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

Find us on Facebook too!

Rolling Plains Chapter

Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

September 2026

From The President

Usually, I am all excited about getting to September because nature starts to dial back the heat. Looking at my weather app, it appears that isn't going to be the case for at least a couple of weeks yet.

We have several projects coming up. We kick off the month with our monthly adventure focusing on grasses. Our annual Sikes Lake Cleanup with MSU is Saturday, September 12. We also have some exciting projects shaping up--more information at our meeting next week. Watch the calendar for details on these and other events.

If you are planning to enter any of the contests for the annual meeting, you need to have your entries in by September 1. You do not need to attend the annual meeting to participate. Details about entry requirements for individual contests are at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2026-photo-art-media-contest/>

Just a reminder that we are fundraising to establish a bluebird trail along the Circle Trail. Give your donations to Larry at our meeting or mail him a check. Any amount helps. A donation of \$100 will get your name on a box as a sponsor. If you have a location you would like to see a box, let me know. – Penny



Photo by Lynn Seman

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 • 7:00 PM

MSUTexas: Bolin Science Hall, Room 247*

Programs: Monarchs - Mike Lopez; Monarch Tagging - Laura Gillis

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

***NEW ROOM NUMBER!!!**
We will be in Bolin Room 247

Milestones & Certifications



Linda Price has
re-certified for 2026.
And, after many months
of patiently waiting,
Carl Brown finally
received his
4,000 hours pin!

Congratulations,
Linda and Carl!



Don't Miss The September Adventure!

Grasses and more at the bluff

Saturday, September 5, 2026
7:00-8:30 pm

Wichita Bluff Nature Area- Seymour Highway



Online Webinar
Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

Join Us For Our September
TMNTuesday!

Annual Meeting Project Fair

Speakers: TMN Chapters from across the state will present projects that will be featured at the Annual Meeting in Waco in October.

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Please note the extended time 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
This is the only webinar that you can count watching the recording.



Looking Ahead

In December, the Chapter will have elections for the 2027-28 year. We have staggered elections and this year, the offices of **President** and **Treasurer** are up for election. It's not too early to put your safari hat in the ring!

Serving a two-year term on the Board is a great way to serve your community, get some hours, and is vital to our future.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact any Board member.

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

A New Monarch Opportunity

Craig Hensley (retired Nature Tracker Biologist from TPWD) is now volunteering with National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and their Monarch Project. Because our chapter has been tagging Monarchs (and reporting Monarch roosts) now for 20 years, he was impressed with our reports and has convinced NWF to allow him to work in our area. Hensley plans to come to Wichita Falls during peak migration to possibly tag anywhere from 10 to 15 migrating Monarchs with the new blue-tooth connecting tags that NWF has been using to track Monarch migration... and he needs our help!

He would like to have anyone in Wichita Falls area download the app called

Project Monarch.

This app allows anyone to help with tracking the special

tagged Monarchs on their journey. The tag will “ping” off the blue tooth connections on our phone app which gives the researchers points to help map the journey. The more people with the app, the better data they will receive.

Also, because he plans to come to Wichita Falls during the peak migration, our chapter will be able to help Hensley measure the wing length, and weight of the Monarchs we catch during tagging. Only qualifying Monarchs with correct size will receive the special tags. *Note- Monarchs that receive the special tag will NOT be able to be tagged with our normal tags.* This process will take a couple of days which will be determined by the migration timing. New information from this project will allow researchers to understand if Monarchs are choosing the same roosting sites year after year. They are finding that some Monarchs from the 1st generation are making it all the way to Canada in the spring!



Photo by Lynn Seman

What can the Rolling Plains Chapter do?

- Spread the word about the **Project Monarch** app.
- Assist Craig Hensley when he comes to Wichita Falls by catching, measuring, and preparing migrating Monarchs.
- Continue our traditional Monarch tagging to show where the roosts form.

Wichita Falls is the perfect place to deploy these tags and its great to see researchers taking note of our efforts!

If anyone is interested in spreading the word to the general public, please contact Lynn Seman to help organize and spread the word through River Bend Nature Center, schools, organizations, media, etc.

*Download the **Project Monarch** app today and get ready to track some monarchs!*

***Project Monarch** is available for both Apple and Android phones*





Coordinated by the Urban Butterfly Initiative (urbanbutterflies.org), **Butterfly Big Day** [12 SEPT 2026] is a worldwide collaboration of butterfly organizations (Regional Partners) to sponsor a global day-long iNaturalist butterflying event on the second Saturday in September. The event is designed for people of all ages to document, celebrate, and learn more about butterflies and other pollinators, and how we can help their populations.

People all over the world can contribute by submitting their photographs of free-living butterflies (not captive-

reared or from butterfly houses) to iNaturalist. Submit your picture even if you think it might be a moth - if it turns out to be a butterfly, it will count!

All photos of butterflies submitted to iNaturalist that are observed anywhere in the world on Sep 12, 2026 count toward the Big Day!

Visit <https://www.urbanbutterflies.org/big-day> for more information about Butterfly Big Day 2026, how you can help butterflies, and to find a regional partner for your part of the world!

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

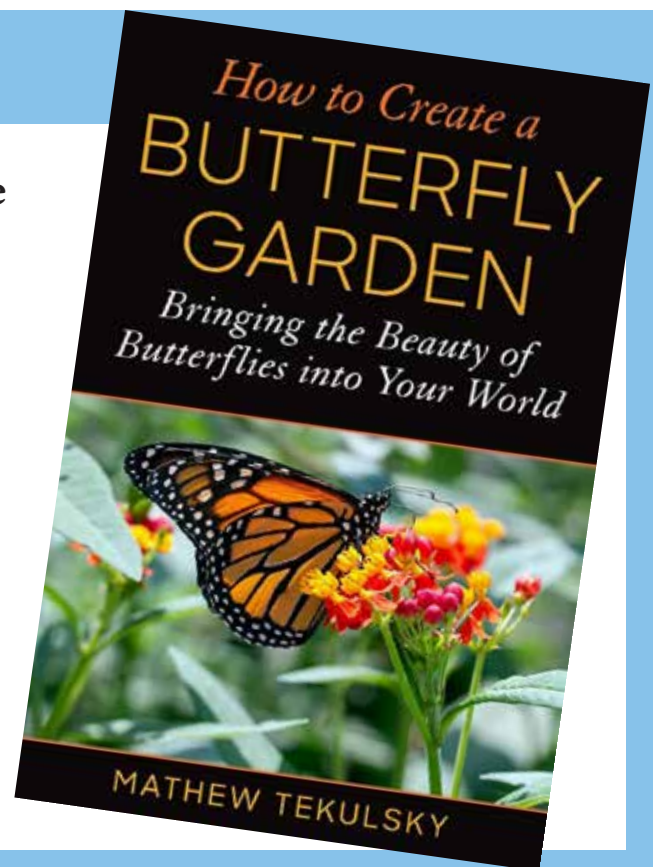
How to Create a Butterfly Garden: Bringing the Beauty of Butterflies into Your World

by Mathew Tekulsky

A complete, step-by-step guide to gardening for butterflies where you'll learn about:

- The butterfly life cycle, habitats, and behaviors
- Choosing and obtaining food and nectar sources
- Designing your garden
- Options for country, suburban, and city gardens
- Fifty common garden butterflies and the plants they like
- Butterfly observation and conservation

Not only is butterfly gardening one of the easiest ways to enjoy these enchanting creatures, but it's also a wonderful way to help conserve natural butterfly populations for generations to come. Learn how to create your own beautiful butterfly garden today!





Certificate of
Participation

15th

NATIONAL

MOTH
WEEK

GLOBAL CITIZEN
SCIENCE

July 18-26, 2026

"moths in art"



Congratulations from the National Moth Week Team

Dr. Vijay Barve · India
Jacob Berneau · United States
Lili Haramaty · United States
Dr. Roger Kendrick · Hong Kong
Zach DuFran · United States
M.E. Colby · United States
Joyce Pearl · United States

Belen Mena · Ecuador
Dr. David Moskowitz · United States
Sarah Reimer · United States
Dr. Elena Tartaglia · United States
Aundrea Schneider · Canada
Dr. Shubhalaxmi Vaylure · India

Thank you for making National Moth Week 2026 a huge success!

This year we celebrated “Moths in Art”—exploring not only diversity of moths, but also the inspiration that moths have brought to artists around the world.

We are happy to share your National Moth Week 2026 Certificate of Participation.

The certificate was designed by artist Belen Mena, whose beautiful work captures the wonder beauty of moths. We are thrilled to have her creativity be part of National Moth Week.

Your participation—whether through observing moths, hosting an event, sharing photographs and artwork and joining the worldwide celebration (47 countries!) —helped make National Moth Week 2026 a huge success.

Thank you for helping us celebrate moths through science, art, curiosity, and creativity—and for contributing to our understanding of this ecologically important insect group.

We hope you’ll continue to discover the amazing world of moths and join us again next year!

With gratitude,
The National Moth Week Team

A TOAD SWALLOWS WITH ITS EYES.



MORE THAN A STRANGE TRICK

She's out every night working through the slugs, cutworms, and beetles going after your seedlings—quiet pest control that asks nothing but a damp, shady corner.



A LIFE WORTH LIVING



Most don't survive their first year.

The ones that do can outlive your dog.



HOW SHE GETS FOOD DOWN

Her tongue is hinged at the front of her mouth, useless for pushing food down—so when she catches a beetle, she pulls her own eyeballs down through the roof of her mouth and uses them to shove the meal into her throat.

Every bug she eats, she blinks to get it down.



1 Catches the prey.



2 Pulls eyes down through the roof of her mouth.



3 Uses her eyes to push the meal into her throat.



SHE DRINKS THROUGH HER SKIN.

Pressing her belly to wet ground is how she stays hydrated.



THOSE BUMPS AREN'T WARTS.

And never were, so there's nothing to catch by lifting her gently.



SHE KNOWS WINTER.

She digs in backward below the frost line and waits it out.



SHE RETURNS.

In spring, to the very same bed. Toads are creatures of habit—the one out there tonight is likely the one you saw last June.



A SMALL CREATURE. A BIG ALLY.
THANK YOUR TOAD TONIGHT.

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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| 9/1 | 7:00 pm | September Chapter Meeting:
Programs: Mike Lopez - Monarchs & Laura Gillis - Monarch Tagging
MSU, Bolin Science Hall, room 247** NOTE: NEW ROOM NUMBER.
Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link. |
| 9/5 | 7:00 pm | Monthly Adventure: Join us for an evening stroll to learn about grasses and more along the Wichita Bluff Trail. Park in the lot off Seymour Highway near Tanglewood. The trail is paved and is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers. |
| 9/8 | 10:00 am | TMNTuesday: This month's topic is: The State Meeting Project Fair. TMN Chapters from around the state will present projects that will be featured at the Annual Meeting in October. Please note the extended time 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is the only webinar that you can count watching the recording. |
| 9/8 | 1:30 pm | Audubon Conservation Ranching Initiative at the Lifelong Learning Center at MSU. ** If you did not attend the March 2026 Rolling Plains Chapter meeting, you can count this presentation. It is on the same subject as that presented during the meeting. <i>** This program is presented by the Lifelong Learning Center. You must pay for the program or have a membership to attend the meeting. It is not virtual.</i> Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) is a certification-based program which creates partnerships between private landowners and the National Audubon Society in order to protect grassland ecosystems and restore bird habitat by providing a landscape with greater amounts of forage for livestock, with healthier soils that can recover more quickly from drought and other natural disasters, and supports a thriving native plant and wildlife community. |
| 9/11 | 9:00 am | Texas Stream Team Water Testing: 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. |
| 9/12 | 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. |
| 9/12 | 9:00 am | Sikes Lake Cleanup: Join us for our annual Sikes Lake Cleanup! Meet on the east side of the lake, behind the Redwine Student Health Center (corner of Midwestern Parkway and Louis Rodriguez Dr.) Grabbers and trash bags will be provided. Refreshments after. |
| 9/18 | 9:00 am | Water Testing at Lake Gordon, Iowa Park: 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. |

September Events

Continued from page 8

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| 9/19 | 9:00 am | Trash Clean Up along the Circle Trail: Adopt-a-Trail trash clean up along the Circle Trail between Hamilton Blvd and Jacksboro Hwy. Meet at Hamilton Park by the restrooms, near the Spray Park. Trash bags and grabbers will be provided. |
| 9/28 | 5:30 pm | Board of Director's Meeting: Meet at Wilson Office Supply, 8th and Lamar. All members are welcome to attend. |
| 9/30 | 5:00 pm | Newsletter deadline.
Please send any photos or stories to Laura! gillis.laura5319@gmail.com |
| 10/6 | 7:00 pm | October Chapter Meeting: Program: Mike Lopez - Fireflies. MSU, in Bolin Science Hall, room 247.
Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link. |

Howdy, Neighbor!



Summer visitors in Larry and Judy Snyder's back yard.

