

Nurdle Patrol Citizen Science Project

Quarterly Report

Reporting Period: May 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

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Executive Summary

During this quarter, the Nurdle Patrol Citizen Science Project continued to expand its reach and strengthen its infrastructure through awareness campaigns, educational outreach, and partnership development. Efforts focused on hiring staff, purchasing initial supplies for kits, quality control of submitted data, national promotion through conferences and presentations, and strategic planning for upcoming events and deliverables, including the Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium.

Key Accomplishments

1. Nurdle Patrol Coordination

- Hired Tracy Weatherall as the Nurdle Patrol Program Specialist on June 2, 2025.
- Onboarded Brooke Bolinger as a summer intern to support Nurdle Patrol initiatives on June 2, 2025 to July 31, 2025.
- Distributed 10 Nurdle Patrol Starter Kits and 112 Teacher Kits to support outreach and education efforts.
- Held 16 virtual/in-person presentations with partnering organizations to expand participation.

2. Educational and Promotional Outreach

- Hosted the first-ever International Plastic Pellet Count on May 3, 2025, engaging over 1,000 participants across 27 countries in partnership with multiple NGOs worldwide.
- Partnered with the Guy Harvey Foundation to provide marine science and ocean conservation educational resources—including Nurdle Patrol materials—by distributing teacher kits to Florida educators participating in upcoming Conservation Education Program trainings.

- The following presentations were conducted to raise awareness and encourage participation in the Nurdle Patrol initiative among various organizations and the general public:
 - 05/12/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol the Coastal Bend Beaches presentation for the Port Aransas ISD in Port Aransas, Texas.
 - 05/13/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol training on San Jose Island with the Aquilla High School Aquatic Class on San Jose Island, Aransas County, Texas.
 - 05/16/2025 – Beachcombing the Gulf of Mexico and Nurdle Patrol presentation for the Corpus Christi Chapter of the daughters of the American Revolution at the First Christian Church of Santa Fe in Santa Fe, Texas.
 - 05/20/2025 – Science Communication and Engagement presentation for the CCME Paul Montagna Group at the Harte Research Institute in Corpus Christi, Texas.
 - 05/22/2025 – Nurdle Patrol Zoom presentation for the Master Naturalist Sabine Chapter.
 - 05/31/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol training for the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation at Newport Pass in Corpus Christi, Texas.
 - 06/03/2025 – Plastic Pellet Research presentation via Zoom at the NOAA Plastic Pellet Spill Conference.
 - 06/06/2025 – Invited speaker at the James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art in St. Petersburg, Florida to give a presentation on Nurdle Patrol.
 - 06/09/2025 – Nurdle Patrol and Beachcombing presentation at a teacher workshop located at Flour Bluff High School in Corpus Christi, Texas.
 - 06/09/2025 – Floating Habitats and Nurdle Patrol presentation for the UTMSI Summer Science program at UTMSI in Port Aransas, Texas.
 - 06/15/2025 – Nurdle Patrol presentation for the I-20 Wildlife Preserve Tour at HRI in Corpus Christi, Texas.
 - 06/20/2025 – Nurdle Patrol presentation for the Gulf Youth Ambassador Tour at HRI in Corpus Christi, Texas.
 - 06/23/2025 – Floating Habitats and Nurdle Patrol presentation for 5th and 6th grade campers attending the Summer Science Program at UTMSI in Port Aransas, Texas.
 - 06/23/2025 – Floating Habitats and Nurdle Patrol presentation for 7th and 8th grade campers attending the Summer Science Program at UTMSI in Port Aransas, Texas.
 - 06/26/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation at the Owen R. Hopkins Public Library in Corpus Christi, Texas.

- Updated educational content for classroom use and community outreach.
- Initiated redesign of the training videos; scripting and filming began this quarter.
- Purchased all camera equipment needed to begin creating Nurdle Patrol videos.
- Ordered new promotional materials, including pouches, USBs, stickers, postcards, glass j and Nurdle Patrol information business cards.

3. App and Website Maintenance

- Launched a new NurdlePatrol.org website in June 2025 that includes updated features, data access, and a new look.
- Conducted quality assurance reviews on 626 user-submitted surveys during this quarter from 1,562 volunteers.
- Performed regular updates on the Nurdle Patrol mobile app to enhance performance and security.

4. Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium Planning

- The Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium (TPPS) was held on April 3rd, 2025, at the Houston Zoo.
- Discussions on next year's TPPS are being initiated for what city and venue the symposium will take place in during the spring of 2026.

5. Travel and Networking

- Traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida in June 2025 to meet with organizations interested in launching their own Nurdle Patrol program.

Deliverables Completed Since May 1, 2025

- Starter Kits distributed: 10
- Teacher Kits distributed: 112
- New or updated training videos completed: 0
- Presentations given: 16
- Trainings and Workshops given: 4
- Website/App updates completed: 1

Highlights

We have a Nurdle Patrol intern this summer, Brooke Bolinger, who is a Sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin studying Biology with a Concentration in Marine Science. She is helping Nurdle Patrol with putting teacher kits together, writing articles for the website, conducting nurdle surveys, and helping to promote the program. Brooke started on June 2, 2025 and will end the internship on July 31, 2025, before heading back up to Austin.

Upcoming Activities (Next Quarter)

- Initiate planning for the 2026 Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium.
- Complete filming and editing of updated training videos.
- Distribute 200 teacher kits to Teachers on the Estuaries (TOTE) workshop at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve to be held on July 28, 2025.
- Distribute an additional 200 teacher kits to the Guy Harvey Foundation for their teacher workshop to be held on October 9, 2025.
- Expand the app's user interface and launch new features for public data download.
- Continue national outreach and conduct workshops in new locations.
- Begin updates to Nurdle Patrol classroom curriculum to align with current standards.

Challenges and Solutions

Challenge	Action Taken / Solution
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No challenges to date.	
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Conclusion

Nurdle Patrol continues to grow its national presence and empower citizen scientists to track and report nurdle pollution. This quarter laid strong groundwork for delivering on major project goals and expanding the program's footprint across new regions.