

# **Nurdle Patrol Citizen Science Project**

## **Quarterly Report**

**Reporting Period:** October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

**Prepared by:** Jace Tunnell, Director of Community Engagement

**Organization:** Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

**Date Submitted:** January 13, 2026

## **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 revamping the K-12 Teacher Nurdle Patrol Curriculum, purchasing 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.
- Brooke Bolinger was a summer intern to support Nurdle Patrol initiatives on June 2, 2025 to July 31, 2025.
- During this reporting period we added 15 new partners and shipped 386 Teacher Kits to support our outreach and education efforts.
- Twenty-six virtual/in-person presentations were given to 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 14 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 200 teacher kits in August 2025 to Florida educators participating in Conservation Education Program trainings in October 2025.

- Distributed 200 teacher kits to Teachers on the Estuaries (TOTE) workshop at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve which was held on July 28, 2025.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade campers attending the Summer Science Program at UTMSI in Port Aransas, Texas.

- 06/23/2025 – Floating Habitats and Nurdle Patrol presentation for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 07/01/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol booth at the Hurricane Alley Waterpark in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 07/02/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol radio presentation for the Blake's Morning Show in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 07/15/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation for Flour Bluff High School at the Harte Library in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 08/01/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation and training for the Texas Surf Camp at Bob Hall Pier in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 08/13/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol talk for the Logan On-Air Podcast at the Hometown Seafood restaurant in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 08/18/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol Zoom presentation for the Shellphone Podcast.
- 08/25/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation for the Surfrider Foundation at TAMU-CC NRC building in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 08/26/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol talk for the Breakaway Tackle Podcast studio in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 09/11/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation for the Neighbor League of Corpus Christi at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 09/20/2025 – Marine Debris presentation and training for the Surfrider Foundation Marine Debris and Adopt a Beach Cleanup at Bob Hall Pier in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 09/26/2025 – Microplastics and Nurdle Patrol presentation for Dallas College in Dallas, Texas.
- 10/03/2025 – Nurdle Patrol presentation at UTMSI in Port Aransas, Texas.
- 10/20/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation for Islander CCA at TAMUCC in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 10/22/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation for the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce in Port Aransas, Texas.
- 10/23/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol booth for TAMUCC President's Circle at HRI in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 10/24/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation at Kaffie Middle School in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 10/26/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation at the Port Aransas Farmers market in Port Aransas, Texas.

- 10/28/2025 – Nurdle Patrol virtual presentation to the Universidad Autónoma de La Paz, Mexico.
  - 10/30/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol booth at Baker Middle School in Corpus Christi, Texas.
  - 11/01/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol booth at the Friends of Padre Fall Fiesta at the Briscoe Pavillion on North Padre in Corpus Christi, Texas.
  - 11/11/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation at Veteran's Memorial High School in Corpus Christi, Texas.
  - 11/14/2025 – Nurdle Patrol Citizen Science Project virtual presentation to the Austin School.
  - 11/20/2025 – Beachcombing and Nurdle Patrol presentation for the Island Moon Live Radio Show in Corpus Christi, Texas.
  - 11/21/2025 – Nurdle Patrol presentation for Marvin Middle School students at the Conrad Blucher Institute at TAMUCC in Corpus Christi, Texas.
  - 12/15/2025 – Beachcombing and Plastic Pollution presentation to Verteran's Memorial High School in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Updated educational content for classroom use and community outreach.
  - Initiated the redesign of 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 jars 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.
- Continued the development of the new Nurdle Patrol mobile app for both iOS and Android devices by incorporating new technologies and updated design alongside enhanced capabilities to drive greater user engagement. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter the team focused on continued development of various pages, Spanish translations and ongoing TestFlight testing across iOS and Android platforms.

- Added mailing address, email address and linked Facebook.
- Added Instructions for users on how to submit a survey and trouble shooting guidance for errors or bugs.
- Added a search bar for improved navigation and a legend for better data interpretation. Survey points are now interactive, allowing users to tap them to view detailed survey information.
- Added the new curriculum, a PowerPoint presentation and additional logo download options.
- Resolved crashes in Safari on iOS devices.
- Added the ability to click on survey points to view data.
- Implemented form validation for required fields on the Nurdle Report Page to ensure data accuracy.

#### **4. Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium Planning**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium planning committee met four times during the third quarter to coordinate logistics for the 2026 event. The committee confirmed that the symposium will be held at Texas A&M University at Galveston on March 25, 2026. The “Save the Date” announcement was posted on December 1, 2025, and the Call for Abstracts and Registration opened on December 15, 2025.

#### **5. Travel and Networking**

- Traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida in June 2025 to meet with organizations interested in launching their own Nurdle Patrol program.
- Traveled to Dallas, Texas in September 2025 to give a Microplastics and Nurdle Patrol presentation for Dallas College.

#### **Deliverables Completed Since May 1, 2025**

- Starter Kits distributed: **34**
- Teacher Kits distributed: **918**
- New or updated training videos completed: **3**
- Presentations given: **40**

- Training and Workshops given: **6**
- Website/App updates completed: **1**

### **Environmental Impact**

- A total of 4,204 Nurdle Patrol surveys were conducted, resulting in the removal of 973,202 nurdles from the environment.
- Key findings of the International **Plastic Pellet Count 2025 Report**:
  - 49,256 nurdles collected
  - 229 sites surveyed
  - 14 countries participated
  - 29 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.
  - 1,101 volunteers participated.

### **Highlights**

Brooke Bolinger, who is a Sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin studying Biology with a Concentration in Marine Science, was our summer intern this year. She helped Nurdle Patrol put teacher kits together, wrote articles for the website, conducted nurdle surveys, and helped to promote the program.

### **Upcoming Activities (Next Quarter)**

- Continue planning the 2026 Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium.
- Continue shipping partner and teacher kits in the United States and around the world.
- Complete filming and editing of updated training videos.
- Continue mobile app development. Focus will be on implementing the *More*, *Profile*, *Contact*, and *Help* pages.
- Continue national outreach and conduct workshops in new locations.
- Continue updating the Nurdle Patrol classroom curriculum to align with current standards.

## **Challenges and Solutions**

<b>Challenge</b>	<b>Action Taken / Solution</b>
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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 we continued to lay strong groundwork for delivering on major project goals and expanding the program's footprint across new regions.