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Chapter Website

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

Find us on Facebook too!

Rolling Plains Chapter

Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

August 2026

From The President

August is usually a pretty slow month for our chapter--it's just too hot for most of us to be outside for long. That being said, the chapter's monthly adventure is at Copper Breaks on Saturday. This is a nice park with good hiking and lots of horned lizards. Lynn has scheduled the hikes early and late to avoid the worst of the heat.

Don't forget to bring your scavenger hunt cards to the meeting for a chance to win extra monarch tags. It won't be long before the monarchs come through. If you can't make the meeting, you can scan and email your cards to Laura.

Although it seems early in the year, it won't be long before elections take place. Our chapter has staggered 2-year terms for continuity. If you are interested in holding an office, call me. The openings are President and Treasurer/VMS Admin. Larry and I are both willing to serve again, but we are also willing to let someone else have a turn, so don't be shy.

See you all Tuesday night.

– Penny

Annual Meeting Contests

You don't have to attend the annual meeting to take part in the various contests. There are both chapter and individual contests. The photo contests always draw a lot of entries, but there are also other categories as well. Photos have to be taken in Texas and must have been taken in 2026. Entry rules are on the state website at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2026-annual-meeting/>.

Entries are due by 5 PM on September 1.

See page 4 for more info.



MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 • 7:00 PM

MSUTexas: Bolin Science Hall, Room 221

Program: Sandy Underwood: Public Spaces In Texas

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

Don't forget to turn in your Scavenger Hunt Cards at the August Meeting.

Don't Miss This Adventure!

Presented by the Rolling Plains Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist

MONTHLY ADVENTURE

August 1, 2026

Copper Breaks State Park



8-10 AM

Horned Lizard Survey

Hike along the beautiful Bull Canyon Trail looking for our state reptile!

3-4 PM

Horned Lizard Table

Enjoy an informative come-and-go table inside the Park Headquarters!

**7:30-9
PM**

Sunset Horned Lizard Stroll

Join us for a leisurely stroll starting at Kiowa Campground looking for lizards!

*3 opportunities, 1 day!
Pick your adventure or join us
for all 3!*

Park entry fee is \$3/person

Register here:



Bluebird Box Project

The Rolling Plains Chapter is currently accepting monetary donations for Bluebird Boxes that will be installed along the Circle Trail in Wichita Falls. The boxes will be installed, maintained and monitored by the Rolling Plains Chapter. Please see Larry Snyder if you would like to donate to this project. No donation is too small!

This will be an ongoing project that could last many years. If you would like to help with the installation, maintenance or monitoring, please see Penny Miller for more information.

Donate or volunteer today!



Photo from the Texas Bluebird Society



Online Webinar
Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

**August
2026**

**"State Wildlife Action
Plan: How You Can Shape
Wildlife and Habitat
Conservation in Texas"**



with

Kelly Simon
TPWD Conservation Strategy Coordinator

August 11, 12pm CT

Join Us For Our August TMNTuesday!

State Wildlife Action Plan: How You Can Shape Wildlife and Habitat Conservation in Texas

Speaker: Kelly Simon, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Conservation Strategy Coordinator

Date: August 11, 2026, at 12PM CT

Texas Parks & Wildlife has launched a fully online State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) app that helps turn complex species and habitat data into clear next steps for research and on-the-ground implementation.

In this demo, we'll walk through the app's features and functions. Whether you're designing a study, planning implementation, or want to contribute information, the SWAP app offers a straightforward way to match your work with Texas' highest conservation priorities.

TMN 2026 Annual Meeting – Photo, Art & Media Contest *Entry Submissions Open August 1*

We are excited to once again host the annual **Texas Master Naturalist Photo, Art & Media Contest** as part of the 2026 Annual Meeting in Waco!

Each year, this contest provides an opportunity for Texas Master Naturalist members and chapters to showcase the photographs, artwork, publications, and memories that capture the spirit of our program. Whether you've photographed a stunning landscape, documented wildlife in the field, created nature-inspired artwork, or helped produce your chapter's newsletter or scrapbook, we encourage you to share your work with fellow naturalists from across the state.

The 2026 contest will once again be hosted virtually by the Heart of Texas, Central Texas, and Rio Brazos Chapters, allowing members from across Texas to participate and vote.

- **Photographers:** Start sorting through your image collections now! Photo categories include Plants or Fungi, Wildlife: Birds, Wildlife: Insects & Arachnids, Wildlife: Reptiles & Amphibians, Scenic, Detail & Macro, Digitally Enhanced Photos, and more. New for 2026, we have added a dedicated Wildlife: Mammals category, giving your favorite images of Texas mammals their own opportunity to shine.
- **Artists:** We welcome entries in Paintings & Drawings, Sculptures, Carvings & Ceramics, and Sewing & Stitchery categories.
- **Chapters:** Don't forget to showcase your chapter's accomplishments through Newsletter, Scrapbook, and Brochure submissions.

Any current Texas Master Naturalist member can submit entries to the contests. Contest entries will be accepted August 1, 2026, through September 1, 2026, and winners will be selected by registered Annual Meeting attendees and announced during the Annual Meeting Contest Awards Ceremony.

The official contest rules and category descriptions are now available on the Annual Meeting website. We encourage all prospective participants to review the rules carefully and begin preparing their entries now. Submission links and entry forms will be posted when the contest officially opens on August 1, 2026.



Contest Rules & Information: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2026-photo-art-media-contest/>

In the meantime, start digging through those photo files, organizing your artwork, and selecting your chapter's best publications. We can't wait to see the incredible talent, creativity, and conservation stories from across the Texas Master Naturalist Program!

Stay tuned for additional details as we get closer to the opening of submissions.

Thanks,
Texas Master Naturalist Program

Be Prepared!

**Registration for the 2026
TMN Annual Meeting Opens
Saturday, August 1, 2026
at 8:00 AM**

Check out the TMN website to get ready.

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2026-annual-meeting/>

In The Field



What a great turnout for the July Adventure at the Museum of Art at MSU! Participants started the evening with a walk around the lake led by Jason Cooper of MSU and ended at the Museum for an evening celebrating "Moth Week."

Special thanks to Jason Cooper and to Matthew Bailey and the staff of the museum for staying open late and giving everyone a great place to cool off.

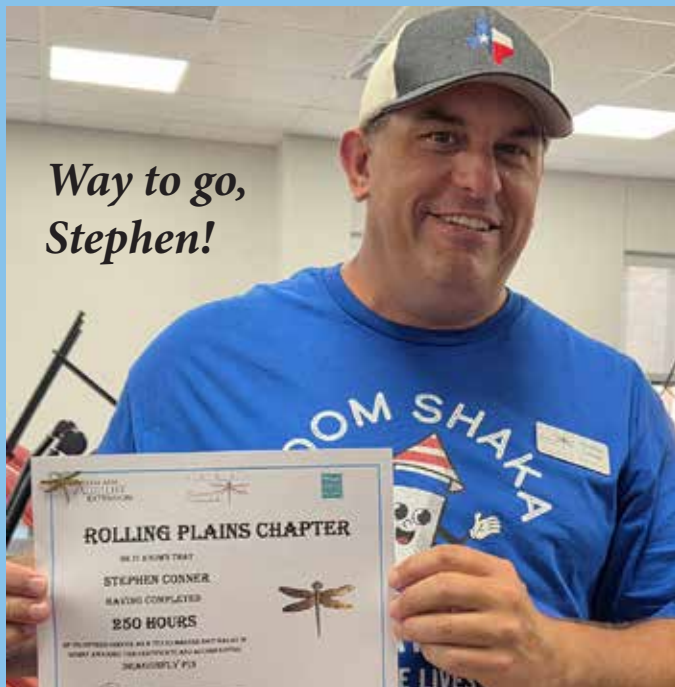


In The Field

*Thanks to everyone who helped with projects this month.
We appreciate your hard work!*



Milestones



*Way to go,
Stephen!*



*Check out the temperature at the Quail site....
Everyone stay hydrated and safe out there!*

August Events

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Events and opportunities are subject to change at any time.

Watch your email for the latest changes and updates.

- | | | |
|------|----------|--|
| 8/1 | | August Monthly Adventure: Copper Breaks State Park
Join Master Naturalist, Lynn Seman at any or all of these events today.
8:00 am: Bull Canyon Trail Hike
3:00 pm: Horned Lizard Presentation at Headquarters (<i>air conditioned!</i>)
7:30 pm: Evening outing at the Kiowa Campground
Park fees required. |
| 8/4 | 7:00 pm | August Chapter Meeting: Program: Sandy Underwood - Public Lands in Texas. MSU, in Bolin Science Hall, room 221. Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link.
** Don't forget to bring your Scavenger Hunt Cards! ** |
| 8/8 | 8:00 am | Bird Outing: Lake Arrowhead State Park. This outing happens on the 2nd Saturday of each month. You must pay Park entry fees. |
| 8/14 | 12:00 pm | TMNTuesday: This month's topic is: State Wildlife Action Plan: How You Can Shape Wildlife and Habitat Conservation in Texas. Speaker: Kelly Simon, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Conservation Strategy Coordinator. This is the only webinar that you can count watching the recording. |
| 8/14 | 8:00 am | Texas Stream Team Water Testing: **NEW TIME** Meet at the boat ramp at Lake Wichita off of Kemp Blvd (near across from the State Hospital). Then move to Lucy Park, just inside the park near River Bend Nature Center. Contact Carl Brown for more information. |
| 8/19 | 12:00 pm | Developing a MOTUS Wildlife Tracking Network Webinar
Part of the Texas Wildlife Diveristy webinar Series. See weekly events calendar for more information and a link. |
| 7/17 | 8:00 am | Water Testing at Lake Gordon, Iowa Park: **NEW TIME**
Join Penny Miller at Lake Gordon for water testing. Meet at the parking lot just off of the access road near Taco Bell. Held on 3rd Friday of each month. |
| 8/24 | 5:30 pm | Board of Director's Meeting: Meet at Wilson Office Supply, 8th and Lamar. All members are welcome to attend. |
| 8/26 | 5:00 pm | Newsletter deadline.
Please send any photos or stories to Laura! gillis.laura5319@gmail.com |
| 9/1 | 7:00 pm | July Chapter Meeting: Programs: Monarchs - Mike Lopez and Monarch Tagging - Laura Gillis. MSU, in Bolin Science Hall, room 221. Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link. |
| 9/12 | TBA | Sikes Lake Cleanup: Our annual trash pickup at MSU Sikes Lake. More information to come. |