

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11, No. 8

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

August 2019

President Report

Summer is headed into the home stretch. Activities have slowed down a little, but will soon pick up.

Many thanks to Lynn and Sandy, Susan, “L”, June and Debra, who had their hands busy with youth at the craft station during the Star Party at Lake Arrowhead State Park July 27. All the kids banging plants on blocks to make imprints sounded like popcorn popping.. Over 200 guests attended!

The chapter will have a session on Monarchs during the Artzeum at the Kemp Center For The Arts on August 10 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Several members will be discussing aspects of the monarch butterfly.

August 17 at 8 am at Lake Arrowhead, we will meet at the headquarters building at Lake Arrowhead for a butterfly Count. Bring your nets and come join in the fun.

September 7 will be our annual Sikes Lake Cleanup at MSU starting at 9 am.

Lynn and I have some old display boards with different projects we have used in the past, that we will bring to the meeting for anyone that would like to have them. Some of the teachers in the chapter might be able to use them.

See you at the meeting Tuesday,
Terry McKee

Results of the July 20 Moth Watch

The chapter held a Moth Watch July 20 at Lake Arrowhead State Park. We did not see any moths, but lots of other critters made an appearance to the delight of our younger guests. We spotted 2 water snakes and had fun with crawdads thanks to Ranger L. The highlight was the cicada that emerged from its shell as we all watched. I

think it was the most photographed bug in the park.-Terry



LOCALS

AUGUST 6: Rolling Plains Chapter training meets *in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Midwestern State University Time: 7:00 PM.*

The program: Pollinators by Penny Miller

AUGUST 8: Comanche Springs/ Horned Lizard Survey. 6:30 a.m. We will be working on the garden, vench painting and conducting Horned Lizard Survey.

AUGUST 10: Bird Walk at Lake Arrowhead led by Penny Miller. Meet at the dump station at 8 a.m.

AUGUST 10: Monarch Program for ArtZeum at the Kemp Center from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

AUGUST 14-16: Quail Symposium at Abilene, Texas

AUGUST 15: Urban Wildlife Conference – Richardson, TX 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – (see attached flyer) 75\$ fee, *Advance Training opportunity*

SEPT. 21: Seed Collecting Workshop at Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus - sign up in advance. Cost is \$50 (includes lunch). Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Note** that the registration fee is **NOT** refundable. Space is limited to 30 people. This will count as *Advance Training*.

New Field Research Project

We have a new Field Research Project for you to participate in. This one is easy and everyone can participate on their own as long as it's done in Texas and in our chapter's counties. Perfect for those that work!

The project is called:

“Texas/Oklahoma Pollinator Project – Insects in the City.”

You can find more information here: https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2019/06/24/texas-oklahoma-pollinator-project/?fbclid=IwAR1_sOUXndqKkEVVWsm7OqQgeDajbk6bZsBpi-SsAfSsFlGbonCxPNF-pEFo

There's a training video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfSpwLYcM3s&feature=youtu.be> It lasts about an hour and a quarter. It's not interactive so no time may be credited for this training. The first 52 minutes are bee information and pertinent to the project. The project instructions start at about the 52 minute point.

I've created an opportunity in VMS for this project called: FR: Texas/Oklahoma Pollinator Project

If you have any questions, feel free to ask.—Larry

Urban Wildlife Conference

Importance and Management of Wildlife in Public Parks

Join us at the Richardson Civic Center for educational presentations on turtles, coyotes, bobcats, snakes, rats, and land management with Citizen Science.

When: Thursday, **August 15, 2019:** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM CDT

Where: Richardson Civic Center 411 W Arapaho Rd Suite 102
Richardson, TX 75080

Agenda:

8:30 – 9:00 am: Registration and light breakfast

9 – 9:10 am: Welcome and Introduction to Speakers

9:10 – 10:10 am: Turtles in the parks: Paul Crump, Texas Parks and Wildlife Herpetologist

10:10 – 11:10 am: Rats: How to detect and manage: Brett Johnson, Dallas Parks and Recreation Urban Biologist

11:10 – noon: Hazing urban coyotes and bobcats: Rachel Richter, Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist

Noon – 1:00 pm: Lunch (provided on site)

1 – 2:00 pm: Snakes: ID, importance, and management: Nathan Rains, Texas Parks and Wildlife Regional Wildlife Biologist

2 – 3:00 pm: Land Management with Citizen Science: Sam Kieschnick, Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist

Coordinator: Sam Kieschnick, Urban Wildlife Biologist, DFW Texas Parks and Wildlife

Cost: \$75 (or \$85 after August 14) including light breakfast, lunch, and snacks

Tickets and more details available on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-urban-wildlife-conference-tickets-64940866881>

Questions? Please contact Jo Lynne Merrill at vicepresident@ntmn.org

Congratulations Rolling Plains Chapter Members

Congratulations to Ray Hyde on having reached the 250 hour milestone.

Congratulations to Joy Parsons and Paula Savage. Both have re-certified for 2019.



Small Wonders: Insects and Art

Monarch Program

Hi Everyone!

If you are interested in helping with presenting a segment on Monarch Butterflies at the Kemp Center on August 10 (1:30 to 3:00pm), please contact me by email.

When I get a list of those who can help with this, we can decide “who” would like to talk about “what”?

I think that Jane would be awesome at talking about Milkweed, Maryruth would be perfect at talking about life cycle, and others would be great at parts also!

I have a short play that shows the history of tagging in North America that I could do. We could use someone to talk about research projects, migration and tagging, and anything else you might think would be important. (types of butterfly nets, location to observe Monarchs, etc.)

Let me know if there is something that you would like to be a part of in this program. If you don't want to talk, you could just come to support the group in another way. If you want to help with this, e-mail me at: rlynnseman@gmail.com

Thanks a bunch,
Lynn

P.S. If you use Netflix, the series called “One Strange Rock” (last episode) has a great story about Monarchs. Beautiful videography!

FUN FACTOIDS



Armadillos can walk underwater. Nine banded armadillos are land animals, but they don't let a little water stop them. They can hold their breath for up to 6 minutes as they walk along the beds of rivers and streams.

Fish can change color! Niangua darters change colors during spawning, with their bellies becoming bright orange-red and their sides developing blue-green bars.



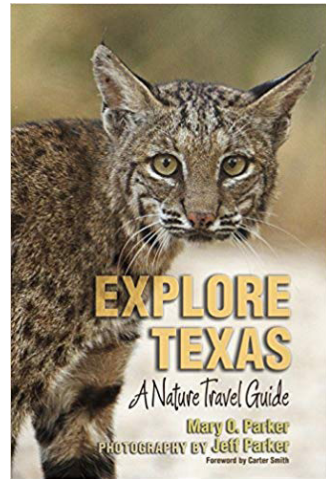
Coyotes have super-speed! Remember the coyote from the cartoons? It turns out their speed is no joke. Coyotes can sprint up to 43 miles per hour!



RESOURCE CORNER

Explore Texas: A Nature Travel Guide

by Mary O. Parker
Paperback: 288 pages
ISBN- 978-1623494032
Price: \$26.36 on Amazon



If you are interested in bird-watching, wildlife viewing, or stargazing; flowers, geology, or water; nature centers, festivals,

or photography, a destination in Texas awaits you.

From the desert gardens of Big Bend to hawk watching on the Gulf Coast to caving and bat watching in the Hill Country, nature-oriented travel in Texas also includes lesser known getaways.

Organized by the seven official state travel regions, Explore Texas features descriptions of almost one hundred nature-oriented sites, including information about the best time to visit and why it's worth going; location, and other logistics; and a "learn" section on the observations and natural phenomena a visitor might expect to experience. Photographs by professional photographer Jeff Parker accompany the accounts, and handy color-coded icons help guide readers to the activities of their choice.

Perfect for planning the family's next outing or vacation, this book also contains a message of how nature tourism helps to protect biodiversity, promote conservation, and sustain the state's tourism economy.

Invasive Spotlight: Soapberry Borer

A native of Mexico, the soapberry borer is a beetle that attacks western soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*). Infested trees can be easily recognized by the exposed sapwood that results when birds and squirrels chip off the bark to feed on the larvae, leaving an accumulation of bark chips at the base of the tree. Infested trees die back from the top, and in response often produce many sprouts along the base of the trunk. Adults leave D-shaped exit holes when they emerge from the tree. Trees die within three years. The soapberry borer is now found in several counties in Texas.



The adult soapberry borer is about 1/2 to 1 inch long, shiny black, and distinctively marked with four small white spots on the wing covers. Larvae are flat-headed wood borers that may attain an inch in length as they mature. After feeding beneath the bark, the larvae bore into the wood to complete development and pupate.

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