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Chapter Website

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

Find us on Facebook too!

Rolling Plains Chapter

Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

March 2026

From The President

A lot is happening in our Chapter. Be sure to keep up with current projects and training opportunities on the events calendar on our website. If you miss it in your email, the information is also on the calendar on the website.

At the last board meeting, we approved two new projects.

Adopt-a-Trail. Our section of the trail is Hamilton Park to Jacksboro Highway. The first clean up is Saturday, March 21 beginning at 10:00 AM and more information is on our calendar.

Bluebird Trail. The City has agreed to allow us to put up and monitor bluebird boxes on the Circle Trail. We will be starting out small and will add boxes each year.

If you have ideas for projects, contact someone on the board for information about how to submit them for approval.

At last month's meeting, I mentioned that River Bend needs native plants for the conservatory, so for those of you who have excess plants in your wildscape, let me know and I will be happy to pick them up from you for planting.

Our Spring Training Class starts next week. It's a bit rocky since the VMS upgrade happened just prior. Please encourage anyone you know who wants to register to do so. We need a minimum of 10 people for the class to make. If they have any issues, getting registered, have them email or call Larry.

See you at the meeting on Tuesday. – Penny



Photo: Sandy Underwood

**DON'T FORGET YOUR 2026 DUES ARE NOW DUE! PLEASE SEE LARRY SNYDER TO PAY.
IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID, THANK YOU!**

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 3 • 7:00 PM
MSUTexas: Bolin Science Hall, Room 221

Program: Texas Audubon
A Zoom meeting link will be emailed before the meeting.
Request a link at rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com



To everyone who bought tickets or volunteered at the
Home & Garden Festival in February,

Thank You!

Thank you for helping us get the word out
about the Rolling Plains Chapter!

We appreciate your time and dedication.

2026 Spring Training – Deadline March 4th!

Time is running out! Our next training will begin March 5, 2026 and last through June 25, 2026. Classes will be on Thursday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 pm, at Midwestern State University's Bolin Science Hall, Room 221, with some Saturday field trips.

The cost for the training is \$120 and includes all classes/field trips, textbook, and all printed materials.

The ONLINE application deadline is March 4th, 2026. Please make checks payable to: Rolling Plains Chapter TMN and mail to Larry Snyder, c/o Rolling Plains Chapter TMN, 1020 Pawhuska Lane, Burkburnett, Texas 76354.

The TMN Training Class Applications must now be filled out online and can be found on the Rolling Plains Chapter website under the "Become a Master Naturalist" tab.

We need a minimum of 10 students for the training.

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.

Online Webinar
Speaker Series
#TMNTuesdays
March 2026

*"Generations in the Wild:
Understanding What Drives
Environmental Values
Across Age Groups"*

with

Amy Hays
For Science Sake Founder and Principal Consultant

March 10, 12pm CT

Current Members:

The first Training Class will be March 5th and we encourage you to come to the class, share your experiences and welcome our new trainees.

We also have opportunities for members to serve as Mentors to the new trainees. It's a great way to get some volunteer time and make a new friend or two! If you would like to serve as a mentor, please let one of the Board members know.



Texas Master Naturalist Rolling Plains Chapter Training Class 2026

**APPLY
NOW!**

**Classes run March 5 – July 26,
2026**

Thursday evening 7-9 pm

3 Saturday Field Trips

Cost \$120 (includes textbook)

Topics include:

- Weather/Climate
- Ecology
- Ecological Management
- Geology
- Waterways
- Ornithology
- Botany
- Ichthyology
- Palenontology
- And more



SCAN HERE

Applications available at
txmn.org/rollingplains

- Do you...?
- Like the outdoors, native plants, nature, and wildlife?
- Have a passion for habitat restoration and community outreach?
- Interested in citizen science, hiking, and outdoor activities?
- Love sharing your passion for nature and the outdoors with others?

Then the Texas Master Naturalist Program is for you!

The Rolling Plains Chapter serves Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young counties.

Last day to join the 2026 Class – March 4th



For more information, contact:
rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com

Or visit us at txmn.org/rollingplains

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Book Review: by Kay Murphy

"Gardens of Texas: Visions of Resilience from the Lone Star State"

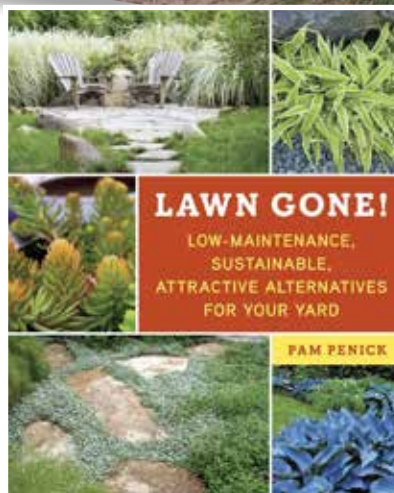
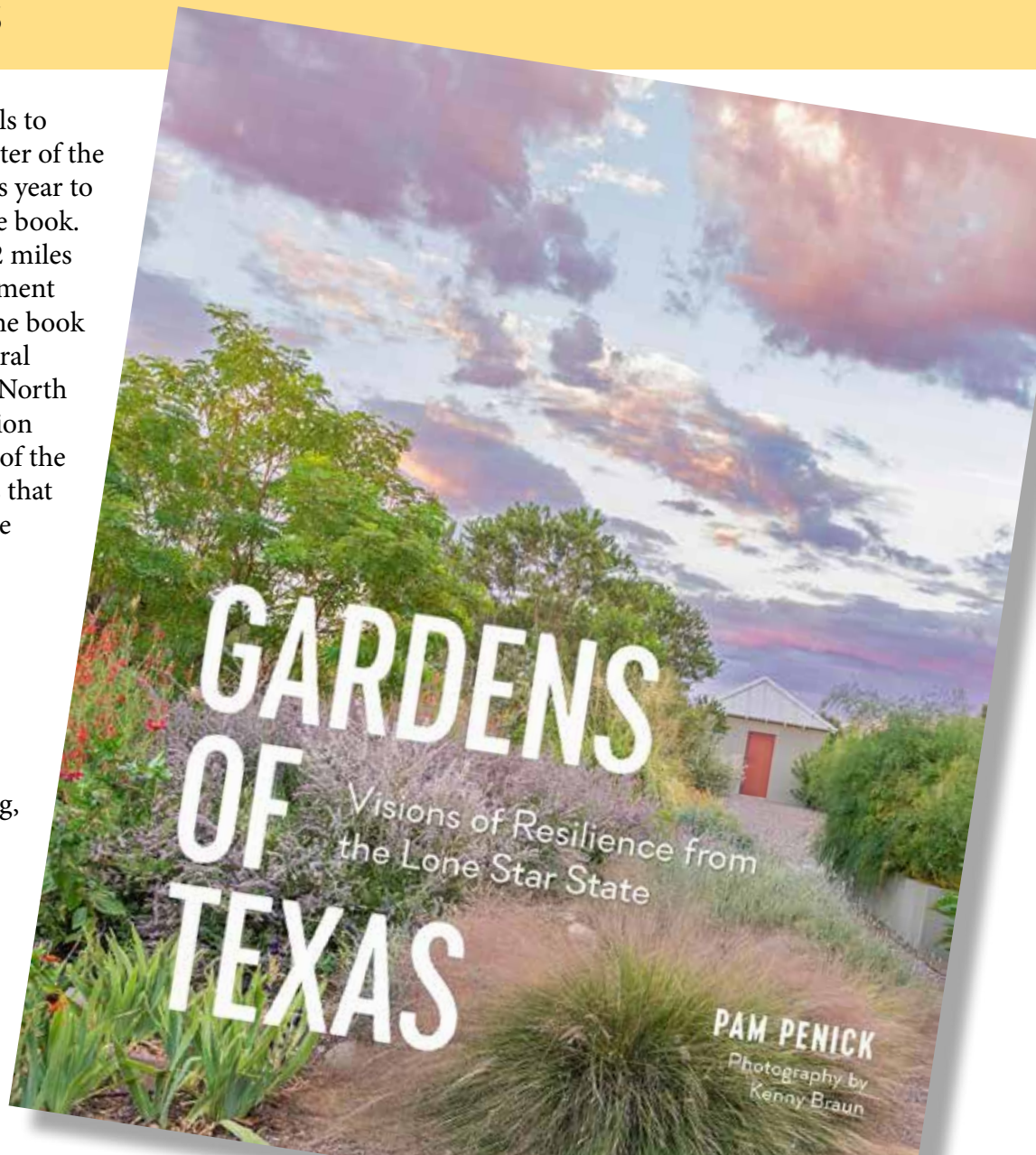
By Pam Penick, 2025

Pam Penick came to Wichita Falls to speak to the Wichita River Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas this year to present this beautiful and unique book. In six months, she traveled 6,742 miles across the state of Texas to document twenty-seven private gardens. The book is divided into five regions: Central Texas, West Texas, South Texas, North Texas, and East Texas. Each section describes the climate challenges of the region and the specific strategies that each gardener used address those challenges.

Each garden shows how each gardener chose plants to work with the ecosystem rather than fight against it. Pam gives plant suggestions and design ideas to "try this at home." Rain capturing, planting for pollinators, and drought tolerant designs are just a few of her topics. She recommends both native and non native plants for climate resilience, but recognizes how native plants nurture wildlife in each region.

The layout of the book is absolutely wonderful showing the character and scale of each garden. There are over 600 photographs done by Austin-based Kenny Braun. This book is not just beautiful, it truly captures the creativity of these Texas gardeners in meeting the demands of the extreme environment in Texas. I highly recommend this book for yourself or any gardening friend!

Pam's previous books are *Lawn Gone!* (2013) and *The Water Saving Garden* (2016). She also has an award-winning blog - *Digging: Cool Gardens in a Hot Climate*. <https://www.penick.net/digging/>



Volunteer Opportunities at Whiteside

Spring is here and that means it's
FIELD TRIP TIME!!!

Would you like to help with educational
field trips to be held at Whiteside Museum
this Spring? With kids from all over this
part of Texas headed to the Museum, there are
LOTS of opportunities to volunteer!

Dates range from March 4th through May 8th
and volunteers will be working with large and
small groups of children.

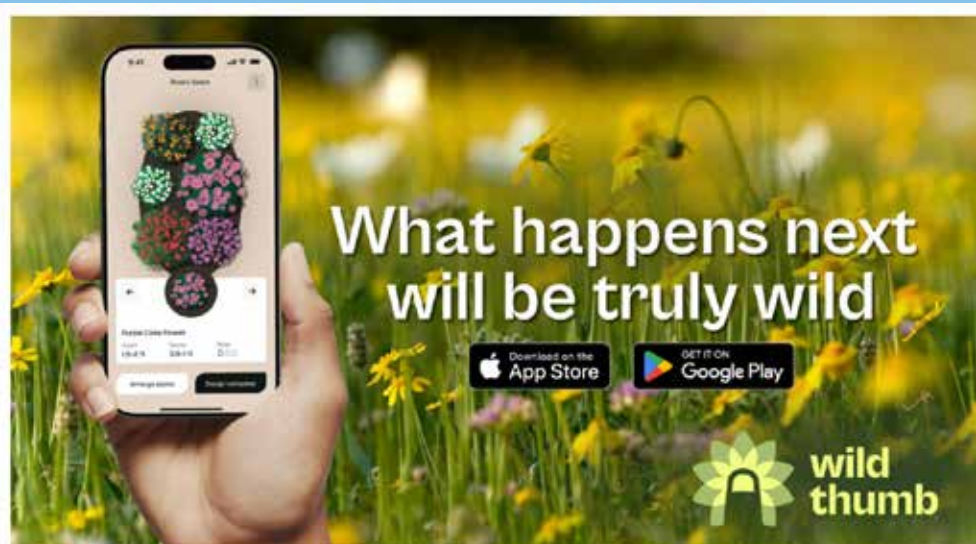


Positions Available:
Permian Tour Guide
Bingo Game Leader
Fish Hall Guide
Live Animal Person
Paleo Lab Person
Mammal Hall Guide
Dinosaur Hall Guide

You can do one day or all of the
days - whatever you can do is
very much appreciated.

If you have any questions or if
you would like to know more,
please contact **Lynn Seman**
and she will get you on the list.
rlynnseman@gmail.com
940-867-3006





Already dreaming of spring blooms? There's an app for that!

Introducing Wild Thumb—the only native planting app made just for Texas. Available for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices, download the app today and let's grow wild!

This free app from Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) will help you turn your outdoor space into a wild new habitat for pollinators. Whether you want to add a few potted plants to your porch, create a new garden bed, or grow a whole pocket prairie, Wild Thumb will help you select the best native plants or seed mixes for your ecoregion based on your zip code.

Wild Thumb's interactive design tool lets you drag and drop plants onto plots of all shapes and sizes to reimagine any space. With step-by-step guidance, watering reminders and freeze alerts, and a directory of Texas nurseries that sell native plants, Wild Thumb takes the guesswork out of creating and maintaining a blooming, buzzing outdoor space that will have pollinators all a-flutter.

Now's the perfect time to put TPWF's Wild Thumb app to work and start planning, prepping, planting, and growing native Texas plants for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and a plethora of pollinators. Download the app today!

It's all part of TPWF's Pollinators & Prairies program. Powered by Presenting Sponsor H-E-B Our Texas, Our Future and Contributing Sponsor Phillips 66, the program encourages Texans to create native habitat in yards and communities across the state. Wild Thumb was developed in collaboration with Outside Studio, with assistance from the Native Plant Society of Texas and professional botanists.



Scan the QR to download!



Out and About



At the Science Fair



A beautiful day for the February Adventure on the Circle Trail





City of Wichita Falls Recreation
and Texas Parks & Wildlife

Presents



Kid's Fishing Rodeo



Date:

Sat. Mar. 7th



Time:

Starting at 10AM-
12pm

Lots of
Fun
Ages 2-16

Plum Lake

1702 Sheppard Access Rd.

FREE EVENT

Prizes for Smallest & Largest Trout
Smallest & Largest other Species
Based on length of catch
In 3 different age groups

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Questions??

940-761-7490

Wichita Falls
TEXAS
PARKS & RECREATION



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.

		Project Feeder Watch continues! Through 4/30/26
3/1 - 3/7		Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up Pick a day, pick a section, and email Lynn Seman to tell her which section and day you choose.
3/2	3:30 pm	City View Science Club meeting: Lynn needs assistance with this event at City View Elementary. Involves talking to small groups about native plants, Texas animals, and adaptations. Lynn will give you more information if you reply that you can help. Contact Lynn Seman for more information or to help. rlynnseman@gmail.com
3/3	7:00 pm	Chapter Meeting <i>Program: Texas Audubon</i> MSU, Dillard College of Business Building, Room 221. Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for the Zoom link.
3/4	TBD	Whiteside Museum Student Field Trip: Helpers needed for a 3rd Grade class field trip at Whiteside Museum of Natural History in Seymour. Contact Lynn Seman if interested in helping. rlynnseman@gmail.com
3/6	7:00 am	3Rivers Ranch: Water testing, game camera checks, and pollinator garden checks. Contact Lynn for more information. rlynnseman@gmail.com
3/7	7:00 am	Monthly Adventure Monthly hike to Wildcatter Ranch in Graham, TX. You must register! Terrain is difficult in places, but there are flatter options available.
3/7	10:00 am	Plum Lake Fishing Rodeo: Assist the Texas Inland Fisheries crew during the Kid Fishing Rodeo by signing up registrants, helping with measuring, etc. Contact Wes before the event starts on the north side of the lake to be assigned duties.
3/7	12:00 pm	Plum Lake Cleanup Clean up around Plum Lake right after the fishing event.
3/9-13	8:30 am	River Bend Nature Center - STEAM Spring Break Camp Volunteer for one day, multiple days, or the full week, whatever fits your schedule. Assist with guided tours of their educational exhibits and spaces, nature interpretation and answering visitor questions. Contact Jennica at jen@riverbendnaturecenter.org
3/10	12:00 pm	TMNTuesday: Generations in the Wild: Understanding What Drives Environmental Values Across Age Group
3/12	6:30 pm	Duck Walk: A Birder's Improbable Path to Hunting as Conservation Approved webinar. See website calendar for link
3/13	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.

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March Events

Continued

Continued from page 9

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| 3/14 | 8:00 am | Bird Outing: Lake Arrowhead State Park
2nd Saturday of each month. You must pay Park entry fees. |
| 3/18 | 6:00 pm | Rethinking Horticulture with Real Ecology
Approved webinar. See website calendar for a link |
| 3/20 | TBD | Whiteside Museum Student Field Trip
Help needed for an elementary class field trip at Whiteside Museum of Natural History in Seymour, Texas. Contact Lynn for more information. rlynnseman@gmail.com |
| 3/20 | 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. |
| 3/21 | 10:00 am | Trash Clean Up along the Circle Trail **New project**
Adopt-a-Trail trash clean up along the Circle Trail between Hamilton Blvd and Jacksboro Hwy. Meet at Hamilton Park. Trash bags and grabbers will be provided. |
| 3/25 | TBD | Whiteside Museum Student Field Trip
Help needed for a second grade class field trip at Whiteside Museum of Natural History. Contact Lynn for more information. rlynnseman@gmail.com |
| 3/25 | 10:00 am | Plant Party # 22: Native Plants and Insects
Approved webinar. See website calendar for link & information. |
| 3/25 | 11:00 am | Lunch & Learn: Hawks on the Wing
Approved webinar. See website calendar for link & information. |
| 3/27 | TBD | Whiteside Museum Student Field Trip
Help needed for a second grade class field trip at Whiteside Museum of Natural History. Contact Lynn for more information. rlynnseman@gmail.com |
| 3/30 | 5:30 pm | Board of Director's Meeting: Wilson's Office Supply, 8th & Lamar St |
| 4/1 | 5:00 pm | Newsletter deadline. No foolin'!
Please send any photos or stories to Laura! gillis.laura5319@gmail.com |

*Hope to see you
somewhere on the trail!*