



November 15, 2014

Newsletter for the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists

We are a group of trained volunteers who share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education and conservation/restoration projects

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER REACHES OUT

Prairie Heritage Festival

Saturday, November 1st, 645 visitors to the 3rd Prairie Heritage Festival were entertained and educated by the many volunteers from the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. Mayor Vincent Morales started the festival off with an introductory talk and despite the nippy and windy weather, Halloween hangovers, and the first day of deer and duck hunting season, the festival had many families show up to enjoy the exhibits, tours and presentations.

The ever popular horse-drawn wagons were staffed with Seabourne Creek Nature Park docents from Coastal Prairie Master Naturalists who gave the attendees information about the park. Golf carts carried visitors to the park's wetlands and prairie area. The Prairie Demo Garden boasted Fritillary caterpillars and butterflies. The Butterfly Garden was a big hit as was the Children's Craft Booth. Exhibitors brought their animals, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the festival and speakers informed the attendees about amphibians, bees, prairies, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. This year's festival was fun, educational, and a big success!

Thanks to all of the exhibitors, speakers, and Coastal Prairie Chapter Volunteers!

Nancy Hentschel, Beekeeper Photo by Diane Russell



Jessica Pisani, Face Painter Photo by Diane Russell



PHF Craft Booth Photo by Nancy Huffman



Jaime Gonzalez, KPC-Photo by Gary Moore



Girl with Snake Photo by Carol Pawelek





Stephanie Lubianski-Wildlife Rescue Photo by Garv Moore



Wagon at the Wetlands, Photo by Lynn Trenta

Prairie Dog Photo by Carol Pawelek



PHF Photos Continued



'Coastal Prairie Chapter goes "batty" for BOOberg!

Chapter member Nancy Sparrow returned to the City of Rosenberg's annual Hallowe'en event, BOOberg. The year, the outreach subject was bats.

In keeping with the day's play aspect, CPC's display included a "Bats are..." true-or-false game. Players were asked to determine which, if any, of four common descriptions were true of bats: blind; dirty; flying rodents, and; blood-suckers. All are myths; a common response upon learning the truth about *Chiroptera* was, "I guess I've been thinking all wrong about bats." In addition to the game, the display included an illustrated notice on threats to bats; mini-posters of bats' beneficial activities; fruits and vegetables that bats protect, propagate or pollinate; a bat house, and; bat puzzles and games such as connect-the-dots and a "find the mosquito" maze. Game players were rewarded with bat pencils. The two-hour event attracted 204 attendees, with CPC directly reaching about 60.

Photos by Rosenberg Parks & Rec Department's event planner and coordinator Lydia Acosta.

CSI: Critter Scene Investigation

A new outreach program has begun!

Ramona Ridge of Fulshear Farmers' Market invited the Coastal Prairie Chapter to participate, and Nancy Huffman and Nancy Sparrow accepted the invitation on 18 October. Nancy Huffman returned the following weekend with Katie Sallean.

Both duos presented "CSI: Critter Scene Investigation (Quail Predation)." It's an adaptation of a Texas Wildlife Association program in which chapter volunteers present facts about certain animals' predatory methodologies regarding quail eggs. Next, the volunteers ask players to use the behavioral "clues" and examine the "critter scene evidence" - "nests" containing egg shells that have been cracked in specific ways - to determine which predator ate which eggs. While relating the facts, Nancy, Nancy and Katie presented visitors with the skins, skulls and/or paw models of the predators: bobcat, raccoon and striped skunk. About 100 people participated each weekend.



Fulshear Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from 9a 'til 1p. Vendors include local gardeners and chicken farmers, a Kobe beef seller, a Fort Bend County coffee roaster, a couple of bakers and others. It's on Bois D'Arc at FM1093/359, not far from the Dollar General. Ramona's hoping for a monthly commitment by the chapter to the FFM project.

CPC's version of CSI debuted at Waller County Ag Day in September, with two additional nests - an empty one, signifying that a snake was the quail egg swallower, and one with scrambled eggs and sausage kolache, signifying that the diner was -----? Chapter volunteers there were Bill and Carol Brookshire, Toni Huff and Sparrow. Lynn Trenta and Sparrow presented it a second time at FBC's AgTivity Barn.

Nancy Sparrow

Photos by Katie Sallean

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL MEETING 2014



The Guadalupe-Mo Ranch-Photo by LTrenta

Nine members of the Coastal Prairie Chapter attended this year's TMN Annual Meeting held October 24th through 26th. The meeting was held at Mo Ranch, which is about 20 miles west of Kerrville. Among those who attended were: Bill and Carol Brookshire, Lisa Marler, Carol Pawelek, Diane Russell, Bob Schwartz, Bill Sewell, and Lynn Trenta.

This year marked Coastal Prairie Chapter's 10th Anniversary and we received a banner from TMN announcing this achievement (seem here, Photo by Bob Schwartz)



Carol Pawelek won first prize for the CPTMN Brochure at the annual meeting. To view the brochure you can go to the [CPTMN Website Link](#) and look under the Prospective Members button.



There were many classes held at the TXMN and social events, such as Happy Hour, and A Barbecue Dinner. The scenery was beautiful and the weather was great.

Here are some photos from the weekend.

Diane tries the water-Photo by BSchwartz



Barbecue at Mo Ranch-Photo LTrenta



Chapter Presentations Photo-LTrenta



Bob & Carol -Photo LTrenta

Lynn taking photos-Photo BSchwartz

CPTMN members Bob Schwartz (500 hrs), Carol Pawelek (250 hrs), and Diane Russell and Lynn Trenta (1000 hrs) were recognized at the TXMN meeting.



Photos by LTrenta and Carol Pawelek



Establishing a Sentinel Network to Detect and Report Invasive Species

Carol Pawelek and Bob Schwartz attended a train-the-trainer workshop at the TXMN Annual Meeting on tracking new invasive species that are not yet in Texas, but are coming. Texas Master Naturalists are being trained to recognize these species, nicknamed “The Dirty Dozen”. The list of these species is seen below.

This opens up a new opportunity for volunteers to assist in controlling invasive species. There will be more information coming out soon on these species and how we as Master Naturalists can help. (List is attached also)

The Dirty Dozen

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Asian Longhorned Beetle | <i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i> |
| Brown Fir Longhorned Beetle | <i>Callidiellum villosulum</i> |
| Cactus Moth | <i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> |
| Emerald Ash Borer | <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> |
| Gypsy Moth | <i>Lymantria dispar</i> |
| Sirex Woodwasp | <i>Sirex noctilio</i> |
| Cogongrass | <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> |
| Giant Hogweed | <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> |
| Onionweed | <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> |
| Tropical Soda Apple | <i>Solanum viarum</i> |
| Tropical Spiderwort | <i>Commelina benghalensis</i> |
| Giant African Land Snail | <i>Lissachatina fulica</i> |

CANYON LAKE GORGE FIELD TRIP

October 12th the Coastal Prairie Chapter Master Naturalists traveled to the Canyon Lake Gorge for a great field trip. There were 23 plus attendees and among them were Alan and Valerie Nies, Diane and Bill Russell, Reene and Ron Spahr, Julie Near, husband and 2 kids, Andy and Vicki Farnum, Lynn and Jerry Trenta, Jane Schnell, Gloria Scheel, Karl Baumgartner, Carol Pawelek and Bob Schwartz, Carol Dylla

We had 2 articulate and knowledgeable guides, one of who was Cathy Downs, a previous CPTMN Program speaker (Monarch Butterflies).

Alan Nies, husband of Valerie Fogel Nies, sent in this great album of photos below and provided this wonderful narrative which tells of the recent history of the gorge.

“The flood beginning July 4, 2002 was the first time that floodwaters flowed over the Emergency Spillway since the Reservoir was completed in 1964. The upper part of the Guadalupe River Watershed officially received 34 inches of rain in approximately one week. (see the Canyon Lake tab for more info) All lakeside and River Road campers were evacuated and parks closed. When the floodwater was at peak flow, it was moving at about 67,000 cfs* approximately 7 feet above the Spillway. Normal flow... “

[View Album](#)

[Play slideshow](#)



PRAIRIE RESTORATION ROUNDUP



October 16th, 81 people attended the Prairie Restoration Roundup held at the Rosenberg Civic Center and prairie restoration methods demonstrations were held at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. This event brought in people from various areas in the state to learn about methods and tools to restore prairies.

Among the speakers were: Jaime Gonzalez, KPC Education Director, who spoke about restoring urban spaces to prairie, Andy Sipocz, TPWD, who talked about restoring agricultural land to prairie, and Aaron Tjeimeland, The Nature Conservancy, whose topic was decision making in herbicide use.

Lisa Gray of the Houston Chronicle and Jackie Duncan of Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society were presented awards for their contributions to prairie conservation by the Coastal Prairie Partnership.

Attendees could speak with the experts during the lunch break. Demonstrations at the prairie area in Seabourne Creek Park included the process of growing out and using container prairie plants with Mark Morgenstern and Barbara Willy, both with CPTMN Prairie (see photo), Jim Willis, Wildlife Federation, showed how towed ATV equipment could be used for seeding prairie areas, and Chip Davis, Chipco Environment, showed how burn boxes are used for prescribed burns.

AGRILIFE WEBINARS

To learn about how to increase the quail population and other conservation topics go to:

<http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/texas-quail-index> where you can go to webinars on a variety of topics.

2014 Officers

President – [Doug Simons](#) 281-346-1436
Vice President – [Diane Russell](#) 281-797-1527
Secretary -[Lynn Trenta](#) 832-646-4769
Treasurer – [Linda Lourim](#) 281-745-7923

2014 Committee Chairs

Advanced Training [Doug Simons](#) 281-346-1436
Communications – [Lynn Trenta](#) 832-646-4769
Publicity – [Carol Pawelek](#) 832-449-3399
Membership – [Lisa Marler](#) 832-922-0524
Programs – [Diane Russell](#) 281-797-1527
Training – [Lisa Marler](#) 832-922-0524
and [Lisa Feighery](#) 281-750-9790
Volunteer Service Projects – [Doug Simons](#) 281-346-1436
Past-President – [Jim Butcher](#) 281-341-5482

Sponsoring Organizations:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Fort Bend County: 281-342-3034, ext. 7006, [James "Boone" Holladay](#) 281-342-3034

Coordinator: [Margo "Mac" McDowell](#) 281-633-7033

Waller County: [Cody Dennison](#) (979) 826-7651

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

[David Lobpries](#) (832) 595-8999

Texas Master Naturalists – State Office Contacts

<http://txmn.org/>

[Michelle Haggerty](#), Coordinator – (830) 896-2500

Please read the attached list of nominated officers and their biographies. These positions will be voted on at the Christmas Party and Annual Meeting, December 6th.

The **DEADLINE** for articles, photos, and other much appreciated contributions to the November Courier is November 10th. Please submit these to [Lynn](#). The Courier usually comes out once a month.

The Bulletin comes out every week and lets you know what chapter and community events are coming up. Any questions or suggestions for the bulletin go to [Susan](#).

Thank you so much for all of your articles, photos, and links to articles.

If you would like to be on the Communications Committee, please email Lynn at lynn@txtrentas.com.