please make plans to attend the chapter's

Annual Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
at 6:00 p.m.
at the Letter Carriers Union Hall
5310 Southwest Parkway
(next door to Wichita Valley Nursery
and Landscaping)

We will NOT be meeting at MSU in December.

Members are encouraged to bring finger food or desserts to share. Tea will be provided.

We will also have our famous or (infamous) **"Bad Santa" gift exchange.** It is a fun free-for-all, and to participate all you need to bring is an inexpensive gift (under \$20) to put under the tree. Gifts can be used, something you received but no longer want; reused, recycled books and field guides always cause a commotion. Participation in the gift exchange is not mandatory, and we invite all members and trainees to join us for a fun evening.

If you would like to volunteer to clean and decorate the hall before the party, we will meet Saturday, November 29, starting at 9 am.
(It shouldn't take more than an hour or so.)

December Hike

Please mark your calendars as we wrap up this year's Monthly Hike Adventures on

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Christmas in the Park
at Lake Arrowhead State Park
Starting at 6:00 PM

Stop by our campsite while enjoying the lights to celebrate this year's 10 county hikes!

More information to come!

In The Field



November 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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|----------|----------|---|
| 11/1 | 10:00 am | Monthly Hike - Young County |
| 11/1 | | Project Feeder Watch begins! Through 4/30/26
\$18 fee required to participate. |
| 11/4 | 7:00 pm | Chapter Meeting * NOTE NEW ROOM NUMBER!
<i>Program: Resource Share & Nature Trivia</i>
MSU, Dillard College of Business Building, Room 329.
Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for the Zoom link. |
| 11/8 | 8:00 am | Bird Outing: Lake Arrowhead State Park
2nd Saturday of each month. You must pay Park entry fees. |
| 11/10-15 | | Adopt a Highway Trash Pick Up: Pick up trash on your own during the week of November 10-15. Saturday, November 15th , will be a group pick up day. If you want to do a pickup on your own during the week, let Lynn know which section you'd like to do and what day you plan to go. Wear your orange vest and follow all safety rules. |
| 11/11 | 12:00 pm | TMNTuesday webinar |
| 11/11 | 5:30 pm | Chillicothe Family STEM Night: Help man the Chapter's booth at the Chillicothe Family STEM Night. Contact Lynn for more information. |
| 11/14 | 9:00 am | Texas Stream Team Water Testing Lake Wichita & Lucy Park
This event will be held the second Friday of each month, unless noted otherwise. |
| 11/15 | 9:00 am | Adopt a Highway Group Pick Up Day: Meet at the intersection of FM 1954 and FM 2606, just north of the Lake Arrowhead State Park entrance. |
| 11/17 | 7:00 pm | Wichita River Chapter of Native Plant Society: Women's Forum on Speedway. Speaker will be Pam Penick, author of <i>Lawn Gone</i> , <i>The Water-saving Garden</i> , and the new book <i>Gardens of Texas</i> . Entry fee required. |
| 11/21 | 9:00 am | Water Testing at Lake Gordon, Iowa Park: Meet at the parking lot just off of the access road near Taco Bell. 3rd Friday of each month. |
| 11/24 | 5:30 pm | Board of Director's Meeting: Wilson Office Supply, 8th and Lamar. All members are welcome to attend. |
| 11/29 | 9:00 am | Cleanup for Christmas Party, Bag Stuffing Party: Clean up the NALC Hall in preparation for the Christmas Party and stuff gift bags for "Christmas in the Park" event at Lake Arrowhead State Park. 5310 Southwest Parkway, next door to Wichita Valley Nursery. |
| 12/2 | 6:00 pm | Christmas Party Join us at the NALC Hall at 5310 Southwest Parkway, for "Cookies, Coffee, and Christmas". Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share. If you want to participate in the "Bad Santa" gift exchange, bring a gift under \$25. <i>You are not required to bring a gift if you do not want to participate.</i> |

The City Nature Challenge is a global, city-scale urban biodiversity BioBlitz framed as a friendly competition between participating areas.



Horned Lizard, @rlseman, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)



Harris's Sparrow, @lmc-, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)

**Data collection
Apr 25-28**

**Identifications
April 29-May 4**

By the numbers:

- 10 counties
- 3,052 observations
- More than 810 species recorded
- 78 observers
- 307 identifiers
- 96% of observations were verifiable



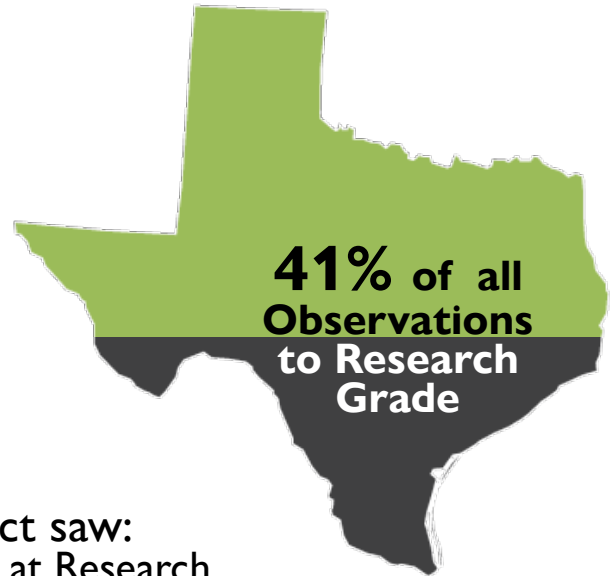
Wichita Falls-Rolling Plains Highlights

Globally, 669 cities from 62 countries participated in the 2025 City Nature Challenge. Wichita Falls ranked **#209 for Observations**, **#199 for Species**, and **#209 for Observers** globally, placing it in the top 29% of projects.

Wichita Falls– Rolling Plains

Cumulative Impact

41% of the observations recorded during the City Nature Challenge in the Wichita Falls area were **Research Grade** - observations of wild organisms with photo or sound vouchers of a quality to merit a species-level identification by the majority of identifiers.



During the 4 days of the event, the project saw:

- 12 Species of Greatest Conservation Need at Research Grade (see list)
- 39 new species records in iNaturalist
- 2% increase in iNaturalist observations for the project counties
- Project page: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2025-wichita-falls-texas-rolling-plains-chapter-tmn-region>



American Bumble Bee,
@cedarlili, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)



Woodhouse's Toad, @dhalter,
iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC-ND)



Grasshopper Sparrow, @rlseman,
iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)



Wichita Falls— Rolling Plains



Species of Greatest Conservation Need

American Bumble Bee, *Bombus pensylvanicus*
Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*
Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan*
Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*
Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*
Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*
Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*
Mapleleaf, *Quadrula quadrula*
Norther Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*
Plateau Milkvine, *Matelea edwardsensis*
Texas Horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma cornutum*
Woodhouse's Toad, *Anaxyrus woodhousii*