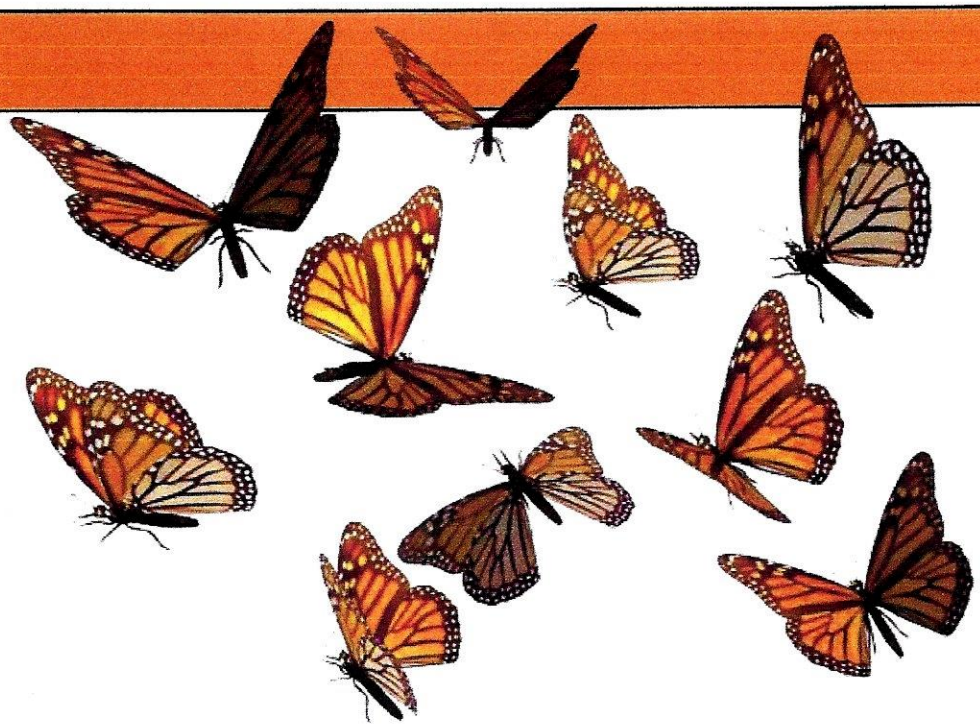
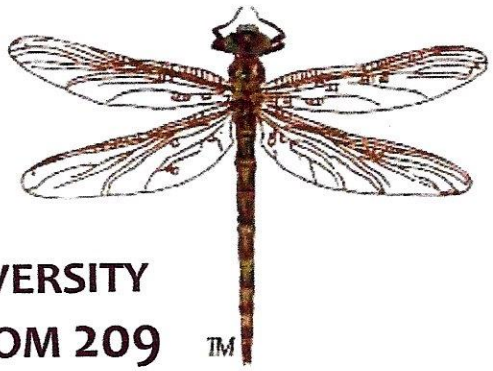


TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER
OPEN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5TH



7 P.M.
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOLIN SCIENCE HALL, ROOM 209

Wichita Falls is a popular stop on the Monarch migration route and they will be arriving soon!

Come join us as we discuss the migration, some great places to view the Monarch's and one of our favorite activities, Monarch tagging!

http://txmn.org/rollingplains/

Learn about Copper Breaks State Park and meet the Park Superintendent!

Tuesday, October 3rd, 7pm

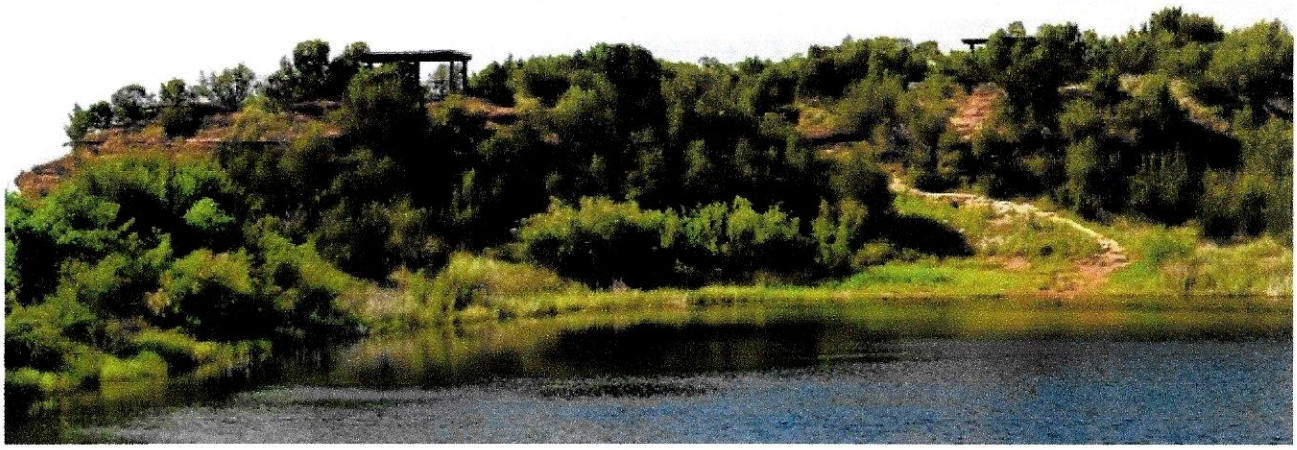
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

Rolling Plains Chapter

OPEN MEETING

MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOLIN SCIENCE HALL, ROOM 209

GUEST SPEAKER, PARK SUPERINTENDENT EDWIN QUINTERO, WILL BE TALKING ABOUT COPPER BREAKS STATE PARK AND ALL OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS THE PARK HAS TO OFFER.



The Texas Master Naturalist program develops local volunteers who provide educational and outreach services aimed at the better management of natural resources and enhancement of natural areas within their communities. Individual volunteers bring a wealth of talents, skills, visions, and experiences to share with others. From caring for orphaned wildlife babies to conducting hands-on field trips for area school children, folks who become involved within the Texas Master Naturalist program bring with them a love of learning, a concern for our natural world, and a sincere commitment to leaving the trail a little better than how we found it.

Texas Master Naturalist is a partnership between the AgriLIFE Extension and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. At the local level, the Rolling Plains Chapter also partners with River Bend Nature Center and Wild Bird Rescue, Inc., both of Wichita Falls, Texas. We meet at 7 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of every month at MSU's Bolin Science Hall, Room 209, Wichita Falls, and guests are always welcome.

http://txmn.org/rollingplains/

A boy's curiosity: Where are the butterflies?

LYNN SEMAN
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

In 1916, Fred Urquhart, a 5-year-old boy living in Canada, spent his summers chasing the Monarch butterflies.

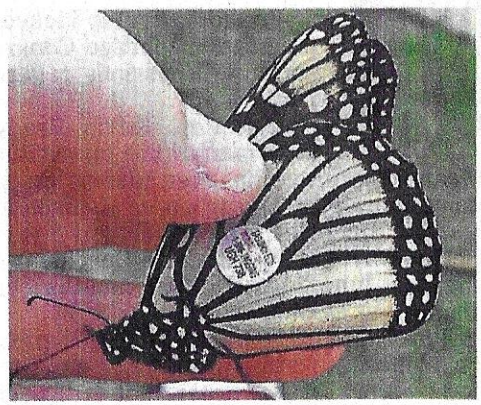
At the end of the summer when the days grew short and cold, he noticed something that made him curious; the Monarch butterflies disappeared. Where did they go? He was extremely curious to find out what happened to his playmates. He would spend his time in the library, reading everything he could find about these bright orange and black butterflies. Fred still could not find his answer to question: Where do they go?

As a full-grown man, Fred was an excellent student who studied at the University of Toronto. He became an expert on many types of insects and eventually earned a PhD in entomology. He married a nice lady, named Norah who shared his love of the Monarch butterfly. Together, they worked out a plan to put "tags" on the butterflies so that they would have a system to track them. They asked many "citizen scientists" to help them out with this great task, including a teacher and his students in Minnesota.

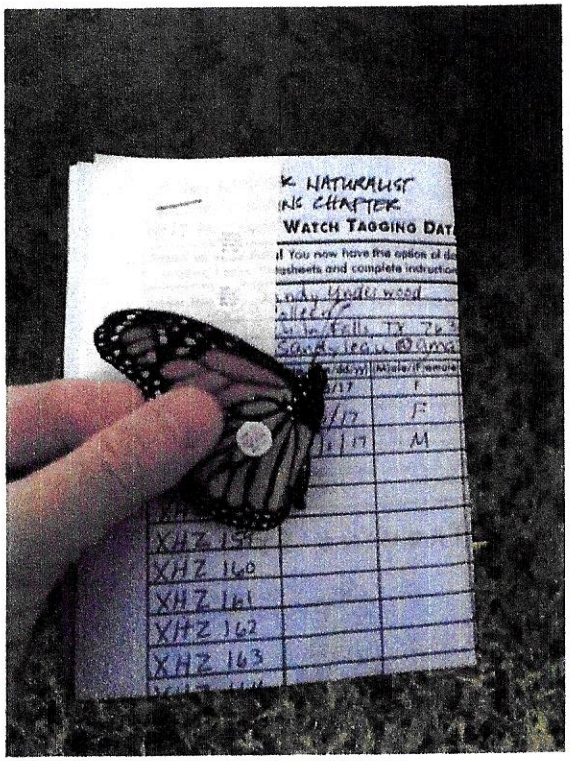
In 1975, after many years of hard work, Fred found the answer to his question. Two of his helpers found the spot where the Monarchs would go in the winter. The butterflies were migrating to the mountains of Central Mexico! Thousands of Monarchs were found overwintering in the mountain forests. Fred and Norah made a trip down to Mexico so that they could see this amazing sight. When Fred arrived, he reached down to pick up a Monarch off the forest floor and noticed that the Monarch was wearing one of the tags that had been placed by the Minnesota teacher and students.

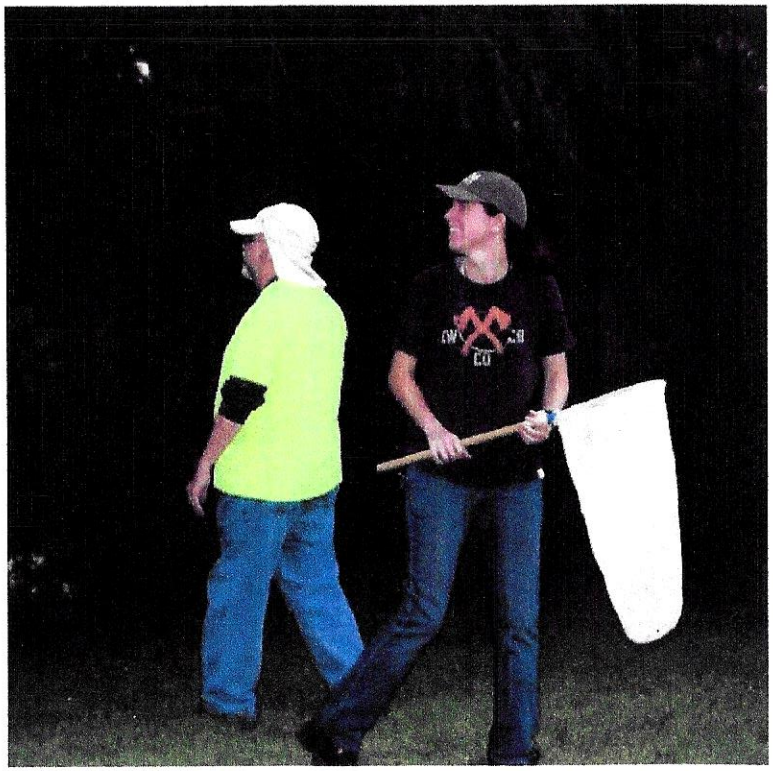
Presently, the University of Kansas keeps track of the tagging data with the help of numerous volunteers through a program called Monarch Watch. Visit www.monarchwatch.org

Lynn Seman is a Texas Master Naturalist. Most of the information for this story was found at http://www.flightofthebutterflies.com/discovery-story/



Tagging a butterfly can help scientists and enthusiasts track their course.
COURTESY OF LYNN SEMAN





Teaching about Monarchs during a tagging event at Lake Wichita Park.

GETTING A VISIT FROM ROYALTY

Kids from Camp Fire North Texas had an opportunity to learn about Monarch Butterflies Friday afternoon. Texas Master Naturalists helped teach the kids how to tag the butterflies. PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER/TIMES RECORD

Monarch butterflies make appearance

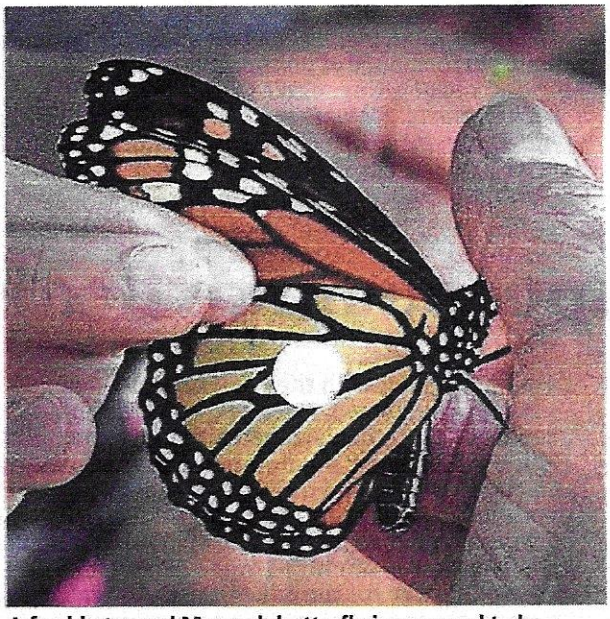
DEANNA WATSON
TIMES RECORD NEWS

You may have noticed some extra visitors to Wichita Falls over the weekend. These visitors could be described as royalty.

The monarch butterflies appeared in the North Texas area as they migrate to Mexico. According to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas offers the perfect path as the monarchs head south.

One path is 300 miles wide, stretching from Wichita Falls to Eagle Pass, the department's website explained. By the third week in October, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department states, most monarchs will have left the area and entered Mexico.

Youngsters gathered at Camp Fire in Lucy Park on Friday as Texas Master Naturalists tagged monarchs in the hopes of learning more about their migration patterns.



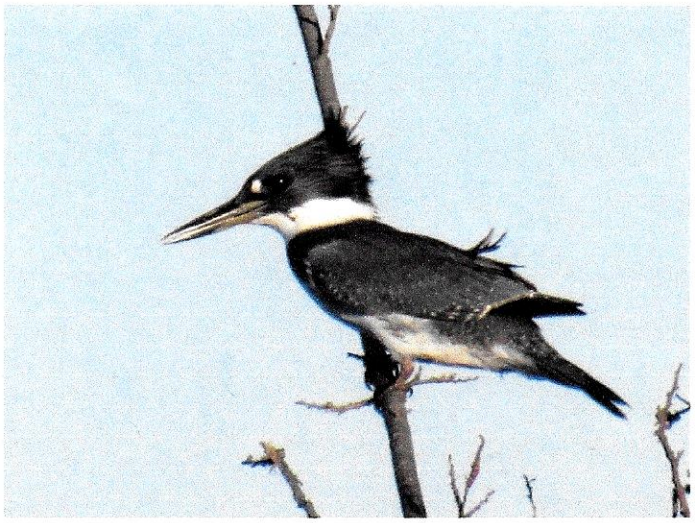
A freshly tagged Monarch butterfly is prepared to be released during a learning session provided by the Texas Master Naturalists to students from Camp Fire North Texas Friday afternoon.

Monday, October 9, 2017 Times Record News

Camp Fire After School Program
on Monarchs Oct. 3 - 6, 2017
Members introduce children to Monaarchs.

Big Sit at Lake Wichita

October 8, 2017



Leadership, service a way of life for Penny Miller

CLAIRE KOWALICK
TIMES RECORD NEWS

Penny Miller is one of four candidates for the Wichita Falls City Council Councilor at Large position. This seat is the only one contended for the November election. Each candidate is meeting with the Times Record News Editorial Board to discuss the issues. The final candidate to meet with the board will be Bobby Whiteley.

When Penny Miller moved to Wichita Falls with her family 21 years ago, she never dreamed she would grow to love this dusty little patch of Texas.

Today, she said she would not want to live anywhere else and wants to give back to the community by serving on the Wichita Falls City Council as the Councilor At Large.

Miller and her husband bought a house in Virginia while she was stationed at Langley Air Force Base and were set to retire there, when she got a call about her dream job. She was offered a commander position in the personnel (human resources) area.

The only problem was that it was at Sheppard Air Force Base. In North Texas. Her husband, Brian, also an Air Force veteran had trained for technical school at Sheppard and was less than enthusiastic about the place.

They came down with their two kids, Ashley and Jason, and decided to make the most of it. By the time Miller retired from the Air Force, they decided there was no place better than Wichita Falls to call home.

The Air Force taught her that when you are living in a community, you contribute what you can. It's what the Air Force expects, she said, and it became a way of life she continued even after retirement.

While in the Air Force, she was the base liaison to the Wichita Falls Independent School District, was the Partners in Education coordinator for her squadron, and the Air Force sponsored her to go through the Leadership Wichita Falls program.

Miller worked briefly for a construction company, then with the Clinics of North Texas for seven years.

In 2007, Miller began Venture HRO, her own human resources company. She provides human resources services to companies that do not have their own human resources department.

In the past decade, Miller served on several boards and commissions including the Commission on Human Needs, Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, Parks Board (12 years), Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee (current member), and the Civil Service Commission.

She also volunteers with many nonprofit organizations including the Wichita County Adult Literacy Council, Wild Bird Rescue, League of Women Voters, and The Opal Center.

Penny Miller is running for the At-Large seat in the Wichita Falls City Council election. TORIN HALSEY/TIMES RECORD NEWS

Along with her full-time job, Miller is an adjunct instructor with Midwestern State University and Wayland Baptist University.

Miller admits one of her weaknesses is she has a difficult time turning down any opportunity to help where she is needed. She said she is passionate about many different things, but still feels there are needs in the community not being met.

After a period of discord, Miller said she thinks the city council is in a better place than it has been in years, with everyone moving in the same direction.

Good work is being done she said, but she thinks there are more solutions out there and would like to find those answers.

Miller said she likes having a vote, a say in what's happening around her. She maintains the best place to make change happen, is locally.

Living wages, small business development, support for Lake Wichita revitalization, downtown development, and keeping college graduates and younger people in the city are all ideas Miller noted as points of interest.

"The city council has an opportunity to provide leadership. Even if it's not specifically what they council does, they can guide what needs to be done," Miller said