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Find us on Facebook too!

Rolling Plains Chapter

Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

July 2026

From The President

Summer has certainly arrived. Although we still have outdoor activities scheduled, most are early in the morning because of the heat. However, just a reminder to always have water with you, no matter the time. A hat and sunscreen are also good ideas.

Just a few reminders. First, the annual meeting in October is coming up quickly. The full agenda should be out by next week. Be sure to look it over as there are many classes and field trips. The registration will open on August 1 at 8:00 AM. Field trips generally fill up within a couple of hours. I understand the registration cost will be lower than last year, because they elected not to provide breakfast since most of the hotels do. The state has provided us a code for one person to get \$100 off of their registration. I need to know who all will commit to go so we can determine who will get the discount. Since the code has to be used at the time of registration, let me know before the end of July, and I'll put your name into the hat for a drawing. These grants are available from the proceeds from the silent auction at last year's conference.

Next, we voted to donate \$150 to River Bend Nature Center a few months ago to purchase native plants for the conservatory. A few of us assisted in planting those plants in May. If you get a chance to go to RBNC, check out the conservatory; the plants are filling out nicely.

Third, we applied for a small grant from Southwest Rotary to assist with purchasing supplies for education, primarily at City View for their water

testing. We were approved for \$250, which is enough to take care of this expense. If you know anyone in that Rotary Club, please tell them thank you for their support.

Finally, we decided last month at the meeting to forego Texoma Gives. Our chapter will still be listed as a participant, but the link on the KFDX website just takes people to our web page. Since all of the donations we received last year were from our chapter members, we decided just to ask you to donate directly. You can give cash or a check to Larry at one of the meetings or you can mail it to the chapter at 1300 Lamar St, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. We had decided to use any donations from this fundraiser for the bluebird boxes on the Circle Trail. Any donation amount will be welcome; however, if you would like to sponsor a box, a \$100 donation will ensure "Sponsored by YOUR NAME" is on the box. The target to install the first few is September/October.

I look forward to seeing you next Tuesday. Here's hoping the tech works for us--I've been looking forward to learning more about Bats!

– Penny

MEETING NOTICE

**Tuesday, July 7, 2026
7:00 PM**

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

Program: Michael Lopez: Bats

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

Adopt A Highway Clean Up July 6 – 11, 2026

It's time again to clean up our section of FM 1954 near Lake Arrowhead State Park!

Pick your day (or days!) or join Lynn on Wednesday, July 8 at sunrise (6:30 am) to pick up trash.

Please bring your own grabber if you have one, dress for the weather and the weeds, (hats, light clothing and bug spray). A reflective vest is highly recommended also.

Please let Lynn know what days and what track(s) you would like to work. Thank you!

*Choose your track (right)
and your day for the
Summer Adopt A Highway
Clean Up*



Join Us For Our July TMNTuesday!

True Bugs: A Look at the Order Hemiptera

Speaker: Wizzie Brown, Executive Director,
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Date: July 14, 2026, at 12:00 PM CT

Description: While all bugs are insects, not all insects are bugs. If this is a bit confusing, join us for TMNTuesday for a presentation on True Bugs! We'll cover what makes a bug a bug as well as common families so that you can learn how to identify these wonderful animals!

To register, visit:
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>

Online Webinar
Speaker Series
#TMNTuesdays **July 2026**

*"True Bugs: A
Look at the
Order
Hemiptera"*

with

Wizzie Brown
AgriLife Senior Extension Program Specialist

July 14, 12pm CT

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

Photo by Lynn Seman



Upcoming Special Opportunities

July 4: "Red, White & Blue" Birds - 8:00 am
Join Ranger L at Lake Arrowhead State Park to look for red, white, and blue birds. Park fees apply.

July 4: America 250: Horned Lizards - 11:00am to 1:00pm Help work a table with activities for a special event at Lake Arrowhead State Park, Equestrian area –contact Lynn or Ranger L. Information found here: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/lake-arrowhead/america-250-horned-lizards>

July 14: Angler Education Outreach at Wichita Falls Parks and Rec Summer Camp (contact Lynn for times and details). Need people at different fishing stations – casting, knot tying, fish anatomy, and more!

July 25: Monthly Adventure/ Moth Week Event at MSU Museum of Art at MSU – An evening event with a chance to stroll along Sikes Lake before gathering under the stars and black lights to look for moths and other nighttime insects. More details coming soon.

August 1: Monthly Adventure to Copper Breaks State Park - Horned Lizards! Two hikes will be available: 8:00 am and 7:30 pm along with an indoor program on Texas Horned Lizards at the Headquarters at 3:00 pm.

In The Field

*Thanks to everyone who helped at the Graham Library!
Below, Penny is enjoying some bird watching from the
Library's Indoor Bird Watching Station.*



Teaching the teachers at Region 9



In The Field

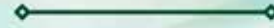


Always a great day at the Mark Howell Memorial Kid Fish Contest, Lake Arrowhead State Park



Thank You!

Lake Arrowhead State Park would like to thank the following for providing prizes and assistance for our annual kid fish and adult rough fish contest!



The Friends of Lake Arrowhead State Park
The Texas Master Naturalist: Rolling Plains Chapter
Inland Fisheries of Wichita Falls District
RV EMT LLC for trophies
Bird Dog Bait for worms

Berend Turf and Tractor
Chick-Fil-A
United Supermarkets
Marksman Firearms & Outfitters
Smith's Garden Town
Smoothie King
Starbucks
Texas Roadhouse
Walmart



In The Field



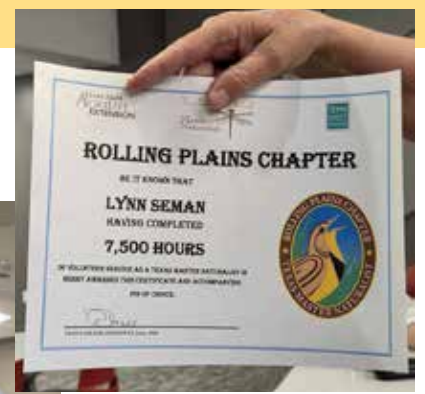
Climate Watch



Above: The water testing crew

Left: Helping with Whiteside Museum of Natural History programs

Milestones & Awards



Congratulations to all!

The 2026 TMN Annual Meeting Agenda is now available!

We're excited to share this year's tentative agenda, featuring 124 classroom presentations and 28 field sessions covering a wide variety of natural resource topics presented by experts from across Texas. Whether you're interested in wildlife, botany, geology, water resources, land stewardship, citizen science, or conservation education, there truly is something for everyone.

Along with the agenda launch, we've also updated the 2026 Annual Meeting website<<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2026-annual-meeting/>> with registration pricing, lodging information, FAQs, parking details, contests, and other planning resources to help you prepare for this year's conference.

Because registration doesn't open until Saturday, August 1, at 8:00 a.m. CDT, you'll have a full month to explore the agenda, plan your schedule, and decide which registration option best fits your plans.

Please note: The agenda is considered tentative until registration opens. Session times, speakers, and offerings may still be adjusted as we finalize event details and logistics.

2026 Registration Pricing

Early Registration (through August 31)

- Full Event: \$380
- Two Day (Friday & Saturday): \$355
- One Day (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday): \$205

Standard Registration (September 1–30)

- Full Event: \$430
- Two Day (Friday & Saturday): \$405
- One Day (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday): \$255

Guest Registration

- Meals Only: \$300
- Awards Dinner Only: \$75

A quick note about meals: Registration includes the conference meals, coffee service, and refreshment breaks associated with your selected registration package. Breakfast is not included with registration this year; however, many of our contracted hotels offer complimentary breakfast for overnight guests.

Why do we release the agenda and registration pricing before registration opens? So you have plenty of time to plan! When registration opens, you'll be able to reserve

your seat in your preferred classroom and field sessions. Last year, 65% of all registrations were completed on opening day, and many sessions with limited seating filled quickly.

Here are a few tips to help you prepare:

- **Explore the agenda.** Review the sessions ahead of time and make note of the classroom and field sessions that interest you most.
- **Set aside a few minutes.** Registration includes attendee information, registration type, session selections, optional purchases, and checkout.
- **Have a backup plan.** Rank your favorite sessions so you'll have alternatives if a limited-capacity session fills before you register.
- **Don't stress!** With more than 150 classroom and field session opportunities, you'll have plenty of outstanding options to choose from.

We can't wait to welcome you to Waco, October 22–25, 2026, for another unforgettable Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting filled with learning, exploration, and fellowship.

Start planning today!

Browse the tentative agenda and session descriptions:

<https://cvent.me/1xq4az>

View registration pricing, lodging, FAQs, parking, contests, and other conference information:

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

We look forward to seeing you in Waco!

-Texas Master Naturalist Program



*Will we see
YOU
in Waco?*

*Start
planning
today!*

July Events

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Events and opportunities are subject to change at any time.

Watch your email for the latest changes and updates.

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|------|----------|--|
| 7/4 | 8:00 am | "Red, White & Blue" Birds: Join Ranger L at Lake Arrowhead State Park to look for red, white, and blue birds. Park fees apply. |
| 7/4 | 11:00 am | America 250: Horned Lizards: Celebrate the 250th anniversary of American Independence with the Texas Horned Lizard. Help with our activities for the public during this special event. Lake Arrowhead State Park Equestrian Trail/Pavillion (first right after entering the park). Park fees apply. |
| 7/7 | 6:30 pm | How the Texas Litter Database Supports Conservation Action
This webinar will introduce how litter data collected across Texas can be used to identify trends, inform resource management, and support protection of outdoor recreation areas. Approved Webinar. Postponed from June 16th. |
| 7/7 | 7:00 pm | July Chapter Meeting: Program: Mike Lopez on Bats. MSU, in Bolin Science Hall, room 221. Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link. |
| 7/8 | 6:30 am | Adopt-a-Highway Trash Clean Up: by Lake Arrowhead State Park. Bring your grabber if you have one. Please contact Lynn for more information. rlynnseman@gmail.com |
| 7/10 | 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. |
| 7/11 | 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. |
| 7/14 | TBD | Angler Education and Outreach: Help needed at the Wichita Falls Parks and Recreation Summer Camp at different fishing stations – casting, knot tying, fish anatomy, and more. Contact Lynn for information and times. rlynnseman@gmail.com |
| 7/14 | 12:00 pm | TMNTuesday: This month's topic is: True Bugs: A Look at the Order Hemiptera. Speaker: Wizzie Brown, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts. This is the only webinar that you can count watching the recording. |
| 7/15 | 6:30 pm | Conservation Opportunity Areas of Texas: The Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) of Texas model highlights potentially important habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other conservation priorities in the state. Approved webinar. |
| 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. |

Continued on page 9

July Events Continued

Events: Continued from page 8

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| 7/25 | TBD | Monthly Adventure: Mothing Event at MSU Museum of Art
Join Chapter members for a stroll around Sikes Lake followed by nighttime observations of moths and other insects drawn to UV light. Evening event. More information to come. |
| 7/27 | 5:30 pm | Board of Director's Meeting: Meet at Wilson Office Supply, 8th and Lamar. All members are welcome to attend. |
| 7/29 | 5:00 pm | Newsletter deadline.
Please send any photos or stories to Laura! gillis.laura5319@gmail.com |
| 8/1 | Various | Monthly Adventure: to Copper Breaks State Park - Horned Lizards!
Two hikes will be available: 8:00 am and 7:30 pm along with an indoor program on Texas Horned Lizards at the Headquarters at 3:00 pm. |
| 8/4 | 7:00 pm | July Chapter Meeting: Program: Public Land Uses - Sandy Underwood
Don't forget to turn in your Scavenger Hunt Cards for a chance at your very own Monarch Tagging Kit (25 tags you can call your own).
MSU, in Bolin Science Hall, room 221. Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link. |



Top row: Critters from the Quail Surveys – Jackrabbit, Bob White Quail and Texas Horned Lizard - photos by Sandy Underwood and Lynn Seman.

Left: From Kay Murphy's garden. Photo by Larry Snyder.

Right: From Larry & Judy Snyder's garden. Photo by Larry Snyder.

