

# Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 12, No. 1

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

January 2020

### President Report

Cheers to a new year and decade! 2020 promises to be full of events and opportunities for learning and serving in our Rolling Plains Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist. Our new Board consisting of the following met Monday, January 30, 2019.

#### Officers:

President.....Kay Murphy  
Vice President..... Lisa Taylor  
Secretary.....Lynn Seman  
Treasurer.....Larry Snyder

#### Directors:

*Immediate Past President:* Terry McKee  
*Membership:* Larry Snyder  
*New Class:* Terry McKee  
*Communications:* Lisa Taylor  
*Advanced Training:* Larry Snyder  
*Volunteer Services Projects:* Lynn Seman  
*State Chapter Representative:* Kay Murphy  
*Advisor:* Robert Mauk

#### Committee Chairs:

*Newsletter:* Paula Savage  
*Webmaster:* Debra Halter

Above Directors are acting as Committee Chairs because our Chapter is small, but would appreciate volunteers to assist them.

Lynn Seman formed a committee for a new project which is currently called the Monthly Nature Hike. The first hike will be led by Sandy Underwood on (last Saturday of the month) January 25 @ Lucy Park. We will meet up at Lucyland at 2:00 pm. Put on your layers and show up! You will be glad you did.

One of the Board's goals is to provide more opportunities for Advanced Training. If you have any suggestions or know anyone to conduct Advanced Training, please contact me or anyone on the Board. *Our January 7th meeting training will be conducted by members who volunteer to do a Book Sharing.* You can share any resource you consider important relating to our TMN curriculum including books, websites, articles, blogs, and magazines. Be prepared to share 3-5 concepts. You can read aloud directly from your source. If you would like to loan your book to members, please put your name and phone number inside.

### LOCALS

**JANUARY 7:** Rolling Plains Chapter training meets *in Bolin Science Hall room 209 at Mid-western State University Time:* 7:00 PM. **The program:** Resource sharing by members.

**JANUARY 11:** Bird walk with Penny Miller at Lake Arrowhead State Park. Meet at the dump station at 8am.

**JANUARY 25:** We are beginning a monthly nature hike starting in January of this year.

Sandy Underwood will be our hike leader and will guide us to search for trees and seeds along the river at Lucy Park.

The hike will be on January 25 at 2:00pm.

We have set this up as a public event with registration available at this website. It is a free event, but if people register, we will have an idea of how many participants will be attending.

Share this link with your friends and family.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monthly-tmn-nature-hike-january-tickets-86281988751>

**FEBRUARY 8:** Penitentiary Hollow Wild Walk 2:00p to 4:00p Lake Mineral Wells State Park & Trailway. Reservations are required. Call 940-328-1171.

Laura Gillis designed two logos for our Chapter, a Bobwhite quail and a Meadowlark. We will vote at this first meeting to determine which design will be our logo. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let me or Larry know your choice by January 6th. You may do this by e-mailing or texting one of us.



Reminder! Please enter your 2019 TMN hours ASAP. This will really help Larry, our TMN VMS Czar.

I am looking forward to an exciting year of working with this Board and serving our chapter! —Kay

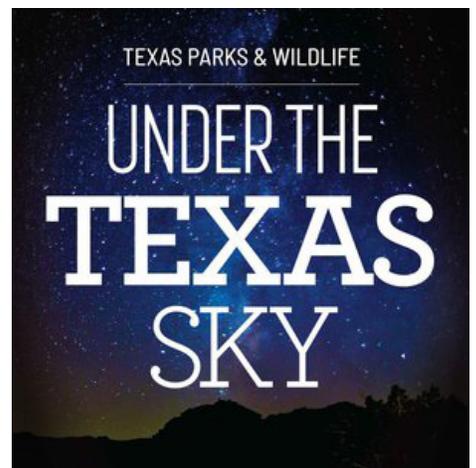
## First Day Hikes at Lake Arrowhead State Park

We had such a great turn out for the First Day Hikes at Lake Arrowhead State park! It was so nice to see so many people outside on the first day of the year.

For the first event at 2:00pm, there were around 60 people! For the second event, there were around 30. It was a perfect day for hiking. Thank you to all of you who came and helped out with the event. Thank you Ranger L for organizing these hikes and doing such a fantastic job!



*“Keep close to nature’s heart . . . and break clear away; once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”*  
—John Muir



Introducing the new podcast from Texas Parks and Wildlife about nature, people, and the connection they share.

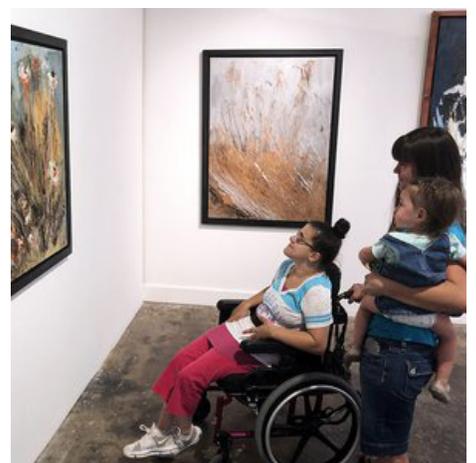
Under the Texas Sky, produced and hosted by Cecilia Nasti, presents the great outdoors to listeners through the experiences of everyday people as well as experts inside and outside of the agency. The podcast is not just about Texas Parks and Wildlife Department programs and projects. It is about the people who benefit from the work the agency does to keep Texas wild things and wild places vibrant.



EPISODE #3  
Pollinators and Native Plants



EPISODE #6  
Heat Hacks



EPISODE #9  
The Art of Nature

# Advanced Training Opportunities

Larry says to be sure to tick the Water Specialist box when participating in these activities and reporting them on the VMS site. Those tick marks are what determines if you get certified as a water specialist.

Also, participating in COCORAHs counts towards Water Specialist.

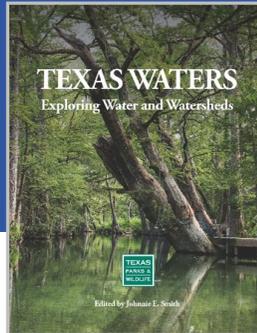
You can register for the webinars now.



## Texas Waters Specialist Program

### About Texas Waters Curriculum

By laying the educational foundation on the importance of healthy water ecosystems for humans and wildlife, Texas Waters aims to build a corps of well-informed volunteers to educate and serve their communities.



### Program Requirements

Accumulate at least 8 hours of Advanced Training utilizing the Texas Waters curriculum:

- Attend Texas Waters events, sessions, and field trips at the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting
- Attend Texas Waters webinars or viewing past webinars with discussion
- Small group interactive study using the Texas Waters curriculum
- Other approved Texas Waters learning activities (up to 4 hours)

*Texas Waters Specialists earn a Certificate of Recognition, flag, and heron pin*

### Annual Renewal Requirements

- Participate in at least 10 hours of volunteer service projects in the area of water and watersheds.

Examples: Texas Stream Team, Aquatic Invasive Species Management, and more.

*Renewed Specialists receive recognition at Texas Waters Day.*

### 2020 Webinar Series

View live from 6:30-7:30 PM

- 1-14 One Water Conference and Review of SB1 and SB2
- 2-12 Texas Instream Flow Study
- 3-18 CoCoRaHS
- 4-7 Groundwater Conservation Districts
- 5-19 Comptroller Office Natural Resource Programs
- 6-17 Urban Water Cycle and Sustainability in the Swamp
- 7-16 Upper Coast Wetland Ecosystem Project
- 8-13 River Restoration Guidelines

For more information, visit

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>



## Researchers Studying Invasive Slugs in Texas for Harmful Nematodes

Several invasive slugs and one flatworm species present in Texas are becoming a human health concern, because they can transmit Angiostrongylus nematodes to mammals. Those slug species are the Black Velvet Leatherleaf slug (*Belocaulus angustipes*), Yellow Garden slug (*Limax flavus*), Giant Garden slug (*Limax maximus*) and Marsh slug (*Deroceras laeve*); and the flatworm is the New Guinea flatworm (*Platydemus manokwari*). The slugs are found throughout the state, and through citizen reporting and TISI expert collections, we have docu-

mented the New Guinea flatworm in Gulf Coastal and Central Texas.

Over the past three years, the Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI) has been documenting the true distribution of these species, and in late 2018, they started testing these slugs and flatworm for Angiostrongylus nematodes. The Rat Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus cantonensis*) and Intestinal Angiostrongyliasis (*Angiostrongylus costaricensis*) are the two species of concern for TISI. The Rat Lungworm is native to southeastern Asia but is found in Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma, while Intestinal Angiostrongyliasis is native to Central America and was

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

**Upcoming Events  
Hackberry Flat Center—2020**

Jan. 4	Duck! Duck! Goose! & Hawks! Tour	1pm-3:30 pm
Feb. 8	In Search of Chicken Hawks & Hoot Owls Tour	9- Noon
April 17	Bird Migration Tour	6 pm – 8 pm
April 18	Bird Migration Tours	9am - Noon & 1pm - 4pm
April 24	Bird Migration Tour	6pm - 8 pm
April 25	Bird Migration Tours	9am - Noon & 1pm - 4pm
May 1	Bird Migration Tour	6pm - 8 pm
May 2	Bird Migration Tours	9am - Noon & 1pm - 4pm
June 6	Breeding Bird Tour	6am – 10am
Aug. 15	Bats of Oklahoma Traveling Exhibit	2pm- 4pm
	Nature At Night Tour	7pm – 11 pm
	Star Party	11 pm - ?
Early October	Monarch Watch Dates & Times	TBA
Nov. 14	Wetland Tour	1pm - 3:30 pm

Tours require reservations. Due to length of tours and transportation, children must be at least 8 years old. There is no fee.

For more information go to: [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com);  
Friends of Hackberry Flat Facebook  
To make a reservation: [melynda.hickman@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:melynda.hickman@odwc.ok.gov)

once documented in Texas in the 1970s. In order to complete their life cycle, Angiostrongylus species requires one mollusk (snail/slug) host and one mammal host. The TISI is focused on testing slugs/flatworm because the nematodes reach their infective larval (L3) stage within them, and those L3 are excreted in their slime trails.

In their native lands, these nematodes are often transmitted to humans eating raw or under cooked slugs and snails; however, in the USA, we are subject to exposure through the handling of infected slugs and/or garden vegetables/fruits covered with contaminated slime trails. Prevention of these nematodes is very easy: just simply washing your hands, fruits or vegetables can significantly reduce any exposure to Angiostrongylus.

TISI is still actively accepting sighting information and slug specimens. If you think you have one of these species, please e-mail a photo and your location to Ashley Morgan-Olvera at [arm001@shsu.edu](mailto:arm001@shsu.edu) for confirmation.



*Black Velvet Leatherleaf slug*



*Yellow Garden slug*



*Giant Garden slug*



*Marsh slug*

Water can turn to vapor at relatively low temperatures. It doesn't need to be boiling. It can even do it a near freezing point—which means that floating ice, water and water vapor can all exist in the same place at the same time.



Hopping mice do not drink. They get all the water that they need from their diet of seeds, berries, leaves, green plants, and insects.



The jumping cholla is a cactus with stems that fall off so easily that they seem to jump out and bite you when you pass by. Jumping cholla can reach 6 to 15 feet in height. Jumping cholla has tree-like shape.

## Upcoming AT and Volunteer Opportunities for TMN

- AT -January 14** - One Water Conference and Review of SB1 and SB2 for Texas Waters Specialist Certification - Webinar need to register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7101826270900218380> 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- AT -January 18** - 10:00am Winter Woody Plant ID - Palo Pinto Mountain State Park (not open to public yet) 10:00am. Must sign up in advance (limited number) Let me know if you need more information. -- contact person James.Shipp@tpwd.texas.gov.
- VT -January 25** - Lucy Park 2:00pm - Monthly Nature Hike led by Sandy Underwood - Trees and Seeds - meet at Lucyland parking lot in Lucy Park more info. at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monthly-tmn-nature-hike-january-tickets-86281988751>
- AT -January 28** - (need to buy tickets unless MSU staff or student) DR. EDITH WIDDER at MSU Akin Auditorium 7:00pm Find more information here: <https://calendar.msutexas.edu/event/artist-lecture-series-dr-edith-widder/>
- AT -January 30** - Birds in Art Lecture at Wichita Falls Museum of Art - Reception 5:30pm to 7:30pm Lecture at 6:00pm by Dr. Brown Marsden Find more information here: <https://calendar.msutexas.edu/event/birds-in-art-opening-reception/>

Other possibilities to come!

## RESOURCE CORNER

*Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss*  
 by Margaret Renkl  
 Hardback: 248 pages  
 ISBN- 978-1571313782  
 Price: \$16.91 on Amazon

*“Magnificent . . . Conjure your favorite place in the natural world: beach, mountain, lake, forest, porch, windowsill rooftop? Precisely there is the best place in which to savor this book.” NPR.org*



Growing up in Alabama, Renkl was a devoted reader, an explorer of riverbeds and red-dirt roads, and a fiercely loved daughter.

Here, in brief essays, she traces a tender and honest portrait of her complicated parents--her exuberant, creative mother; her steady, supportive father--and of the bittersweet moments that accompany a child's transition to caregiver.

And here, braided into the overall narrative, Renkl offers observations on the world surrounding her suburban Nashville home. Ringing with rapture and heartache, these essays convey the dignity of bluebirds and rat snakes, monarch butterflies and native bees. As these two threads haunt and harmonize with each other, Renkl suggests that there is astonishment to be found in common things: in what seems ordinary, in what we all share. For in both worlds--the natural one and our own--"the shadow side of love is always loss, and grief is only love's own twin."

Late Migrations is an assured and memorable debut.

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