

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 3

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

March 2018

Presidents Report

Terry McKee

March is here and that means our 2018 training class is ready to take place.

Due to the training class on March 6, we will not have our regularly scheduled meeting, however, I encourage all members to attend the first training class, March 6 in Bolin 213 at MSU starting at 7. Chapter members may count 1 hour of volunteer time.

This is the perfect time to meet our new trainees and to show them what makes up our chapter.

The training schedule is included below- all members are welcome to attend any of the training classes at no charge.

I will see you all Tuesday!

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, Rolling Plains Chapter Spring 2018 – TRAINING AGENDA

March 6— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Welcome: Program Orientation statewide program mission, local program goal and pre-test

Terry McKee, Chapter President, Texas Master Naturalist program

March 8— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Weather and Climatology

Bryan Rupp, Meteorologist, KFDX

March 20— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Herpetology with general discussion of local amphibians and reptiles

Dr. Charles Watson, Associate Professor, Biology Dept. MSU

March 22— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Overview of freshwater fisheries and conservation

Robert Mauk, District Fisheries Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept

FIELD TRIP 1—March 24—8:30 am- noon

Lake Arrowhead State Park, Fisheries and invasives

Tom Lang, TPWD Inland Fisheries

E LOCALS

MARCH 6: We will not hold our regular chapter meeting March 6, however we invite everyone to come out to **Bolin Science Hall room 213 at 7 pm** to show support for the new trainees. You may claim *1 hour of volunteer time for the evening.*

MARCH 2: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY. If you have always wanted to help talk to a leadership class (about 30 students) at McNiel Jr. High on Friday morning, here is your chance! March 2 - 10:00am to 11:00am You will need a photo ID to check in at the front office.

I have everything prepared for the class. The plan is to talk about Texas Master Naturalist Program, do an activity on local plants, and also talk about Texas Horned Lizard Conservation. If you want to come and help, I will be happy to have you come!

Let me know if you want to come help!

Lynn Seman
940-867-3006

MARCH 3: Kid Fishing Rodeo at Plum Lake starting at 10 to noon. At noon, there will be a clean-up at Plum Lake. Both count as volunteer hours

March 27— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Overview of local geology and soils, stratigraphy, lithologies fossils and minerals geologic features of north Texas

Dr. Jonathan D Price, Associate Professor / Chair Geosciences Dept. MSU

April 3— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Ornithology, bird watching and conservation

Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden, Dean College of Science & Mathematics

April 5— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Vertebrate biology overview including historical biogeography with mammals as a model with functional morphology and geographic variation

Dr Ray Willis, Assistant Professor, Biology Dept. MSU

FIELD TRIP 2—April 7—8:30 am- noon

Lake Arrowhead State Park Bird/nature observation

Debra Halter and Terry McKee

April 10— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

General botany

Dr. William Cook, Professor/Chair Biology Dept., MSU

April 12— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Mussels Naturalists

Penny Miller and Larry Snyder

April 17— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Ecological concepts with a discussion concerning biomes, trophic levels and energy movement through succession stages.

Dr. Rebecca Dodge, Associate Professor, Geosciences Dept., MSU

April 19— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Entomology overview including common local insects

Dr. Roy Vogtsberger, Associate Professor, Dept of Biology

FIELD TRIP 3—April 21—8:30 am- noon—Car pool

Hackberry Flat, Frederick, OK to observe wetland ecology and migratory waterfowl

Chapter Master Naturalists and Melynda Hickman, ODWC biologist

April 24— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Mycology, Study of fungi

Dr. James Masuoka, Associate Professor, Biology Dept., MSU

April 26— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Nature of naming/ Plants

Ricky Linex, NRCS, US Dept of Agriculture

FIELD TRIP 4—April 28—9:00 am- noon

Grassland and wildflower morphology and ecology

Paul Dowlearn, Wichita Valley Nursery, Lake Arrowhead

May 1— 7:00—Bolin 213

CHAPTER MEETING— ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

May 3— 7:00-9:00 pm—Bolin 213

Interpretive, volunteer opportunities & communication Evaluation/ test, wrap up

Terry McKee, Rolling Plains Chapter President

Reminders, News and Events

- One of our members, Peggy Browning, has an online newspaper in which she will add any information about the Texas Master Naturalist program. She has recently sent out a link to information about joining our new spring training class. Here is the link: <https://wichitafallstimes.com/texas-master-naturalist-classes-starting-march-6/>
- Our chapter is sponsoring a state award at the Texas State Science and Engineering Fair in San Antonio on **March 24**. This is our second year to offer this award to a senior and a junior high participant at the fair. We have recruited members from other TMN chapters to help with the judging at this year's event which will be held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio. If you are interested in being a judge, **contact Lynn Seman, rlynnseman@gmail.com**.

Natural Areas Association Pollinator Management Webinars

Larry Snyder

The Natural Areas Association is hosting seven exciting presenters on **four webinar dates in March and April**, covering a wide range of topics having to do with best practices for managing natural areas, while ensuring pollinator health and resilience. The Pollinator Management Series will share some of the background and conclusions that will shortly be published in an NAA Synthesis Paper on Pollinator Health and Resilience in Natural Areas Management - stay tuned for more on this important forthcoming resource! For abstracts, bios, registration (free), and additional details, visit <https://www.naturalareas.org/webinars.php>.

*These webinars will count as **Advance Training** as they are interactive. **Remember that only four hours of webinars may be used towards your certification requirements.***

Advanced Training Events at Hackberry Flats

Only ONE Bird Migration Tour may be counted AND the April 21 morning tour CANNOT be used. That's the day the class will be making their field trip and we can't allow counting participating in class events as Advance Training opportunities. In the event that the class field trip has to be rescheduled that date/time will not be allowed to count. We'll try to give enough notice on this but it could come down to the day of the event, you know how North Texas/Southern Oklahoma weather can be.

The August 11th Nature at Night may be counted, but the Star Party may not be counted.

Only ONE Wetland Tour may be counted.

The Monarch Watch may count as well however we need more information on what that's going to be about as well as the December event. We have a lot of time to figure that out.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE TOURS REQUIRE
A RESERVATION!**

2018 Upcoming Events Hackberry Flats Center

Jan. 13—DUCK! DUCK! GOOSE! & HAWKS! TOUR—1-3:30 pm

**Feb. 17— CHICKEN HAWKS & HOOT OWLS PROGRAM
& TOUR—9-Noon**

March 10—PRAIRIE & WETLAND TOUR—9-Noon

April 20—BIRD MIGRATION TOUR—6-8 pm

April 21—BIRD MIGRATION TOURS—9—Noon and 1-4 pm

April 27—BIRD MIGRATION TOUR—6-8 pm

April 28—BIRD MIGRATION TOURS—9-Noon and 1-4 pm

May 4—BIRD MIGRATION TOUR—6 - 8 pm

May 5—BIRD MIGRATION TOURS—9 - Noon and 1-4 pm

June 9—BREEDING BIRD TOUR—7-11 am

**August 11—NATURE AT NIGHT—7-11 pm
STAR PARTY—11 pm-?**

Sept. 8—WETLAND TOUR—9-Noon

Early October—MONARCH WATCH—Dates & Times TBA

November 10—WETLAND TOUR—1-3:30 pm

December 15—WINTER WONDERS—9-11 am

**For more information go to: www.wildlifedepartment.com
Or Melynda.hickman@odwc.ok.gov or 405-990-4977**

March Line-up on TPW Television

March 4-10, 2018

***College Climbers, Sinking Trees
& the Turkey Dude***

Meets some of the students on the national champion University of Texas club climbing team, and see what it takes to excel at this demanding sport. See how recycling Christmas trees for underwater habitat for fish makes for improved angling opportunities. Meet the man who is the driving force behind successful turkey restoration efforts in East Texas.



March 11-17, 2018

***Goliad Experience, El Paso Owls
& the Marine Identifier***

Goliad State Park & Historic Site is known for its rich cultural history. What is lesser known is the park's vast recreational opportunities. Get a bird's-eye view of some owls that make their home in El Paso's underground. Meet a woman who has created a massive database of marine animals. It's all about genus, species and perseverance.



March 18-24, 2018

***Catching Crappie, Cooking
Crappie & Bald Eagles***

Meet a couple of guys who live to catch crappie, and want to help you learn all about these fantastic fish. Now that you've got some crappie in the boat, it's time to make 'em into a tasty meal, frying style. The Bald Eagle is no longer on the endangered species list. Visit a couple of eagle nests and see how these magnificent birds are overcoming new challenges.

Nosebleed, also called yarrow, is a ferny-leaf plant that grows along roadsides and in neglected fields. Its leaves have been used for centuries to both stop and start a nosebleed. Crushed, rolled-up leaves were placed in the nostrils.



The honey-pot ants that live in the deserts of the U.S. Southwest gather large amounts of nectar and store it in the swollen bodies

of specialized worker ants called repletes. Native Americans have snacked on these sweet ants for centuries.

A crow's brain is about the size of a human thumb. Crows are about as smart as a typical 7-year-old human. Crows are chatty birds, with more than 20 calls, and can have "conversations" that are several minutes long.



RESOURCE

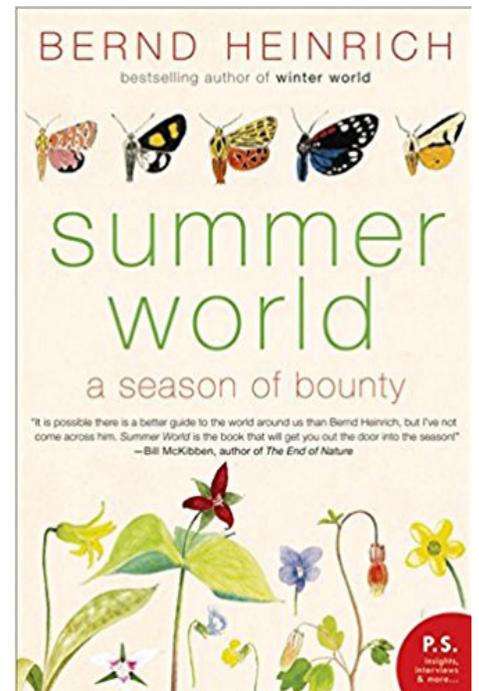
Summer World: A Season of Bounty

by Bernd Heinrich

Paperback: 288 pages

ISBN- 978-0060742188

Price: \$11.64 on Amazon



How can cicadas survive—and thrive—at temperatures pushing 115°F? Do hummingbirds know what they're up against before they migrate over the Gulf of Mexico? Why do some trees stop growing taller even when three months of warm weather remain? With awe and unmatched expertise, Bernd Heinrich's *Summer World* never stops exploring the beautifully complex interactions of animals and plants with nature, giving extraordinary depth to the relationships between habitat and the warming of the earth.

"This lovely book, meticulously etched and based on impassioned but exacting scientific research, illustrates why Bernd Heinrich is generally regarded as the most truly Thoreauvian of modern natural history writers."

—Edward O. Wilson

The Feral Hog One of the Top Ten Invasive Species in Texas



European wild hogs were first introduced into Texas during the 1930s by ranchers and sportsmen who used them for hunting. Most of the hogs escaped from game ranches and began free-ranging and breeding with feral hogs in various regions on the Rio

Grande, Coastal Plains, and in East Texas. Feral pigs drastically affect wildlife and plant communities as well as domestic crops and livestock. Their rooting habits disrupt vegetation and soil, and cause shifts in plant succession on the disturbed site. Feral pigs also compete with several species of wildlife for certain foods, especially mast.

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