

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7, No. 5

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

May 2015

Congratulations: 2015 Texas Master Naturalist Trainees!!

Terry McKee, Activities Director

The 2015 training class is wrapping up. What a great class we had this year. Congratulations to our trainees:

Betty Bowles, Jim Brennan, Mike Cavett, Paul Ganther, Keith Gaithier, Debra Halter, Ray Hyde, Sharon Hyde, Lauren Jansen, Carole Johnson, Pam Johnson, Maryruth Prose, Dawn Ross and Janet Wellman. You all made the class interesting and fun; and we hope you decide to remain active in our chapter. You are an asset to your community.

On behalf of the Rolling Plains members and trainees, I would like to thank our instructors who shared their expertise to enable our class to better understand our local natural environment. Our speakers were awe-inspiring.

Thank you to Bryan Rupp, Tom Lang, Robert Mauk, Penny Miller, Paul Dowlearn, Dan Patrick, Jerry Payne, Dr. Magaly Rincon-Zachary, Dr. Ray Willis, Dr. Jonathan Price, Dr. Charles Watson, Dr. William Cook, Dr. James Masuoka and Dr. Rebecca Dodge.

Start making plans to invite people to sign up for the 2016 classes starting next March. It's never too early.

Just a Friendly Reminder From Larry About Turning In Your Hours

Please remember to turn in your hours for April and any other 2015 months you may have yet to turn in. As your hours czar I always appreciate the timely submission of hours.

As a note on hours, we have a new requirement with our quarterly report ... instead of turning in your all of your submissions at the end of the year, it's now a quarterly necessity. As you know, I have to submit the quarterly hours by the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter. If I get hour submissions after I submit the quarterly hours I have to hold them for the next quarter and report those hours and submit those sheets the next quarter. At least we still get to count them. As you might imagine, this has created more work for me in record keeping, but I think I have that figured out.

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MAY 5: Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is at River Bend Nature Center. **Location:** 2200 3rd Street, Wichita Falls, Texas. **Time:** 7:00 PM. **Program:** Brian Sissel of Brian's Bees will be specking about Bee Keeping and Bee Removal.

MAY 5, 7, 12, 14: After-school Fishing **Location:** South Weeks Park by the Field and Stream office on Southwest Parkway **Time:** 4:30 to 6 PM. Help with children fishing, pass out bait, poles, etc. **This counts as volunteer time.**

MAY 9: Wildflower ID with Nila Dowlearn of Wichita Valley Nursery. **Location:** Lake Arrowhead State Park at the equestrian trail starting at the culvert. **Time:** beginning at 9:00 a.m. **This counts as advanced training.**

MAY 16: iNaturalist Training **Location:** Lake Arrowhead State Park Dining Hall. **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. See page 2 for additional information. **This counts as advanced training.**

JUNE 2: Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is at River Bend Nature Center. **Program:** Shannon Rutledge-Hopkins. She runs P.L.A.N.T.S. Preserving Local Agri-History of North Texas in Seeds: A Seed Library.

2015 Quail Index Study Begins

Texas Quail Index 2015 Due Dates

Task	Start Date	Due Date	Time Management Notes
Spring Call Counts - South	April 15th	June 1st	Timeframe for sites south of I-10 only; count all mile markers once per morning; total of three mornings or three separate counts
Spring Call Counts - North	May 1st	June 15th	Timeframe for sites north of I-10 only; count all mile markers once per morning; total of three mornings or three separate counts
Dummy Nests	June 1st	July 31st	4 transects of 6 nests; all nests can be set in one day; need a total of 28 days for nest exposure (last day to set nests to make deadline is July 3rd); need three days in the field: (1) set, (2) check at 2 weeks, (3) check at 4 weeks
Camera Trapping	July 1st	August 31st	Leave cameras out for as long as possible during the 2 month window; minimum is 15 days; need at least two days in the field
Habitat Evaluations	July 1st	August 31st	One evaluation per mile marker. Can be done in one day.
Roadside Counts	Sept 1st	Sept 30th	Three separate counts; total of three mornings/evenings
Fall Covey Counts	Oct 1st	Oct 30th	Count all mile markers once; only one mile marker per listener per day; Need 8 listener/mornings (i.e. one person, eight mornings; two people, four mornings; etc.

Betty Brown Team

Alfano, Jonathon
Archibald, Cynthia
Decker, Dee
Herd, Rebecca
Hyde, Ray
Hyde, Sharon

Warren King Team

Cavett, Mike
King, Sue
Prose, Maryruth
Savage, Paula

Kay Murphy Team

Miller, Penny
Murphy, Vince
Snyder, Judy
Snyder, Larry

Jane McGough Team

Gillis, Laura
Grundy, Karen
Lunsford, Carol
Seman, Lynn

iNaturalist, Texas Nature Trackers, and Texas Mussel Watch Advanced Training Scheduled for May 16th



Below you'll find a schedule for our upcoming training on May 16th. Be sure to mark your calendar ... it'll be an Advance Training opportunity AND one you will NOT want to miss if at all possible.

The training will take place at Lake Arrowhead State Park. We'll use the Dining Hall for the training.

We plan on a working lunch so you'll have to bring yourself something to eat.

For smart phone users please download the APP: http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/app.phtml before the class.

Don't have a smart phone? Don't worry, you can still report your sightings using iNature.org using a computer. You'll have to link to the Texas Nature Tracker, Cullen will cover that information in more detail in the class.

Here's the schedule:

09:00 – 11:30AM – Texas Mussel Watch – classroom (Marsha)

11:30 – 12:30PM – Texas Nature Tracker and iNaturalist – classroom (Cullen)

12:30 – 03:30PM – practice making observations in iNaturalist – field

FUN FACTOIDS



There are more species of orchids than there are of birds. New species of orchid are being discovered each year, adding to some 25,000 already accounted for—twice as many as there are species of birds.

Fire coral is one of the few corals harmful to humans. Its stinging cells release a toxin that creates a burning sensation on the skin.



The giant anteater is capable of eating 35,000 insects per day. This toothless animal is indigenous to the plains of Central and South America.

Invasive Species Spotlight: Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)

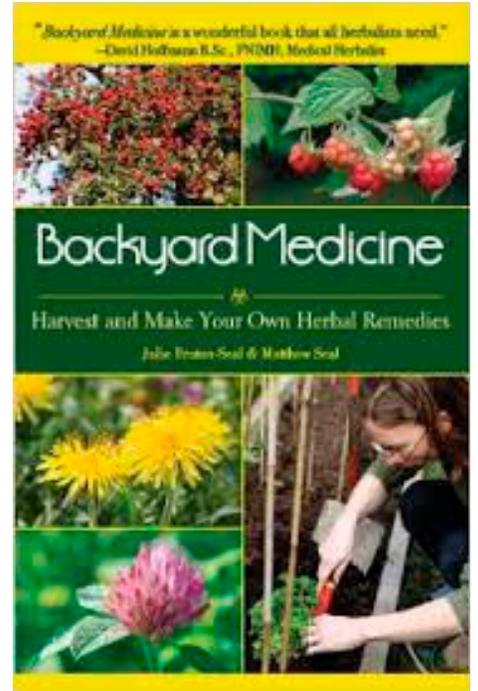


A popular aquarium plant, this Brazilian aquatic fern was first discovered in South Carolina in 1995 and in Texas in 1997. It has become one of the most destructive aquatic invasive plants in Texas. It thrives in slow moving warm bodies of water, quickly creating dense mats that cover the surface, which can deplete oxygen levels and block sunlight. It can quickly choke out the native vegetation that supports the ecosystem. In the US, it reproduces mainly by budding from nodes or broken stems. It has spread throughout rivers and lakes in the Southern half of the US and Hawaii, though the majority of high infestations are in Texas and Louisiana. Caddo Lake is especially plagued by Giant Salvinia.

Because the Giant Salvinia reproduces mainly through budding, preventing the spread of the aquatic fern involves cleaning recreational watercraft and supplies thoroughly before leaving a suspected infestation area. Learn more about Giant Salvinia and how it threatens Texas waterways at [Giant Salvinia](#).

RESOURCE CORNER

Backyard Medicine
by Julie Bruton-Seal & Matthew Seal
Paperback: 224 pages
ISBN-1602397015
Price:\$14.95



Backyard Medicine is a beautiful book, packed with nearly 300 color photographs and over 120 herbal remedies that you can make yourself. It gives a fascinating insight into the literary, historic, and world-wide application of the fifty common plants that it covers. It is the sort of book you can enjoy as an armchair reader or use to harvest and make your own herbal remedies from wild plants. Anyone who wants to improve his or her health in the same way that humankind has done for centuries around the world, by using local wild plants and herbs, will find this book fascinating and useful.

Julie Bruton-Seal is a practicing medical herbalist and natural healer. She is a council member of the Association of Master Herbalists and editor of its quarterly magazine, *Nature's Path*.

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