

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

December 2014

2015 Rolling Plains Officers



From left to right: Cynthia Archibald-Secretary, Jim Hensley-President, Larry Snyder-Treasurer, and Kay Murphy-Vice President

Birds, Birds, Birds!

Christmas Bird Count December 20

The following are the group leaders for the CBC:

Jimmy Hoover is in charge of the Iowa Park area. 692-4975 (hooverjanette@yahoo.com)

Penny Miller will cover the Lake Wichita and Holiday part of the count. 867-9761 (pdmiller.home@gmail.com)

Terry McKee will lead the Lucy Park/Wichita Falls area. 766-4097 (dgm59@aol.com)

Please contact the group leader of the area you would like to help count for info on where and when to meet.

Debra Halter will be our count compiler.

Janette and Jimmy Hoover will host the after count supper starting at dark, December 20 at their home on 4437 Westward.

Owl be Home For Christmas December 6

Katherine Smith invites you to Wild Birds Unlimited in Market Street Plaza, Saturday, December 6 to see the owls of Wild Bird Rescue and check out bird-related items for Christmas. With a \$30 donation to WBR, you will get a \$15 gift card to for merchandise at the Wild Birds Unlimited store.

E LOCALS

DECEMBER 2: Rolling Plains Chapter Christmas Party and Gift Exchange

Location: Letter Carrier Union Hall, 5310 Southwest Parkway

Time: 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2015: Arts

Alive 2015 Home and Garden Festival

Location: Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

Time: 9 am to 6 pm. Home and Garden Tickets are still available.

Larry will have them at the January Chapter meeting. Sale of the tickets is a fund raiser for the chapter.



Reminders

1. Turn in you November Hours Sheet as well as any previous months you might not have submitted.
2. **2015 dues are payable now.** If you don't remember the dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for two. I know, it's just November but Larry wants to get started early this year for those of you who want to get it out of the way quickly and not put Larry into his begging mode.

Wild Bird Rescue to Host Bird Programs

Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m. at Wild Bird Rescue on 4611 Lakeshore Drive, come out to hear an hour program and see the education birds.

Sunday, December 14 at 1 p.m. at Wild Bird Rescue come hear about Birds In Christmas Traditions. Both events are free.

BIG DAY January 1, 2015

Take part in the Big Day on New Year's Day. This is a bird count to benefit Wild Bird Rescue. Join a team or form your own to head out for an all day birding event.

Find people to sponsor you as all funds go to help Wild Bird Rescue. People can donate a single amount or donate on a species basis. The goal this year is 100 specie. They came close last year.

Woman Bites Down On \$3,000 Purple Pearl in Clam Shell



A Virginia Beach woman who picked up a couple bags of clams from a seafood shack was shocked when she discovered a rare, purple pearl inside one of the clam shells.

"I bit down on it and I pulled it out and

said, 'Look at this,'" Kathleen Morelli told the Delmarva Daily Times.

She bought the clams at the Great Machipongo Clam Shack in Nassawadox, according to the newspaper.

Morelli thought the pearl was pretty, but didn't think much of it until her husband started researching.

"From what I've read, one in 5,000 clams will grow a pearl," Joe Morelli told the Delmarva Daily Times. He said his wife's pearl could fetch \$3,000.

"Which is not bad for a \$15 bag of clams," Kathleen Morelli said.



Leon Springs Pupfish

Texas Status: Endangered

U.S. Status: Endangered, Listed 8/15/1980

This tiny fish reaches an adult size of about 2 inches in length.

The Leon Springs pupfish feeds primarily on the bottom, ingesting large amounts of decomposed organic matter and mud. Its diet consists of diatoms, algae, and small invertebrates. "Pit digging" has been observed, where the fish rest on the bottom of the pool and undulate their bodies to churn up the substrate. Scientists think they do this to locate buried food. Leon Springs pupfish spawn throughout the year, with females laying up to 10 eggs per day. Spawning occurs on the bottom, and males aggressively defend their territories. Their population numbers are believed to be stable at present

Natural spring-fed marshes, pools, and slow-flowing waters with a substrate of mud and aquatic plant roots are the Leon Springs pupfish's native habitat.



Leon Springs pupfish are found only in Pecos County, Texas.

The Leon Springs pupfish was first discovered in 1851. The fish was originally found at Leon Springs, a spring system that once flowed in the Leon Creek drainage about 6 miles west of Fort Stockton. In 1918, the area where the fish was first collected was inundated by Lake Leon. By 1938, this fish could no longer be found in the area where it was first discovered. In 1958, Leon Springs went dry due to groundwater pumping in excess of aquifer recharge. From 1958 until 1965, the Leon Springs pupfish was thought to be extinct. The fish were rediscovered in 1965, when they were collected from Diamond-Y Spring, located about 10 miles north of Fort Stockton. The major threats to this species include habitat loss from declining springflows and reduced surface waters, competition with introduced species, and hybridization with introduced fishes.



Starfish don't have blood. Rather, filtered seawater runs through them.

A whooping crane's eye color changes as the bird gets older. It moves from blue to aqua to gold.



These unusually large and spherical boulders lie along a stretch of Koekohe Beach on

the coast of New Zealand. Their origin has been the subject of numerous Maori legends but scientifically speaking they are the result of coastal erosion.

Invasive Spotlight: Redbay Ambrosia Beetle

The redbay ambrosia beetle is native to Southeast Asia and was first detected in the United States in 2002 in a pest survey trap near Port Wentworth, Georgia. It has since spread to Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina.



sassafras and swampbay in the United States.

Trees infested with laurel wilt typically have

a dark discoloration in the outer sapwood and display wilted foliage with a red to purplish coloration. The fungus, once introduced, moves rapidly through the xylem, plugging the flow of water and killing the tree.

The invasive beetle introduces a fungal symbiont, (*Raffaella* sp.) known as laurel wilt disease. The host range of the species is currently unknown, but it includes avocado, northern spicebush, redbay,

Most recently, the pest was identified in Louisiana sassafras trees in Union Parish.

RESOURCE CORNER

The Tilley Hats



Completely crushable, packable, and guaranteed for life, these Tilley hats feature a special mesh crown for unbeatable ventilation and UPF 50+ sun protection, too. Soft interior sweatband helps wick perspiration away from your forehead to aid cooling evaporation. Special two-way wind cord keeps hat securely in place; should it end up in the water, though, the non-absorbent foam in the crown keeps the hat afloat. Sloping brim channels rain away. Interior pocket.

FEATURES

Guaranteed for life not to wear out
Insured against loss for 2 years – all perils
Excellent sun protection, rated UPF 50+ , the maximum rating
Repels rain, floats and ties on in the wind
4-page Owner's Manual
Made in Canada

MEASUREMENTS

Brim size: Front and back 3 ¼";
Sides 2 ¼"
Weighs 3.9 ounces / 111 grams

FABRIC

Fabric is a blend of recycled yarns – 29% hemp; 28% organic cotton; 36% polyester; 7 % rayon.
Fabrics of all Tilley Hats are certified to block 98% of harmful UVA/UVB radiation and deliver an ultraviolet factor (UPF) of 50+, the maximum rating.
Although our Hats block 98% of UV rays, some rays COULD enter through the 3/4" mesh.
Machine wash delicate or hand wash. Re-shape. Air dry. Do not bleach.

Chapter Contacts:

Jim Hensley, President 569-4713; Rebecca Herd, Vice President 232-5607; Cynthia Archibald, Secretary 704-8474; Larry Snyder, Treasurer 569-4534

Committees Chairperson:

Leslie Fernandez, RiverBend Liaison 767-0843; Paula Savage, Newsletter Editor and Designer 691-0231, pasavage@sbcglobal.net; Tami Davis, Website Manager 224-0131; Activities Chair: Terry McKee 766-4097; Dian Hoehne, Communication Chair 692-7234

Advisor: Robert Mauk, TPWD Advisor 766-2383