

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 11

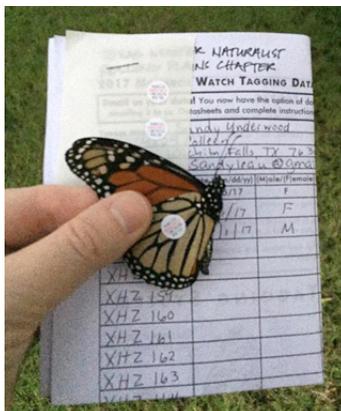
<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

November 2017

President Report

by Terry McKee

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the fall migration of monarchs as they came through our area early October. Chapter members were out and about talking monarch migration and demonstrating tagging to anyone that would listen. Many thanks to those volunteers that hosted Camp Fire after-school programs and educated children about the journey of these fascinating insects.



Please remember to bring your unused tags to the November meeting as they have to be returned by December 1st.

Be advised that our December 5 meeting will be held at the Letter Carrier Union Hall, 5310 Southwest Parkway and not at MSU. The Christmas party and meal will begin at 6 pm. We will have lasagna, and members are encouraged to bring a dessert to share. The highlight is always the bad Santa gift exchange which will begin after the meal. If you wish to participate, bring a small gift- (books go over big).

Congratulations to The Quail Queens at the Master Naturalist State Convention. Lynn, Jane and Joy placed third in the Project Category for their "Bringing Nature to Public Schools" presentation, which earned the chapter a \$350 grant.

Judy Snyder won Best of Show in the arts category for her cross-stitched bald eagle.

Jane was a featured speaker in the



E LOCALS

NOVEMBER 7: Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is *in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Midwestern State University* Time: 7:00 PM. Program: Larry Snyder will speak about bats and bat conservation.

NOVEMBER 5: Wildflower planting at Lake Wichita. 8 AM - done.

NOVEMBER 25: Family Fishing event at SW Parkway pond. 8 AM set up. Fishing 8:30 - 10:30. Pond/area cleanup immediately following.

DECEMBER 5: Christmas Party is at 6:00pm at the Letter Carrier Union Hall, 5310 Southwest Parkway and not at MSU. There will be a "bad Santa" gift exchange.

T E X A S

Master Naturalist

For planning purposes, the 2018 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting will be held **October 26 – 28 in Georgetown TX** at the Sheraton Hotel. Our annual meetings have grown so large that we can no longer fit into the smaller venues we once used.



20th Anniversary Project shown to the largest crowd ever at a TMN state convention- 555 guests.

And Larry informed us that the chapter won a game camera in a photo contest sponsored by the TAMU Quail Decline

Initiative. I'm sure the camera will be put to good use along the quail survey site. Thank you ladies and gentleman for representing the Rolling Plains Chapter!

Your current officers have agreed to serve in 2018. They are: Terry McKee- president, Kay Murphy- vice-president, Lynn Seman- secretary and Larry Snyder- treasurer. They, with your help, will keep the Rolling Plains Chapter going forward stronger than ever!

The 2018 Texas Master Naturalist re-certification pin will be the Ocelot.



Two Volunteer Projects for November

by Penny Miller

Sunday, November 5 (sorry, I had to set this on Sunday because I am tied up all this weekend and Saturday of next): **Wildflower planting at Lake Wichita. 8 AM - done.** How long this will take will depend upon the number of people available. The Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee would like to have large swaths of wildflowers in the area of the spillway. This project is to plant a relatively small demonstration area in a pollinator mix for a long bloom period. The chapter bought 2 lbs of seed for this demonstration bed. The project will consist of preparing a planting area of approximately 1500 sq ft by removing thatch and loosening the top layer of soil, dispersing seed and spreading a very light layer of compost (to be supplied by the city). Individuals who want to help should bring work gloves, sturdy rakes, shovels, and buckets. You will want to bring water (although I will have an ice chest there with water as well.)

Saturday, November 25, 8 - 11:30. Family Fishing event at SW Parkway pond. Inland Fisheries will be stocking the pond in advance of this event. The Southwest Rotary Club is sponsoring this activity with TPWD. It is the first of this type of event the Rotary has done, so they are not very familiar with what is involved. This is a "soft" opening for Rotary family members as well as their "Adopt a Squadron" from the 80th Flying Wing at Sheppard AFB to get a feel for how to run this type of event for the community as an annual event. Yes, it is the Saturday following Thanksgiving. The feeling is a family-friendly event that weekend will be welcome. 8 AM set up. Fishing 8:30 - 10:30. Pond/area cleanup immediately following.

I hope members will be able to assist in either or both of these volunteer activities and help our community enjoy the outdoors.

Please let me know if you plan to be at either activity so I can get an idea of the number of people. You can call me at 940-867-9761 if you have questions.

Texas State Parks Official Guide

The free mobile guide to all 95 Texas State Parks.



SEARCH FOR YOUR PERFECT PARK

- Find parks with swimming, fishing, kayaking and other activities
- Find cabins, lodges, shelters, RV sites, and tent camping sites
- View parks with boat ramps, dump stations, showers and more
- See parks with hiking, biking, and equestrian trails
- Use the in-app map to locate parks near you*



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE PARKS

- View detailed facility maps for each park
- Read about things to do, park fees, and operating hours
- See photos, videos and virtual tours
- Create a list of your favorite parks



MAKE YOUR GETAWAY TO A TEXAS STATE PARK

- Use in-app dialing to make reservations or call a park
- Get driving directions from your current location
- Download trail maps and save for use at a park
- Discover park programs and events happening during your visit
- Get up-to-date park advisories such as burn bans

*Some features require internet access.

Leaves change color in the fall as the green chlorophyll breaks down. As green color gradually disappears, the yellow and orange pigments known as anthocyanins become visible. The yellow and orange pigments were always present. The green chlorophyll had previously masked them.



Wild horses live in herds led by one dominant male who has exclusive breeding access to all the females. Fights can break out between horses over watering holes or grazing areas, but

most ferocious duels happen when another male challenges a lead stallion.

When dew forms and then freezes on a surface with a temperature of or below freezing, a white frost consisting of blobs of ice occurs known as Hoar frost. When surface temperature reaches freezing before dew has started to form a feathery type of Hoar frost occurs.



Congratulations, Rolling Plains Chapter Members!

Congratulations to Carl Brown. Carl, a 2017 trainee, has achieved “double” certification. To achieve double certification you have to have completed the training courses, obtain a minimum of 80 hours of volunteer time and a minimum of 16 hours of advance training before the end of the year you began training. In other words, for Carl, before Dec 31, 2017. Carl will receive the 2017 sea turtle pin to add to his collection at the next meeting.

Congratulations to Megan Sternadel. Megan has achieved the required 80+ service hours and 16+ advance training hours to qualify for double certification in the calendar year 2017.

Congratulations to Paula Savage and Jane McGough, both have achieved recertification for 2017. To date we’ve had 22 of our 55 volunteers recertify.

Congratulations to Lynn Seman for adding 335 observations to iNaturalist during the 2017 Texas Pollinator BioBlitz conducted from September 23 to October 8, 2017.

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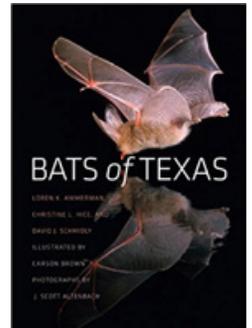
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RESOURCE CORNER

Bats of Texas

by Loren K. Ammerman
Hardback: 328 pages
ISBN- 978-1603444767
Price: \$21.99 on Amazon



With all new illustrations, color photographs, revised species accounts, updated maps, and a sturdy flexible binding, this new edition

of the authoritative guide to bats in Texas will serve as the field guide and all-around reference of choice for amateur naturalists as well as mammalogists, wildlife biologists, and professional conservationists. Texas is home to all four families of bats that occur in the United States, including thirty-three species of these important yet increasingly threatened mammals. Although five species, each represented by a single specimen, may be regarded as vagrants, no other state has a bat fauna more diverse, from the state’s most common species, the Brazilian free-tailed bat, to the rare hairy-legged vampire. The introductory chapter of this new edition of *Bats of Texas* surveys bats in general—their appearance, distribution, classification, evolution, biology, and life history—and discusses public health and bat conservation. An updated account for each species follows, with pictures by an outstanding nature photographer, distribution maps, and a thorough bibliography. *Bats of Texas* also features revised and illustrated dichotomous keys accompanied by gracefully detailed line drawings to aid in identification. A list of specimens examined is located at batsoftexas.com