

Coastal Prairie Chapter **Courier**

June 2023 — Volume 11 Issue 6

“Nature is not a place to
visit. It is a home.”

Gary Snyder



Inside This Issue

Chapter Program: Watersheds in Texas
KWL B Bird Sanctuary Grand Opening
Happy Anniversary Buffalo Run



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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message ..	2
June Program ..	3
Membership Minute ..	4
Volunteer Service June ..	5
KWLB Bird Sanctuary Grand Opening ..	6
Happy Anniversary Buffalo Run ..	8
TMNCPC Round-up ..	10
The Lighter Side ..	12
Contact Us ..	13

ON THE COVER

Leaf beetle at Seabourne Creek Nature Park

(Photo by Hoiman Low)

EDITOR TEAM

—Cindy Wainikainen, June Co-Editor, Cindy@CoastalPrairie.org

Have a great story for next month's issue? Submit by **JUNE 25th**.

—Shannon Westveer, July Co-Editor, Shannon@CoastalPrairie.org

President's Message

by Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President



Welcome to the June edition of the *Courier*! Summer will be settling in soon and our chapter will not slow down in spite of the rising temperature. We will continue to make progress on our journey of discovery, celebration, and conservation.

Fall 2023 Training Class is a Go. Lauren DeShazo has agreed to serve as Training Class Director for a second round of training in 2023. She and her team have already planned many of the classes. Online registration is planned for mid-June and classes start August 19. A huge thank you goes to everyone involved.



New SCNP Co-director! Let's give a round of applause to Randolph Watson who has agreed to begin serving with Jerry Trenta as Co-Director at Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP). Randolph recently did a fabulous job leading the ThermoFisher Workday at Seabourne. He led several planning meetings, communicated effectively with all volunteers, and was just wonderful to work with in all aspects. In the coming months, he will be working closely with Jerry to ensure a smooth transition after Jerry's "retirement" as SCNP Director. By the way, Randolph is just one of two or three more co-Directors needed at SCNP. We are still looking for another volunteer to be part of this important team. Seabourne is our signature project and is part of what makes our chapter exemplary!

New Training Class Rep. Lisa Sanders has volunteered to be our next Training Class Representative (TCR). She is a retired health care professional and is an avid outdoors enthusiast. She's passionate about nature and enjoys interacting with park visitors and nature interpretation. She has participated in a variety of volunteer activities across Texas, including Brazos Bend State Park. Also we thank Rebecca Aguilar for her service as TCR for Fall 2022.

Big welcome to Spring 2023 graduates! We would like to welcome all graduates from the Spring 2023 class. You are a valuable addition to our chapter and you can be a major contributor to our chapter's continued success by just getting involved in our many activities. I think the camaraderie we have as a chapter keeps us all motivated because we have so much fun together!

(Continued on page [4](#))

June Chapter Program: Thursday, June 1, 7 PM “Watersheds in Texas – Presented by Melissa Felty”

By Jan Peterson, TMNCPC Programs Director



Watersheds impact everyone; every community, ranch, coast, prairie, and forest. They provide a vital resource for all living things to survive and thrive. All watersheds are interconnected, creating a land-water system that conveys water to its destination such as a river, lake, wetland, or estuary. In this seminar, learn how Texans use watersheds, natural watershed functions and the importance of watershed conservation. You will also learn how to become a water ambassador through the Texas Waters Specialist program.

The Texas Waters Specialist program informs and educates Texans about the most precious natural resource Texas possesses, its water. Many challenges face our state concerning water, particularly



Photo source: TMNCPC [website](#)

in our aquatic habitats, the water for wildlife. Texas Parks and Wildlife values the natural and cultural resources of Texas, and we

want there to always be drinkable, swimmable, and fishable waters in our great State. Whether wanting to start TPWD’s Texas Waters Specialist certification process or have been certified since the start of the program, Melissa will provide updates and answers to VMS admin and member questions. Lists of approved AT and service opportunities will be provided, along with highlights of chapter projects and member accomplishments that have improved water quality to Texas Waters.

Melissa Felty is the Conservation Education Manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She has been working with the Texas Waters Specialist program for the past five years.

Coastal Prairie Chapter **programs are free** and open to the **public**. June’s is being held at the [Rosenberg Civic Center](#). 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.”]

Membership Minute

By Jan and Kevin Kolk, TMNCPC Membership Co-Directors



Congratulations! to our numerous certification and milestone achievers. *Way to go!*



Initial Certification



2023 Recertification

Jean Watson (2023 Spring)

****61 members recertified****

Rodney Walther (2023 Spring)

John Cooper (2019)

Shirley Hunter (2023 Spring)

Sal Cardenas (2013)

René Cannavo (2023 Spring)

Susie Doe (2008)

Sandra Brown (2019)



250 Hour Milestone

Jan Poscovsky (2022 Fall)

Fran Wilcox (2022 Fall)

Nancy Jones (2020 Spring)

Lynne Woods (2022 Fall)

Mary Parkhouse (2021 Fall)

Amado Aguilar (2022 Fall)



500 Hour Milestone

Andrea Morgenstern (2018)

Angela LeDoux (2019)

Lucy Randel (2021 Spring)

Lisette Dottavio (2022 Spring)

Noel Zinn (2020 Spring)

Mary Saville (2020 Fall)

James Stepp (2021 Spring)

Dorothy Tran (2022 Spring)

Jean Watson (2023 Spring)

Jan Peterson (2021 Spring)

Janis Hodgson (2020 Fall)

Phil Ward (2021 Fall)

Peyton Belunek (2021 Fall)

C.J. McDaniel (2015)

Charlie Winker (2017)

Pauline Zinn (2017)

Bert Stipelcovich (2018)

Donald Parkhouse (2021 Fall)

Sharon Watson (2021 Spring)

Celebrate! In the first five months of 2023, TMNCPC members have posted 10,700 volunteer hours, 1,990 advanced training hours, and impacted over 9,814 members of the public with outreach activities. **TMNCPC members are an incredible group of dedicated, focused individuals!**



1000 Hour Milestone

Pam Jones (2020 Spring)



President's Message ... cont'd

by Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President

(Continued from page [2](#))

Mentors. Mentoring our trainees keeps them engaged in our chapter and improves the chances of them following through to initial certification. The Fall 2023 class will need mentors. Contact our Membership Directors, Jan and Kevin Kolk, to sign up. Mentoring 101 sessions will be scheduled soon.

Volunteer Service — June Highlights

By Johanna DeYoung, TMNCPC Volunteer Director



Signature Project. Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP), Rosenberg: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Wednesdays and 1st and 3rd Saturdays which fall on 6/3, 6/7, 6/14, 6/17, 6/21, 6/28

~The start time for the SCNP Workdays has been changed to accommodate for the warmer summer weather.~

Ongoing Project. Houston Museum of Natural Science in Sugar Land: 10:30 AM — 3:00 PM 2nd and 4th Saturdays which fall on 6/10 and 6/24

Ongoing Project. Coastal Prairie Conservancy Indiangrass Preserve, Katy: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Tuesdays, Fridays, and 2nd Saturdays of each month which fall on 6/2, 6/6, 6/9, 6/10, 6/13, 6/16, 6/20, 6/23, 6/27, 6/30

Ongoing Project. Houston Audubon's Bird Survey @ Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Park, Houston: 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM 4th Monday which falls on 6/26

Ongoing Project. Lawther-Deer Park Prairie, Deer Park: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM 4th Saturday of each month which falls on 6/24

Ongoing Project. Insect Hike at Seabourne Creek Nature Park: 4th Thursdays of the Month which falls on 6/22

****New & Notable this Month****

Wednesday WOW—Outreach 101: 6/7, 1:30 PM—3:30 PM

Butterfly Garden Workday at Sugarland Memorial Park at the Brazos River Corridor: 6/9, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Houston Audubon's Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Park (Phase 2) Survey: 6/26, 7:30 AM — 12:00 PM

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



****Special Event (Non-VSP)****

Linda Rippert Education Station Dedication Ceremony at Seabourne Creek Nature Park—Butterfly Garden: 6/14, 11:00 AM

Be sure to check our [website calendar](#) for last minute changes, cancelations, or other information before departing to serve.

As you become aware of new volunteer opportunities, have questions, or are unsure how to record service hours, please message [#help-vsp](#) channel or [@Johanna](#) on Slack or [email](#).

THANK YOU to the VSP Committee members Joanie Havlick, Terri Hurley, Charris Powers, Shannon Westveer, and Lynn Trenta.



To register for any of these opportunities, please check the SignUp and Weekly Bulletin

Weston Lakes Bird Sanctuary Grand Opening

By Joyce A. Tipton, TMNCPC Secretary



The Keep Weston Lakes Beautiful (KWLB) Neighborhood Bird Sanctuary became “official” with the ribbon cutting by POA President Rhea Ragle, Weston Lakes Mayor Bob Wall, and KWLB Bird Sanctuary Project Lead and TMNCPC member, Lucy Moyer! (pictured right)

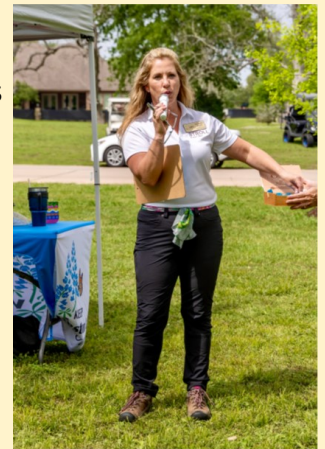
KWLB President, Janet Bartek, welcomed the crowd and thanked the many sponsors and hardworking volunteers who made the Bird Sanctuary possible. Jim Butcher, the Grand Poobah, recognized the TMNCPC members who volunteered with the project and awarded Dennis West, TMNCPC, with a prized “Blue Donut.” (pictured below)



All photos in article by Joyce Tipton



Residents and visitors enjoyed the beautiful views, watched birds, and checked out the native plants and Tribute Trees. Amanda Hurst, TMNCPC (pictured right), the emcee extraordinaire, directed everyone’s attention to the WOWs to see lots of cool skins and skulls and learn more about our birds and bats. The WOWs were presented by Dorothy Tran, Dennis West, Debbie McMullen, Cindy Wainikainen, and Nancy Sparrow.



(Continued on page 7)

Weston Lakes Bird Sanctuary Grand Opening ... cont'd

By Joyce A. Tipton, TMNCPC Secretary



(Continued from page [6](#))



What's more fun than just planting native seeds? Making seed balls and throwing them! Seed ball activity (pictured below) provided by TMNCPC member John Greene and Grace Sullivan and much enjoyed by the Dottavios' granddaughter (pictured right) and many others.



Other TMNCPCs who volunteered during the building and planting phases took time to enjoy the festivities. Ursula Cooper (pictured bottom right with John Cooper) and Lisette Dottavio (pictured right) even won door prizes! My role that day - scurrying around behind the camera and putting out a few small "fires."



Happy Anniversary, Buffalo Run Pocket

By Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC *Courier* Co-Editor



April 2022 marked the first anniversary of Missouri City's first and *only* coastal prairie pollinator pocket. The small "alligator tail" raised-bed demo garden at Buffalo Run Park, dedicated by the City April 2021, is a gift to the public and wildlife that keeps on giving.

Once the rains stopped and the standing puddles around the garden began to recede, it must have been odd seeing a couple of middle-aged ladies in rain boots, squatting on the ground, nets submersed in mucky water, giggling with plastic buckets in hand. Claire, a Missouri City resident visiting Buffalo Run Park for the first time walked by the strange weekday scene. She



Spring bloom, April 2023. Photo by Shannon Westveer



Fall bloom, October 2022. Photo by Shannon Westveer

stopped to see what these two Master Naturalists were up to.

"Whatever you're doing, it sure looks official," she told them. But Shannon and Mary weren't officially working (volunteering). They were just having fun rescuing frog tadpoles from certain doom, collecting them by the hundreds to be released elsewhere. They stopped to engage her and answer all her questions regardless; it's what TMNs do.

Since the garden's installation in January 2021, Claire was not the only person to notice. Located by a playground and walking trails, the garden was often buzzing with kids alongside bees and butterflies all enjoying the abundance of flowers there. Designed to be walked *into* rather than viewed from the outside in, entire families have

been seen regularly picking flowers, collecting seeds to plant at home, even hiding Easter eggs among the plants. The beauty was *welcoming*, not just a purposeful

collection of coastal prairie native grasses and flowers. (Read previous articles in *Courier* issues listed on [page 9](#).)

Its first spring this year boasted many "weeds" popping up along the walking paths. Rather than pulling and yanking at them or spraying with herbicide, killing them, the understated wildflowers – "sprigs" – were ripe for transplanting elsewhere. Says



Bioswale garden added, March 2023. Photo by Shannon Westveer

(Continued on page [9](#))

Happy Anniversary, Buffalo Run Pocket ... cont'd

By Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC *Courier* Co-Editor



(Continued from page [8](#))

TMNCPC Pauline Zinn, also a Missouri City resident:

"Buffalo Run prairie plants keep on giving! A few little sprigs – blanket flower, pinkladies, partridge pea, spotted beebalm – were rehomed to a beautiful 5-acre church property in Richmond where they are thriving in several maintained spaces. Buffalo Run also inspired another tiny pocket prairie on the same property, planted alongside very small plants from Houston Audubon Natives Nursery. Both new garden spaces have grown into beautiful spots for people, ready to serve the pollinators they attract."

One notable result has been the general absence of regular maintenance on the part of city staff OR volunteers. Groundskeepers quickly caught on that those native plants required a



Expansion, Richmond pocket #1. Photo by Pauline Zinn

different kind of work; they would mow around it, refrain from herbicide spray within. Meanwhile, TMNs would occasionally trim and dropped seed heads or detritus as mulch while visiting and keep the frogfruit edge at looking tidy. Everyone was pleased with the results.

Aside from a severe drought year which required a rigorous watering until plant establishment, the annual spring mulching was the extent of any real labor done within a calendar year. Even that chore was quick work with only

three ladies; in a couple of hours, the job was done.

The garden's sustainability is topped only by its wildlife diversity – the very reason for its existence! A couple dozen carefully selected native plants have attracted more than 100 wildlife species, among them 23 species of *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths), 33 species of *Hymenoptera* (bees and wasps), and 22 species of *Odonata* (dragonflies and damselflies) and *Diptera* (flies). Native wildflowers like vetch,



Expansion, Richmond pocket #2. Photo by Pauline Zinn

(Continued on page [11](#))

Related Links:

[Installed Plants at BRPPP](#) | [iNaturalist.org](#) • [Creatures using BRPPP](#) | [iNaturalist.org](#) • The Beginnings | *Courier*, [January 2022 Issue](#) (pages 13-14) • Installation Day | *Courier*, [February 2022s Issue](#) (Feature, pages 14-16) • Earth Day Dedication | *Courier* Issue, [May 2022 Issue](#) (pages 9-11) • BRPPP: A Kid Magnet | *Courier* Issue, [July 2022 Issue](#) (page 8)

TMNCPC Round-Up

By Cindy Wainikainen, TMNCPC *Courier* Co-Editor



Photo by Jan Poscovsky

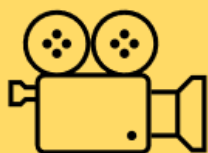
The exciting work performed by TMNCPC never ends! There is always so much activity happening— it is hard to squeeze into one newsletter! Here are some highlights from May.

Members of TMNCPC and ThermoFisher employees teamed up to plant trees for the new Seabourne Creek Nature Park Arboretum. A total of 18 large trees were planted on May 5th.

On the rainy day of May 7th, TMNCPC volunteers participated in The Great Texas Birding Classic. Their team, the Prairie Perchers, spotted a total of 51 different species of birds. You can find the full species list by clicking on this [link](#). The registration money from this event will go to help bird conservation throughout the state of Texas. Bravo Prairie Perchers!



TMNCPC Volunteers looking out for birds. Photo by Kerry Padilla



TMNCPC in the Media

Our very own Kerry Padilla was interviewed by HCC Stafford in their segment on The Great Texas Birding Classic 2023! She did an amazing job. We could not be more proud! Check out the [full interview](#) on the HCC Stafford TV Studio YouTube Channel.

TMNCPC Round-Up ... cont'd

By Cindy Wainikainen, TMNCPC Courier Co-Editor



John Few (left) and TMNCPC Volunteers looking out for insects. Photo by Hoiman Low

The Insect Hikes with John Few are still going strong! On May 26th, the group was able to identify 68 different insect species. You can find their observation on [iNaturalist](#). The next insect hike is scheduled for June 22nd, 9:00 am—11:00 am. Summer will have officially started by then, so be sure to wear light clothing and bring your water bottles!

Happy Anniversary, Buffalo Run Pocket ... cont'd

By Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC Courier Co-Editor



(Continued from page [9](#))

pinkladies, and blue-eyed grasses, allowed to bloom alongside the installed plants, yielded a nearly year-round bloom.

Being a prairie pocket rather than a traditional garden, native grasses

both stabilized the soil for water retention and soil symbiosis (mycorrhizae!) and provided crucial cover for visiting wildlife. They exploded in blooming beauty late summer through fall, continued visual interest in dormancy through winter. Coastal prairie is a living, breathing community; promoting prairie pockets like the one at Buffalo Run is crucial in advocating for an otherwise vanishing ecosystem.

The Buffalo Run Pollinator Prairie Pocket natives demo garden has checked all the boxes for education, outreach, and service on behalf of the community and natural resources

– the TMN Mission. Here's hoping for new opportunities with Missouri City in the coming years.

Happy Anniversary, little pocket!



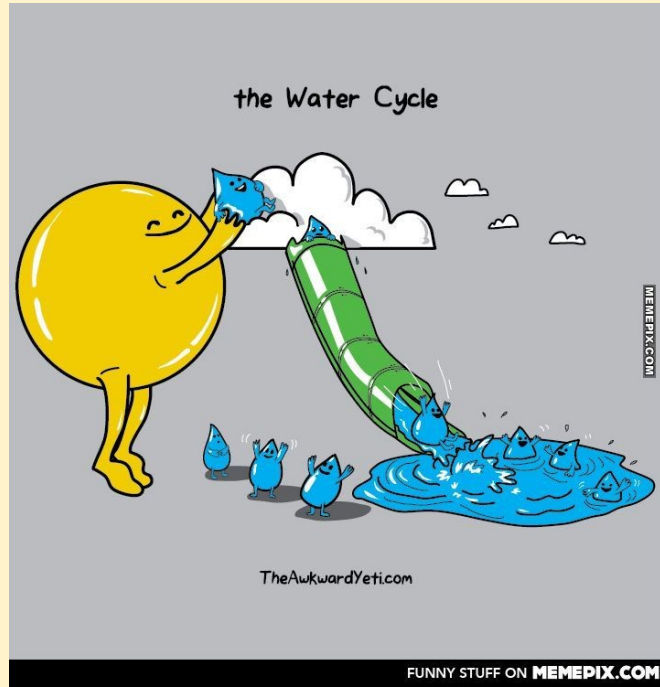
Spring mulching done, April 2023. Photo by Shannon Westveer



Expanding with "sprigs," May 2023. Photo by Shannon Westveer

The Lighter Side

By Cindy Wainikainen, TMNCPC Co-Editor



JOIN US!

The public is always welcome to serve alongside us in our communities. If you are wanting to become a Texas Master Naturalist, [register](#) for our Fall Training. Hope to see you out there!

SLACK TIP — Better than Facebook

MEMBERS ONLY. Want to help with the Arboretum? Check out [#team-scnp-arboretum](#). You can adjust the notification settings to be notified of every post or just @mentions. ENGAGE as TMN!



Elected Officers

President	Terri Hurley
Vice President	Susan Walther
Secretary	Joyce Tipton
Treasurer	Pam Jones

Board of Directors

Past-President	Bert Stipelcovich
Membership	Jan and Kevin Kolk
Programs	Jan Peterson
Communications	Megan Cromeens
Volunteers	Johanna DeYoung
Adv. Training	Kerry Padilla
New Class Spring	Lauren DeShazo
New Class Rep.	Lisa Sanders
Info. Tech.	Bert Stipelcovich
State Rep	Hoiman Low
Seabourne Creek	Jerry Trenta and Randolph Watson

TPWD / AgriLife Chapter Advisors

Prgm. Coordinator	Brandy Rader
Fort Bend Ag Agent	John Few

YouTube

Be sure to follow our channel:

[YOUTUBE @TMNCoastalPrairie](#)

Check out our latest video:

[Alligator Eating Fish](#)



FACEBOOK—Like us!

[Follow us](#) for timely and seasonally relevant content. Learn about Coastal Prairie and engage with your volunteer organization.

MEMBERS ONLY To join the [private Facebook Group](#), send a request and wait for TMNCPC Admin to respond.



Check out our
Instagram and Flickr
for AMAZING photos!



[TMNCPC Instagram page](#): @tmn_coastal_prairie_chapter

[Coastal Prairie Flickr](#): <https://www.flickr.com/photos/coastalprairie/>

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™

Coastal Prairie Chapter



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST™ COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER

1402 Band Road
Fort Bend AgriLife Extension Office
Rosenberg, TX 77471-8678

Phone: (832) 225-6936

Visit Us **On-line:** www.CoastalPrairie.org

Email: Info@CoastalPrairie.org