

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 1

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

January 2018

President Report

by Terry McKee

Celebrate endings for they precede new beginnings. - J. Lockwood Hule

As we turn the page from 2017 to 2018, I want to let everyone know how important you have been to the success of the Rolling Plains Chapter this year. However little you feel you contributed, it has had a big impact. Make a new year resolution to continue to be involved in the chapter, whether it be spreading the word about our goals and what we do for the community, volunteering to teach children, or submitting information to our newsletter. YOU are important. The chapter would not be what it is without you. 2018 training class will begin March 6, so start informing the public. We will need many volunteers for Home and Garden, February 24 and 25. The list throughout the year is endless. You don't need to volunteer for everything, but consider donating more of your time not only to keep the chapter active, but to keep that good feeling of charity and service in your heart all year long.

As Brad Paisley wrote: *Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one!*

T E X A S



December 14, 2017

Texas Master Naturalist 2017 Chapter Leadership:

You may have seen a letter circulating recently that speaks to the development of chapter guidance documents and the TMN State Committee. The author of that letter also sent a list of concerns directly to us. We received several responses about this letter from TMN volunteers and chapter boards both agreeing with and expressing views different than what was widely circulated. We at the State Program value the thoughts and input of all of our members and chapters and will review the suggestions carefully against the restrictions of our Program's sponsoring State agencies, funding sources and the collective needs of all of our chapters and volunteers.

E LOCALS

JANUARY 2: Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is *in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Midwestern State University*
Time: 7:00 PM. **Program:** Dr. Tonya Homayoun will be speaking about Citizen Sciences.

JANUARY 1: First Hike at Lake Arrowhead State Park. Let's get outside and welcome the new year! The park is hosting two hikes, **ONION CREEK TRAIL, 5.5 MILES (8:30AM - 11:30AM)** Meet at the Equestrian Area parking lot, 8:30AM and the **DRAGONFLY TRAIL, .5 MILES (2PM - 3PM)** Meet at the Equestrian Area parking lot, 2PM.

FEBRUARY 26-27: Arts Alive! Home & Garden Festival at the MPAC. Tickets are \$6 each. Tickets will be available at the January and February meetings. This is a fundraiser for the Chapter. See Larry Snyder for tickets.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tami Davis, Betty Bowles, and Dian Hoehne have reached recertification for 2017.

Kay Murphy has reached the 250 hour milestone.

The following points address some of the issues brought up in the open letter. Comments concerning details in the guiding documents will be addressed and distributed in the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) and Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP) documents under revision. Other points will be addressed in more private communications.

The TMN Program is operated and governed by 2 State agencies, which pay the salaries of a Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator to support 48 chapters, 48 boards, more than 6,000+ active volunteers, dozens of advisors, and perform the administrative work to comply with agency programs and the federal grant that pays for the entire program. Running a statewide volunteer program is no easy task. To assist us, we created a TMN State Committee as an advisory committee almost 20 years ago. This committee is not a governing body. Over the past several years the TMN State Committee has helped to support the annual maintenance of our program. This committee consists of appointed volunteers, State agency administrators, and the program Coordinators. The current State Advisory Committee membership appears in the CMOP (Appendix 1B) which is posted on our website (https://txmn.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2013/04/Chapter-Management-and-Operations-Protocols-August-2017_FINAL-Committee-Updates.pdf). Over the past few years members of the committee have moved on to other projects and have not been replaced, so we agree that this committee should be refreshed due to the turnover and growth of the Program. We have begun the process to add additional members in 2018 and will work to ensure broader representation on this committee.

We strongly encourage members, chapters, and boards to interact with each other professionally and constructively. Chapters and volunteers do not need to seek the permission of the TMN State Program personnel to collaborate. If there are issues that can be solved by or with the Program personnel, we welcome an invitation to be involved as early as possible.

Beginning in 2013-2014, we instituted an annual review of the CMOP to bring chapters in line with federal granting requirements and ensure continuity between chapters. As needed, other chapter guidance documents are included in this process. All chapters are always invited and encouraged to submit comments for proposed changes to the Program's CMOP and COH documents, which typically begins in the summer. This year our process began on June 23, 2017 when we sent out our annual review request. Using the comments received, we published proposed changes to those documents to all chapters on November 16th, and extended the deadline to December 5th, 2017 for final comments. Each of these comments, suggestions and points will be thoroughly considered and reviewed by the State Program Coordinators and the TMN State Committee. The final version of the documents up for review this year will be released in January of 2018 for each chapter to adopt according to the prescribed process for each. We will repeat this review process in summer 2018 as we do every year.

On a different, but related note, we have recently heard from several people requesting more instructional communication for advisors and for chapter leadership. We have been discussing this need for some time, so this item is moving up on our priority list and should improve leadership continuity at that level.

As the TXMN Program has grown from 4 to 48 chapters, the administrative requirements of running such a diverse, expansive, passionate group of volunteers have grown dramatically, but our resources have

Stream Team Training Update

Larry Snyder

I sent this out a week or so ago and a couple of folks have expressed interest. Lynn Seman contacted me to let us know that she received word that **the training date has changed. It's now scheduled for January 13th.** That's a Saturday. So that might change some minds about attending. We thought we should let you know.

Dallas Stand Core Kit Training

When: January 13, 2018, 8:15am-3:30pm

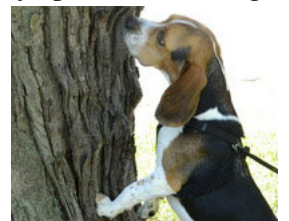
Where: Trinity River Audubon Center, Wet Lab #1, 6500 Great Trinity Forest Way (formerly S. Loop 12), 75217. (Directions: <http://trinityriver.audubon.org/visit-us>)

Info: Lunch will be from 12-1pm, please bring a sack lunch as food options near Hwy 175 are limited. *Space is limited.* Please email christopher.morris@dallascityhall.com to reserve your spot.

New K-9 Initiative Could Transform Pest Surveys

It's a potential game-changer for U.S. plant health protection: highly trained detector dogs that can find a specific invasive pest or disease in the field.

These detector dogs could accompany pest survey specialists during a foreign pest or disease outbreak, speeding the efforts of USDA's Plant



Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program to determine the infestation's boundaries and identify pest-free areas. They could also work at ports, sniffing entire shipments of commodities to detect traces of insect larvae or plant disease.

For more information see this article at phys.org.

not changed. Under these circumstances, we simply cannot be everything to everyone. However, we can commit to communicating more effectively with our chapters and membership. We welcome constructive suggestions and offers to assist with finding solutions during the annual document review process. Thanks to those chapter leaders who have done so in the past.

Thank you for your commitment and service to our Texas Master Naturalist Mission. Our program is full of passionate, enthusiastic volunteers who are dedicated to our natural resources, and for that we are always grateful. We hope you enjoy the holidays.

Sincerely,

Michelle M. Haggerty
Texas Master Naturalist State Program Coordinator

Mary Pearl Meuth
Texas Master Naturalist Program Assistant State Coordinator

Texas Master Naturalist – <http://txmn.org>

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

March Into 2018 on a First Day Hike

AUSTIN— Walk into 2018 where the wild things are by participating in a guided stroll through Texas State Parks as part of the national First Day Hikes initiative.

First Day Hikes at Texas' state parks and natural areas will help visitors commit to their new year's resolutions to get healthy and lose weight.

“First Day Hikes are an ideal way for people to begin the New Year with a more active lifestyle, and Texas State Parks are a perfect place to achieve that goal and enjoy nature simultaneously,” said Brent Leisure, director of Texas State Parks.

The First Day Hikes events range from brisk strolls on scenic trails, polar plunges, bike rides, short treks with four-legged family members and meditation walks to more strenuous hikes for experienced visitors.

Last year, 75 state parks hosted 121 First Day Hikes event across Texas. More than 3,700 participants walked, paddled and biked 7,600 miles at a Texas State Park. A complete list of First Day Hike events can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's calendar page.

Monarch Tagging Report

We ordered 300 tags and we tagged 182 monarchs. (118 tags were unused and destroyed.)

Of the 182 monarchs tagged, we had 91 males and 91 females.

Rolling Plains Chapter Changes

Terry announced officer and committee members at the chapter Christmas Party. All will remain the same as last year with the addition of Joy Parsons who will co-chair the speakers/presenters committee.

Native Trees, Shrubs Provide More Food for Birds



Plant native trees and shrubs in your yard, and you can really help songbirds. In a study of the Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) in the metropolitan DC area, researchers found that native trees and shrubs support much more ‘bird

food’ -- caterpillars -- than non-natives do. Over the course of her four-year study, doctoral student Desiree Narango looked at 203 yards. One thing that has stood out to her is the sheer number of different trees that are planted in these yards: over 375 species.

It became apparent quickly that while this high diversity may look like a good thing, some trees are better than others with regard to sustaining food webs. In particular, “native trees are better at providing caterpillars for birds,” said Narango. There are a lot of non-native plants -- such as zelkova, ginkgo and lilac -- that don't provide any resources for breeding birds.

Narango also found that the number of caterpillar species a plant supports predicts how strongly chickadees prefer it. “When these birds would choose a tree, all the other birds in the neighborhood were choosing those trees, too... In a way, our chickadees were telling us what all of the birds want during that period,” said Narango.

Learn more at science-daily.com.



The berries of Red Baneberry (and White Baneberry) are very poisonous if ingested and may affect the nervous system. Baneberry plants can absorb toxic substances, such as herbicides, pesticides, and pollutants from the water, air, and soil. Symptoms include burning of mouth and throat, salivation, severe stomach cramps, headache, diarrhea, dizziness and hallucinations.



The Ghost-faced Bat can readily be distinguished from all other species by its unique facial ornamentation consisting of conspicuous folds of skin reaching from ear to ear across the chin.

The name pigfish was probably derived from the chattering noises they make when caught. Like other members of the grunt family, a pigfish makes a grunting sound by rubbing the teeth in their throat together. By night, pigfish use their throat teeth to grind up shellfish and small bits of other food.

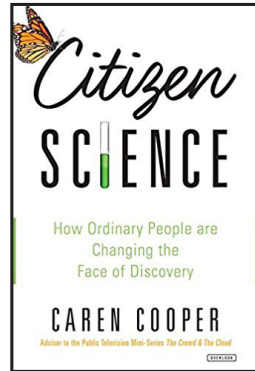


RESOURCE CORNER

Citizen Science: How Ordinary People are Changing the Face of Discovery
by Caren Cooper
Hardback: 304 pages
ISBN- 978-1468308679
Price: \$23.41 on Amazon

The engaging history of the people whose contributions to scientific pursuits make us rethink the meaning of the word "scientist."

Think you need a degree in science to contribute to important scientific discoveries? Think again. All around the world, in fields ranging from astronomy to zoology, millions of



everyday people are choosing to participate in the scientific process. Working in cooperation with scientists in pursuit of information, innovation, and discovery, these

volunteers are following protocols, collecting and reviewing data, and sharing their observations. They are our neighbors, our in-laws, and people in the office down the hall. Their story, along with the story of the social good that can result from citizen science, has largely been untold, until now.

Citizen scientists are challenging old notions about who can conduct research, where knowledge can be acquired, and even how solutions to some of our biggest societal problems might emerge. In telling their story, Cooper will inspire readers to rethink their own assumptions about the role that individuals can play in gaining scientific understanding and putting that understanding to use as stewards of our world. Citizen Science will be a rallying call-to-arms, and will also function as an authoritative resource for those inspired by the featured stories and message.

Just a Few Reminders

Larry Snyder

Home and Garden show tickets: I have a list of folks that have asked for tickets. Tickets are \$6 each. They will be available at the January meeting and February meeting as well.

2018 dues will soon be payable: Dues are \$15 for a single and \$25 for a couple. Dues are a requirement to remain an active member.

PLEASE keep in mind that I don't maintain a change fund. So exact cash or check is always appreciated for any payment made to the chapter. So if you hand me a \$20 bill for a \$15 single dues payment, don't be surprised if I ask you if the extra \$5 is a donation to the chapter. :-D

You can always send me your dues payment to my home address:

1020 Pawhuska Ln
Burkburnett TX 76354-2815

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