

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 9

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

September 2017

President Report

by Terry McKee

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer hiatus, because things are about to get hopping again.

We have several volunteer opportunities for September,

- The chapter has a Lake Wichita clean up starting Tuesday morning, September 5. Meet at the picnic area/ playground by Murphy's Mound at Lake Wichita off Fairway at 8:30 am. We will be picking up trash after the Labor Day concert by the Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee.
- September 9 is our 12th annual Sikes Lake Cleanup. The cleanup begins at 9 am, but chapter volunteers should show up at 8:30. Volunteers will pass out gloves, bags and grabbers and afterward we will serve up hot dogs graciously provided by MSU. We will need a team to cleanup behind American National Bank and Trust. Our major job will be to guide the many volunteers from MSU and the public that show up to help. Bring your friends, school and church groups.

At the last chapter meeting, we voted to purchase a stone with the TMN dragonfly logo for the walkway to fund the Lake Wichita project. If you would like to help us reach the \$250 goal, please bring your donation to the September 5th meeting to give to Larry Snyder.

The Rolling Plains Chapter will be doing programs for Camp Fire after-school event at Harrell Park. Lynn Seman is coordinating, so please see her to volunteer. The programs run from 4 to 5 p.m. The Monarch program will be Sept. 25, 26, 28 and October 4 and 6. The angler education class will be October 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Kay Murphy is chairing the Maker Faire at MPEC October 28 where the chapter will have a booth from 10 am to 6 p.m.. The tentative plan is to have a display highlighting Monarch butterflies.

It's never too early to talk about the Home and Garden Show. For those that haven't heard, the Rolling Plains Chapter is one of the sponsors of the February 24th and 25th, 2018 event at MPEC, and as such, your officers have been hard at work planning programs for the event, many of which (if not all) will count as advanced training. We are also going to try something different this year. Instead of taking orders for tickets as

LOCALS

SEPTEMBER 5: Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is *in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Midwestern State University Time: 7:00 PM. Program:* Katherine Smith will come and talk about the Big Day Fundraiser for Wild Bird Rescue.

SEPTEMBER 5: Clean Up at Lake Wichita – Meet at Murphy's Mountain at 8:30am

SEPTEMBER 9: Sikes Lake Clean Up – Meet at Sikes Lake (by building) at around 8:30am (event starts at 9:00)

SEPTEMBER 25,26,28 AND OCTOBER 4, 6: Monarch Butterfly Program for After School Campfire Kids program – to be held at Harrell Park (Campfire meeting place) Meet at 3:30pm – contact Lynn Seman for details in advance.

OCTOBER 10-13: Campfire Fishing Program for after-school kids – contact Lynn Seman for details. Time will be from 4:00pm to 5:00pm each of these days.

OCTOBER 20-22: Annual Meeting for TMN (Deadline to register Sept. 29). *Go to the state website (<https://txmn.org/2017-annual-meeting/>) for all the details.*

we have done in the past, we will be asking you to place your order and prepaying. That way we won't have extra tickets laying around. Larry Snyder will have more on this at the meeting Tuesday.

REMEMBER, WE WILL NO LONGER BE MEETING AT RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER.

Our September 5th meeting will be held in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Midwestern State University at 7 p.m. This is just down the hall from where we hold our spring training classes.

Hope to see everyone there!

Sikes Lake Clean-up Saturday, September 9th

Thanks to MSU for all their help and for supplying hotdogs for the volunteers; and to Larry for being our chef le hot dog. Thanks also to American National Bank and Trust for their monetary donation to help with the cleanup.

I believe this is the 11th year we have sponsored the Sikes Lake event. Volunteers should show up at 8:30 am. We are usually done by 11.



**What are you doing to keep Texas beautiful?
If the answer is "not enough", now is your chance!**

Join the Sikes Lake Cleanup Saturday, September 9.

**Volunteers will meet at 9:00 AM
on the east side of Sikes Lake.
Free lunch after the cleanup.**

Event sponsors:

Rolling Plains Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist
Midwestern State University
American National Bank & Trust
Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jim Masuoka, Sharon Hyde and Laura Gillis on having achieved recertification for 2017. In addition, Carl Brown and Carol Lunsford have both reached the 250 volunteer hour milestone.

LOCAL EVENTS continued from page 1

Popular classes and field trips fill up quickly so don't wait. Accommodations are also handled through the online registration system.

OCTOBER 28: Texoma Mini Maker Faire – Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall– We will have a booth that will need volunteers – Sign up for times between 10:00am to 6:00pm.

OCTOBER 29: The Big Day – Bird Event

DECEMBER 5: Christmas Party 6:00pm

Big Day for Wild Bird Rescue

Want to spend a day watching the birds while helping the birds?

Form a team for the Big Day for Wild Bird Rescue of Wichita Falls. On Oct. 29, teams will compete to see who can spot the largest number of bird species and raise the most money in a single 24-hour period.

“We hope to have more teams and raise more money than ever before,” says Katherine Smith, President of the board for Wild Bird Rescue.

Each team is asked to secure pledges and sponsors to benefit the rescue center. Prizes will be awarded for the team which sees the greatest number of species and for the team that raises the most money. The day-long event will be capped with a dinner for all participants.

Everything you need to know can be found at www.wildbird-rescueinc.org. Wild Bird Rescue cares for injured and orphaned birds year-round, as well as providing educational programs about birds.

“Big Day is always a fun event, with lots of friendly competition. We hope a number of the Master Naturalists will join us this year,” says Smith.

Chapter Taking Donations to Place Memorial Brick at the Lake Wichita Plaza

The chapter will be taking donations for a brick to be placed at the Lake Wichita plaza. It will be engraved with our chapter designation and our TMN logo, a dragonfly.

We'd like to raise the entire \$250 with donations from chapter members. However, if we can't raise the entire amount, the board has determined we will take the remainder out of our chapter funds. Anything we might raise over the \$250 will go into our general fund and we thank you very much.

You may either bring your donation to the chapter meeting on September 5th or mail it to me at 1020 Pawhuska Ln, Burkburnett TX 76354

And, remember, the chapter meeting will be at Midwestern State University, Bolin Science Hall, Room 213. Hopefully Laura will have the monarch tags to hand out for our monarch tagging program.

Dutch Oven Demo Sponsored by the Rolling Plains Chapter

photos by Terry McKee

The dutch oven demonstration sponsored by the Rolling Plains Chapter was well received at Lake Arrowhead State Park August 11. More than 40 people showed up to learn about cowboy cooking from Tim Swaggerty and sample a campfire dinner.



Service Opportunity

Thanks to Cari King for bringing this service opportunity information to us. It has been approved by the board.

The service is pretty much straight forward. It does require training. However, the online training isn't interactive so you may not count it as advance training ... sorry. If you stumble across a live training you may count that if you attend.

You will also have to purchase an approved rain gauge. It's available for just under \$32 + shipping. There's a link to that page when you sign up. You must have a CoCoRAHS approved gauge to participate. Okay, okay, Community Collaborative Rain Hail Snow Network. Those of you who are familiar with the rain gauge used on the quail study, it's the same kind.

To learn about this opportunity: <https://www.cocorahs.org/>

This is one of those activities that most anyone should be able to do to get some of those often hard to come by service hours.

I have created a Field Research opportunity for this project. If you decide to take the training and participate your hours will be reported under: FR: COCORAHS

Any questions, please feel free to ask Larry Synder

An Overlooked Seed Dispenser: The Cockroach

Researchers have discovered that cockroaches can disperse seeds like birds and mammals. This unexpected discovery was made during a study of the seed dispersal mechanism of *Monotropastrum humile*, a small herb that thrives in the same temperate forests of Japan that the *Blattella nipponica* cockroach inhabits. It appears that the plant may even have evolved to be dispersed by the cockroach.



FUN FACTS

In theory, a honey-bee could fly around the earth powered by only one ounce of honey.



A common misconception about bears is that their vision is poor. In reality their eyesight is as good as ours, and they are particularly adept at seeing in low light.



Vampire crabs get their name from their narrow, bright yellow eyes, not from their feeding habits.

Ancient Pollen Study Indicates An Invasive Plant May Actually be Native

A study of ancient pollen from Losotho demonstrated that what was thought to be an invasive plant is more likely a native shrub that has taken advantage of habitat disturbed by grazing. The results indicate the shrub has been in the area for at least 4000 years, instead of 100 years as previously thought. For more information visit: <https://phys.org/news/2017-07-invasive-species-longer-believed.html>



RESOURCE CORNER

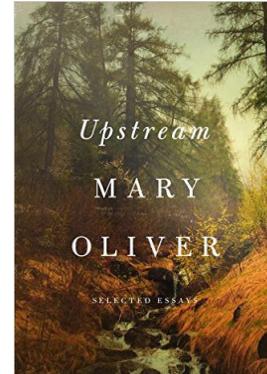
Upstream

by Mary Oliver

Hardback: 192 pages

ISBN-13: 978-1594206702

Price: \$16.54 on Amazon



Upstream, a collection of essays in which revered poet Mary Oliver reflects on her willingness, as a

young child and as an adult, to lose herself within the beauty and mysteries of both the natural world and the world of literature. Emphasizing the significance of her childhood “friend” Walt Whitman, through whose work she first understood that a poem is a temple, “a place to enter, and in which to feel,” and who encouraged her to vanish into the world of her writing, Oliver meditates on the forces that allowed her to create a life for herself out of work and love. As she writes, “I could not be a poet without the natural world. Someone else could. But not me. For me the door to the woods is the door to the temple.”

Upstream follows Oliver as she contemplates the pleasure of artistic labor, her boundless curiosity for the flora and fauna that surround her, and the responsibility she has inherited from Shelley, Wordsworth, Emerson, Poe, and Frost, the great thinkers and writers of the past, to live thoughtfully, intelligently, and to observe with passion. Throughout this collection, Oliver positions not just herself upstream but us as well as she encourages us all to keep moving, to lose ourselves in the awe of the unknown, and to give power and time to the creative and whimsical urges that live within us.

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