

# Coastal Prairie Chapter **Courier**

May 2023 — Volume 11 Issue 5



*"Spring is nature's  
way of saying,  
Let's party!"  
Robin Williams*

## **Inside This Issue**

National Volunteer Month: Hot Dog Party  
Migration Rainbow: Celebrating Spring Migrants  
Conversation with an Alligator  
Seabourne Volunteers Spring Into Service



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.

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### ON THE COVER

*Celebrating the feathered migrants, members (see Migration Rainbow) work to capture their personalities! Group photo was taken at the April Bird Hike by Noel Zinn. This is the location where the Seabourne Prairie Perchers will compete in the Big Sit May 7.*

### EDITOR TEAM

—Shannon Westveer, May Co-Editor, [Shannon@CoastalPrairie.org](mailto:Shannon@CoastalPrairie.org)

Have a great story for next month's issue? Submit to Co-Editor [Cindy@CoastalPrairie.org](mailto:Cindy@CoastalPrairie.org) by **MAY 25th**.

Thank you to the proofing and editing team. It takes a village every month!

## President's Message

by Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President



Even though **National Volunteer Appreciation Month** is officially over, our *Courier* newsletter provides the perfect opportunity to send a huge THANK YOU to all chapter volunteers for their hard work.

On behalf of the Coastal Prairie Chapter Board of Directors, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for your valuable contributions to our chapter and to the protection of Texas natural resources. Your tireless efforts and commitment have been vital in helping us achieve our chapter's goals and make a positive impact on our community.

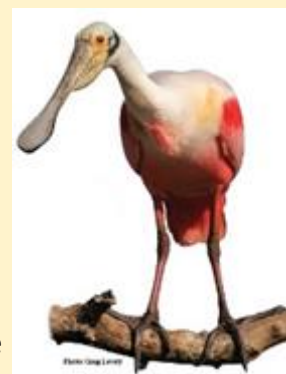
As volunteers, you have selflessly given your time and skills to support our mission as Texas Master Naturalists. Our chapter would not be the award-winning chapter it is without all of you. Your dedication and hard work are proof of the power of education, outreach and service to make a difference in the future of the great state of Texas we all know and love.

Please note that your efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. We value each one of you and are grateful for your continued support of our chapter. The Board is committed to providing you with meaningful volunteer opportunities and creating an environment that is supportive and rewarding. In everything we do, let's always support all our volunteers and their projects.

Thank you again for your outstanding service and commitment to the TMN mission. We are honored to have you as part of our chapter and look forward to continuing our work together!

In other news....

**Seabourne Nature Fest.** Due to on-going stumbling blocks encountered in planning and hosting of our annual event post-pandemic, the Board has decided to end the eight-year run of the SNF and implement the new "Nature Days" proposal. So **Jim Butcher**, we THANK YOU for your hard work and dedication put into planning the event so many years. To **Bert Stipelcovich**, we THANK YOU and your classmates from the Fall 2018 class for stepping up to lead and plan the



Continued on [next page](#)



## May Chapter Program: Thursday, May 4th, 7 PM "All About Bats!" featuring Mary Warwick, TMNCPC

By Jan Peterson, TMNCPC Programs Director



Photo: Mary Warwick and bat, [TMNCPC Website](#)

Last December, **Mary Warwick** received international notoriety when she rescued 1,600 bats during a severe cold snap. She would like you to know that bats aren't the creatures of horror movies and Halloween; they are very gentle and social animals who eat insects and help keep our ecosystem in balance!

Texas is home to 32 of the 47 bat species found in the U.S., making us the battiest state in the Union. Houston is home to at least 8 species of bats. Mary will introduce you to your quiet neighbors, tell you all of the amazing things they do, and show you how to create a place for them in your yard. She will also share what it's like to have 1,600 bats in your attic while hosting holiday guests.

Mary — TMNCPC Class of Fall 2020 — is the Wildlife Director of the Houston Humane Society's Wildlife Department (previously TWRC Wildlife Center). She became a wildlife rehabilitator in 1982 while working at the Houston Zoo and has raised squirrels, opossums, armadillos, pumas, owls, hawks, and pelicans for release back into the wild.

She started rehabilitating bats during a freeze in January 2018 when Houston temps dropped to 19 degrees Fahrenheit. Until recently, she was the only bat rehabilitator in Houston.

Coastal Prairie Chapter monthly programs are **free** and open to the **public**.

May's program is being held at the **Rosenberg Civic Center** located at 3825 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg, Texas. Please plan to **arrive at 6:30 PM** for refreshments and social time; the **1-hour program begins at 7:00 PM**.

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."]

*President's Message cont'd from [previous page](#)*

2019 festival. Members, please keep an eye out for the new and exciting Nature Days project that Jan Poscovsky and her outreach team are planning.



**#TMN Tuesday:** On May 9, Ben Horstmann will present "Roving Interpretation: Making Casual Connections

that Matter." Most outreach opportunities are very casual...a visitor at Seabourne might ask about what you are doing or someone at Costco might ask you what TMNs do when you are wearing a TMN shirt. This talk will present tools, tips, and tricks to make these conversations effective. Ben is an Interpretive Ranger at TPWD. Please try to attend this one so you'll be ready for the next casual chance you get to talk about nature to the public along the trails.

## Membership Minute

By Jan and Kevin Kolk, TMNCPC Membership Co-Directors



### Congratulations!

To our numerous certification and milestone achievers, way to go!



### 2023 Recertification

(37 members recertified)

Lucy Moyer – Spring 2021	Debbie Wendt – 2014
Dennis West – Fall 2022	Terri Hurley – 2017
Rebecca Aguilar – Fall 2022	Dominic Dottavio – Spring 2022
Hoiman Low – Spring 2021	Bill Johnson – 2010
Andrea Morgenstern – 2018	Ursula Cooper – 2019
Debbie McMullen – 2017	John Greene – Spring 2022
Erik Wolf – 2017	Marilyne Malone – Fall 2020



### Initial Certification

Pete Weston – Fall 2022  
Chevvy Tang – Fall 2022  
Pelin Unal – Fall 2022



### 250 Hour Milestone

Dominic Dottavio – Spring 2022

## Have You Noticed?

The new VMS login page has a different look! You can still access the “old” one and enter hours using either link.

There are pros and cons to each; see the graphic to the right.

For more information, go to **Members** —> **“How To Use VMS To Log In Your Hours”** or visit:

**TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE**

[Find an Opportunity](#)

This link takes you to the “new” version.  
Best devices: phones, pads  
Pros: More data available  
Cons: No delete option, log book entries by date

### Volunteer Login

Username

Password

Login

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Approver Login](#)

If you are a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer login [here](#)

This link takes you to the “old” version.  
Best devices: computer, laptop  
Pros: Can delete an entry, log book grouped by category  
Cons: Less data, doesn't work well with phones

<https://txmn.org/coastal/vms/>

**Questions?** Just ask us, or post to **#help-vms** on Slack.

## Volunteer Service — May Highlights

By Johanna DeYoung, TMNCPC Volunteer Director



Special kudos this month to **Karl Baumgartner** for graciously sharing his river-front properties with us, to **Susie Doe** for sharing her love of botany with us at Karl's properties, and to Secretary, **Joyce Tipton**, and **Randolph Watson** for embellishing the Bird WOW with new and fascinating items to share with the public. *THANK YOU!*

**Signature Project Workdays at Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP), Rosenberg:** 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM Wednesdays and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays which fall on 5/3, 5/6, 5/10, 5/17, 5/20, 5/24, and 5/31

**Signature Project Monthly Bird Hike at SCNP, Rosenberg:** 8:00 AM until 10:30 AM 1st Wednesday of the month which falls on 5/3  
NOTE: This is the last one until October! *Don't miss spring migrants.*

**Seabourne Big Sit:** 5/7 from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM ("Prairie Perchers" see the SignUp Genius for details)

**Houston Museum of Natural Science in Sugar Land,** 10:30 AM until 3:00 PM, 2nd and 4th Saturdays which falls on 5/13 and 5/27

**Coastal Prairie Conservancy  
Indiangrass Preserve, Katy:** 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM Tuesdays, Fridays, and 2nd Saturdays of each month which fall on 5/2, 5/5, 5/9, 5/12, 5/13, 5/16, 5/19, 5/23, 5/26, 5/30

**Houston Audubon's Bird Survey  
@ Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza  
Park, Houston:** 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM 4th Monday which falls on 5/22

**Lawther-Deer Park Prairie, Deer  
Park:** 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM 4th Saturday of each month which falls on 5/27

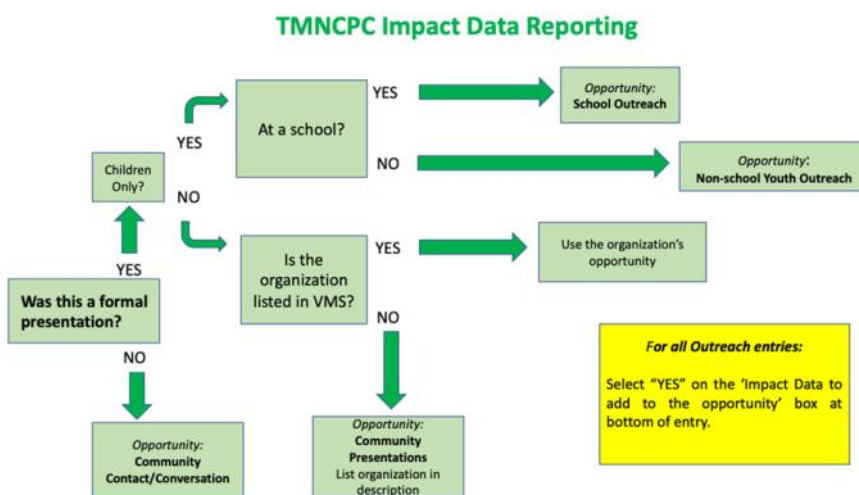
**TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair 2023,**  
(2 days) 5/2 and 5/3 from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM

**Brazos Bend Expo – Celebrating  
100 Years of Texas State Parks,**  
5/6, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Edna/Lavaca Field Trip,** 5/6 from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM (see SignUp Genius for required registration)

### Leading an Outreach Activity?

Not sure which opportunity to use? This should help! Remember that only *one person* from the outreach activity – generally the Lead Volunteer – turns in the completed form (on **#forms** channel in Slack) and enters the impact data into VMS. However, all volunteers can use this flowchart to choose the appropriate opportunity.



Before arriving to serve, always check our website calendar for last minute changes, cancellations, or other information before departing.

<https://txmn.org/coastal/events/month/2023-05/>



## Spring Training Highlights

By Lauren DeShazo, TMNCPC Training Class Director



As we near the end of the [Spring 2023 Training Course](#), here are some highlights from sessions with fantastic presenters and locations the training class has explored.

Trainees got a sneak peek of our conservation partners, Houston Museum of Natural Science in Sugar Land and Cullinan Park Conservancy. With the quick museum docent training, the entire class will be able to jump right into volunteering for our Saturday outreach at the museum pollinator garden.



Sea Center Texas, feeding the red drum with TMNCOT David Brandes



HMNS Sugar Land, trainees get familiar with the displays

During the mammalogy field trip to Brazos Bend with David Heinicke, trainees learned to identify species with skulls and teeth as well as how to follow tracks (photo right).

The class got hands-on with ichthyology at Sea Center Texas, witnessed bird-banding, and learned about raptor research at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. We've explored topics such as Urban Ecosystems and



Sea Center Texas, tidal pool creatures up close!

All Photos by Lauren DeShazo

Continued [next page](#)



Skulls and teeth analysis during mammalogy less, Brazos Bend State Park



## Spring Training Highlights (Cont'd)

By Lauren DeShazo, TMNCPC Training Class Director



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TPWD Hatchery tour behind the scenes at Sea Center Texas

Trainees got a two-part wetlands experience with Marissa Llosa of Houston Parks Board (HPB): an informative lecture *and* two field sessions in one. They got to witness the practical application of wetlands for flood control while appreciating wetlands value for both recreation and wildlife.

Not waiting to get started filling the volunteer service bucket, many are already plugged into various projects, restoration sites, and outreach events around our three counties. Be sure to introduce yourself to them and help show them to a quick initial certification!

Citizen Science, Weather and Climate, and Hunting Ethics and Prescribed Fire.

They've also learned how to get involved in the chapter and how government and private partners help natural resources conservation.

We took a dive into our signature project Seabourne Creek Nature Park with many of our veterans showing them the way. They've dug into botany and Jaime González led them through the Coastal Prairie Story.



Bird banding at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

All Photos by Lauren DeShazo



HPB's Coolgreen, hike down to the wetlands



Bumping up native plants into 1-gallon pots at Seabourne Creek Nature Park



## Seabourne Creek in April

By Lynn Trenta, TMNCPC Seabourne Gardens



Pam Jones, Mary Saville, Nancy Jones, Kerry Padilla, Jan Kolk, Dorothy Tran, and Ting Kung in the Native Plant Garden; Photo: Lynn Trenta

### Seabourne had a lot happening

in April, with a lot of help from Mother Nature! Spring was in full swing, and plants were sprouting and blooming all around the park. Of course, the garden plants are in their early spring bloom. Then, there was the prairie, wetlands, and our pollinator area, funded by the Houston Wilderness Foundation, sprouting some lovely native plants. So wonderful to see our efforts rewarded and enjoy new plants flourishing outside of our control as well.

The Niagara Arboretum project is in full swing and many of the trees were planted by the City of



Self heal

Rosenberg Parks and Recreation Department and Niagara personnel this month. Our group has been watering the trees, making adjustments to some of the plantings, and staking trees. Jim Stepp, Bob Naeger, Mary Saville, Fran Wilcox, Shree Nath, Mary Parkhouse, Carrie Dolezal, Randolph Watson, Rodney



Walther, Sal Cardenas, Jerry Trenta, and others have been stepping up to help the trees survive. The irrigation trenches are planned to be dug the second week of May and we will be installing the irrigation lines.

Fisher Scientific Volunteers will be coming out May 5th to plant as many trees of 110 as possible in a morning and Randolph Watson is heading up this project. (MEMBERS: Look for the SignUp Genius for help needed.)

Jan Poscovsky is leading the SCNP Outreach and Signage Committee; they will be working on temporary and permanent signage for the new Arboretum.

*Continued, [next page](#)*



Left, Arboretum team after planting; above, Seabourne Team Jan Poscovsky, Jerry Trenta, and Terri Hurley with Carey Lamensky (Photos : Terri Hurley)



## Seabourne Creek in April

By Lynn Trenta, TMNCPC Seabourne Gardens



Continued from [previous page](#)

This month, nature hikes continued as usual: a bird hike April 5th led by Bob and Carol Schwartz; a plant walk led by Susie Doe April 8th; an insect hike April 28th led by Kerry Padilla. Since iNaturalist City Nature Challenge 2023 begins Friday April 28th, entries for the insect hike will double for both CNC and the [SCNCP Insects and Invertebrates project](#). A new public nature walk will be held at Seabourne on Sunday, June 11th at 4 PM led by our chapter's own Emily Essa, so mark your calendars!



Sharon Watson and Sandra Brown in the Butterfly Garden (Photo: Lynn Trenta)

The gardens are growing quickly, and we have a good group of volunteers in both gardens working to reduce unwanted plants and replacing with coastal

prairie natives.

Eagle Scout Jason Welch organized and supervised the construction of a small pergola over the picnic tables in the native plant garden grass plot. Also, in the native plant garden, we have combined the butterfly and bee gardens and opened a propagation plot.

In the Seabourne Nursery, a few plants are ready for chapter members to take home including lance-leaf coreopsis, plains coreopsis and firewheel. We also have some rescued plants from the native plant garden that include basketflower, little bluestem, and Texas coneflower. When you come volunteer, take some of these to a sunny place in your yard and free them from their pots.

As a part of National Volunteer Month, Terri and Greg Hurley celebrated SCNCP volunteers by putting on a hot dog feast for any volunteer who had worked hours the previous year. Delicious hot dogs were grilled by



Firewheel in SCNCP nursery

Greg and served by Terri and other chapter members. After the hot dog lunch, Terri gave a run-down of volunteer hours accrued by members in 2022, as well as e-Bird sightings and iNaturalist recordings as of April 2023. See Terri's article on this fun event on pages [12-13](#).

To find volunteer projects for Seabourne, there are several channels on Slack: **#seabourne** is a catch-all and there are many **#team-scnpc** channels depending upon your specific nature interest. Follow one and turn on notifications for real time updates.

THANK YOU, TMNCPC Members, for your dedication and continued service to our signature projects!



New pergola in the Native Plants Garden

## Migration Rainbow

By Shannon Westveer, *Courier* Co-Editor



Turn off all outdoor lights  
Fill and clean feeders  
Dust lenses and binoculars  
Empty the camera card

Cancel all life's hum-drum plans  
See the spectrum of light  
All the colors in a single view  
For just a few short days

Chase these rainbows  
Fill your heart with joy  
Every spring migration

**LIVE LIFE!**



Painted Bunting by  
Garrett Engelhardt

Orchard Orioles  
by Deb McMullen



Western Tanager  
by Pauline Zinn



Golden-winged Warbler  
by Kerry Padilla





## Migration Rainbow (Cont'd)

By Shannon Westveer, *Courier* Co-Editor



Blue Grosbeak  
by Deb McMullen

Cerulean Warbler  
by Kerry Padilla

**March 15**  
until  
**June 15**

but mostly  
**April / May**

Indigo Buntings  
with resident Northern Cardinal  
by Erik Wolf

Purple Martins  
by Hoiman Low

Blackburnian Warbler  
by Kerry Padilla



## In Celebration of SCNPF Volunteers

By Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President



### What an enjoyable Hot Dog

**Cookout** we had on Saturday April 15th to honor all the hard-working volunteers at Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP) for National Volunteer Appreciation Day!

About 30 people were in attendance and they were able to just relax and enjoy themselves for a change. Working at SCNP is not the easiest or most glamorous of projects, so these volunteers deserved a little extra attention and encouragement.



Top hours earner, Jerry Trenta, with Terri Hurley (Photo: Hoiman Low)



Seabourne. You can find her and her husband, Randolph Watson (Class of Fall 2022), at the park working on the big projects.

To highlight how well our projects at SCNP are working and how our members and the

*Continued [next page](#)*



“Char Master” Greg Hurley (Photos: Hoiman Low, Charris Powers)

TMNCPC member Greg Hurley did a great job grilling the hot dogs. All the fixin’s, potato salad, chips and cookies were also on the menu.

After lunch, all volunteers were thanked on behalf of the TMNCPC

Board and conservation partners City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Development Corporation for their blood, sweat, and tears at the park. It is our effort over the years which has transformed a forgotten, fallow cotton farm into the lush wildscape it is today.

Jim Butcher did the honors and presented his famous blue donut to Jean Watson, Class of Spring 2023, for her help at



Jean Watson, current training class, receives the Dubious Achievement Award from the Grand Poobah (Photo: Lynn Trenta)



## In Celebration of SCNP Volunteers

By Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President



Continued from [previous page](#)

public are enjoying the fruits of our labors, some interesting facts were pulled together from eBird, iNaturalist, and TPWD's VMS.

On iNaturalist, we now have **974 species of critters and plants** observed at SCNP. The top 9 contributors to [Seabourne Plants and Wildlife project](#) on iNaturalist are also chapter members:

1. Hoiman Low
2. Ute Welk
3. Lynn Trenta
4. Kerry Padilla
5. Ron Masters
6. Shannon Westveer
7. Amber Leung
8. Nathan Cross
9. Margo Johnson

According to eBird, there are now **235 species of birds** seen at SCNP;



Fellowship and food (Photo: Charris Powers)



*Hi Ho! The Gang's all here! Many people came to be celebrated by their chapter's leadership (Photo: Hoiman Low)*

nine of the new species were seen in just the past twelve months! To highlight our members, David Goff added a merlin last April, Nathan Cross a Western Kingbird, Ute Welk a Palm Warbler, and Mark Scheuerman, a valued friend of the chapter, topped the list with a Purple Gallinule and Lark Sparrow.

*Well done, Team!*

And finally, our Volunteer Management Systems (VMS) was used to uncover who worked the most hours at SCNP in the past 12 months. Each were given a small token of appreciation.

Jerry Trenta - 997 hours  
Lynn Trenta - 319 hours  
Bill Johnson - 202 hours  
Sal Cardenas - 171 hours

Garrett Engelhardt - 145 hours  
Scott Tufts - 136 hours  
Pam Jones - 128 hours  
Aida Pita Baston - 121 hours  
John Cooper - 111 hours  
Randolph Watson - 111 hours  
Jan Kolk - 97 hours  
Jim Butcher - 84 hours  
Ursula Cooper - 79 hours  
Nancy Jones - 72 hours  
Marilyne Malone - 70 hours  
John Rouane, Jr. - 70 hours  
Bob Naeger - 69 hours  
Shree H. Nath - 67 hours  
Donatta Clarke - 63 hours  
Mary Saville - 60 hours

All volunteers at SCNP — no matter how many hours they worked — are an important part of a big team led by Jerry Trenta. These volunteers have made a significant contribution to the Fort Bend community.

*THANK YOU, everyone!*

## Outstanding Outreach

By Shannon Westveer, *Courier* Co-Editor



**Lynne Woods** — Fall Class 2022 — engaged Unique Minds Montessori School April 12th with butterflies. “The children shouted and clapped their hands when the butterflies fluttered away into the sky. Pure joy!”



Shared by **Nova Morales** — Fall Class 2022 — who is also a Coastal Prairie Conservancy volunteer, the “**Storyed Landscapes**” video (below) features not only our conservation partner, but two of our valued members. Nova is featured as a volunteer and **Karl Baumgartner** as a landowner with conservation easement.



WATCH IT on YouTube!

<https://youtu.be/3HS0x8k7n9Y>



Pauline Zinn, Susie Doe, and Shannon Westveer after the spring mulching; Photo: Shannon Westveer (taken by Mary Spolyar)

Restoration project “**Buffalo Run Pollinator Prairie Pocket**” in Missouri City celebrated its 1st anniversary in April, and this little coastal prairie natives patch is a *giver*! More than 100 sprigs have started other restoration projects and expanded the small garden into surrounding areas.

Stay tuned for a FULL ARTICLE in the next issue.

[TMNCPC members who volunteer there report into VMS under “City of Missouri City.” Hours spent picking up trash in the highly used park can also be placed under “Keep America Beautiful;” be sure to include the park name in the description.]



## Conversation with an Alligator

By Jim Butcher, TMNCPC Class of 2008, a/k/a/ The Grand Poobah



**One beautiful spring day,** my grandsons were off for spring break, and I met up with them and their mother, another outdoor educator, at my favorite park for some outdoor time. As we were enjoying the lovely view from Seabourne Creek's floating platform at the wetlands, a 9- or 10-foot alligator happened to swim by us. Most folks don't know that attaining the title of Grand Poobah endows the holder of the title to communicate with various reptiles.

"Ahoy" said the alligator.

I asked, "Where did you come from?"

He explained he was hatched, along with 27 of his brothers along the shore of the Parrish plant water cooling lake across from the George Ranch. "This spring, I felt a need to strike out to find a new home. I used ditches, streams, and canals to find my way here. This suburban habitat is perfect for me."

I asked if I was the first human encounter for him, and he replied readily.

"But *no!* I met with Jerry Trenta over the past weekend. He was kind enough to welcome me to the wetlands and appointed me Director of Invasive Species Removal. I noticed a slight tear in his eye; it probably occurred to him that another volunteer

might just eclipse the number of hours he serves at the park.

"Well, sorry to cut it short, but it's time for my lunch."

(Please watch the short video, linked below.)

Indeed, he was hungry, and carp is the popular and invasive entree of the day. We watched him work to consume a fish

almost as big as his head, and it took him three tries to swallow the mouthful. With strong jaws, 60 teeth and a million years of evolution behind him, the alligator will always prevail. His service to the park will be immeasurable.

Enjoy what a climax animal looks like in a wetland habitat.



### YouTube Nature Videos

**NEW!** Seabourne Nature Park's resident alligator is caught eating a very large carp ... a Seabourne wetlands invasive species.

<https://youtu.be/sb3UEkxdKjs>

Be sure to follow us on [YOUTUBE @TMNCoastal Prairie](#)



Video captured by Jim Butcher's daughter, Leigh; Photo credit: Garrett Engelhardt; Video creation and editing by Shannon Westveer

## Attention Prairie Perchers

May 7th is the [TPWD Great Texas Birding Classic's](#) "Big Sit." We'll be at Seabourne Creek *dawn to dusk!* On Slack [#seabourne-big-sit](#)



New Wetlands Platform is the location of the 50-foot circle for our "Big Sit 2023"



## The Lighter Side

By Shannon Westveer, *Courier* Co-Editor



Greenhumour.com  
Shared by  
Shannon Westveer



Unknown source  
Shared by Randolph Watson



Speedbump.com  
Shared by Jan Poscovsky



Unknown source  
Shared by Peyton Belunek

## Got a Nature Funny?

Post them to the Members Only Facebook or on **#random** on Slack. You can also send to a co-editor. *Keep us laughing!*



Star Trek Memes — Facebook  
Shared by Lynn Trenta



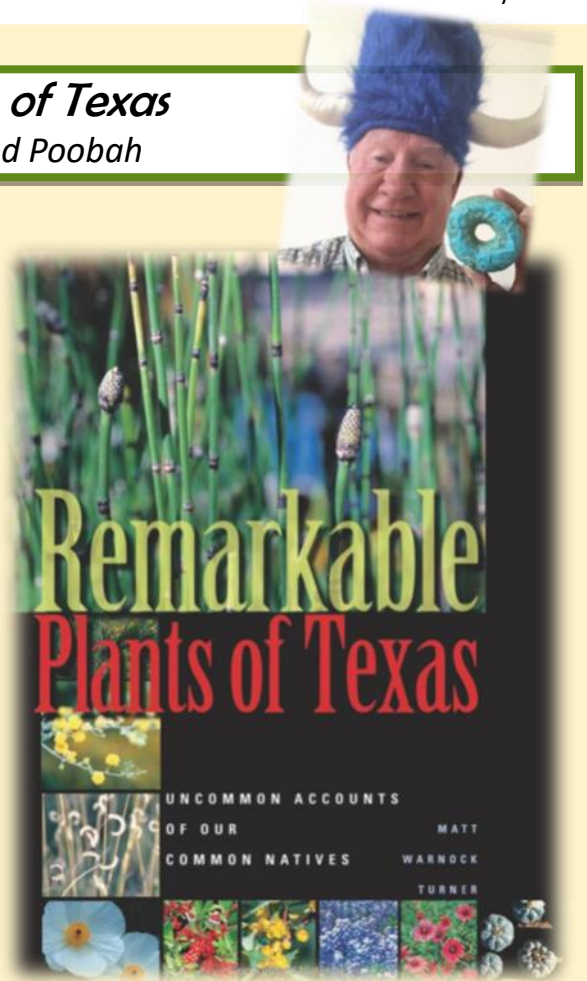
## Book Review: Turner's *Remarkable Plants of Texas*

By Jim Butcher, TMNCPC Class of 2008, a/k/a/ The Grand Poobah

**Hello, nature lovers.** This month I will be reviewing one of my personal favorite books: *Remarkable Plants of Texas*, *Uncommon Accounts of our Common Natives* by Matt Warnock Turner. It's pretty hefty at 336 pages and 65 entries of 2-3 pages for each specific plant. In addition to beautiful color photos, he covers little-known information about their archaeological, medicinal, or culinary uses and other cultural facts.

Turner includes origins of both a plant's scientific and common name, description and habitat and distribution information. Among many other nuggets, I learned that in addition to the Osage Orange, Ocotillo was also used as a fence that "even the most persistent burro could not pass."

Book contents are subdivided into sections on trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, grasses, vines, and aquatics. My favorite parts of the book include anecdotal accounts of human interaction and how the plants have so many uses! Go search the internet to find your copy; at around \$25.00, you will not regret it.



## Seabourne Water Testing, Training for Texas Waters

A huge **THANK YOU** to **Bob Naeger** who tests and reports Seabourne Lake's water quality each month. Visit **#seabourne** channel on Slack to read his informative reports along with a bonus month-by-month comparison chart (with previous data) that Bob also includes.

Want to qualify as Stream Team member? Learn about and serve Texas waters? There's a Slack channel for that! **#team-texas-waters-specialists**

June's speaker will be TPWD's Melissa Anderson Felty, Conservation Education Manager and administrator of the Texas Waters Specialist training.

(Right: Navya Kurre, back, and TMNCPC current training members Jan Poskovsy, Fran Wilcox, Angela Hilton, Chevvy Tang, and Shree Nath at in-person riparian training April 12th)



### Elected Officers

<b>President</b>	Terri Hurley
<b>Vice President</b>	Susan Walther
<b>Secretary</b>	Joyce Tipton
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pam Jones

### Board of Directors

<b>Past-President</b>	Bert Stipelcovich
<b>Membership Programs</b>	Jan and Kevin Kolk
<b>Communications</b>	Megan Cromeens
<b>Volunteers</b>	Johanna DeYoung
<b>Adv. Training</b>	Kerry Padilla
<b>New Class Spring</b>	Lauren DeShazo
<b>New Class Rep.</b>	Rebecca Aguilar
<b>Info. Tech.</b>	Bert Stipelcovich
<b>State Rep</b>	Hoiman Low
<b>Seabourne Creek</b>	Jerry Trenta

To contact us via on-line form and for a full list of contacts, visit  
<http://txmn.org/coastal/contact/>

### TPWD / AgriLife Chapter Advisors

<b>Prgm. Coordinator</b>	Brandy Rader
<b>TPWD Fort Bend</b>	Jon McLeod
<b>Fort Bend Ag Agent</b>	John Few
<b>Wharton Ag Agent</b>	Corrie Bowen
<b>Waller Ag Agent</b>	Candace Moeller

### Website Blog

Be sure to email [SUBSCRIBE](#) (Home Page, bottom right) to get timely posts delivered via email.

- [Community Outreach: Chapter WOWs and Outreach Events](#) | April



### Slack Tip — TMN Annual Conference

**MEMBERS ONLY** The TMN 2023 Annual Conference is only a few months away (October) but many of us have already made hotel reservations; don't miss out.

Find out who's staying where before making your accommodations. The channel for all things conference is **#annual-meeting-2023**. ENGAGE your fellow members. Come visit Slack.



### Facebook — Like us!

Be sure to follow us for timely and seasonally relevant content. Learn about Coastal Prairie and keep up with the goings-on of your volunteer organization.  
<https://www.facebook.com/TXMNCoastal/>

**MEMBERS ONLY** To join our private Facebook group, send a request through the Members Only website and wait for TMNCPC Facebook Admin to respond.



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