

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 6

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

June 2018

Presidents Report

by Terry McKee

It is June and we have finished another successful training class, thanks to the professors at MSU and our dedicated chapter members and experts that shared their time and talents. To those that were part of the training class we say thank you for your interest and remind you that we welcome you into the Rolling Plains Chapter and encourage you to remain active and continue your interest and education about the natural world. Many of our trainees are very close to certifying, and at the June meeting we will present certificates to those that have reached the goal of passing the class to this point. Laura Clepper, Stephen Holcomb, and Lee Williamson will receive their certificates Tuesday night. Congratulations to Stephen and Lee for achieving perfect attendance during the training.



For those trainees that have not certified as of now, we will offer opportunities to help you certify by the end of the year. One such opportunity will be June 23 at Lake Arrowhead State Park from 9 a.m. to noon. Penny Miller will be discussing pollinators and following that we will be in the field identifying and learning about our native butterflies, moths and other pollinators. This will count as advanced training.

We also need the help of all members! We need suggestions for upcoming programs and persons to present them. If you know someone that could give a program at our monthly meeting (or maybe YOU would like to present on a topic of your choice) please contact Joy Parsons at mjp-texas111@gmail.com. She and the board would appreciate it.

Another way you can help is to send items of interest, photos, stories of your adventures as a naturalist or observations to be included in the chapter newsletter. Send those to Paula Savage at pasavage@sbcglobal.net.

We have many talented members with different interests. Please share those interests and help our chapter grow.

E LOCALS

JUNE 5: Rolling Plains Chapter monthly meeting is *in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Midwestern State University* Time: 7:00 PM. The program will be presented by Penny Miller on Pollinators.

JUNE 6: Texoma Regional Math and Science Conference Region 9 (booth at event) signup at Chapter Monthly Meeting

JUNE 9: AT opportunity at Hackberry Flat on Saturday, June 9th, Breeding Bird Tour from 7AM to 11AM. Reservations required: Contact Mylynda Hickman 405-990-4977

JUNE 9: Bird Walk - LASP - 8:00am - check with Penny Miller

JUNE 10: 10:00 am - Water Testing -Lucy Park Entrance near River Bend Nature Center.

JUNE 16: Breeding Bird Survey – contact Penny Miller

JUNE 22: Horned Lizard Survey at Public Sites - meet at Lake Wichita Chat trail at 8:00 am.

JUNE 23: Possibly Butterfly Training - more to come later!

JUNE 24: Horned Lizard Surveys at Private Sites - Meet at Sutherland's parking lot at 1:15 pm

Pollinator Conservation Seminar Update

by Larry Synder

I thought I'd give y'all a brief update on our adventure to Knox City.

Most important was learning that the USDA/NRCS are putting some focus on pollinator plants! To be sure, specific pollinator plants but none-the-less, pollinator plants. They still will work with grasses they've already developed, they must do that but they want to get seeds of specific pollinator plants to market.

They're asking master naturalists and master gardeners to keep an eye out for these plants:

Globe Mallow



Please be aware that this come in several colors. If you find some they're asking you to photograph it, gather the GPS coordinates, mark it, and come back and collect

seeds to provide to NRCS.

Willow Leaf Sunflower



If you find Willow Leaf Sunflower they're asking you to photograph it, gather the GPS coordinates, mark it, and come back and collect seeds to provide to NRCS.

Sand Bells



Another one to watch for is Sand Bells. NRCS isn't necessarily looking for this one but Dr. Scott Longing from Texas Tech is looking for it. If you find it, GPS,

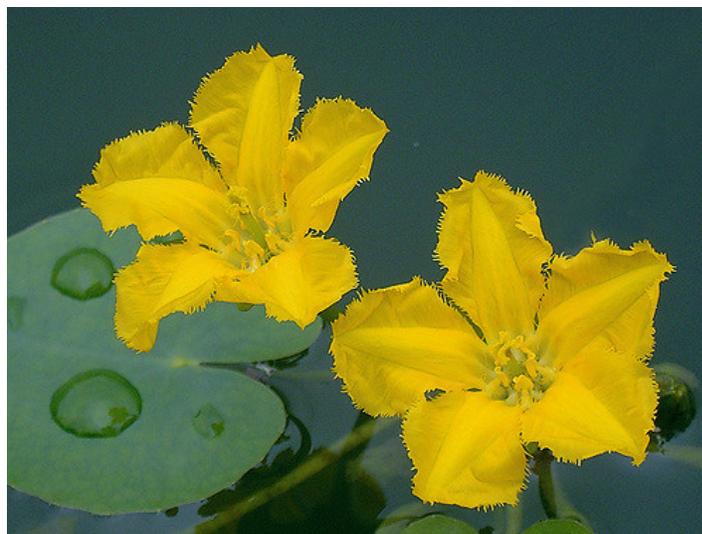
mark it and I'll let Ricky or Scott know of your find. This is found mostly on the high plains of far west Texas, so not much of chance for us to find it in our stomping grounds but you never know, flowers like birds don't look at maps.

Ricky Linex said that monarch butterflies are currently the belle of the ball. With that being so, they're trying to get landowners to plant pollinator plants, specifically plants that bloom late, in the September – October time frame. When the monarchs are travelling through Texas and need to refuel on that much needed nectar. But, more importantly, pollinator plants will help all of our pollinator friends.

It was an interesting workshop.

Invaders of Texas Spotlight

Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides pelata*)



Yellow floating heart is a freshwater floating perennial that threatens aquatic habitat, especially in East Texas. It grows rapidly, covering the entire surface of the water and shading out and outcompeting native vegetation. Decomposing vegetation impacts water quality and shading can cause severe declines in algae, disrupting the entire food web.

Yellow floating heart possesses runners that aggressively root in the substrate. Most of the leaves of yellow floating heart are floating and range from 1.2 – 5.9 in in diameter (3 – 15 cm), have slightly wavy margins, usually grow in an opposite and unequal arrangement, are typically somewhat heart shaped, and are often purplish underneath. Flowers are yellow with five petals, each of which has fringed edges, and range in size from 1 – 1.5 inches (3 – 4 cm) in diameter. From 2 to 5 flowers are held above the water surface on a stalk.

Yellow floating heart was intentionally introduced in the U.S. as an ornamental plant in water gardens and escaped captivity. It has since spread to numerous states from coast to coast. Watercraft spread it by fragmenting it and by carrying it to new locations. It also spreads by producing daughter plants that break off and float to new areas, via rhizomes and tubers, and by seeds, which are spread by water currents and animals. Although this species is prohibited in some states, including Texas, it is widely available online. As a TPWD regulated species, it is illegal to sell, buy or transport yellow floating heart in Texas.

Because of its potential negative impacts in Texas, yellow floating heart is a Report It! species as part of the Sentinel Pest Network, a component of Texasinvasives.org. If you believe you have found yellow floating heart, please report this species.

Learn more about yellow floating heart at Texasinvasives.org.

FACTS FUN



Chameleons have unique eyes—they can move independently, giving them almost 360-degree vision and the ability to look in two directions at once. They have high-speed focus and, when they spot a potential meal, they can point both eyes in the same direction for binocular vision to give accurate depth perception.

The ocean sunfish is 9.8 feet across and weighs around 5,511 pounds. The female can release an estimated 300 million eggs in a breeding season making the ocean sunfish the champion in the world of nature for producing the most offsprings.



Sociable weaver birds live in Africa's Kalahari Desert, where they build their huge nests on sparse trees and telephone poles. These nests can be more than 19 feet long and weigh more than 1,984 pounds. Some nests are even more than a century old, with generations of weaver birds occupying the individual chambers.

Smart Phone Apps for Naturalists

MyRefuge- Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 5.1 or later. FREE



MyRefuge National Wildlife Refuges have been called "America's best kept recreation secret". Well this app will let you in on the secret as you locate Refuges near you and learn about what they have to offer. MyRefuge lists interesting information like hours of operation, to special events and activities taking place on the Refuge, to the kinds of wildlife you are likely to see during a visit. Use MyRefuge to learn more about birds, recreation trails and historic sites on your favorite Refuges, or use it to help plan a visit. Get MyRefuge and get the inside

scoop on some of America's greatest outdoor locations.

Easy Trails GPS 6- Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later. \$3.99

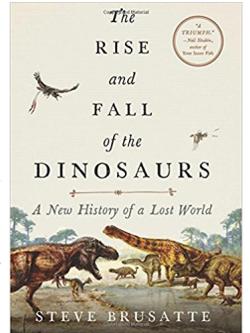


Easy Trails GPS is the application for outdoor experiences that users trust. With a ton of features, the EasyTrails GPS app provides everything that outdoor enthusiasts need and want, including great trail sharing functions. With its build in Google Maps and Google Earth, you'll have a visual record of the distance you've travelled and the locations you've been to. You can get a general overview of the area or zoom in for a street view

RESOURCE CORNER

The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs

by Steve Brusatte
Hardback: 416 pages
ISBN- 978-0062490421
Price: \$20.64 on Amazon



In this captivating narrative, Steve Brusatte, a young American paleontologist who has emerged as one of the foremost stars of the field—naming fifteen new species and leading groundbreaking scientific studies and fieldwork—masterfully tells the complete, surprising, and new history of the dinosaurs, drawing on cutting-edge science to dramatically bring to life their lost world and illuminate their enigmatic origins, spectacular flourishing, astonishing diversity, cataclysmic extinction, and startling living legacy. Captivating and revelatory, *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs* is a book for the ages.

Brusatte traces the evolution of dinosaurs from their inauspicious start as small shadow dwellers—their themselves the beneficiaries of a mass extinction caused by volcanic eruptions at the beginning of the Triassic period—into the dominant array of species every wide-eyed child memorizes today, T. rex, Triceratops, Brontosaurus, and more. This gifted scientist and writer re-creates the dinosaurs' peak during the Jurassic and Cretaceous, when thousands of species thrived, and winged and feathered dinosaurs, the prehistoric ancestors of modern birds, emerged. The story continues to the end of the Cretaceous period, when a giant asteroid or comet struck the planet and nearly every dinosaur species (but not all) died out, in the most extraordinary extinction event in earth's history, one full of lessons for today as we confront a "sixth extinction."

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