

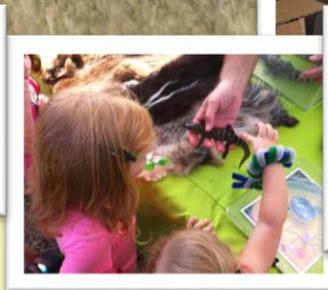


We are a group of trained volunteers who share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education and conservation/restoration projects

Prairie Heritage Festival 2016

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This year the PHF was held on a beautiful sunny day! The exhibits were engaging and fun. The speakers were informative and enjoyable. There were lots to do for the over 440 visitors that came out to enjoy the festivities and exhibits. Our chapter came together to put on a wonderful event for the community!

A new exhibit for our PHF was the dulcimer group. Besides dulcimers, there were also fiddlers, a bassist, a guitarist, and more. They provided soft accompaniment for the goings on.

We had ferrets, prairie dog, alligators, snakes, rabbits and goats! The kids' craft tent was busy with kids putting together butterflies and other fun items. We had wetland activities and prairie seed give-outs and plants for sale.

The wagon rides were as popular as ever, with the wagon masters educating the visitors about Seabourne's many natural areas and projects. For more PHF photos go to the CPCTMN home page at txmn.org/coastal

Chapter events and nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter need to be sent to Lynn by the 15th of the month. Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome. Thanks.

**Lynn Trenta,
Courier Editor**

TMN Annual Meeting 2016 Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor and
Carol Schwartz, CPCTMN State Representative

This year the 17th Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting was held at the La Torreta Resort and Conference Center on Lake Conroe in Montgomery, TX, from October 21 to 23rd. Out of the nearly 500 Master Naturalists who attended, we were the 5th largest group, with 21 attendees. Those attendees were: Karl Baumgartner, Carol and Bill Brookshire, Jim Butcher, Sal Cardenas, Stella and Rick Davison, John Donaho, Jamie Fairchild, Margo and Bill Johnson, Amber Leung, David Lobpries, Mark Morgenstern, Diane Russell, Carol and Bob Schwartz, Sharon Smith, Michelle Sullivan, Lynn Trenta and Susan Walther.

The meeting was packed with 103 sessions to choose from, lunches and dinners, and time to socialize. There were many beautiful vistas of Lake Conroe to enjoy. Several of the members took field trips to other locations as well.

CPCTMN President Diane Russel was recognized for her 2500-hour milestone, as well as 500-hour milestone members, Mark Morgenstern and Carol Schwartz.



TMN Annual Meeting 2016 (Continued)

Diane Russell also won first prize for best artwork/painting in both the popular and judged vote. Jaime Fairchild received the best stitching/sewing award and best of show award. Congratulations to these two talented chapter members!

Congratulations also go to our TPWD Advisor, David Lobpries, who received the best chapter advisor award this year also!

A good time was had by all! In case you missed the meeting, TMN is sharing presenters' Power Point presentations through their website if the presenters have shared them. You can find these at <http://txmn.org/2016-annual-meeting/>



Chapter Christmas Party December 3rd

Save the Date! Our Chapter Holiday Party will be held Dec. 3, 6-9pm at the Jones Creek Ranch Park Lodge, the same place our Oct 6 program was held. We have the place reserved from noon on so anyone who wants to bring things and help decorate is welcome. The Chapter will provide meat, so please bring a side dish or dessert of your choice. All family and friends are welcome if you let us know how many so we can buy enough meat. There will be no charge except an ornament (nature related?) to be donated from each person so that we can do an ornament exchange. Dinner begins at 6:30. Dancing, anytime! RSVP to Sharon Smith, Vice President/Programs, 281-460-1113. Members should receive an invitation by email to sign up by Signup Genius.



Monarch Madness! Butterfly Festival by Diane Russell

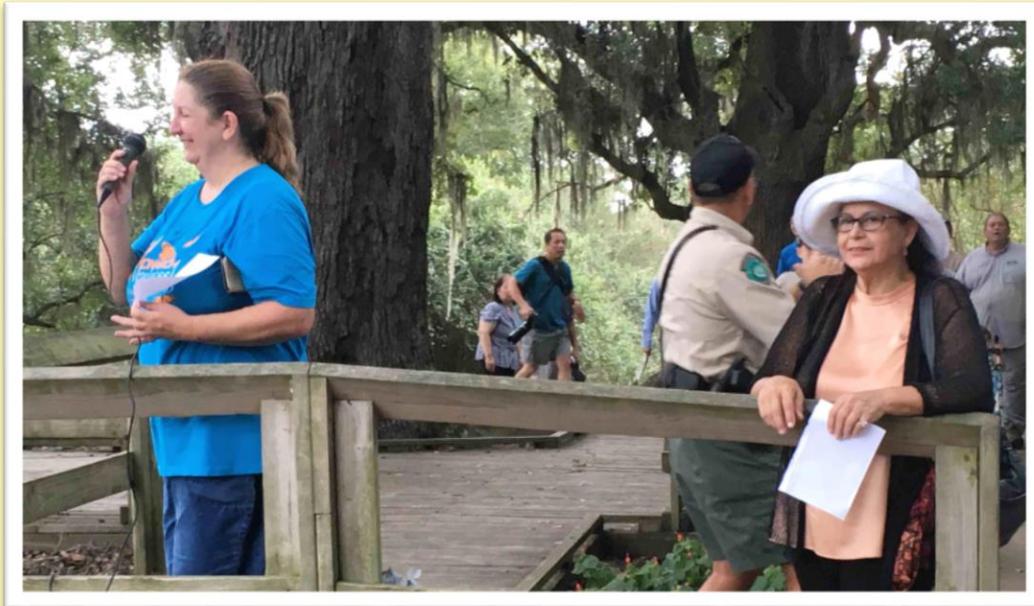
After being flooded out in the spring, Brazos Bend State Park, with Girl Scout Troop 27119 and our partner, Barbara Willy's Monarch Gateway, put on a tremendously successful event September 25th. Themed around the iconic Monarch and native plants, but also including interactive displays of reptiles, amphibians and a variety of insects, the event drew 1300 people into the park! Our Monarch experts, Kim Farou, Natalya Crawford, Diane Russell and Reene Spahr, were there to greet them and share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the sometimes-overwhelming throngs of visitors.

Not shown, but manning tables with butterfly collections and a microscope to look at OE spores, were Linda Rippert and Gloria Scheele.



Monarch Madness! Butterfly Festival (Continued)

Barbara was able to bring in Catalina Trail, who, in 1975, solved the mystery of where billions of Canadian and North American butterflies disappeared to every winter. On assignment by Dr. Fred Urquhart, her knowledge of monarchs, and years of investigation and traveling the remote mountainous oyamel fir forests of central Mexico, completed his lifelong quest to understand their life cycle and migration pattern.



Despite such a successful start to the day, serious rain began after a few hours and forced everyone to beat a hasty early retreat, exactly as happened to us last year at Prairie Heritage Festival. There were many disappointed children who wanted us to continue even in the rain! I think Natalya does a good job of reflecting everyone's soggy disappointment.



The Norvells Outreach

Chad and Amy Norvell recently did 3 presentations for area school children. They held captive 160 children at Jane Long elementary in Richmond with their alligator presentation. At Wolman Elementary School in Katy they manned a station at the school's "Prairie Day", where kids were learning about Katy Prairie. They also did a presentation for the Firethorne HOA that reached 40 adults.

Thanks, Chad and Amy, for sharing your expertise with the community!



Katy Prairie Conservancy Saved from Roadways

Dear Friends,

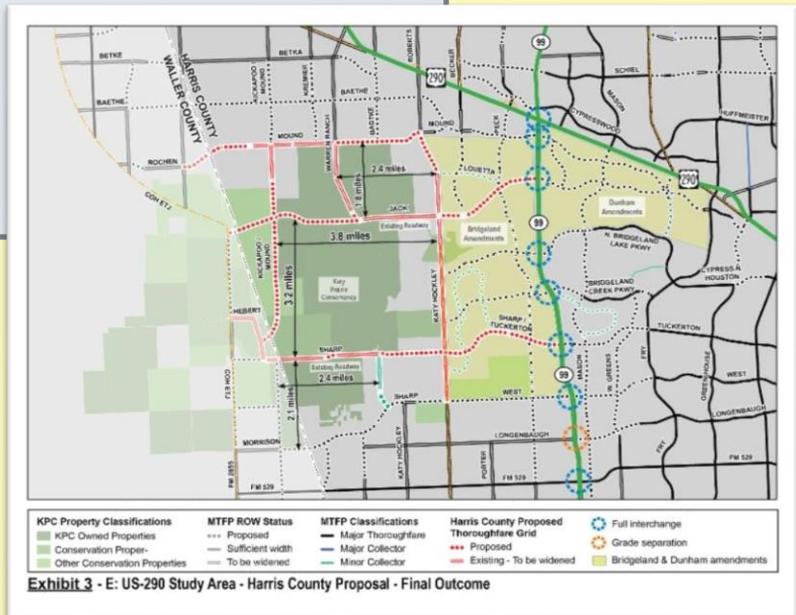
On September 28, 2016, Houston City Council adopted the recommendation of the City Planning Commission to delete 20 miles of roads through KPC's Preserve System by removing much of the traditional one-mile grid system on our lands. Removal of this grid will help ensure that much of the preserve system is not fragmented by pass-through roads.

While KPC will continue to advocate in the future for fewer roads on the prairie, we are pleased that the Houston Planning Commission, the City of Houston Planning Department, Harris County Commissioners Court, Harris County Public Infrastructure Department, and Mayor and City Council recommended changes to the 2016 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan. These changes recognized the benefits the lands conserved by the Katy Prairie - lands that help reduce flooding downstream, provide great wildlife habitat, offer outstanding recreational opportunities, and get children outdoors.

A huge thanks to our many supporters who attended meetings, wrote to City and County officials, and met with elected officials to encourage them to delete roads on the prairie. Working together makes all the difference.

Thank you again for all of your support,

Mary Anne Piacentini
Executive Director



Prairie Symposium and Cat Spring Discovery Tour

Lynn Trenta, Chapter Communication Director, was privileged to attend both the 2016 Texas & Cajun Prairies Symposium in Lafayette, LA and the Wildlife Habitat Federation's Native Prairie Discovery Tour in Cat Spring this fall. Both events were wonderful entrances into the prairie world and experiences to treasure.

Most of the attendees of the Texas & Cajun Prairies Symposium from the Houston area boarded a bus at the Rice University parking lot at 7am to take the trek over to Lafayette. We arrived in time to grab a snack, get a name tag and settle in for the symposium. This symposium had some heavy hitters from the prairie world, including Katy Prairie Conservancy's Jaime Gonzalez, Larry Allain, USGS Botanist and Researcher, and Malcom Vidrine, PhD, author of "The Cajun Prairie: A Natural History". The Saturday presentations were followed by Sunday field trips to the Eunice and Duralde Prairies. Larry Allain and Malcolm Vidrine led these tours, respectively. To view the presentations for this symposium go to:

<http://prairiepartner.org/2016-texas-cajun-prairies-symposium>

The Wildlife Habitat Federation (WHF)'s Native Prairie Discovery Tour was another great experience. The group toured a prairie remnant under the direction of Jason Singhurst, TPWD Botanist and Plant Ecologist and Jon Hayes, TPWD Wildlife Biologist. After lunch we also toured a prairie restoration project undertaken by Jim Willis, the founder of WHF, who talked to us about how he has restored his land with no till drilling and other techniques. Barbara Willy, Monarch Gateway Executive Director, also talked to us about milkweeds and her Monarch Gateway's projects.



In Our Own Backyards**HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HUMMINGBIRD MOTH ?** By Diane Eismont

This is one of a number of LARGE moth species commonly called "hummingbird," "sphinx," or "hawk" moths that can be mistaken for Hummingbirds. Around dusk, try looking at deep throated flowers that Hummingbirds frequent to see them. I've even seen smaller ones on pentas. Notice the long proboscis or tongue, which is carried rolled up. The moths pictured, which may be Rustic Sphinx Moths, per the 3 yellow dots on the side, are on Dwarf Butterfly Ginger. The caterpillars are commonly called "hornworms." Larval food plants for the Rustic Sphinx include cross vine, esperenza & trumpet vine. Another food plant for hummingbird moths is the Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum.

Just the other day, I found a different Sphinx Moth resting on our house bricks. I believe it to be a Carolina Sphinx because of the dark pink spots on the side of the body. The caterpillar of this moth is called the Tobacco hornworm - common food plants are tomatoes, tobacco & other members of the nightshade family. If you are a gardener, this may be the caterpillar you find on your tomato plants.

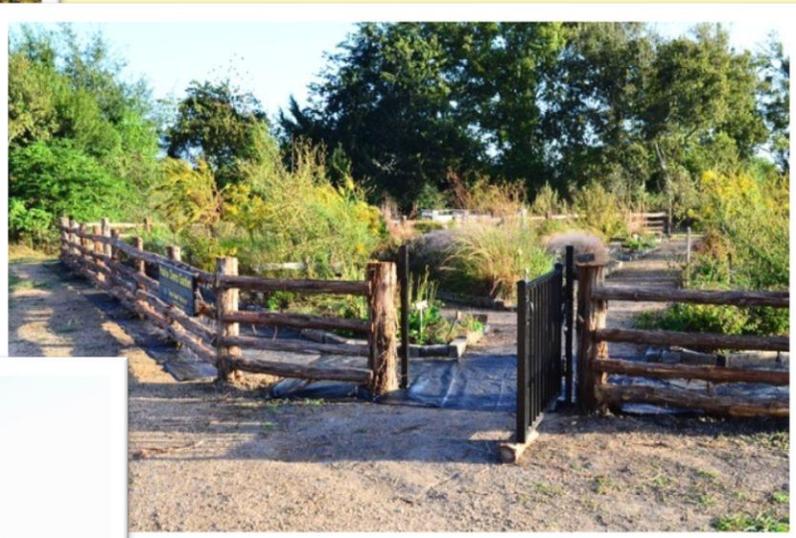


Seabourne Creek Nature Events

The feral hog fence was completed and in time for PHF! Sal Cardenas, Roger Hathorn, Rick Adams, and Ron Spahr worked under the supervision of Jerry Trenta, recently declared a "Friend of the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the TMN". Many thanks to Jerry!

The feral hogs are continuing to strike in several spots in Seabourne Creek Nature Park. David Lobpries has trapped over 12 hogs at the park and is continuing to do so. Also, plans are in the works to build a feral hog fence for the butterfly garden.

Thanks to Jimmie Brannon for these great photos of the fence.



Seabourne Creek Nature Events

Plants are loaded up to go out to the prairie. Natalya Crawford, Lynn Trenta, and Karl Baumgartner placed the potted prairie plants in the prairie for the boy scouts to plant. Photo is by Lynn Trenta



Prairie Plantings both October 15th and October 29th, this year. LDS Volunteers planted 280 plants in the Seabourne Prairie on the 15th and the LDS Boys Scouts plant 231 more on October 29th. Our total for this year is 831 plants in the ground.

The Seabourne Prairie Nursery is where the native plants for the PHF are bumped up. This year we bumped up approximately 1600 plants, many from the seedlings grown out my chapter members from the seeds we distributed early in the year. The nursery provides plants for the prairie, for plant sales, and can also provide some plants for member's gardens that they have adopted. Members who volunteer can select a few plants for their own gardens as well. We are now propagating plants in our own greenhouse, managed by Sharon Smith and Mark Morgenstern. Photo by Lynn Trenta





Jade Hems is the most recent adopter in the CPCTMN Demo Garden. She is putting in a hummingbird garden. Welcome, Jade! The photo above shows Jim and Jade counting plants at a prairie planting. Photo by Amber Leung



Amber Leung, CPCTMN President-Elect, swings her Hercules Club, otherwise known as toothache tree. She has been working on her Edible Garden out at Seabourne and will be adopting a plot in the Demo Garden for the smaller edible plants. Way to go, Amber! Photo by Jade Hems



If anyone is interested in adopting a plot at the SCNP Prairie Demo Garden, please contact Lynn at lynn@txtrentas.com

Seabourne Creek Bird Hike

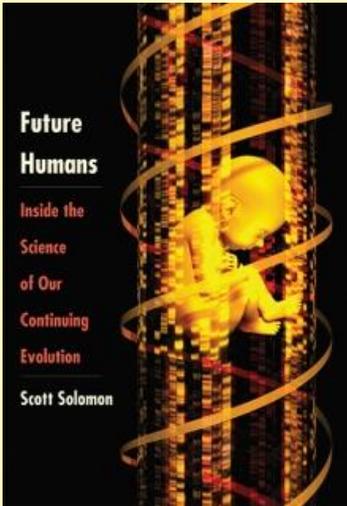


Wayne Poorman reported on Facebook: "Wilson's Snipe sitting near the edge of the wetlands area in Seabourne Creek Nature Park. These plump little guys are among the most widely spread shorebirds in North America. Their excellent camouflage markings sometimes make them difficult to see."

The birders also spied a scorpion fly (above right) Photo of the Snipe and Scorpion fly by Wayne Poorman. Bird watchers by Jade Hems

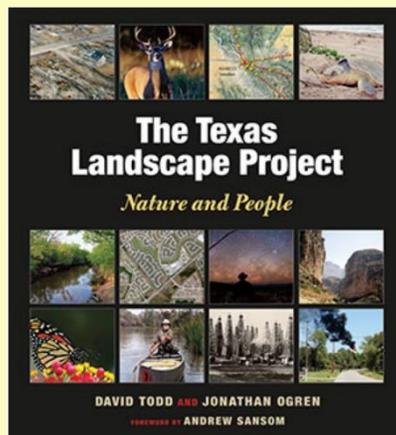


Book Corner



Scott Solomon

Future Humans: Inside the Science of Our Continuing Evolution



David Todd and Jonathan Green

The Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People

In this intriguing book, evolutionary biologist Scott Solomon draws on the explosion of discoveries in recent years to examine the future evolution of our species. Combining knowledge of our past with current trends, Solomon offers convincing evidence that evolutionary forces still affect us today. But how will modernization—including longer lifespans, changing diets, global travel, and widespread use of medicine and contraceptives—affect our evolutionary future?

Solomon presents an entertaining and accessible review of the latest research on human evolution in modern times, drawing on fields from genomics to medicine and the study of our microbiome. Surprising insights, on topics ranging from the rise of online dating and Cesarean sections to the spread of diseases such as HIV and Ebola, suggest that we are entering a new phase in human evolutionary history—one that makes the future less predictable and more interesting than ever before.

The Texas Landscape Project explores conservation and ecology in Texas by presenting a highly visual and deeply researched view of the widespread changes that have affected the state as its population and economy have boomed and as Texans have worked ever harder to safeguard its bountiful but limited natural resources. Covering the entire state, from Pineywoods bottomlands and Panhandle playas to Hill Country springs and Big Bend canyons, the project examines a host of familiar and not so familiar environmental issues.

A companion volume to The Texas Legacy Project, this book tracks specific environmental changes that have occurred in Texas using more than 300 color maps, expertly crafted by cartographer Jonathan Ogren, and over 100 photographs that coalesce to fashion a broad portrait of the modern Texas landscape. The rich data, compiled by author David Todd, are presented in clearly written yet marvelously detailed text that gives historical context and contemporary statistics for environmental trends connected to the land, water, air, energy, and built world of the second-largest and second-most populated state in the nation.

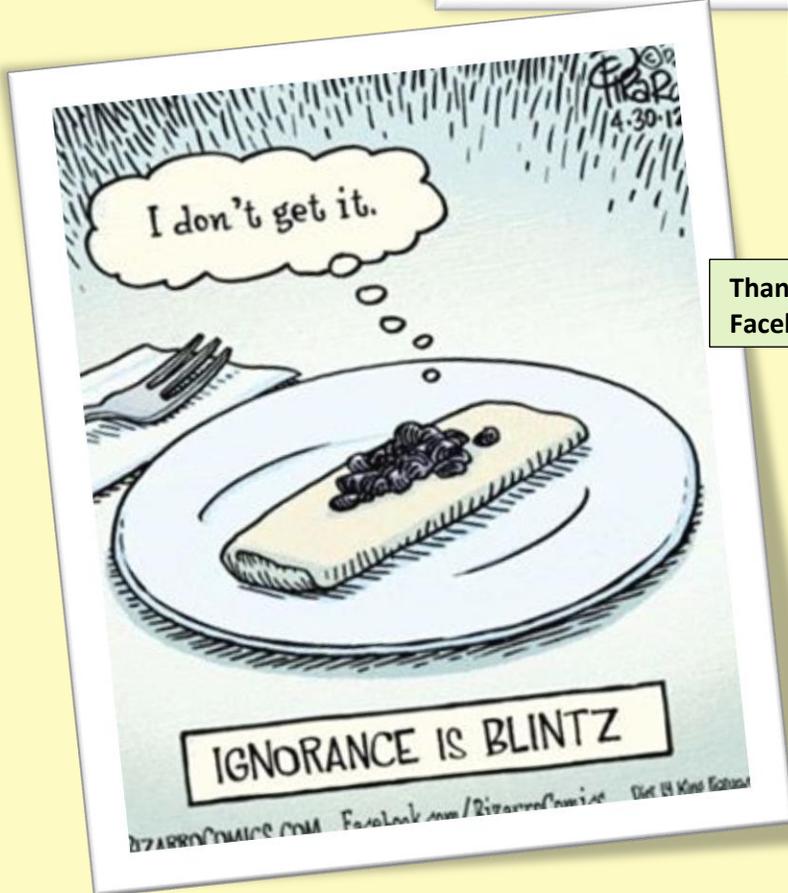
An engaging read for any environmentalist or conscientious citizen, The Texas Landscape Project provides a true sense of the grand scope of the Lone Star State and the high stakes of protecting it.

For more information about this book, please visit <http://texaslandscape.org/>.

The Lighter Side



Thanks to Randy Lemmon (from Facebook)



Thanks to John Donoho (from Facebook)



CPTMN 2016 Board Members

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- Membership [Jade Hems](#)
- New Class [C.J. McDaniel](#)
- Advanced Training [Jimmy Brannon](#)
- New Class Representative--Open
- State Representative [Carol Schwartz](#)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal>

Did You Know? By Michelle Sullivan, VSP Director

- 1) *Travel time to a VSP Opportunity cannot exceed the amount of time that you are volunteering. Ex. Travel/Drive 1 hour to volunteer 1 hour, cannot count return time.*
- 2) *TPWD Hummingbird Round-up Program is no longer active*
- 3) *Each hour a Coastal Prairie Member "Reports their Service" its value to the state is \$23.00*

Check out our Facebook Page at [TXMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#)

To post photos and information, email [John Donaho](#) or [Lynn Trenta](#)

Also, Share our chapter Facebook entries with your friends on your Facebook Page

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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