

Texas Master Naturalists ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13, No. 10

<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

October 2021

President's Report



Happy Fall, y'all! Monarch migration is upon us and I hope we will get to use all of our tags this year. So far, I haven't seen many in our area but I have heard that they are coming and that they have been seen in our western counties. I am hopeful that they haven't changed course this year and that they will spend a little quality time in The Falls.

Coming up at our October meeting, Terry and the Christmas Party Committee would like to get a head count for the December Christmas Party.

You are more than welcome to bring your family forthis meeting and the more the merrier! We will have a small charge of \$5 per person and this year, that money will be gathered up and given to our parter, Wild Bird Rescue. To make the deal a little sweeter, additional donations are more than welcome, and the Chapter will match the donations up to \$250! The party will be on Tuesday, December 7th and will be at the Postal Workers Union Hall on Southwest Parkway. The committee is working on the details and we will know more soon.

Thanks to everyone who helped at the Sikes Lake Cleanup on the 11th. There were a LOT of folks who turned out to help and they filled a large truck full of trash! It is truly amazing how much trash washes into that lake! The ducks, the geese, the fish and the folks were all very appreciative!



We congratulate new member, DeAnna Bullock for finishing her hours for certification! We are so proud of all of the work and time EVERYONE has spent so far this year! Don't worry if you aren't quite to your hours goal yet... you still have time!

LOCALS

OCTOBER 5: Rolling Plains Chapter Meeting - 7:00pm
at MSU's Bolin Science Hall, room 209. If you would prefer to attend via Zoom, watch for the link to the meeting in your email. Either way, I hope you will join us.

The program: David Graf, Wichita County AgriLife Extension Agent.

October 2- Monarch tagging - @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
This nature hike will be at Lake Wichita Park to tag Monarch Butterflies. Members and the public will learn about the Monarch and their epic multi-generational journey to and from Mexico. Learn how to tag a Monarch and why tagging is done. Meet at the parking lot below Murphy's Mound (the dirt hill).

October 9 - Bird Outing @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Join Penny Miller, other members and guests at Lake Arrowhead State Park for a bird outing. Look for and identify birds found at the park. This is a leisurely hike on level ground (handicap accessible). Binoculars helpful, but not re-

And, speaking of time, if you have signed up for the Annual Meeting, the State office has declared that you may watch the recorded sessions through April of 2022 to count as AT time. If possible, please watch and record your hours early so you won't forget and Lynn won't get buried in last minute entries! If you would like to attend, registration is still open for a short time so hurry and get signed up.

David Graf, Wichita County AgriLife Extension Agent will be our program this month. We will again be doing a hybrid meeting at 7:00 pm on October 5th. If you would like to meet in person, join us at MSU in Bolin Science Hall, Room 209. If joining via Zoom, look for the link in your email! Either way, I hope to see you there!

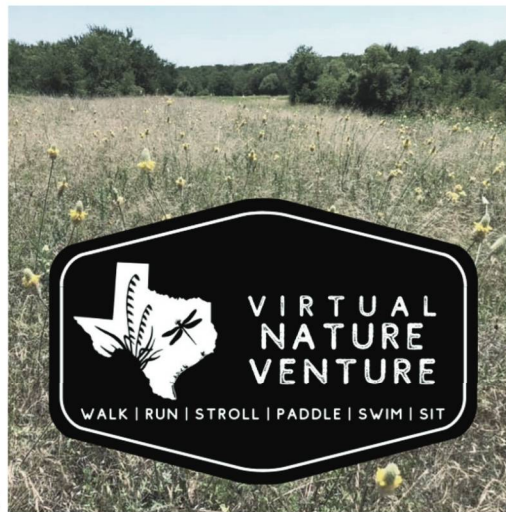
—Laura

quired. You can borrow a birding pack (bird book/binoculars) from the State Park headquarters. This outing happens on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

To join us, pay at the State Park entrance, drive to the second left and turn left. Take the next right. The dump station is the third driveway on your left. Pull around the circle road and be sure to park off of the pavement so RVs can use the dump station.

A Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Fundraising Event!

In years past, the Silent Auction at the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting was our annual fundraiser, supporting conference scholarships, project grants and more. However, with the virtual & hybrid nature of our Annual Meeting, we are not able to host a live auction event this year, but are instead hosting a fundraiser that EVERYONE can get involved in this year. We are asking our community to come together and participate in a VIRTUAL NATURE VENTURE!



Post your photos to iNaturalist or post photos to social media and tag with #texasnatureventure

Join the VNV Facebook Group and post here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/624495215193019>

or email your photos to virtualnature2021@gmail.com and we will post them on the website.

For more information – also check out the Chapter Website - <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/virtual-nature-venture-2021>

For our VIRTUAL NATURE VENTURE, what makes our event a “virtual” one is that it allows you to walk, run, stroll, paddle, swim or sit – on your own time, wherever you choose – a neighborhood route, a nature trail, a park, or your backyard! You choose your place and your activity. **Register by October 14, 2021** to receive these Texas Master Naturalist “branded” items, a phone wallet with removable neck strap, a cold drink koozie, and a sticker.

Registration cost is \$35.

Register at: <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/50596/virtual-nature-venture>

Then if you wish, share your completion pictures, wearing your Virtual Nature Venture swag, for all to see!

Your registration for the event is a fun way to help raise funds for the Texas Master Naturalist Program and the important conservation and stewardship work our program does in Texas. While raising money for these efforts, you are also investing in your own physical and mental health.



You will be mailed this VNV swag after you register - Texas Master Naturalist “branded” items, a phone wallet with removable neck strap, a cold drink koozie, and stickers.

How spiders get their strong bite: Scientists discovered it's a combination of metal atoms and natural proteins that are behind the super-strong jaws of spiders and some other tiny animals. Many of these animals are using their teeth or stingers in life-or-death situations.



You are looking at a leafy sea dragon: Really. They belong to the same family as seahorses, called Syngnathidae. However, unlike seahorses, these animals grow much larger, normally eight to 10 inches.

The longest scientific binomial name given to any animal is *Parastratosphecomyia stratosphecomyioides* (containing 42 letters), which is a species of stratiomyid fly with a metallic green thorax and abdomen, known as the soldier fly.

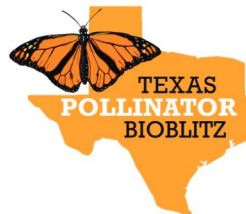


Catch the Buzz with Texas' Sixth Annual Pollinator BioBlitz

For the next two weeks, Texans are invited to take part in the sixth annual statewide Pollinator BioBlitz. The goal of the BioBlitz, which runs from **October 1-17**, is to raise awareness of the diversity and importance of pollinators while bringing greater attention to the critical habitat needs of monarchs and native pollinators across the state.

How to Participate

- Pollinator BioBlitz participants observe and identify pollinators.
- All ages and abilities are encouraged to find pollinators and nectar-producing plants, take photos, and share with friends!
- Share observations by posting a photo or video to Instagram, iNaturalist, or the Facebook event page.
- Pollinator observation challenges and informative links will be emailed to all registered participants regularly to add to the fun.



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RESOURCE CORNER

Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law

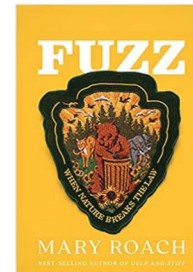
by: Mary Roach

Hardcover: 320 pages

ISBN-13: 978-1324001935

Price on Amazon: \$21.49

Join "America's funniest science writer" (Peter Carlson, Washington Post), Mary Roach, on an irresistible investigation into the unpredictable world where wildlife and humans meet.



What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke the law would

be assigned legal representation and put on trial. These days, as New York Times best-selling author Mary Roach discovers, the answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science: the curious science of human-wildlife conflict, a discipline at the crossroads of human behavior and wildlife biology.

Roach tags along with animal-attack forensics investigators, human-elephant conflict specialists, bear managers, and "danger tree" faller blasters. Intrepid as ever, she travels from leopard-terrorized hamlets in the Indian Himalaya to St. Peter's Square in the early hours before the pope arrives for Easter Mass, when vandal gulls swoop in to destroy the elaborate floral display. She taste-tests rat bait, learns how to install a vulture effigy, and gets mugged by a macaque.

Combining little-known forensic science and conservation genetics with a motley cast of laser scarecrows, langur impersonators, and trespassing squirrels, Roach reveals as much about humanity as about nature's lawbreakers. When it comes to "problem" wildlife, she finds, humans are more often the problem and the solution. Fascinating, witty, and humane, *Fuzz* offers hope for compassionate coexistence in our ever-expanding human habitat.