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

Rolling Plains Chapter

# Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

January 2026

*Happy New Year!*



## From The President

It's a wrap! 2025 was a good year for the chapter overall, with a large (for us) training class and lots of activities for members.

The board will be having its retreat in January at Lake Arrowhead to discuss future priorities and activities for the chapter. If you have suggestions, contact any of the board members. You are also welcome to attend the retreat on Saturday, January 24th at 10:00 AM in the Administration Building. This is your chapter, so we want to provide the training and activities that interest you.

Thanks to everyone for your contributions to the chapter and the community in 2025. I am looking forward to an active 2026. Start the year outside and attend one of the 1st Day hikes at Lake Arrowhead State Park. If you tell them at the gate you are helping Ranger L with the hikes, you can enter the park without paying the entry fee.

Just a reminder that we will be meeting in Bolin Science building beginning in January.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year.

– Penny

## MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, January 6 • 7:00 PM

MSUTexas: Bolin Science Hall, Room 221\*\*

\*\*Note New Building & Room Number!\*\*

Program: Michael Lopez presents

*A Special Rolling Plains Mammal*

A Zoom meeting link will be emailed before the meeting.

Request a link at [rollingplainschaptetmn@gmail.com](mailto:rollingplainschaptetmn@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook too!

# Climate Watch

The winter round of Climate Watch will be January 15 - February 15. Climate Watch is a field research program to help validate models of the impact of climate change on specific species of birds. The winter round focuses on Eastern Bluebirds. The field survey itself takes about 1.5 hours, but there is advance work that requires some setup that can take a couple of hours (partially for training and partially to set up your survey map). If you are interested in taking part, contact Penny Miller for more information and to set up an on-line training time.

# Dues and Tickets

Many thanks to all members that have already paid their 2026 dues and to those who have purchased Home & Garden Show tickets.

Count this as plea number 1.

Dues are payable now. Hope to see some of you at the January meeting and you can pay dues then. Dues are \$25 per person for the year.

If you can't make the meeting, you may send them to me via check made out to Rolling Plains Chapter TMN. My address is:

Larry Snyder  
1020 Pawhuska Ln  
Burkburnett TX 7354-2815

We also have Home & Garden show tickets for purchase. Tickets are \$8 each. I have 52 available and hope we can get them all sold.

Again, if you come to the January meeting, bring your money in the exact amount for the number of tickets you wish to purchase. OR write a check as above. I DO NOT have a change fund, but we always accept your donation. :)

If you can't make the meeting and still want tickets, I can mail them to you once I receive your payment. See above, same address.

I've asked before and I can't recall anyone ever telling me they choose to not remain a member. But, if you wish to let your membership lapse, please let me know and I'll quit bothering you!

Thanks, and Happy Holidays to those that celebrate,  
- Larry



A Benefit for the Arts

## Home & Garden Festival Volunteer Opportunities

The Home & Garden Festival is February 21 & 22 and we will have opportunities to volunteer in the Chapter Booth and for the Arts Council. Volunteers for the Arts Council will get a free t-shirt. If you are interested in volunteering for the Arts Council positions, please let a Board member know so they can turn in your name. A sign-up sheet will be available for the Chapter Booth spaces at the February meeting.



*Don't miss the Texas Master Naturalist booth at the 2026 Home & Garden Festival.  
Get your tickets today from Larry Snyder.  
Only \$8 each.*

# More Than a Cup of Joe

Article from Larry Snyder

I know that a lot of you are tea drinkers. But there must be some of you who, like me, enjoy a good cup of coffee. And if you're like me, you worry more than just a little about where your cup of coffee comes from.

In 2015, the retail value of the US coffee market was \$48 billion. The average American spends \$21 or more a week on coffee. And any coffee drinker knows there's a significant negative environmental impact for that "Cup of Joe." There's deforestation, habitat loss, high water usage, pollution from pesticides and processing, and substantial carbon emissions.

I knew about sustainable choices like Fair Trade or organic as being better for the environment, and I generally spent the extra buck or two to purchase them. However, I wasn't aware of "Shade-Grown Coffee." Shade-grown coffee supports biodiversity.

In the 1980s, Russell Greenburg, a Smithsonian ornithologist, conducted research in Latin America. He noticed an unusual shortage of migratory birds. Eventually, he confirmed that the drop was due to the agricultural industry's efforts to pressure farmers to ax trees.

One day, Greenburg and his crew drove around a valley in Mexico, and they noticed a lush forest in the distance. They discovered that it was actually a coffee farm where crops were grown under a canopy of shade

trees. When they looked up, the birds were "dripping from the trees."

From that, Greenburg proposed an idea: a Smithsonian certification that labels coffee grown under conditions favorable to birds, allowing farmers and roasters to charge a premium that covers the labor and production costs of transitioning to an organic, biodiverse farm.

Today, the Smithsonian certifies more than 4,000 farms in 14 countries and works with around 110 roasters.

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*The average American spends \$21 or more a week on coffee. And any coffee drinker knows there's a significant negative environmental impact for that "Cup of Joe."*

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You can find "Smithsonian Certified" coffee on Amazon if you search for it. I have not seen any such labeling in any local grocery stores. I'm not a real coffee snob, but I enjoy a good cup or two every day. It costs a little more than your Maxwell House, but I get a good feeling knowing I'm helping the birds in some small way.

The Smithsonian's Bird Friendly coffee program turns 25 this year. (Who knew?) Its headquarters are located in the Migratory Bird Center at the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, but its footprint is worldwide.

Buy Bird Friendly Coffee Online | Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute



*Are you ready to join the Bird Friendly® movement?  
Get started and find out how you can make a difference for birds at the link below.*

**<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly>**

# In The Field

*Christmas In The Park,  
Lake Arrowhead State Park*



*Paleo Day with Seymour Middle School at  
Whiteside Museum of Natural History*

# In The Field



*Paleo Day with Seymour  
Middle School at  
Whiteside Museum of  
Natural History*



*First Day Hike at Lake Arrowhead State Park*

# January 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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- Project Feeder Watch continues!** Through 4/30/26  
\$18 fee required to participate.
- 1/6 7:00 pm **Chapter Meeting Moving back to Bolin Science Hall!**  
*Program: Michael Lopez, A Special Rolling Plains Mammal*  
MSU, Dillard College of Business Building, **Room 221**.  
Contact [rollingplainschaptetmn@gmail.com](mailto:rollingplainschaptetmn@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.
- 1/9 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.
- 1/10 8:00 am **Bird Outing: Lake Arrowhead State Park**  
2nd Saturday of each month. You must pay Park entry fees.
- 1/13 12:00 pm **TMNTuesday webinar: The Greater Roadrunner**
- 1/16 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.
- 1/22 12:00 pm **Bring Back The Pollinators: How You Can Save The Bees:**  
Approved webinar. See website calendar for a link.
- 1/24 10:00 am **Board of Director's Retreat:** Lake Arrowhead State Park, Administration Building.
- 1/29 5:00 pm Newsletter deadline. Please send any photos or stories to Laura!
- 1/30 6:30 pm **Sip 'n Science:** River Bend Nature Center - "Bluebirds Not Blue Birds"  
A presentation by Donna & Chris Honkomp.  
Tickets \$25 per person/\$20 for RBNC members
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**Give The Gift of Nature**  
Gift Certificates now available for the  
**2026 Training Class**  
**Only \$120**  
See Terry McKee or Debra Halter  
for more details.

Need  
**SMORE**  
Fun in 2026?

**2026 TMN Monthly Adventures!**  
New location each month with...  
an education focus, a guided nature  
hike, and s'more fun than you can  
imagine!

Dates for Outdoor Adventures 2026

(Mark your calendar!)

January 1, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11,  
August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5

Join our Public Facebook  
page here to find out more!

Email us at [rollingplainschaptternmn@gmail.com](mailto:rollingplainschaptternmn@gmail.com)

## On The Bookshelf (Available on Amazon.com)

### Legends and Lore of Texas Wildflowers by Elizabeth Silverthorne

Every spring paintbrush decorates Texas with its colorful leaves, which look as if they have been dipped in paint. Native Americans reportedly made a weak tea from this flower to treat rheumatism, to use in food as a secret love charm, and to use as a poison for their enemies.

In *Legends and Lore of Texas Wildflowers*, Elizabeth Silverthorne offers a delightful selection of these botanical treasures explaining the significance and origin of the name, identifying where the flower and its family members are located, and colorfully describing each one's legends and uses. Complemented by eighteen delicate drawings, legends and facts about forty-four of Texas' most interesting flowers, such as the water lily, Queen Anne's Lace, poinsettia, dogwood, and morning glory, are delightfully detailed.

Violets have been used to cure cancer. Sunflowers were planted by nineteenth-century pioneers to protect families from malaria. Indian Blankets were used to increase fertility. Buttercups were used, in ancient time, to treat leprosy, plague, and insanity and, more recently, to remove warts or raise blisters.

Silverthorne's text offers folklore enthusiasts, gardeners, and Texas history buffs an enchanting reading experience and an invitation to discover the legends growing in their own backyard.

