

Celebrate and Document Moths

-National Moth Week 2023 is July 22 to 30

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National Moth Week is a citizen science opportunity where Texas Master Naturalists can get involved and earn volunteer hours documenting moth species in their own yards, neighborhoods and local parks.

Major online biological data depositories, including iNaturalist, Project Noah, BugGuide, Moth Photographers Group and Butterflies and Moths of North America have partnered with National Moth Week. Participants can join as many groups as they like; joining a database is free. Users of iNaturalist may sign into their account and join the project at this link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/national-moth-week-2023>

Several local parks are expected to have Moth Nights for observation and educational opportunities during the national celebration week. The STBC invites Texas Master Naturalists from both chapters to any of the events and is using the opportunities in lieu of an organized monthly field trip. Joining an educational experience is an opportunity for Advanced Training for Texas Master Naturalists. Once times and dates are finalized in early July with the participating parks and other venues, schedules will be posted on both chapters' Facebook pages.

National Moth Week was founded in the United States in 2012 by the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, a non-profit organization in New Jersey. Participation has grown to include events in all 50 U.S. states and more than 80 countries worldwide.



Coffee-loving Pyrausta moth (*Pyrausta tyralis*)

Or set up a moth attracting station in your own backyard and invite your friends. A home yard set up can be as simple as draping a white sheet over a portable table and aiming a UV light onto the surface. Purchase a LED black light (ultraviolet or UV-A light) bulb that will fit a standard lamp or clamp-style work light fixture from grocery or hardware stores or online. A flashlight or headlamp with white light to illuminate moths for photographing is helpful. Smartphones make it easy to crop and upload from the phone onto iNaturalist.org.



Set up the moth-attracting unit in an open space, if possible. Turn black light on at sunset. Moths usually appear within two hours. The more consecutive nights, the more variety of moths and bugs you may attract. Read more about how to get into Mothing at our chapter's blog: <https://www.stbctmn.org/post/mothing>

Painted Shinia moth (*Shinia volupia*)