

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 12

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

December 2016

President Report

by Terry McKee

As we approach the new year, it is time to reflect on 2016 and what an impressive list of things the chapter has been able to accomplish.

Special thanks to all the volunteers working on the quail study for contributing their time and energy and early mornings.

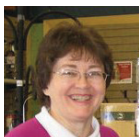
Many members have participated in birding surveys, butterfly counts, skunk surveys and bio-blitzes; and we hope to add horned lizard surveys next year.

I am impressed that a group as small as we are can accomplish so much. That would not be possible without the fine caliber of chapter members we have currently in our midst. Give yourself a round of applause!

Enjoy the holidays and let's prepare for a great 2017!

Election of New Officers Set for December 6th

As per the chapter by-laws, the list of officers nominated for 2017 are:



President—Terry McKee

Vice-president
Kay Murphy



Secretary—Lynn Seman

Treasurer—Larry Snyder



On Dec. 6, the floor will be open for nominations if someone would like to run for any of the positions listed above.

Chapter Christmas Holiday Party is December 6th

It will take place at the Letter Carrier's Union Hall, 5310 Southwest Pkwy. That's next to Wichita Valley Nursery, just east of Barnett Rd.

We'll provide lasagna, salad, and rolls from Luigi's Italian Restaurant. We'll ask you to provide desserts.

We will have the usual "Dirty Santa" gift exchange as in the past. So bring an inexpensive (generally \$20 or less) wrapped or bagged gift if you want to participate. It's always a lot of fun.

Again this year we are asking for \$5 per person attending to help defray the expense to the chapter.

E LOCALS

DECEMBER 6: WE WILL NOT MEET AT RIVERBEND. Chapter Christmas Party will be held at the Letter Carrier Union Hall located at 5310 Southwest Pkwy. That's next to Wichita Valley Nursery, just east of Barnett Rd. Southwestern Parkway. **The fun starts at 6 p.m.**

DECEMBER 3: Hike With a Ranger
Location: Lake Arrowhead State Park, Meet at the equestrian building. **Time:** 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. This hike does involve the outdoors with a chance to see a diverse amount of wildlife, with periodic stops to discuss different plants and animals on the trail. Bring a camera because you never know what you may see!

Bring appropriate clothing, shoes, and water for this event. Prepare for weather changes even for a short two-hour hike. Expect various terrain and exposure to the elements.

Congratulations!

The following members of the Rolling Plains Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist have received the following awards:

Mary Webber, recertification for 2016. Joy Parsons in attaining his initial certification requirement. Debra Halter, 250 hours milestone award.

Home and Garden Tickets and Chapter Dues

by Larry Snyder

I'm going to purchase Home and Garden Tickets this week. I will purchase 75 tickets



again this year. We had little problem getting rid of the 75 last year but in the past we've struggled to sell the 100. I usually ended up purchasing the remaining tickets and handing them out at the show. The point is, if you want to reserve some tickets, let me know. Maybe we can sell 100. Remember, this is the only fund raising activity we ask our members to participate in. They make great stocking stuffers!

2017 dues are now being accepted. Dues are \$15 for a single and \$25 for a double.

You can send your dues check to me.

Make it out to: Rolling Plains Chapter, TMN

Send to: Larry Snyder at 1020 Pawhuska Ln, Burkburnett, TX 76354.

You can pay your dues at the party. If you're not going to write a check, PLEASE have correct change ... we don't have a change/petty cash fund.

Or you can pay your dues at the January meeting.

Either way, if you wish to remain a member in good standing, please pay sooner rather than later so I don't have to keep bugging you. Or, if you already know you are not going to remain a member just tell me, there's no shame in that for sure; and it saves me a lot of headaches.

IF your dues aren't paid by March 1st you will be dropped from our membership roles.

What is Nature Tourism?

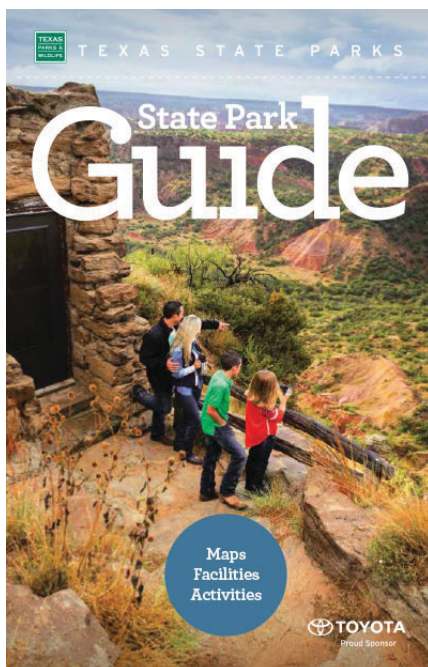
Nature tourism – responsible travel to natural areas, which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people.

It is tourism based on the natural attractions of an area. Examples include birdwatching, photography, stargazing, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and visiting parks. These experiential tourists are interested in a diversity of natural and cultural resources. They want what is real, and they want to be immersed in a rich natural, cultural, or historical experience.

Couple camping, one of the many activities that can be enjoyed as a nature tourist.

From the standpoint of conservation, nature-based tourism provides incentives for local communities and landowners to conserve wildlife habitats upon which the industry depends – it pro-

notes conservation by placing an increased value on remaining natural areas. As nature tourism becomes more important to the local economy, communities have additional incentive to conserve their remaining natural areas for wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts.



The nature-based tourism efforts in Texas will continue to focus on achieving habitat conservation by providing information and assistance to private landowners, communities, businesses, and local community leaders wishing to make nature-based tourism an integral part of their business and community. By empowering people at the local level, we hope to build and provide guidance to a grow-

ing industry that holds great promise for sustainable economic development and conservation of wildlife habitat.



The Audubon Christmas Bird Count Set for December 17th

The count takes place all day and encompasses a 15 mile circle with its center at Kovarik Road. The count circle is divided into thirds.

Warren King, wfki@sw.rr.com, is in charge of the Iowa Park area.

Penny Miller, green.wichita-falls@gmail.com, does Lake Wichita and Holliday.

Terry McKee, dgm59@aol.com, handles Wichita Falls and Lucy Park,

If you would like to help out, please contact one of the group leaders.



The Mangalica is a Hungarian breed of domestic pig. It was developed in the mid-19th century by crossbreeding Hungarian breeds with European wild boar and the Serbian Šumadija breed. The Mangalica pig grows a thick, woolly coat

similar to that of a sheep and is prized for its succulently marbled meat, its speedy growth, and the fact that it does not require much care.

Grooved Brain Coral, named for the system of meandering grooves and ridges on their outer surface, which resembles the appearance of the brain of higher animals, the brain corals are reef-building species that form large, rounded colonies.



Katydids and crickets have ears. Like the membranes in human ears, they are called tympanum, and pick up vibrations.

TPW Television Series

Saving Bison, Hunting Access & Corralling CWD *December 4-10, 2016*

See the efforts being made to save the last of the Southern Plains Bison. Discover how Inks Lake State Park is making hunting accessible for the physically challenged. Meet the biologists who are keeping track of CWD.

Ocean Office, Hill Country Haven & a Conservation Career *December 11-17, 2016*

A few hours scuba diving in the ocean is just another day at the office for a couple of marine biologists. Brent Ortego has spent a

lifetime focused on conservation. Meet a cancer research who spends his free time exploring caves and conservation at his Hill Country ranch.

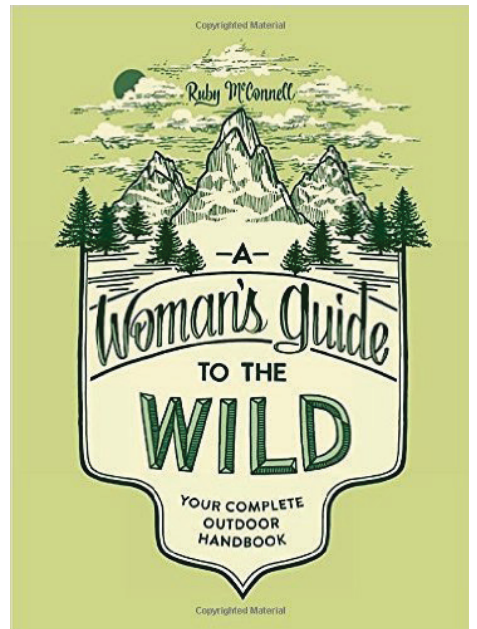
Pocket Prairies, Catching Carp & a Conservation Consultant

December 18-24, 2016

Follow along as some Houston area school kids discover the value of native prairies. Once maligned, carp have emerged as a much sought after sport fish, especially among European visitors. Wildlife Biologist Steve Nelle helps landowners answer conservation questions.

RESOURCE CORNER

A Woman's Guide to the Wild: Your Complete Outdoor Handbook by Ruth Mc Connell
Paperback: 304 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1632170057
Price:\$12.75 on Amazon



For women who enjoy hiking, camping, backpacking, and other outdoor recreation or those inspired by Cheryl Strayed's Wild, this is the definitive guide to being a woman in the great outdoors. This friendly handbook covers the matters of most concern to women, from "feminine functions" in the wilderness to how to deal with condescending men, as well as the basics of wilderness survival tailored to women's unique needs. It includes gear lists in addition to advice for camp setup, fire building, food and water, safety, weather, and navigation.



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