

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

January 2021

President's Report

Welcome to 2021! As we usher out a most challenging year, I am looking forward to a new year, with new projects and opportunities. I hope that many of these will be in person and face-to-face but until then, we will carry on and do what we can.

As more and more people are forced out of the malls and movie theaters to rediscover our parks and green spaces, our job as Master Naturalists is more important than ever. Many of these folks need guidance about nature and how to interact with it and that's where we can help and educate. While we will have our hands "tied" for a bit with Covid-19 restrictions, the Board will be working hard to find new and interesting projects and opportunities for the Chapter. In addition to our established projects, we are exploring options for the Monthly Nature Hikes, the City Nature Challenge, Climate Watch programs and more.

One of the new projects will be headed up by Lynn Seman who is putting together a Rolling Plains Video Project. This project will consist of short videos telling of our programs and what we do as a Chapter. If you have a project that you have enjoyed or that is special to you, please share it with us! As always, if you have a project that you are interested in we would love to consider it so, please let us know!

I would like to thank Kay, Debra, Lynn, Larry and everyone on a committee for their past service to our Chapter. I am sorry that I am not sure who all did what, but you ALL did an outstanding job dealing with all of the regulations and changes that happened almost weekly. I am also looking forward to working with Debra, Sandy and Lynn this next year.

We have several committees that need a Chairman and members to help. We are looking for people to help with Outreach, Publicity, Historian, and Volunteer Service Projects Director as well as liaisons to help us stay in contact with our partner organizations. If you are currently serving on a committee I hope you will continue to serve. If you would like to help please let me know. Committee work is a great way to get your hours. Besides, I am still trying to figure all this "President" stuff out and I will need all the help I can get!

I look forward to seeing everyone on the meeting Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00 pm. The program for the meeting will be a "Show and Tell" so bring

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JANUARY 5: Rolling Plains Chapter Meeting - 7:00pm
on Zoom - log in a little early so we can start the program at 7:00pm. A Zoom link will be sent out one hour before the meeting. Hope to see you all there!

The program: "Show and Tell" so bring your favorite naturalist resource to show and give us a short report.

Chapter Dues

Mail your dues to:

Lynn Seman
982 Victoria St
Burkburnett TX 76354

Dues are \$15 single, \$25 couple.

Home and Garden Tickets

Like all things, the price of Home & Garden Show tickets have gone up. And, yes, they do plan to have one next year.

The cost to the chapter has increased to \$2.00 per ticket and your cost per ticket is \$8.00. The chapter keeps the \$6.00 for our programs and other costs. Tickets will be \$10 at the door is my understanding.

This is the only fundraiser that we

your favorite naturalist resource to show and give us a short report. If you will let Lynn know early, she will prepare a “reading list” for us of all the resources. You may find a new book and can never have too many field guides!

If you have any new projects, concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to drop me a line at gillis.laura5319@gmail.com or give me a call (940)733-4467. (If you are sent to voicemail, please leave me a message... I will call you back!)

Happy New Year and Happy Trails!
Laura

Spotted Lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) has been a growing concern to the agricultural community since its introduction in 2014. It feeds on economically important plants, which could lead to devastating losses in logging, fruit tree, and grape industries. It has 70 documented host plants, 25 of which grow in the U.S. such as: grape vines, apples, birch, cherry, lilac, maple, poplar, and stone fruits. The SLF seems to prefer the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), an invasive tree present in most of the U.S., and is likely to establish itself wherever the tree-of-heaven is present.

The adult SLF is small (17-27mm) and cryptic, relying mostly on camouflage. The forewings are light brown with black spots, the base color darkens toward the tips of the wing. The hindwings, hidden when the forewings are closed, are bright red with black spots, with a white band separating the red from black tips. Immature lanternflies (nymphs) undergo four developmental stages (instars) that are black with white dots but start to produce red patches as they develop into adults. Adults and nymphs have piercing mouthpart that allow them to feed on the phloem of the plant. This can cause damage to stems/fruits, and leave weeping wounds that fill with sap. Large amounts of “honey dew” (insect waste) will gather at the base of the tree and blacken the soil in areas of infestations. Honey dew can produce mats of fungal mold which can damage the growth of or kill the tree.

SLF lay their eggs in masses, 35-50 eggs a case, multiple cases, then cover them with a brownish-gray waxy secretion. Lanternflies are generalist and will lay their egg masses on almost any smooth surface, such as tree branches, trunks, stones and bushes. Reports of egg mass removals have found them under cars, wooden pallets, in grills, on outdoor furniture, farm equipment and on buildings. Adults die after laying, and eggs hatch in the spring.

SLF has not been reported in Texas. Since the invasive tree-of-heaven and many of the other agriculturally important host plants preferred by this pest are found/grown in Texas, experts are staying vigilant.



TOP: Adult Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). BOTTOM: Different developmental stages of SLF nymphs. Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



SLF infestation. Tree exhibiting symptoms: weeping wounds, honey dew, and dark sooty mold. Credit: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org

ask our members to participate in.

Orders will be taken until **January 15th**. Tickets will then be purchased and delivered to the purchaser.

Mail your orders to:

Lynn Seman
982 Victoria St
Burkburnett TX 76354

VIRTUAL Monday – January 4
– 5:30pm – Spring Training Class
Committee Meeting (Zoom)

VIRTUAL Tuesday – January 5 –
7:00pm – Chapter Meeting (Zoom)

VIRTUAL Tuesday – January 12
– TMN Tuesday noon - On the Second Tuesday of each month at the noon hour (12PM Central Standard Time), the TMN State Office will offer an hour-long virtual advanced training event (sometimes including some fantastic new and returning guest speakers). More information to come!

Climate Watch Event – Starts January 15th to February 15th – More information to come (if we have a coordinator)

Project Feeder Watch – continues until April 9th!

The **24th annual GBBC** (Great Backyard Bird Count) will be held Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2021

Penitentiary Hollow Wild Walk— 2:00p to 4:00p on Sat, January 16, 2021 Lake Mineral Wells State Park & Trailway. **Reservations required.** Limited to 10 participants. Make reservations by calling (940) 328-1171 ext 222. Explore beautiful sandstone formations in remote areas only accessible on this guided hike. Park Interpreter David Owens on a wild walk, crawl and scoot through some of the most remote areas of beautiful Penitentiary Hollow.

This is a strenuous walk involving some crawling through tight spaces in rock cracks, crevices and short caves.

Expect to get dirty!



Raw lima beans contain the lethal chemical compound cyanide. However, they are safe to eat, so long as they are thoroughly cooked! Lima beans originated in Peru. They have been cultivated in Peru since 6000 B.C., and their common name comes from Lima, Peru’s capital city.

The fact that some crabs only walk sideways is due to their evolutionary development. The further removed the crab is from its crustaceous ancestors the more likely it is to walk sideways. The advantage to walking sideways is the crab can shovel up food from the sands with it’s legs.



Never throw out honey, because it never spoils. Scientists have found 3,000-year-old honey in Egyptian pyramids that was still perfectly edible.

First Tyrannosaurus Embryos Discovered



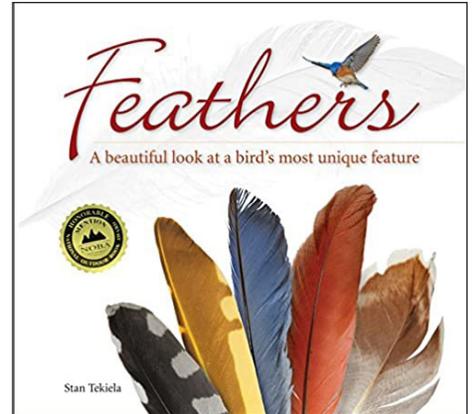
An illustration shows what Tyrannosaurus rex hatchlings may have looked like. The newly described embryonic fossils were not from T. rex, but an earlier species of related tyrannosaur that has not been identified. ILLUSTRATION BY JULIUS CSOTONYI

Researchers have identified the remains of tyrannosaurs so young they hadn’t yet broken free from their shells. The discovery comes from finds at two different sites—a foot claw unearthed in 2018 from the Horseshoe Canyon Formation in Alberta, Canada, and a lower jaw recovered in 1983 from the Two Medicine Formation of Montana. Analysis of the remains, which are 71 to 75 million years old, revealed that tyrannosaurs started out surprisingly small, measuring an estimated three feet long—about the size of a Chihuahua, but with an extra-long tail. This length is only about a tenth of their full-grown counterparts and might help explain why researchers haven’t yet found other examples of these tiny tyrants—most scientists just weren’t looking for such a pint-sized predator.

RESOURCE CORNER

Feathers

by Stan Tekiela
 Paperback: 128 pages
 ISBN-978-1591934936
 Price: \$7.49 on Amazon
 Kindle: \$7.12



Appreciate the Adornment of Birds. Feathers possibly the most amazing body covering in the entire animal kingdom. No other covering does all that feathers do. From the delicate down feathers that keep birds warm to the sturdy flight feathers that allow birds to soar, these marvelous structures are something to admire. This coffee table book is filled with stunning, incomparable photos, and it promises to delight as it walks you through the world of feathers.

Book Features:

More than 230 stunning, one-of-a-kind images of feathers and birds from across the United States. Many fascinating facts, including how feathers keep tiny chickadees warm in winter, why Blue Jays aren’t really blue and how the feathers of owls can help them hunt prey.

Information that will season your understanding of feathers and enhance your enjoyment of birds. Everyone who celebrates nature will appreciate this beautiful, detailed look at feathers.

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