



## Special Interest Articles:

- Plant Study Group
- Bird List
- SCNP Prairie by the Path
- Diane's Secret Garden

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

## Chapter Plant Study Group at Tierra Grande



Saturday the 2nd of May was a beautiful Texas spring morning, and the Plant Study Group, under the tutelage of Susie Doe, had the treat of spending it at Karl Baumgartner's Tierra Grande property in Needville. Jim Butcher and Karl started off the plant ID'ing with some specimens they collected near the property, including a grand example of Eastern Gamma grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), standing taller than Mr. Butcher himself, and a spring classic, the black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). We headed towards the pond snacking on delicious dewberries (*Rubus trivialis*), and spotting various spring blooms along the way. We looped around to the overlook of the San Bernard river to see Bald Cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*), some likely to be 600 + years old. Cores of trees just down river from Karl's property have been dated and the researchers suspect some might even be as old as 1000 years. Along the trail we found and dissected a Pitcher's leatherflower (*Clematis pitcheri*). The deep purple flower is lovely to look at and is named for its uncommonly solid inflorescence. As we looped back to the road, we caught sight of a couple of mating Copperhead snakes, but we tried not to act very interested; we were on a plant walk after all! ( : Susie's plant list from the day included over 50 species, and while she knows them all by sight, the rest of us spent our lunch time trying to digest our food as well as all of the knowledge from our excellent outing. Photos by Julie Near

Julie Near, VSP Co-Chair

## Seabourne Creek Nature Park Bird List Increases by 3



Photo by Wayne Poorman

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*"To learn how to identify a bird by its general outline, markings, and behavior as a species belonging to a certain family or order was a new and thrilling occupation, and so it remains, I think, forever new, forever thrilling throughout life with every watcher of birds."*

-- [Louise de Kiriline Lawrence](#), (1894 - 1992)  
Canadian author and naturalist

Vicki and Wayne Poorman reported three new bird species spotted at Seabourne Creek Nature Park this last month. This brings the park bird list up to a total of 188 bird species

April 27<sup>th</sup> Wayne reported "Vicki and I saw this screech owl (see photo) this morning at the Park, taking advantage of one of the new screech owl houses." (The screech owl houses were put up by Eagle Scout Zachary Lawrence).

About the May 6<sup>th</sup> SCNP Bird Hike, Vicki stated that "We added another species to our list today: Buff-breasted Sandpiper. ID by Mark Scheurman.

Also, there have been 2 Swainson's Hawks hanging out at the park lately. Sharp-eyed Jean Greenhalgh saw one of them fly into a tree south of the levy. Next thing we know, she spots their nest. And there is the other hawk sitting on the nest! So we will be watching for babies in the upcoming weeks."

Vicki also emailed about another bird spotting on May 11<sup>th</sup>: "We're adding a new species to the list: Black-billed Cuckoo, spotted by Mark Scheurman."

Thanks, Vicki and Wayne, for leading the bird hikes for the chapter and your vigilance in keeping track of any new birds or birds of interest in the park.

## LDS Volunteers Plant Prairie Plants, Guided by Chapter Members

May 8, 2015—Chapter Members Jim Butcher, Jimmy Brannon, Lynn Trenta, Bill Johnson, Leon Macha, Karl Baumgartner participated with 6 young ladies from Church of Latter Day Saints service mission group. We planted approximately 250 one-gallon containers of grasses and forbs which had been seeded and “bumped up” by Chapter members in the “Prairie by the Path” area. They were planted in 8-10” auger holes, original soil filled back in and watered in. Holes had been excavated by Michael Baumgartner.

The following Tuesday, 8/12/15, a heavy rain 1” was received.  
*Karl Baumgartner, SCNP Project Manager*



*Photos by Karl Baumgartner*



Volunteer opportunities are available at Seabourne Creek Nature Park.

To help with the Prairie Demo Garden contact Mark Morgenstern at [Mark Morgenstern](#) or [Lynn Trenta](#).

If you want to help with the Butterfly Garden contact [Lea Hyman](#) or [Linda Rippert](#).

To help with the Bird Sanctuary contact [Bill Johnson](#).

For other volunteer opportunities email [Karl Bumgartner](#).

## Chapter Program on Hummingbirds, Meeting Followed

Carrie Sample, Chapter Member, gave a wonderful presentation about hummingbirds. Her beautiful photos illustrated the behavior and coloration of these wonders of nature. She accompanied her photos with information about hummingbirds and tips on when and how to feed them, their migration and those that stay through the winter.

Kudos to Carrie for graciously filling in for the scheduled speaker.

The program was followed by a short, but informative general meeting for the chapter. Several chapter members talked about activities that are ongoing and volunteer opportunities available for members. *Photo by Ron Spahr*



## Eagle Scout Presents Chapter with Donation



Eagle Scout Zachary Lawrence presented the chapter with a check. For his project, he contracted with individuals and parks to build owl boxes. He used the income to build 2 boxes for each client, one for the individual's property and one for Seabourne Creek Nature Park. The Park presently has boxes for screech owls (see the bird hike article in this issue) and other owls. *Photo by Ron Spahr*

For more info about Zachary Lawrence's project go to:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/223tn34zna34z69/AAC15lba7NWH70r6Va8esO6wa?dl=0>

## Eagle Scout Project at Seabourne

Zackery Cockrill (Troop 1000) finished his Eagle Scout project at SCNP over the weekend. He planted live oak trees along the north boundary of the Park, and also replaced 3 other trees in other sections.

One unique feature was the bucket irrigation system, which I believe is a first for the Park. You can see it in the pictures.

*Rick Adams, Eagle Scout Coordinator*

Thanks to Rick Adams for coordinating and reporting on this project. *Photos by Rick Adams*



## Chapter Butterfly Garden Volunteers Seize the Day

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, volunteers at the SCNP Butterfly Garden got busy preparing the garden for new plants. The large rainfall contributed to a crop of weeds and excess plants and the plants needed pruning as well.

Linda Rippert, Lea Hyman, Jane Schnell, Diane Russell, Doug Simons, Lynn Trenta, and a new CPCTMN recruit put on their gloves and got to work pruning the garden.

Diane Russell shared her Pandora via cell phone and speaker, adding music to garden by.

The garden is the hit of the Prairie Heritage Festival in November with all of its wonderful butterflies, so it has proven its value many times.

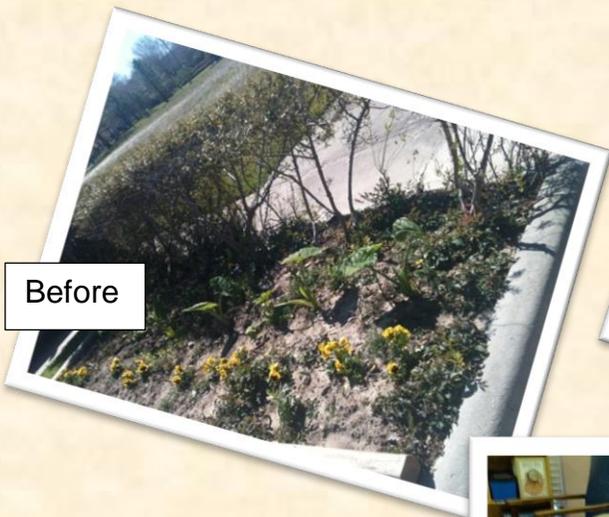
There will be another work day next Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on May 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a planting day to put in new butterfly plants.

Thanks to the volunteers who came out to help make the butterfly garden beautiful. Let's continue making this beautiful garden a great success! *Photos by Lynn Trenta*



## CPTMN president Diane Russell has a Secret Garden!

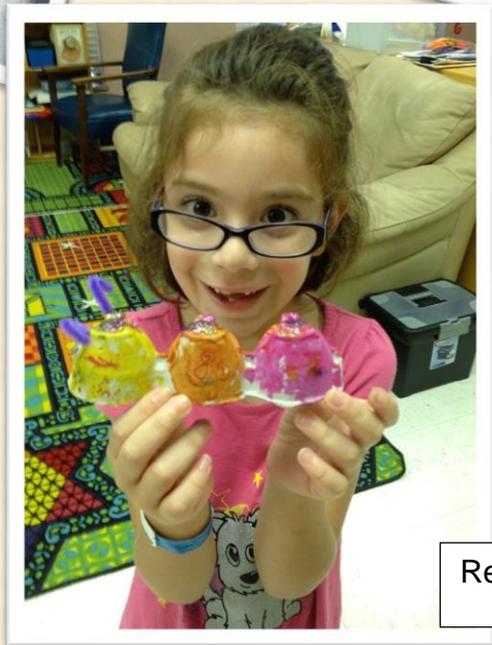
In 2013 Diane adopted two flower beds in front of The Learning Center preschool at Living Word Lutheran Church near her home. The large "gardens" were abandoned eyesores. She converted them into Monarch Waystations, where they are now enjoyed by teachers, parents, children and monarch butterflies. Diane also visits the preschool regularly with eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, butterflies, crafts and videos to teach about the butterfly life cycle, and to leave chrysalises behind so the children can release their own butterflies after determining their gender and naming them. Now when the children come and go, they can appreciate the beauty and complexity of the natural world on a daily basis, and hopefully they share this with their parents! *Photos by Diane Russell*



Before



After



Result

CPTMN 2015 Board Members

2015 Officers

- President [Diane Russell](#)
- Vice President [Carol Pawelek](#)
- Secretary [Sharon Smith](#)
- Treasurer [Linda Lourim](#)
- Past-President [Jim Butcher](#)

2015 Committee Chairs

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- Communications/Website [Lynn Trenta](#) and [Susan Walther](#)
- Publicity [Chad Norvell](#) and [Amy Norvell](#)
- Volunteer Service Projects [Michelle Sullivan](#) and [Julie Near](#)
- Membership [Reene Spahr](#) and [Carrie Sample](#)
- Training [Than Colvin](#) , [Lisa Feighery](#) , [Wayne Helbert](#)
- Advanced Training- [Cyd Johnson](#) , [Jimmy Brannon](#)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal/>



Mike Quinn, Entomologist, has a great website about insects, including this one about stink bugs

[http://texasento.net/TX Pentatomidae.html](http://texasento.net/TX_Pentatomidae.html) --Stink Bugs

For his main entomology site go to:

<http://texasento.net/index.html>

If you are wondering who Mike Quinn is—his biography is at

<http://texasento.net/MQbio.htm>

Please send in nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter by June 15<sup>th</sup> to [lynn@txtrentas.com](mailto:lynn@txtrentas.com) . Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome.

Thanks.

Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor



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

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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