



# The Coastal Prairie Reporter

“Covering and Recovering the Coastal Prairie”

Newsletter of the Texas Master Naturalists  
Suburban Houston, Ft. Bend and Waller Counties, Texas

May 2008

## Texas Master Naturalist Program Coordinator asks for suggestions

By Michelle Haggerty, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

### Our Special Year

Have you heard? This year--2008-- is the Tenth Anniversary for the Statewide Master Naturalist Program!!! It was TEN years ago this year that our Texas Master Naturalist Program became a state program and started spreading like wildfire across Texas (and now the nation). To date, there are 25 other states that have started or are starting a Master Naturalist-type program that engage their citizens to provide natural resource volunteer service within their borders.

# We're 10!

Please let me or Sonny Arnold know of any ideas you have that would help us to commemorate the Texas Master Naturalist Program and make its tenth anniversary a special one. Our email addresses are: [mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu) and [sarnold@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:sarnold@ag.tamu.edu)

## New TMN Listserv

Earlier this year the Texas Master Naturalist program changed to a new Listserv software package. If you were a member of the original TMN Listserv then you received a message that your address was automatically migrated to the new Listserv software and your settings (whether you receive the list messages individually or as a digest) were also carried over.

IF you are not a member of the TMN Listserv yet, then we encourage you to sign up. Future subscribers can enroll by sending a message to [listserv@tamu.edu](mailto:listserv@tamu.edu) with a simple "subscribe tmn" in the body of the message. The new registrant will then receive a response asking them to confirm this request, giving them both a web and email option for confirming that subscription.

*Continued on page 6*

### On Page Three:

A review and synopsis of "Ornithology", Brazos Bend State Park's Assistant Superintendent Dennis Jones's four-part class, by Don and Penny Johnson.

**WARNING: Accompanying photo may be too graphic for some viewers!**

## A Word From Cheryl



*Hello, everyone,*

Its spring and we are just as busy this spring as we were in the winter. I hope you have been out to some of our programs. There have been some great ones this year. But not to worry if you missed them, because the program committee has more great programs lined up. May will find Matt Weaver, Project Manager of Trees for Houston, helping attendees with tree identification at Karl Baumgartner's place on the San Bernard River. The June field trip could be to an organic farm and July has David Braun, of Braun & Associates Law Firm in Dripping Springs, who'll speak to chapter members on conservation easements and AG and wildlife valuations. Details will be out soon for May's program or look on our calendar for more details. By the way, the program committee – Nancy Sparrow, Val Fogal, Karl Baumgartner and Bill Petty - is always looking for ideas for programs. If you have some thoughts on the subject, let them know, or just let them know they are doing a great job.

Last year at this time we had an interest list for fall classes that was approximately 50 people in length. This year the list is about 6 people. The training committee needs all of us to help recruit candidates for our upcoming fall training class. I challenge each one of you to find someone for our fall training class. There

might be a surprise for the person who recruits the most people who takes our class. Let's make it everyone's mission to help make this year's training class full (25 people).

Here's a fact that I didn't know until very recently - this year is the Master Naturalist program's tenth anniversary! In that very short decade, the program grew to about 40 chapters throughout the state, and it's in 25 other states and even a couple of countries. That's pretty impressive. Program Coordinators Sonny Arnold and Michelle Haggarty are looking for ideas to help celebrate this milestone anniversary, so if you have any ideas contact one of CPC's officers; they'll compile all of the suggestions before submitting them to Sonny or Michelle. I'm assuming that the celebration will be at the state meeting this year. And speaking of the state meeting, it is back at Mo Ranch, October 24-26<sup>th</sup>. See Michelle's news on pages 1 and 4.

Rumor has it that some of you are having trouble downloading and filling out the various forms we use for AT, VSP and timesheets. If you are one of those people, please email or call me and I, or someone else, will come out and help you.

Well, I'm just out of words and thoughts for this newsletter so instead of rambling on I'll close with wishing you all a relaxing spring with lots of outdoor fun activities Remember to take a look at our calendar for events and happenings that will interest you.

Cheers,

*Cheryl*

*A review and synopsis of Dennis Jones's*

## **ORNITHOLOGY CLASS**

*By Don and Penny Johnson, CPC members*

During January and February several members of the Coastal Prairie Chapter attended four ornithology classes at Brazos Bend State Park. Class instructor and Assistant Superintendent Dennis Jones stated his goal was "to encourage us to become better observers of birds."

What seemed like a simple topic, "feathers," actually became quite involved. Feathers are the structures that keep birds warm and protect them from water, but we might not realize that they grow in overlapping rows and are connected to muscles to assist in flight maneuverability. Color of feathers assists in protection, display for a mate and communication. The structure of the wing feathers aids in silent flight for the owl and allows some birds to glide and soar on thermals while others to hover.

Although the sense of smell is generally absent, the birds' eyesight is quite acute and is the most highly developed of any animal. Owls have a keen sense of hearing with ear holes not directly opposite each other, which allows for binaural hearing.

One of the more interesting topics for us involved Dennis skinning an owl. (*Photo below*) He had done this type of work years ago at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. After talking about the owl's proventriculus, he showed us the organ as he opened up the body. The proventriculus is a sack where the owl stores indigestible bones, feathers, or hair of the prey it has eaten. When the sack is full, the owl regurgitates it as a slimy pellet. Other birds cast, but the pellet of the owl is more complete allowing scientists to be able to analyze the diet of the owl.

Male birds do most of the singing while defending a territory and attracting mates. The mockingbird makes sounds of other birds and the blue jay mimics the red-shouldered hawk. Ducklings even make cheeping sounds while still in the shell.

Baby birds receive oxygen through the porous shell of the egg and will suffocate if the egg is dropped into water. Air enters the shell where the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide occurs in the blood vessels. Egg markings are placed on the shell as it passes through the reproductive organs of the female.

We in Texas are very fortunate to see numerous bird species as they pass through our state during the seasonal migrations. Hummingbirds build up their body fat in Texas in preparation for flying across the Gulf. Insect eating birds of the north feed on fruit after migrating to the south. These migration patterns are learned from the elders of the flock. Each year we look forward to the whooping crane migration and birders eagerly await the return of the raptors and songbirds.

We appreciate the wealth of knowledge that Dennis shared with our members. His enthusiasm helped us not only to become more informed observers but also sparked our interest in wanting to continue learning more about birds.

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**Dennis Jones announces Summer  
Ornithology class! See Page 4**

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Owl carcass  
*Photo by Don Johnson*



## UPCOMING EVENTS    UPCOMING EVENTS    UPCOMING EVENTS



If you missed Dennis Jones's recent **Ornithology** class, you're in luck! He's offering it again on four Saturdays in July and August: July 12 and 26, August 9 and 23. Sessions will begin at 10am and end at approximately 2:30pm, allowing 30 minutes for you to eat the lunch you bring from home. A minimum of 10 students is necessary to hold the class, and the maximum is 20. Registration is required. Contact Cheryl at [cheryl\\_sedivec@comcast.net](mailto:cheryl_sedivec@comcast.net) or at 281 346 0099.

You can find class handouts on the chapter's website, [www.coastalprairie.org](http://www.coastalprairie.org). If enough people express interest, Dennis will consider adding a Tuesday class.

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On Saturday, May 24, Dennis will present "**Principles of Interpretation**" for one two-hour class, from 10am 'til noon. This session also has a minimum requirement of 10 attendees, and a maximum of 20, and registration also is required. Contact Cheryl at [cheryl\\_sedivec@comcast.net](mailto:cheryl_sedivec@comcast.net) or at 281 346 0099.

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Both Ornithology and Principles of Interpretation will be held at Brazos Bend State Park, and attendees are required to pay an entrance fee. The classroom locations are still to be determined. Find entry fee information at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/brazos\\_bend/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/brazos_bend/).

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Help is needed on June 4 and 5, for the **Katy YMCA Summer Camp Program**, noon to 2pm. This could be an important program for our chapter: A decision to make such involvement a long-term educational project could lead to more YMCA programs. This event is conducted in cooperation with Master Gardeners.

Some details:

Kids are in 1st thru 6<sup>th</sup> grades; counselors will accompany them. Approximately 75-100 kids per hour, broken into age groups, will visit three stations, for about 15 minutes each. Each station (see below) except "Bees" will split the groups into three smaller ones.

Stations:

- 1) Bees with Jeff McMullan
- 2) Insects (minus the bees) with Don Johnson and Nancy Schaffer
- 3) Wildlife:     Alligators with Carrie Sample

Birds from Brazos Bend State Park \* **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**, should be familiar with birds, not necessarily an expert, someone who'll be at ease handling training skins (dead birds). Specimens will probably range from owls to hawks and others birds from the area.

Mammals \* **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**, should be familiar with area mammals. We'll have the TPWD mammal trunk, which contains labeled skins of deer, raccoon, and other animals, and several skulls.



**Other needs:** People for crowd control and to help station leaders. People to collect insects for the Insect station, and to keep

*Continued on next page*

*Upcoming Events, continued from page 4,*

them alive – store in a jar with holes poked in the lids and secure the lids to the jar with clear tape. The bigger and uglier the critter, the better. Even if you can't attend the program, organizers will arrange to pick up the containers and insects, either the day before or in the mornings before the event.

Hand held magnifying glasses for looking at insects- if anyone has access to about 100 of them or if a group of you can provide that many, that would be really great.

If you can help, or if you have suggestions for the success of this program, contact Cheryl at [cheryl\\_sedivec@comcast.net](mailto:cheryl_sedivec@comcast.net) or at 281 346 0099.



Visit the chapter website [www.coastalprairie.org](http://www.coastalprairie.org) and select **CALENDAR** from the green “nav bar” on the left for all AT and VSP listings, and for more information on the activities listed below. Select **Lectures, Events etc** for other activities of interest.

## Special Events

Saturday, May 17, 9-11:30am, Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First St., Seabrook TX 77586 (AT)

**Dazzle of Dragonflies** - a study of dragonfly “fossils and folklore (and) life cycles and the latest in digital imaging techniques”, followed by a hike led by Professors Lasswell and Mitchell at Armand Bayou Nature Center; book signing. Presenters are James Lasswell,

 Director of Field Research, Department of Entomology, TAMU, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Stephenville, TX, and Forrest L. Mitchell, Assistant Professor and Research Project Leader, Dept. of Entomology, TAMU and TAES, Stephenville. Both are co-authors of “A Dazzle of Dragonflies” and creators of the award-winning website Digital Dragonflies [www.dragonflies.org](http://www.dragonflies.org).

Contact: Seabrook Eco Tourism Committee at 281 474 4825.

Friday, June 27, 6-9pm, Houston Zoo, 1513 N. MacGregor, Houston TX 77030 (AT)

**Texas Amphibian Watch Training** - an exciting state-wide citizen-scientist  project that relies on trained volunteers to collect information about frogs and toads, important to our understanding of amphibian decline and of how that is an indicator of environmental change. Presenter Jaime Gonzalez, of sponsoring organization Katy Prairie Conservancy, provides the training through the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Texas Amphibian Watch, a part of the Texas Nature Tracker program. You should be willing to volunteer in this program if you attend this training session. Volunteers collect amphibian population data throughout the year, send the data to the TPWD, and receive an annual report detailing monitoring efforts across the state. The required \$5.00 fee includes training packet and a CD of frog and toad calls. For more information on the program and to download a monitoring packet, visit

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas\\_nature\\_trackers/amphibian\\_watch/amphibian\\_monitoring](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas_nature_trackers/amphibian_watch/amphibian_monitoring).

Contact: Jaime Gonzalez at [jaimegonzalez72@gmail.com](mailto:jaimegonzalez72@gmail.com) (Registration is required.)

*Program Coordinator news, continued from front page*

Messages about volunteer projects and advanced training events will be sent via the TMN Listserv. Feel free to share information from the listserv with other chapter members and/or encourage them to sign on to the Listserv as well. We intend for the Listserv to be the main mass information and communication portal for the program rather than sending individual targeted messages on a regular basis (although we will continue to send them on an "as needed" basis only, to chapter leaders and committee members listed on the "Chapter Contact Sheets" submitted to the state office at the beginning of the year). There currently are more than 600 members registered to the TMN Listserv.

## ***Mark your calendars!* Annual Meeting**

The Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Annual Meeting & Advanced Training will be held on October 24-26th, 2008 at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend! Please let me or Sonny Arnold know of any ideas you have for advanced training topics that you'd like to be presented at the Annual Meeting, as well as potential presenters for those topics. Our email addresses are: [mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu) and [sarnold@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:sarnold@ag.tamu.edu)

## ***Texas AgriLife Extension***

We hope that, by now, you are all aware that one of your state sponsor's agency names has been changed. What used to be Texas Cooperative Extension is now Texas AgriLife Extension. Please use the new name any time you are working with the public or creating a document meant for audiences external to your chapter members. The new Extension logo--and each of the state sponsor's logo - can be downloaded from the state website at <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>. (You'll notice that not even the state program has been able to incorporate the new logo into all of its documents yet either. This will be done as time and budgets allow.)

## **Q and A**

**Q:** How do I order Master Naturalist brochures, letterhead and other printed material available to our chapter?

**A:** Visit the AgriLife Bookstore on line at: <http://agrilifebookstore.org>. Click \*Browse the Shelves\* Then click \*Environment\* and look for Master Naturalist printed items. Shirts, jackets, field vests and hats also are available.

## *News Notes From Around the Chapter*

### **Training Committee – Busy, Busy, BUSY!**

In just two meetings, the Training Committee has decided upon their new Mission Statement: *To identify and recruit motivated Texas Master Naturalist volunteers and provide relevant quality training to those interested in and providing service for, our natural environment and all who benefit from it.* In consideration of that Mission, the committee updated the content of the Training Plan, and is also finalizing agreements with instructors. They have a new responsibility this year, too - Recruiting!

So, the team developed a Marketing Plan intended to better assure the chapter meets its goals, not only of attracting the numbers of trainees wanted in our classes, but also of being prepared for anticipated audiences. To that end, the committee prepared a presentation suited for general viewers.

Another neat part of these efforts is that the community will benefit from our training/recruiting activities. They will know who we are and what we do and will have opportunities to join us as we work toward maintaining and improving the natural environment of the Coastal Prairie and all who benefit from it. That's a worthy mission!

*Contributed by Kurt Bundy; Training Committee members include Karl Baumgartner, Virginia Broman, Training Coordinator Kurt Bundy, John Cotterell, Cody Dennison, Peg d'Hemecourt, David Giebelhaus, Margaret Giebelhaus, Grace Liggett, Jeff McMullan, Mary Beth McCaughey, Ron Morrison, Margaret Thuesen, Terri Schwab, Cheryl Sedivec, and Wendy Talkington.*

### **They're all glazed, and some are fired!**

What's all glazed, you may ask? Why, our trivets for our fundraising efforts. Bill Petty (*pictured at right, top left photo*) has led the way in freeing our creativity, using clay and our imaginations. (He calls himself the "artistic facilitator".) We produced trivets, wind chimes and sconces (*pictured at right, bottom photo*) to sell for raising some cash to help fund our various projects or handouts.

We even have a potential buyer for some of the trivets and sconces. I won't go into details, lest the deal fall through, but I can describe the potential retailer as being a native plant nursery in the Heights.

Among the artistic project participants are Jim Brannon, Amy Burt, John Cotterell, Janet Irby, Bill Petty, Linda Rippert, Gloria Scheel (*pictured above, top right photo*), Cheryl Sedivec and Karen Showalter. **MANY THANKS TO KAREN AND HER HUSBAND FOR ALLOWING US TO USE THEIR VACANT OFFICE SPACE FOR THIS PROJECT!**

*Contributed by Cheryl Sedivec; Photos by John Cotterell*



### **Pond Life Class at BBSP**



The April 3rd class on pond life found several chapter members picking through containers of pondweeds looking for invertebrates. Glenn Kilgore's presentation had included information on the creatures we might expect to find, and indeed some of those were in the examination jars. Dragonfly larva (*pictured at left*) was a common find as was the burrowing water beetle. Attendees captured numerous small specimens with an eyedropper, while bigger organisms required using tweezers.

Smaller animals were put under a microscope while the larger ones were put into magnifying view boxes. Glenn's sessions are always interesting and his enthusiasm is nearly contagious. After our successful mucking, all "hands" returned safely!

*Contributed by Don Johnson; Photo by Don Johnson*

*Continued on next page*

News Notes, continued from page 7

## April's field trip a success

About a dozen chapter members and their family members made their ways to a private site on April 12 for a spring picnic, and canoeing, fishing, strolling and photography. Mary Ann Weber of Houston Audubon brought three owls - and her husband and son - and presented "Owls" before leading attendees on a twilight walk through the woods. She tried, with recordings, to entice area owls to call, but none responded until after sunset. Even so, the location was so restful, and the weather so pleasant, that most people went home happy.



Photos of Owl Prowlers on the Brazos Riverbank, above right, and Screech Owl on Mary Ann Weber's gloved hand, left, by Rob Fogal

### Thanks to Our Contributors

Articles and photographs from inside and outside of our chapter are featured in this edition of CPR. Warm thanks to all: Karl Baumgartner, Kurt Bundy, Michelle Haggarty, Don Johnson, Penny Johnson, Bill Petty, Cheryl Sedivec, Nancy Sparrow

Photo credits: page 2 by S. Hobbet

The "Rippert Report" does not appear in this issue. Look for Linda's report on the website soon!

*The CPR is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.*

*Submissions are enthusiastically welcomed. Send them to Nancy Sparrow at [sparrnan@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:sparrnan@co.fort-bend.tx.us).*



Ribbon snake (*Thamnophis proximus*)  
Photo by Kurt Bundy

### Our Chapter Partners

#### Brazos Bend State Park

<http://www.brazosbend.org/home.htm>

#### City of Sugar Land

<http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/>

#### Fort Bend County AgriLife Extension

<http://fortbend-tx.tamu.edu/>

#### Waller County AgriLife Extension

<http://waller-tx.tamu.edu/>

#### George Ranch Historical Park

<http://www.georgeranch.org/>

#### Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

<http://www.gcbo.org/>

#### Katy Prairie Conservancy

<http://www.katyprairie.org/home.html>

#### Keep Sugar Land Beautiful

[www.kslb.org](http://www.kslb.org)

#### Texas Master Naturalists

<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>

#### Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/)

#### University of Houston System at Sugar Land

<http://www.sugarland.uh.edu/>

## Discover Your Own Natural Retreat

*By Karl Baumgartner, CPC member*

**Friends often remark to me that they would like to acquire “a place in the country,”** a getaway spot to relax and enjoy nature. A small acreage with some privacy; ideally, it would be wooded, perhaps with some water frontage. A place that would provide opportunities to observe, to learn, to escape, to reconnect to the natural world.

Well, if you have the good fortune to locate such a spot, it can have a broad impact on your life. I was lucky enough to find a site and it has affected my life in many ways—raising my family, expanding my relationships with friends, best of all just providing a place to get away and relax outdoors and rest my mind.



Pond at Karl Baumgartner's retreat

*Photo by Karl Baumgartner*

I chanced upon the property in 1981, 35 acres on the banks of the Brazos River, just fifteen minutes from my house in Richmond. It was located at the tail end of an 800-acre tract and didn't even offer public road access. Perfect! More privacy, cheaper price, and one can always find a man and a bulldozer to cut a road.

Half of the property along the river was heavily wooded—predominantly cedar elm, pecan, green ash, and choked with underbrush—with the other half scruffy open rangeland scattered with huisache, a small thorny bush that grows into a mesquite-like tree. Huisache has thick yellow fuzzy flowers in the spring that give off a strong syrupy sweet aroma, but is so thorny that even the cows stay away. Nothing liked it but loggerhead shrikes, which would impale their prey (grasshoppers, small sparrows) on the long stickers.

The land could be shaped into a beautiful natural acreage—where to begin? Might as well use the road builder's bulldozer to eradicate the huisache. And then we begin to clear a sliver of the forest area to start outlining a pond!

To me, everything outdoors begins with a pond. I enjoy hiking around in the woods checking out the birds and the bees, but when I stop and sit down, if there is nothing to focus on I will get antsy and, finally, bored. I can sit back and look at a body of water and be at ease, but I don't relax sitting and looking at a tree.

Something is always happening at a pond. There is always something to inspect.

*Continued on next page*

*Natural retreat, continued from page 9*

A red slider turtle sticks his head up. A belted kingfisher scolds noisily. Dragonflies dart about mating - their lives are so short they'd better work fast. Honeybees come to the muddy edge and sip water. A fish breaks the surface. A nesting pair of pied bill grebes surface, paddle a few feet and dive under again.

And it's such fun to plan and build and create a pond. You can even keep a journal to look back upon your especially stupid mistakes. There are opportunities for plenty!

The first two weeks were spent designing the pond, its shape, its contours, its depths. Mindful that deep water could pose risks to children Jaclyn, Michael & Will, I designed the banks to slope gently at a 4:1 pitch. However this resulted in such shallow water around the edge that it created an unmanageable submerged weed problem; I later was forced to rent a dragline to deepen the pond all around the margin.

Then I gave a great deal of thought to the type of vegetation that would be both aesthetically pleasing and conducive to attracting fish and wildlife. I decided to isolate different areas of shoreline with distinct plant types—various species of submerged vegetation, lilies, cattails, canna, water pickerel, etc. Somehow I acquired a catalogue from Kestlers Wild Game Nurseries in Omro, Wisconsin. It didn't occur to me that the wind would create currents in the water and scatter my plantings willy-nilly over the entire area. But that was okay, because it didn't occur to me, either, that plants, which flourish in Wisconsin, wouldn't necessarily fare too well in Coastal Texas, so none of it survived anyway.

Remember this was in 1982—I wasn't a Texas Master Naturalist yet.

Watching the land evolve is a joy. Some changes start taking place immediately. Within weeks pond creatures began showing up - top minnows; tadpoles and bullfrogs; dragonflies dark blue, shimmering green, even red; little black whirlybugs; egrets; raccoons.



Sunset at Karl Baumgartner's pond

*Photo by Rob Vogel*

Other wildlife takes longer. Trees sprout immediately around the pond's banks: cottonwood, black willow, green ash, pecan. One plant group succeeds another as the acreage evolves and climax vegetation approaches. The willows are already on the second generation, the cottonwoods tower over 60 feet tall. And you can introduce trees to try to shape the land. I have added over 200 trees, bald cypress around the pond, eight different species of native oak, trying to blend them into the landscape so that the next generation will never know their seeds weren't delivered by the wind.

An important interest for me is exposing our youth to the outdoors. I experience great satisfaction in witnessing young children or boy scouts running in the woods, catching their first fish, away from the mall and the TV and their video game. Every child should be given the opportunity to reconnect with his roots and gain some understanding of our place and our link to the rest of our world's natural life. A few million years of DNA heritage have not been wiped out in two centuries of civilization. And a final personal benefit, as my dad used to tell me, "Every day you go fishing adds a day to your life."



Unidentified Webeloes seek pond life

*Photo by Karl Baumgartner*

So if you can spare the time and find a way to look for your natural hideaway, guess what? I recommend it. The neat thing is, you can be in your 50's and still look forward to 25-plus years of enjoying your land. **That's a long time.**

**CPC Members! Do you have your own retreat?** Do you have a story like Karl's, filled with trials, tribulations and triumphs? I know you do: the disappearing ducks, the cougar poop, the quail-raising adventures... Contact me for information on how to submit stories and photos for upcoming editions of Coastal Prairie Reporter. The next deadline, for the August issue, is July 19 (or thereabouts).

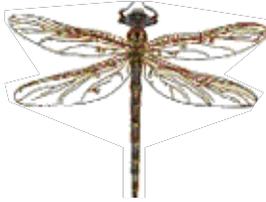
And don't forget that **David Braun**, of Braun & Associates Law Firm in Dripping Springs, will present the **July 10 program** on conservation easements and Ag and wildlife valuations.

He's an expert on the subject, speaking regularly to groups in the Hill Country. David's also involved with Plateau Wildlife, a consulting group, and has served as Texas State Director and International Vice President of The Nature Conservancy (1988-1995).

Doors open at 6:30. This event is open to the public. A short chapter meeting will follow the program.

**Thanks!**

*Nancy Sparrow, [sparnan@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:sparnan@co.fort-bend.tx.us)*



## Interested in Becoming a Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist?

Our annual training course will begin in September 2008.  
Deadline for application is in late August.  
For more information, please contact us:

[classes@coastalprairie.org](mailto:classes@coastalprairie.org)

Or call the Chapter office: 281 633 7042.  
Please provide your name, home address, home phone number and email address so that we may contact you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Cody Dennison".

J. Cody Dennison  
CEA—Waller County  
Agriculture / Natural Resource Agent

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Lobpries".

David S. Lobpries  
Wildlife Division  
Natural Resource Specialist IV



*Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A & M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.*

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