

March 17, 2015
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Coastal Prairie Courier Newsletter



Special Interest Articles:

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- Saving the Monarch Butterfly



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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

CPTMN MORNING BREAKFAST & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The chapter had its first quarterly meeting of the year this last Tuesday, March 10th. Several presentations were given on volunteer opportunities and activities that are taking place within the chapter. A report of the meeting will be attached to the next bulletin, March 22nd.

Refreshments were served by Program Chair Georgia Messemer and Jim Butcher, with muffins by Margo Johnson.

A wonderful exhibit of VSP Projects was displayed by Michelle Sullivan, VSP Co-Chair. Her daughter, Cayla, helped with the display and also with the computer presentations.

After the meeting, seeds, pots and Pro-Mix were distributed to those participating in growing prairie plants for the Seabourne Creek Prairie Projects. It was a fun day!



Saving the Monarch Butterfly

GROWING MILKWEED

NO MILKWEED IN TEXAS = NO MONARCHS FOR ANYONE

Milkweed Sprout Harvesting Propagation Method (See Attachment) Author: Barbara Willy BarbaraAnKeller@aol.com

(71-78% success depending upon type of milkweed)
Feel free to share [the Propagation Method] but give credit if emailed or published. My own personal limitation is space. I didn't want to tie up pots and put in the planting time for seeds that would not be expected to germinate. This method greatly increased my germination rate.

Dr. Malcolm Vidrine's Milkweed Growing Method

Also, **Dr. Malcolm Vidrine's Method** can be found at the following website, following an overview of Louisiana Milkweed Species:
<http://www.cajunprairie.org/newsletters/201403.pdf>



THE GOVERNMENT STEPS IN TO HELP

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Monarch Video

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has signed on to help the survival of the Monarch. You can view their video at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgKl_YtI7gQ&feature=youtu.be

GOVERNMENT PLEDGES \$3.2 MILLION TO HELP MONARCH BUTTERFLY (REPEAT FROM LAST MONTH)

The federal government pledged \$3.2 million on Monday to [help save the monarch butterfly](#), the iconic orange-and-black butterfly that can migrate thousands of miles between the U.S. and Mexico each year. It has experienced a 90 percent decline in population recently. About \$2 million will restore more than 200,000 acres of habitat from California to the Corn Belt, including more than 750 schoolyard habitats and pollinator gardens. The rest will be used to start a conservation fund that will provide grants to farmers and other landowners to conserve habitat. The move by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comes as it considers whether to classify the [monarch butterfly as a threatened species](#) under the Endangered Species Act, which would afford the butterfly more protection. "We can save the monarch butterfly in North America but only if we act quickly and together," said Service Director Dan Ashe. The [monarch lays its eggs exclusively](#) on the milkweed plant. Conversion of prairies into cropland and the increasing use of pesticide-resistant crops have greatly reduced milkweed, which is also an important food source, particularly in the heartland, according to the petition filed last August by environmental groups.

- [Monarch Butterfly Eyed for Possible Endangered Species Protection](#)
- [How One Gene Gives Monarch Butterflies the Power to Migrate](#)
- [Monarch Butterfly May Take Five Generations to Migrate to US](#)

--The Associated Press First published February 9th 2015, 1:06 pm

The American White Pelican added to the SCNP Bird List



There were 20 people who participated in the CPCTMN Bird Hike on March 4th at Seabourne Creek Nature Park in Rosenberg. Mark Scheuerman is our expert birder on the hikes and provides us with so much information about the birds. We learn about the bird calls and behavior well as the spotting. For a list of what was spotted out there, see the attachment of go to the homepage of the CPCTMN Website or to Seabourne Creek Nature Park under Signature Projects.

The week before the hike, Wayne and Vicki had spotted another new species at Seabourne—the American White Pelican seen in the photos. How beautiful!



Attwater Prairie Chicken Week April 4-12

March – May: Kill an Ant – Save a Prairie Chicken!

Crowdrise Campaign at <http://crowdrise.com/SaveOurChickenS>.

- * The imported red fire ants are non-native and are eating so many of the insects (prairie chicken food) that the baby chicks are starving to death.
- * \$15 will buy enough bait to treat 1 acre. Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Preserve is 10,000 acres.

Attwater Prairie Chicken Week Summary from the Houston Prairie Association of Texas website:

- Putting for Prairie Chicken Fundraiser in the Houston Zoo: **April 4 & 5**. Danny Keel of the Houston Zoo made a putting mat in the shape of the Attwater's Prairie Chicken. Fun for adults and children!
- **April 8 & 10**, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.: Guided Tour: Attwater's Prairie Chicken Breeding Facility at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Free. See [flyer](#) for details & registration.
- **April 9**, 7 p.m.: Lecture – *The Attwater's Prairie Chicken: Past, Present and Future* at Houston Zoo's Brown Education Center (approximate location for Ed. Center entrance [at this link](#)) Free. See [flyer](#) for details & registration.
- **April 11 & 12**: *Attwater's Prairie Chicken Booming – N - Blooming Festival* @ Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. [More information](#).

The flyer for the Attwater Prairie Chicken Week is at <https://hnpat.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/2015-apcw-flyer-v31.pdf>

Texas Master Naturalist Curriculum Manual Cover Art Deadline March 20th

As you may have heard through the grapevine – we are currently in the process of updating our Texas Master Naturalist Curriculum manual and will be publishing it into a hardcover sewn bound book! It will also be published in an e-reader format at the same time!

On our publication timeline right now, we are hot and heavy working on the copy edits for each unit, making updates and replacing the images to be used in each unit, and getting the manuscript ready for page layout. Our target printing is still set for Spring 2016. We do not have information yet on exactly when or the price breakouts for the hardcover/e-reader versions. As soon as we do, we will let you know!

But we have a very important deadline looming now – the **Cover Art! For this contest – NO wording or © information will be accepted printed on the image. All images must be submitted to Mary Pearl Meuth by Friday March 20th, 2015 (see attached guidelines)**

To help give our new curriculum the best cover possible, we would like to turn to you, our Texas Master Naturalist volunteers. Michelle and I have created a contest for the Cover Art. Below are the guidelines for this Contest:

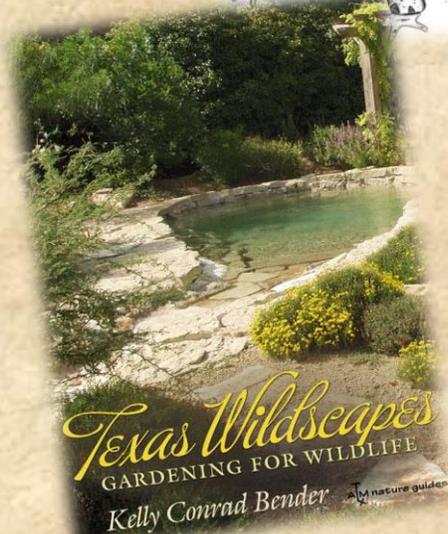
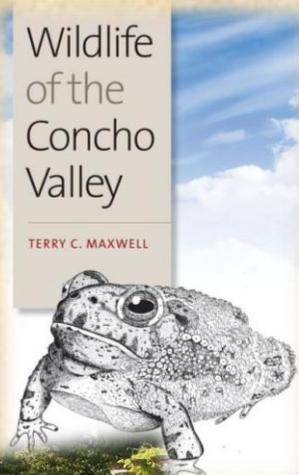
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309 Sidney Baker South
Kerrville, TX 78028

Examples of cover art are show to the right.



Chapter Members Volunteer at Seabourne's FISH'tastics in Rosenberg

Contributed by Nancy Sparrow and Michelle Sullivan

Seabourne Creek Nature Park was again host to the Annual City of Rosenberg and Texas Parks & Wildlife collaboration. Approximately 70 Youth Anglers surrounded Seabourne Lake to test their luck and skill. Many "perched" on the fishing rock docks. These were recently installed to provide better access to the water. Several large resident catfish were caught, as well as, a few of the Rainbow trout that TPWD stocked the previous day. Unfortunately, many trout were successfully caught by our own flock of Neo-Tropical Cormorants, which showed off their fishing prowess.

Despite the windy conditions, waves of random sprinkles, overcast skies and a morning with temperatures in the 40's, members of the Coastal Prairie Chapter, Nancy Sparrow, Linda Rude, Michelle Sullivan and Carol Dylla braved the weather to set up a booth and take pictures of participants and their catch. With a friendly booth display, 17 adults and 12 youths stopped by to learn about 2 topics: 1st being the Texas Natives, Guadalupe Bass, Channel catfish, White crappie and Alligator gar. 2nd they also were made aware of the spread of invasive species, such as the zebra mussels and giant salvinia (snail).



Seabourne Creek Nature park

Volunteering opportunities are available at Seabourne. To help with the Prairie Demo Garden contact Mark Morgenstern at morgy@consolidated.net or Lynn Trenta at lynn@txtrentas.com. If you want to help with the Butterfly Garden contact Lea Hyman at slhyman1983@yahoo.com. Contact [Bill Johnson](#) if you would like to help with the Bird Sanctuary. For other volunteer opportunities email Karl Baumgartner at kbum@pdq.net.



Jimmie, Jim, Leon and Karl (taking the photo) also braved the cold March 7th at Seabourne Prairie to supervise the LDS Volunteers in planting rhizomes. Leon brought Eastern Gammagrass rhizomes to plant in bulk. Thanks, Leon.

Time to Get Started--Dove Banding Begins Soon

Come join your fellow Master Naturalists and participate in banding doves. It is a fun activity and helps the Texas Parks and Wildlife gather information about these birds. Both White and Mourning Doves are banded.

“White-wing dove banding starts June 1, 2015 and mourning dove banding starts July 1. We will conduct a dove banding training session in early May and will begin pre-baiting for banding in mid-May. We need to collect names, addresses, and driver’s license numbers for people interested in dove banding. This information needs to be sent to Susie Doe for compilation.”—David Lobpries, TPWD

You can email Susie Doe at 619does@sbcglobal.net.



our [TPWD] biologists are banding doves as part of an annual program to monitor the dove population in Texas, which can exceed 40 million birds in the fall. If you come across a banded bird, report it to <http://www.reportband.gov> or 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Come Grow With Us! The Great Bump-up Burger(?) Caper

March 28th, 11:30am, following the Kick Off of the Chapter Seabourne Interpretative Walks with Julie Near and Michelle Sullivan, VSP Co-Chairs, there is going to be an informal lunch at the SCNP Demo Garden. We hope to have burgers or some other hand-holding food plus other goodies and drinks, of course.

This will be followed by a session of bumping up of plants and planting seeds for our Prairie Restoration Project and the new project, envisioned by Karl Baumgartner, “The Prairie by the Path”.

A recent prescribed burn and many sessions of invasive plant removal have created an ideal situation to inundate the Seabourne Prairie with native prairie plants.

Come join us and catch up with your MN friends.

Please R.S.V.P. if possible.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal>

Mexican Honey Wasps



Contributed by Don Johnson

While at the museum, Nancy Greig showed us the nest of Mexican honey wasps. Watch a youtube video of them at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVI_IJLHpqo

**NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE APRIL 15TH—
Please send submissions by April 12th**

Have a Fun St. Patrick's Day!

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

**COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE
TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS**

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