

Coastal Prairie Chapter Courier

November 2022 Volume 10 Issue 11



Inside This Issue

We Worked Hard and Played Hard at Annual TMN '22 Meeting
Coastal Prairie Outreach at Fort Bend County Fair
Chapter Comes Together to Build a Bird Sanctuary



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



President's Message

By Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President

WE WON! Our "Arboretum at Seabourne Creek" project won a \$75,000 grant from Niagara Bottling Company's "Perk Your Park" voting contest! There were actually three winners in this contest with the other two projects located in The Woodlands, Texas and Coconut Creek, Florida. Next year we will partner with the City of Rosenberg to design and install our vision for a fun, family-oriented setting filled with new trails, mature Texas native trees, picnic tables and educational signage. 2023 will be a busy year with ribbon-cuttings, workdays and grand openings.



Our state coordinator Mary Pearl Meuth was very excited to announce our win at the annual meeting at the Thursday night dinner. And then on Saturday night, Michelle Haggerty announced the win again in her presentation highlighting the many grand accomplishments of the state program for the year! That's one more reason why the Coastal Prairie Chapter remains a high-achieving, award-winning chapter of which we can all be proud.

In other chapter news....



Another Award! Because of our dedication to conservation in the community, our chapter has been named the local winner of the "Friend of Conservation" award by the Coastal Plains Soil & Water Conservation District Board's 2023 Texas Conservation Award. We can now move up to enter the state's Area 3 Contest and then be judged for the overall state contest. We will have to present a

PowerPoint explaining what our chapter does for conservation. The goal of the CPSWCD, which has partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is to encourage landowners within its area to voluntarily cooperate with the district in planning and applying conservation programs on non-agricultural as well as agricultural land.

Shirts for all Certified Members: All shirts have arrived and are ready for pick up! If you are an initially certified master naturalist in our chapter, then you qualify for a free shirt! You can pick them up in any of several ways. At each monthly program, look for our secretary Susan Walther who will have them with her to give out. They are also available for pick up at my house near the 99/90 intersection, as well as at the office of Brandy Rader at the Extension Office on Band Road. Email in advance to set up a date and time .



Board and Committee Members needed for 2023! We gotta keep that big wheel turnin! Here's your chance to get involved in our chapter in a fun and rewarding way. We still have a few openings in the Board of Directors for 2023. We are looking for a Program Director, Seabourne Creek Director and others. These roles can be handled individually or by a team of two or three. We also have many tasks that can be done by you at home on your computer (or phone) at your own schedule. The chapter needs your skills and talents!



If you have any questions, suggestions, or even gripes about anything related to our chapter, please feel free to contact me by email at terri@coastalprairie.org.

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Cover

Photos top left clockwise: Fall brings American Painted Lady on frostweed by Diane Eismont; joy of a child learning about nature by Debby Wendt; Roseate Spoonbill by Hoiman Low; TMN CPC volunteers help build water fountain at bird sanctuary by Joyce Tipton.

Please send articles and photos by the 28th of the month to Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor. Thanks!

Annual Meeting 2022 Group Photo



Mary Warwick attended also but is not in the photo

Membership Minute

By Jan and Kevin Kolk, Membership Directors



 **Congratulations** to our certification and milestone achievers:

Initial Certification

- Joe Chou 2022 Spring
- Chrissy Pichot 2022 Spring

2022 Recertification (79 members recertified)

- Megan Cromeens 2021 Fall
- Naomi Brown 2021 Spring
- Susan Fortenberry 2020 Fall
- John Shepherd 2022 Spring
- Lauren DeShazo 2022 Spring
- Joanie Havlick 2020 Fall

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Membership Minute

Continued



500 Hour Milestone

- Joyce Tipton 2021 Spring



2500 Hour Milestone

- Shannon Westveer 2019

Chapter update: As of Oct. 29th, our members have provided **16,834** volunteer hours to our community this year and **97,020** volunteer hours throughout the time of their membership. **CPC members are an incredible group of dedicated, focused individuals!**

Just a reminder - If an AT or VSP opportunity is not in the VMS list, please get them pre-approved before participating

Shannon Westveer Reaches 2500 Hours

Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor and SCNP Native Plant Garden Coordinator



What can a person say about Shannon Westveer? Jim Butcher called her a “force of nature” and that is certainly true! She is also a “force for nature”, as we all know

Shannon has been at the forefront of so many TMN Coastal Prairie activities it is difficult to know where to begin. She has been a proponent of prairies, native plants, healthy soil, moths and other insects, and produces and delivers presentations, both with PowerPoint and videos, and supports AgriLife and Texas Parks and Wildlife programs and people.

She provided wonderful support as the New Class Director, following the new class members as they made their way in the chapter. Networking with our advisors and other area leaders, she cultivates relationships with community leaders as well as members of many organizations.

On a scale of 1 to 10 for enthusiasm, Shannon rates an 11!

So, here’s to you, Shannon Westveer! Congratulations on your 2500 hours. We know it won’t be long until you will be celebrating your 5000 hour milestone!





Fall 2022 Mid-Class

By Lauren DeShazo, TMNCPC New Class Co-Director

At more than halfway through our fall semester our trainees have hit the ground running. They're showing up for board meetings, plant surveys, advanced trainings, and the annual conference. They've joined committees, done prairie work, stepped up to be presenters and more. We're so proud of this amazing group. I would not be surprised to have many of them certify on graduation.

Mary Pearl kicked our semester off and our rockstar Zoom presenters so far include Clint Faas, John McCleod, Jaime Gonzalez, Dan Riley, Amber Leung, Brian Koch, Marissa Llosa, and Susie Doe. With topics ranging from ecoregions to geology, herpetology to climatology, botany to hydrology, and more. They trekked through the Coastal Prairie Conservancy with Izzy Retiz, explored propagation with Iris Poteet, and saw the importance of good mycorrhizae rich soil with Shannon Westveer. The trainees experienced the results of private property conservation with Jim Butcher and Karl Baumgartner on Karl's pond property while Susie Doe took them into the field to ID the native plants. Shannon Westveer led them on an entomology exploration at Cullinan Park and Kavita Self and Katie Sallean have introduced them to volunteer opportunities at the Houston Museum of Natural Science- Sugar Land.

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Fall 2022 Mid-Class

Our most recent field trip was out to Seabourne Creek Nature Park and the Agrilife Center. Nine of our veteran members along with our amazing host teams introduced our trainees to our signature project. Before setting out, Karl regaled us with the history of his negotiations to acquire the use of the land and the humble beginnings of our wonderful park. Terri outlined the future of the park and how far ahead we are on the 20 year plan. Using a map, she explained how we hope to make use of the \$75,000 grant from Niagara's "Perk Your Park" contest for the arboretum should we win (We Did!!). Katie Sallean guided them through the butterfly garden and Bill Johnson led them through the wetlands into the forest where they scouted the bird viewing area and the newly updated bird blind. Rounding it out to the other side of the wetlands and into the prairie our trainees split up into groups for botany with Susie Doe and prairie restoration with Jerry Trenta, the native plant demo garden with Lynn Trenta and Pam Jones, or bump up with Carol Hawkins.

Our trainees are absorbing the information as fast as we can provide it. We have six more classes to go and I cannot wait to see where it takes them



November Chapter Program, Thursday, November 3, 6:30pm “Native Plants for the Home Wildscape”

Presented by Mark Morgenstern



Mark Morgenstern is the owner of Morningstar Prairie Plants in Damon, Texas. Mark’s motto is “Bring Wildlife into Your Yard”. His plants are propagated and grown right here in Fort Bend County so the provenance will be conducive to successful transplanting. Join us and learn all about using Texas natives to create your own backyard wildscape. Mark’s plants will also be available for sale at the meeting....or you may make an appointment to visit his nursery!

NOTE: This meeting will start at 6:30 pm. Coastal Prairie Chapter programs are free. The public is invited to attend via Zoom. Check back here a couple days before the program for the registration link.

Chapter members and spouses may attend either in-person at the HMNS-SL or by Zoom. Registration through SignUp Genius is required for in-person attendance.

The [Texas Master Naturalist](#) program is sponsored by [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) and [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#).

[TMNCPC members in attendance should record their Advanced Training (AT) hours under “AT: Chapter Meeting-Coastal Prairie”, and the VSP hours for the business meeting under “Chapter Business: Chapter Meeting”.]



Photo by John Donoho



Photo by Lynn Trenta

To see previous chapter program recordings, go to the Members’ Section on the chapter website.

Volunteer Service Projects Highlights *By Johanna DeYoung, Membership Director*



10/27/2022

With Fall in the air, we're seeing more and more VSP opportunities! As the end of the year approaches and with the abundance of VSP opportunities, the attainment of 40 hours of VSP in 2022 is doable!

COVID CURRENT STATUS/GUIDANCE

Since 2021, the TMN and the State of Texas guidance has not changed:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-response/> and <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/> 9/22/2022: Fort Bend County is at a Green/Low COVID Risk Level. Aligning with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Fort Bend County has the following guidance: "Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines

Get tested if you have symptoms; People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. If you are immunocompromised, learn more about how to protect yourself. Find out more about the COVID-19 situation in Fort Bend County, Texas with COVID-19 Data Tracker."

VSP OPPORTUNITIES

Please check the website calendar, SignUp Genius, and the Weekly Bulletin for multiple upcoming VSP Opportunities.

Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP): The hours for the SCNP Workdays, Wednesdays, 1st and 3rd Saturdays, are now 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category "SCNP-7 Habitats Public Access: TMN Report Hours"]

Sheldon Lake State Park - Prairie Plant-a-thon 2022: Saturday, 11/5/2022

[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: "TPWD Volunteer: TMN Report Hours"]

Missouri City Storm Drain Marker Event: Saturday, 11/12/2022

[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: "Missouri City: TMN Report Hours"]

4H Outdoor Engagement: Saturday, 11/19/2022

[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: "Community Presentations: TMN Report Hours"]

Bird Study and Nature Merit Badges – Scouts BSA; J. B. Harrison Foundation: Tuesday, 11/22/2022

[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: "James B Harrison Foundation Properties: TMN Report Hours"]

Reminder: When conducting outreaches, take two forms with you to complete and submit: "Public Outreach Form" and "Interested in learning more...". Both forms, complete with instructions, can be found in the Forms Channel in Slack.

For further VSP opportunities, check the website. The VSP Committee includes Joanie Havlick, Terri Hurley, Charris Powers, Lynn Trenta, and Johanna DeYoung. If you are aware of VSP opportunities, have questions about VSP opportunities, or are unsure how to record an VSP opportunity, please contact Johanna DeYoung

(johanna@coastalprairie.org).

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

Friends, TMN Family, Universe Bodies

Text and photos by Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC Vice-President



The first day of the TMN Annual Conference at the Omni Houston started in an otherwise typical fashion: Wednesday's chores got finished early in the morning (oops), then the day's to-do's, before hastily packing weekend sundries into the minivan and out into Houston traffic. Blacklight station ... CHECK. Milestone pins ... CHECK. Boots ... CHECK. Heart full of joy and anticipation ... CHECK.

Upon arrival, TMN's Heartwood Chapter was hard at work putting the finishing touches on centerpieces for the main meeting room. I joined them. This chapter took me in last April when my family was unexpectedly uprooted to North Houston for a short time. No matter where you are in Texas, you can always connect with a TMN family, and here they were.

The event started out quietly at our chapter table (Terri, Susan, Bert, Sarah, Hoiman, Susie, Jean, and me) getting news that Seabourne had won Niagara's Perk Your Park \$75K Grant. Scant seconds after I sneak-posted Terri's photo to the event's social media app, Mary Pearl ran through the room to hug Terri, and grabbed the mic on stage to share with the room. What a way to start a weekend!



Terri Hurley getting the message real-time

Friday morning, many headed off to scheduled field trips around Houston – ours were Cullinan Park, Brazos Bend State Park, CPC Indiangrass Preserve, and, of course, Seabourne Creek Nature Park – while the bulk of us stayed to attend a variety of fabulous AT programs; a few of us hosted rooms as service to the program. My personal favorite was TMN North Texas' Bonton + Ideal Project Team, a new class project with great potential for us all to model in our quest for diversity. We wrapped up the evening (or so we thought) with friend and local mentor Jaime González giving his most inspirational keynote address. High on passion and purpose, little did we know what Mary Pearl and Michelle had in store for

A video by TMN Gulf Coast member and astronaut Kjell Lindgren was played, filmed from the International Space Station in orbit. He had just returned to Earth, splashed down October 14. In fact, he was ... here. Wait ... what?? The room erupted in energy and excitement as Kjell sauntered up onto the stage to spend quality personal time with his fellow TMN's answering all our incessant questions. WOW. What a way to end a day!

But the day wasn't over quite yet. While in line waiting to meet Kjell for a fangirl moment, all my buggie friends were outside blacklighting with Sam Kieschnick. Arriving late and dragging a wedding party of eight in my wake (I do love the public), Cosmosoma myradora – Scarlet-bodied wasp moth, clear-wing family – had arrived. The genus, Sam explained, translates to 'universe body,' a nice description for such a pretty moth. The real fun of the night was watching a Maryland gal who 'don't like bugs much' request to touch a toe-biter (which even I won't do) then do it because she felt safe with us, the best kind of outreach.

Continued on the next page--

Friends, TMN Family, Universe Bodies *Continued*



Fist-bumping Kjell Lindgren before getting his autographed photo



Scarlet-bodied wasp moth crashes the blacklight sheet

My favorite moments at the hotel were spent up in room 805 with peanuts and wine, alongside members of my own TMN family, Astros playing on the TV set (GO 'STROS!). We shared our dreams, reminisced with those not seen in a while, and imagined the possibilities of a chapter's bright future together. For those who missed, it's the conference where we learn what we're made of, make new discoveries for our continuing education, learn from each other of our many similarities, even celebrating our differences. We hope you can all make it next year to McAllen. You can bet I'll be there with my TMN family, ready to absorb whatever Texas delight decides to reveal itself.



*Carol Hawkins and Shannon Westveer –
past New Class Directors*

Coastal Prairie Chapter Hosts Four Field Sessions for 2022 TMN Annual Meeting

By Shari Lewis, TMN Annual Mtg. Field Trip Co-Coordinator



The 2022 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting, held in Houston from October 20-23, was filled with over 100 amazing opportunities for attendees to choose from. Maybe the most popular aspect of the Annual Meeting is the Field Sessions offered to attendees. After all, naturalists love field trips! The Coastal Prairie Chapter TMN Annual Meeting Field Session Committee (Hoiman Low and myself) worked with the state to coordinate four field sessions representing our region. These included "Protecting the Prairie for People and Wildlife" with Coastal Prairie Conservancy, "Nature Lover's Paradise" at Brazos Bend State Park, "Reborn at Seabourne: Master Naturalists Transforming a City Park" at Seabourne Creek Nature Park, and "TMN Partnership Boosts Birding at Cullinan Park".

"Nature Lover's Paradise" Field Session was hosted by Montse Canedo, Volunteer Coordinator at Brazos Bend State Park on Thursday, October 20, with help from Chapter member Scott Tufts. The 23 attendees of this session got to experience the magic of Brazos Bend State Park as they toured the swamps, marshes, lakes, bottomland hardwood forests, and coastal tall grass prairie, observing the incredible diversity of the area and its wildlife, including the famous alligators. Continued on the next page---



Photos by Hoiman Low



Coastal Prairie Chapter Hosts Four Field Sessions for 2022 TMN Annual Meeting *Continued*

“Reborn at Seabourne” Field Session, which took place Friday, October 21 at SCNP, was attended by 18 TMNs from around the state. Attendees took a complete walking tour of Seabourne Creek Nature Park to learn the “how-to’s” of transforming fallow land into productive ecosystems, guided by a team of legendary Coastal Prairie Chapter members. Field Session Host Jerry Trenta welcomed the attendees and gave informative presentations including park history, Arboretum plans, Seabourne Lake, Seabourne Prairie, and Nursery. Chapter member Katie Sallean presented the Butterfly Garden. Chapter member Lynn Trenta, with assistance from Chapter member Jan Kolk, gave a presentation of the Native Demonstration Gardens. Lastly, Bill Johnson presented the Wetland, the Bird Sanctuary and Bird Viewing Area.



Photo by Joyce Tipton



Photos by Chuck Snyder



Coastal Prairie Chapter Hosts Four Field Sessions for 2022 TMN Annual Meeting *Continued*

"TMN Partnership Boosts Birding at Cullinan Park" Field Session took place on Saturday, October 22, at Cullinan Park in Sugarland, and was hosted by Cullinan Park Conservancy Board President and CPC member Robbin Mallett. Twenty attendees toured the bird viewing area with drips and observed wildlife from the observation tower on White Lake and by hiking the trails along Oyster Creek within the park. Attendees learned about how the newly installed bird viewing area, planting natives, hosting birding and park cleanup events, and increased social media presence have resulted in better birding within Cullinan Park.

Robbin Mallett added " We also discussed how the drought, which caused White Lake to dry up, actually led to an increase in the park's bird list. It created mud flats that attracted new shorebirds during their migration. Few of the group had heard of Birdability, so they were very interested in the Kolks' presentation on making birding more accessible."



Photos by Robbin Mallett



Each of these unique opportunities to explore our area was very well attended, and each received many well-deserved compliments. Many thanks go to all of our dedicated Chapter members who represented CPC. The cooler temps, plentiful sunshine, and peaking seasonal plants and wildlife combined with the expertise of these amazing presenters to create unforgettable memories for TMN's from all over the state.

Coastal Prairie Outreach

Fort Bend County Fair (September 28-30)

By Debby Wendt, Class of 2015



Members of the CPCTMN presented about alligators to 604 children and 53 adults at the Fort Bend County Fair's AgTivity Barn from September 28-30. Members participating were Jamie Fairchild, Carol Hawkins, Randall Schmidt, Dorothy Tran, and Debby Wendt. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Advisor was Jon McLeod.

The volunteers talked about the cold blooded reptiles and their eating, breeding and living activities and how the Mom alligators take good care of their babies. They also shared how the temperature of the eggs the first ten days determines the sex of the alligator.

Most of the children were excited to touch the 18 month old alligator but a few were hesitant. Jon had taped his mouth shut so there was no danger to anyone. Debby Wendt said, "It brings me so much joy to share wildlife with children." This is one of the main reasons I joined the Master Naturalists.



Seen to the left are Debby Wendt, Jamie Fairchild and Dorothy Tran at the FB County Fair.



Debby Wendt with girl and baby alligator

Randall Schmidt with girl and baby alligator

Texian Market Days at the George Ranch Historical Park, Saturday, 10/22/2022

Text and photos By Johanna DeYoung, TMNCPC VSP Director

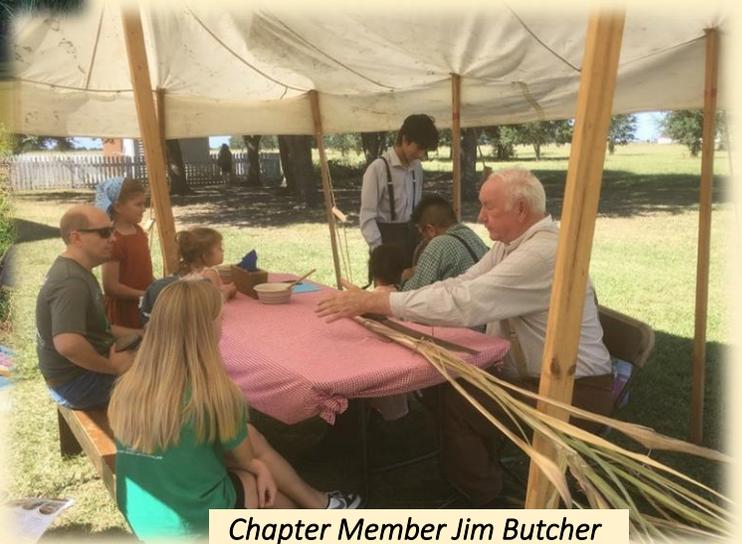


The Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter (TMNCPC) was well represented at the Texian Market Days. Sandra Brown, Joanie Havlick, Ute Welk, and Johanna DeYoung enjoyed a beautiful and breezy outreach day sharing the Bird Workshop on Wheels (WOW) and engaging attendees, our partners George Ranch Historical Park and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), vendors, as well as each other. We interacted with some 46 individuals. The TMNCPC was positioned on the Nature Trail surrounded by an alligator nursery. We had a great day!

Our biggest "competitor" at this event, led by Ms Montserrat "Montse" Canedo, TPWD Volunteer Services Coordinator III, were two 2-month-old live alligators. For the 2023 Texian Market Days, the TMNCPC will be situated side by side with Montse and the TPWD! In so doing, we'll capture all of the Alligator Admirers!



Seen here are Joanie Havlick, Sandra Brown, Monse Canedo, and Ute Welk with the TMNCPC Bird W.O.W.



Chapter Member Jim Butcher explains sugar cane processing

The Chuckwagon at Texian Market Days with Megan Cromeens



Megan Cromeens

JB Harrison Longpoint

Birding at JB Harrison Longpoint

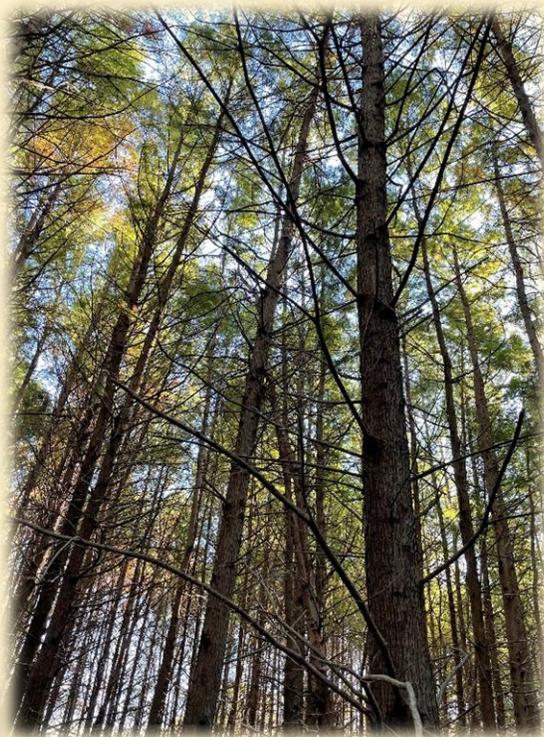
Text and photos by Naomi Brown

Janis Hodgson, Kim Hodgson, Nathaniel Cross, Jennifer Williams, Naomi Brown, members of the Coastal Prairie Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists, were hosted by Hannah Muegge of the James B. Harrison Ranch in Fort Bend County, Texas, for a morning of autumn bird observing on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

The Ranch, a hotspot for migratory animals, occasionally opens their gates to civic groups for educational engagement in ecology.



Janis and Kim Hodgson, Hannah Muegge and Nathaniel Cross birding-



Group in woods

JBH Foundation: Building Relationships with Conservation Partners

By Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC Vice-President



Conservation partners are like flowers and bees: we help each other, mutualists. They provide venues and opportunities for our newest members to initial certify through training and service to others. And in return we get to visit and explore amazing properties to accent our skills and talents.

Last week, Member-in-training Chevy Tang joined Hannah, Susie Doe, and me to survey a small area to be set aside for 4H students to get hands-on work for conservation badges. This site was chosen for its accessibility, will feature trails and sitting areas, and here, natives are growing alongside non-natives – even some invasive species left to grow slightly unchecked – with the goal that students become familiar and can identify many plants in an environment, learn how they relate, and what they can do to minimize land degradation. The complexity simply can't be done with pots on a table.

We value Hannah's desire to create enriching outdoor classrooms not only for our trainees but for the younger future conservation corps. We toss our hat for her and JBH Foundation in all they do for us, for students, and for Texas.

- Shannon's [iNaturalist observations](#) of the site
- [JBH Foundation](#), TMN CPC Conservation Partner

Hannah flags while Susie locates an important species



**Hannah's 30th birthday!
Shannon, Chevy, Hannah,
and Susie**

TMN CPC Volunteers Help Build Bird Sanctuary Water Feature

Photos and text by Joyce Tipton, TMNCPC New Class Co-Director



Seventeen Coastal Prairie Chapter volunteers donned gloves, shovels, and buckets, and flexed their muscles in Weston Lakes on October 11th. They joined with residents of the community and the contractor, Aqua-Springs Ponds & Fountains, to help build a natural stone water feature for a new bird sanctuary on Property Owners Association (POA) property.



Above and below: the TMNCPC crew that put the water feature together



The water feature is technically a disappearing waterfall but the design gives it the appearance of a babbling stream found in nature. Helping to build this required a lot of work, but the experts with Aqua-Springs guided and taught the group through every step. The volunteers fitted and cut the pond liner, back-filled edges, and carried rocks for placement. They hauled buckets of soil, gravel, and river rock. Observing the larger stones being lifted using an excavator, then strategically placed, was part of the fun! Next up is the planting of native trees, shrubs, and plants that attract the birds. Continued on the next page--

TMN CPC Volunteers Help Build Bird Sanctuary Water Feature *Continued*

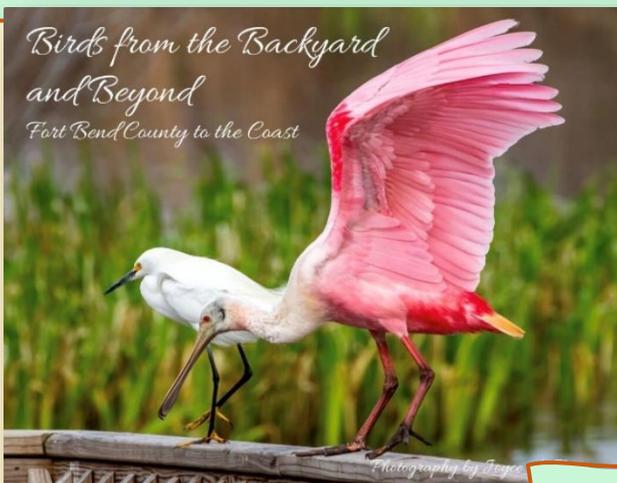
CPC member Lucy Moyer, who also serves on the Board of Keep Weston Lakes Beautiful (KWLB), received an unexpected Blue Donut from the Grand Poobah (Jim Butcher.) She had a vision for a beautiful bird sanctuary in the neighborhood and it became part of the strategic plan for the KWLB organization. Her goal was to provide the shelter, food, and water that birds need, in a peaceful setting where all residents would have the opportunity to enjoy viewing and learning more about the birds. Lucy took lead on the project, created a plan, and convinced the POA Board to provide space on a large, wooded common area for the KWLB Neighborhood Bird Sanctuary.

The next step for Lucy was raising the funds needed to make this a truly desirable space for both birds and people. Funds were raised through personal and business sponsorships, selling tribute trees, and raffling a donated hand crafted bench. The labor provided by the great group of volunteers resulted in a substantial discount on the cost of the water feature. As a CPC member and Weston Lakes' resident, I also contributed to the fund raising by publishing a "coffee table" photo book, "Birds from the Backyard and Beyond... Fort Bend County to the Coast", with all profits from the sale of the books going to help support the bird sanctuary. The cover photo on the book is from Seabourne Creek Nature Park!

Jim Butcher awards Lucy with the blue doughnut



The finished water feature below



A few days after the installation, chapter members Debbie McMullen and Erik Wolf, birded the area and observed 14 species of birds including their first of the season Yellow-rumped Warbler and a new Fort Bend County bird for them, a Yellow-throated Warbler.

As the residents and the POA Board of Weston Lakes now see this beautiful feature and realize the potential for this previously unused area, the enthusiasm is bubbling just like the waterfall!



Seabourne News

Seabourne Creek Bird Hike

Text and Photos by Hoiman Low, TMNCPC State Representative



After the summer hiatus, the monthly Seabourne Creek Nature Park bird hikes resumed on October 12th. We had a good turnout of about 20 participants, 6 or 7 of them non-members.

The bird hike was organized by Bob and Carol Schwartz with the support of our birding specialists Mark Scheuerman and Debbie McMullen.

We hiked the "usual" route from the parking lot through the Wetlands towards the Bird Sanctuary and along Seabourne Creek, circling back to the Wetlands Pond and finishing at the Seabourne Lake.

Along the way, 46 species were seen or heard including Killdeer, Barn Swallow, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Egrets, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow (first of season), and others.

The November Seabourne Bird Hike is scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of the month (November 2nd). Come join us, enjoy the fall weather and help us spot those birds !



Above and below right The Bird Hike Team



Roseate Spoonbill



Eastern Phoebe



Snowy Egret



At the end of the hike, Debbie spotted this beautiful Pied-billed Grebe in the Seabourne Lake.

Seabourne Creek Nature Park BioBlitz Event, October 15, 2022

By Shari Lewis, TMN Annual Meeting Fieldtrip Co-Coordinator



On Saturday, October 15, our Coastal Prairie Chapter hosted a BioBlitz event at SCNP. The goals of this event were:

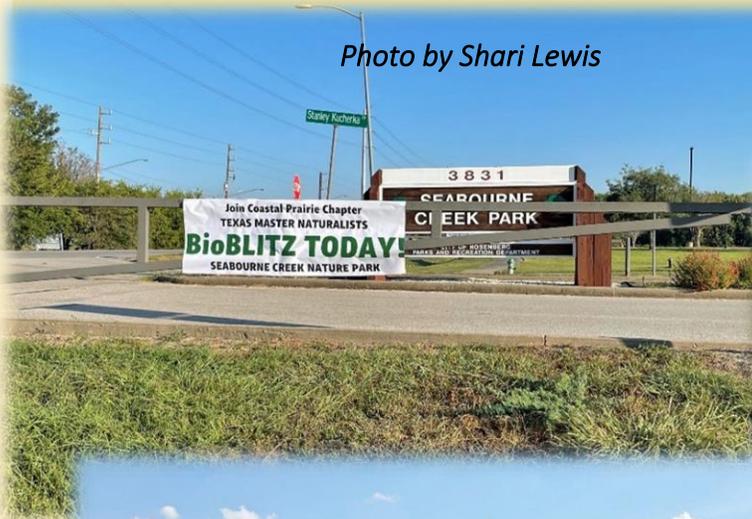
- (1) to increase participation in the fall Texas Parks and Wildlife Pollinator BioBlitz, which took place from October 7-23
- (2) to introduce iNaturalist and citizen science to park visitors
- (3) to get as many observations as we could within SCNP.

In preparation, Chapter members created and posted signage throughout the park about the BioBlitz. Also, the Public Relations team advertised the event on Face Book, and on the TPWD events page. We set up a table at the parking lot from 9am to noon and spoke with park visitors as they went about their Saturday morning activities in the park.

We had **FUN!** Chapter members present were me, Kerry Padilla, and Lynn Trenta. We were able to introduce the concepts of “bioblitzing” and citizen science to about 20 park visitors. Among the visitors we spoke with were two enthusiastic families with young children that Kerry and I spent a lot of time speaking with. It’s always so much fun to spread the magic of nature with curious children! We also enjoyed visiting with the Fall 22 Training Class who were on a field trip to Seabourne. Hopefully we encouraged this awesome group to use iNaturalist and participate in the BioBlitz as well.

At the time this article was written, a total of 438 observations of 140 species were observed by 25 individuals at SCNP and uploaded to the TPWD Pollinator BioBlitz Project! This is impressive considering only pollinators and pollinator plants are included in this project. We learned a lot about hosting a bioblitz event and hope to increase citizen science participation even more during future events like City Nature Challenge. Happy “Blitzing”!

Photo by Shari Lewis



Photos by Lauren DeShazo



In Our Own Backyard and Other Places

Fall is Great Time to take Butterfly Photos!

Text and Photos by Diane Eismont

This year the drought packed my flower garden with Butterflies! What a fall - Frostweed was the main attraction for the butterflies. Everyone should grow some!



*American Painted Lady on
frostweed.
Note that the underside of
the hindwing has two large
eye spots.*



*American Painted Lady
Note the visibility of the eyes
and the antennae*

The Lighter Side

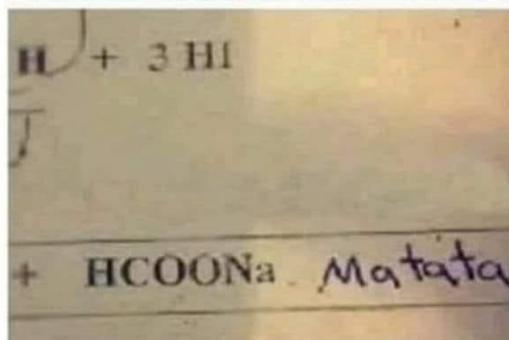


Cute Cat Pics Facebook



Facebook Vince the Sign Guy

THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU GIVE UP ON TRYING IN YOUR CHEMISTRY TEST



Facebook Becky Leugemors

As I put my car in reverse, I thought to myself... this takes me back.

"Photographers are violent people. First they frame you, then they shoot you, then they hang you on the wall."

- Anonymous

Facebook John Donoho

TMNCPC 2022 Board Members

2022 Officers

President [Terri Hurley](#)
 Vice President [Shannon Westveer](#)
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[Katie Sallean](#)
 New Class [Joyce Tipton](#) and [Lauren DeShazo](#)
 New Class Representative Rebecca Aguilar
 State Representative Hoiman Low
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 TPWD Wildlife Biologist [Jon McLeod](#)
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 Wharton County AgriLife [Corrie Bowen](#)
 Waller County AgriLife [Candace Moeller](#)

We are on the Web!

See us at:

www.coastalprairie.org

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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Extension Office

Rosenberg, TX 77471—8678

Phone: 832-225-6936

Email: info@coastalprairie.org

One More TMN Annual Meeting Photo!

Sent in by Terri Hurley



Thanks to Bert and Jean Stipelcovich for heading up class and Zoom hosting at the Annual Meeting!

Our Chapter Facebook Page is at

[TMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#)

To post photos and information, email

[Megan Cromeens](#) or [Judi Harrington](#)

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

We also have a **Chapter-Only** Facebook Page that allows chapter members to post items. You can join by going to the website below and clicking on "Join." The administrator will allow you access. This is for chapter members only.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1882734648662315/?ref=bookmarks>

Check out & subscribe to our Chapter's new YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfBuS0aMAOifuiDHaiuNqTQ?view_as=subscriber