

Coastal Prairie Chapter **Courier**

September 2023 — Volume 11 Issue 9



“We abuse the land
because we regard it
as a commodity
belonging to us.
When we see land as
a community to which
we belong, we may
begin to use it with
love and respect.”

Aldo Leopold

Inside This Issue

Blame It On Doug Tallamy!
Houston Museum of Natural Science Outreach
Nature Days and Summer Service at Seabourne Creek



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

August featured dragonfly conservation. Members Ute Welk, Hoiman Low, and Kerry Padilla photographed species, clockwise: mating forceptails (Welk); hovering Narrow-striped Forceptail and Hyacinth Glider (Low); and Halloween Pennant (Padilla)

EDITOR TEAM

September's issue was crafted by Co-Editor, **Shannon Westveer**

Have a great story for October's issue? Submit by **September 24th** to:

Shannon Westveer
Shannon@CoastalPrairie.org
Raji Mahesh
Raji@CoastalPrairie.org

President's Message

by Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President



Welcome Fall 2023 Training Class! Our entire chapter is thrilled to welcome this new class of aspiring naturalists; we have some surprises in store for them. Buckle up your seatbelts, trainees, and don your best Tilley hats, because you're about to embark on a journey that's wild and fun. Here are some bonus lessons not included in your course syllabus:

Lesson 1: Field Sessions in Texas Summer 101

We'll begin your extracurricular journey with this most challenging TMN trial. But fear not! We've arranged for an exclusive, once-in-a-lifetime interpretive tour of the surface of the sun. Well, not exactly, but close enough! Bring some 100 spf sunscreen and a gallon of water; you'll truly become familiar with the phrase "hotter than a jalapeno."

Lesson 2: Birdwatching in Texas – Where Binoculars Meet UFOs

You'll soon discover that our chapter is home to some of the funniest birdwatchers this side of the Mississippi. They've been known to call the common roseate spoonbill "Texas flamingo" and they once held a stakeout over a pileated woodpecker (perhaps in case it turned out to be an ivory-billed woodpecker seeking a new home?). You might as well start practicing having your binoculars practically glued to your face for hours at a time and learning the difference between one little brown job over another.

Lesson 3: Mosquitoes — the Unofficial State Bird

Training field sessions would be remiss without the mosquito. We've gathered all the certified mosquito wranglers of our chapter to set up the "flea circus" to start you straight away on Texas mosquito taming!

Lesson 4: How to Win a Blue Donut from the Grand Poobah

Being awarded the coveted blue donut from the Grand Poobah (otherwise known as Jim Butcher!) feels almost as good as getting initially certified! To clinch this honor, our advice to you is simple: be so enthusiastic about Seabourne that even the alligators start noticing you; OR out-bird the Prairie Perchers — our chapter's Big Sit team; OR know enough about native plants to keep them alive; OR ... simply do *nothing more* than show up to the right place at the right time. (See Page [14](#) for its history.) It's a wild ride to donut glory, folks.

Continued [next page](#)

September Chapter Program: Thursday, September 7th, 7 PM

“Safeguarding Waterfowl and Wetlands: Unraveling the Mission of Ducks Unlimited”

By Jan Peterson, TMNCPC Programs Director



Join us for a captivating presentation by **Taylor Abshier**, Regional Biologist on staff at Ducks Unlimited, as he delves into the fascinating world of protecting waterfowl and wetlands. In his talk, Taylor will shed light on the critical efforts undertaken by Ducks Unlimited, a renowned organization committed to preserving and protecting our natural habitats.



Taylor Abshier inspects a flooded rice field.

Photo credit: [TPWD Magazine](#)

Ducks Unlimited, showcasing their tireless dedication to the environment and the creatures that call wetlands home. Whether you're an avid nature lover, conservationist, or simply curious about the incredible work being done to protect our natural world, this presentation is not to be missed.

[September's program](#) is **free and open to the public**, held at Rosenberg Civic Center, 3825

Texas 36 South, Rosenberg, Texas. Please plan to **arrive at 6:00 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 following business meeting under “Chapter Business: Chapter Meeting.”]



Taylor's passion for wildlife conservation and his in-depth knowledge of wetland ecosystems will offer

attendees a unique perspective on the challenges faced by waterfowl and the importance of wetland conservation. Through captivating stories and compelling data, he will reveal the profound impact **Ducks Unlimited** has had in preserving these vital habitats, ensuring the survival of countless waterfowl species.

Prepare to be inspired as Taylor shares the successes, challenges, and ongoing initiatives of



Welcome to Raji, **NEW! Courier Co-Editor**

Rajeswari “Raji” Mahesh — member of the newest class of Fall 2023 — will join her mentor, Shannon Westveer, taking turns with monthly issues for the remainder of 2023 and into 2024.

Her first issue will be November 1, 2023.
Welcome to the newsletter team, Raji!

President's Message

Continued from [previous page](#)

Humor aside, we're delighted to welcome you, our trainees, to this incredible journey of discovery, learning, and lots of fun. Get ready for the coolest learning experience of your life as we explore the wild and wonderful world of Texas nature together!

Membership Minute

By Jan and Kevin Kolk, TMNCPC Membership Co-Directors



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



Initial Certification

Kevin Peters — 2023 Spring
Darlene Scheffler — 2022 Fall
Rebecca Richards — 2023 Spring
Barry Thompson — 2023 Spring



2023 Recertification

(79 members recertified)

Jim Butcher — 2008
John Rouane — 2020 Spring
John Cotterell — 2005
Tierra Ortiz-Rodriguez — 2022 Fall
Tracey Kolb — 2018

250 Hour Milestone



Bayard Nicklow — 2022 Fall

500 Hour Milestone



Scott Tufts — 2021 Fall

1000 Hour Milestone



Bob Naeger — 2018

Fall 2023 Class Quiz

- Our classes attract folks from all over the globe. Which home countries are represented by this group?
 - A. Japan
 - B. China
 - C. Vietnam
 - D. Ireland
 - E. Columbia
 - F. Mexico
 - G. India
 - H. USA
 - J. Germany
 - K. All of the above
- Diverse backgrounds are also a marker of our training class. Which profession(s) are *NOT* represented in this group?
 - Physician Assistant
 - Teacher
 - Police Officer
 - Park Operations Technician
 - Healthcare Executive
 - Loan Officer
 - Real Estate Agent
 - Accountant
 - Nurse
 - Wildlife Rehabber
 - Native Plants Landscaper
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Graphic Designer
- TRUE or FALSE? All three of our service counties (Fort Bend, Wharton, Waller) are represented by members of this class.
- WHICH COUNTIES outside our service area are home to *seven* trainees?
(See Page [17](#) for answers.)

Next Issue!

Stay tuned for a summary of our training class sessions and our newest members in action in the October *Courier* issue. Classes began mid-August and end in November.

Volunteer Service — September Highlights

By Johanna DeYoung, TMNCPC Volunteer Director



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

<https://txmn.org/coastal/events/month/2023-09/>

Signature Project Seabourne Creek Nature Park

(SCNP), Rosenberg: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Wednesdays and 1st and 3rd Saturdays which fall on 9/2, 9/6, 9/13, 9/16, 9/20, and 9/27

Signature Project Monthly Bird Hike at SCNP,

Rosenberg:

8:00 AM – 10:30 1st Wednesday of each month. *Resumes in October!*

Public Outreach Nature Hike with TMNCPC Emily

Essa, Seabourne Creek Nature Park,

Rosenberg: 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM Sunday 9/24

Public Outreach **NEW!** Nature Day at Seabourne

Creek Nature Park, Rosenberg: 10:00 AM –

2:00 PM Saturday 9/23; for more information, see article on Page [12](#).

Public Outreach Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land:

10:30 AM – 3:30 PM 2nd and 4th Saturdays 9/9 and 9/23

Chapter Board Meeting, via Zoom: 7:00 PM – 8:00

PM 3rd Wednesday which falls on 9/20

Coastal Prairie Conservancy Indiangrass Preserve,

Katy:

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Tuesdays, Fridays, and 2nd Saturdays of each month which fall on 9/1, 9/5, 9/8, 9/9, 9/12, 9/15, 9/19, 9/22, 9/26, and 9/29

Houston Audubon's Bird Survey @ Archbishop Joseph

A: Fiorenza Park, Houston: 7:30 AM – 12:00

PM 4th Monday which falls on 9/25

Lawther-Deer Park Prairie, Deer Park: 9:00 AM –

12:00 PM 4th Saturday of each month which falls on 9/23

JOIN US!

The public is always welcome to serve alongside us in our communities. Get out and meet TMNCPC members in the field!

NEW! VSP Proposal Approved

"Meditation Walks" project proposed by Tierra Ortiz-Rodriguez (Fall 2022 Class) has been approved.

The project entails walking with the public and observing nature while focusing on "... everyday miracles of mindfulness in nature." TMNCPC members may also join these walks.

Watch for **future events** as they are added to our [website calendar](#).

[TMNCPC members who attend the hike should log AT hours into VMS under: "**Master Naturalist Taught AT.**"]

REMINDER:

Impact Data is Important

MEMBERS: There is an on-line process for completing impact data: outreach interactions with the public. The instructions for VMS (TPWD) and online Google Form (AgriLife Extension) can be found pinned to the **#forms** channel on Slack.

Please don't neglect inputting outreach numbers for our co-sponsors!

In Our Backyards: Blame It On Doug Tallamy!

By Joyce Tipton, TMNCPC Secretary



Our native garden

journey began about two years ago. Lucy Moyer and I had two primary goals for our yard: 1) transition to 90% native plants that add value for wildlife; and 2) create an aesthetically pleasing appearance for us to enjoy and to showcase native gardens to influence the community.



Views of restored native plant garden in Weston Lakes. Photo credit: Joyce Tipton

A quote (which happens to be below my high school senior photo!) comes to mind. “Life is a journey not a destination.” We’ve certainly discovered that planting native habitat is also a journey, not a destination, and it is one filled with a little anxiety, a tad of frustration, buckets of sweat, and a boat load of joy.

With 4,800 square feet of native plants added to our yard, we are

now on the [Homegrown National Park](#) map!!

Approximately 2,500 square feet of that was the addition of new planting areas with the elimination of St. Augustine grass. The rest was the removal of non-natives from existing gardens, removal of huge ancient hedges, and replacement with native plants, trees, and shrubs.

Then came scalping the grass, laying down the cardboard, covering with compost and mulch, and regular watering.

Thus began the six months of waiting for the grass to die and

Wildlife from a new habitat garden. Clockwise from top: Common Whitetail, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, and Five-banded Thynnid wasp.

Photos credit: Joyce Tipton



So how did we get rid of that St. Augustine and create our new habitats? Well, you might call it dumpster diving.

We drove around the neighborhood every recycling day and collected cardboard from residents’ driveways. Fortunately, no one reported us to the HOA or the police!



Hoarding cardboard (top) and sheet-mulching with it (above)

Continued [next page](#)

In Our Backyards: Blame It On Doug Tallamy! (Cont'd)

By Joyce Tipton, TMNCPC Secretary



Continued from [previous page](#)

the cardboard to decompose to organic material so we could plant. In the meantime, we tackled the existing gardens. We were so excited buying plants that sometimes we just plopped them wherever we had room for them. In other cases, we attempted to plant according to a plan.

Our first two learning lessons - 1) some plants did NOT read their own information on [Wildflower.org](#) and did not behave accordingly and 2) planting areas that look similar do not necessarily have the same soil or receive equivalent water.

Year two has been full of wonderful surprises and some frustrating failures. More lessons

learned: never assume a native plant is dead (but sometimes it is); it may reappear a year and a half after seeming to die and disappear; if a perennial isn't thriving, don't hesitate to relocate it.

After losing a few plants in an area that stayed somewhat wet, we relocated a mallow to the wet area. This plant had already had two homes in the yard, one where it practically withered and the second where it seemed to be better, but when placed in the moister area (where other plants died) it was suddenly 6 feet tall and in full bloom!



The large new planting area, where the cardboard and compost did its job, has been a joy! We planted a large variety of natives over many

months and continue to add more. We also learned to never pull a "weed" we don't recognize without checking it out on iNaturalist first. Sometimes great plants just decide they have

found a new, loving home; and other plants we thought died simply came up.

We love the new look and watching the bees, birds, and butterflies like we've never seen before! By invitation, we've presented our native garden journey to the local Garden Club and given some private tours.

I saw this quote somewhere: "The first year, native plants sleep; the second year, they creep; and the third year, they leap!" We can't wait to continue leaping in our journey. *Thank you, Texas Master Naturalists (and Doug Tallamy)!*

HMNS Sugar Land: Reducing Your Plastic Footprint

By Debby Wendt, TMNCPC Class of 2014



One of the most fun outreach activities I have done was sharing a “Reducing your Plastic Footprint” program at our partner, Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land, two Saturdays in July. There were three stations to show how to be a better steward for the Earth.

Shree Nath was a huge help washing, hemming, and folding T-shirts that we used for making reusable tote bags. The children picked out a shirt with Shree’s guidance and cut off the sleeves and other material around the neck.

My presentation was an “Instead Of ...” display. Items such as reusable tote bags instead of single use plastic bags, reusable snack and sandwich bags instead of single-use plastic baggies, Bees Wrap instead of plastic wrap and reusable straws instead



of single use plastic straws were all displayed and discussed. Other items were laundry sheets instead of a plastic jug of



Debby Wendt discusses items to use instead of single-use plastics; above, T-shirts ready for making bags



Monique Smith helps a museum patron to sort recyclables.

laundry detergent, shampoo bars instead of plastic bottles of shampoo, reusable produce bags instead of plastic bags.

Monique Smith and Cyndi Scott with her daughter, Jada, and Sandy Gardner all helped the children sort recyclables into categories of plastic, cardboard/paper, glass, and aluminum. There were a variety of these four items that the children put into one of the four boxes.

It was encouraging to know that many of the parents were already recycling these non-plastic items at home.

Future Chapter WOW?

Thank you to all the chapter members who generously donated gently used t-shirts for this program!

We now have a bag of hemmed T-shirts that we did not use; they are stored at our office in the closet for future use.

Other Outreach in August

By Shannon Westveer, *Courier* Co-Editor

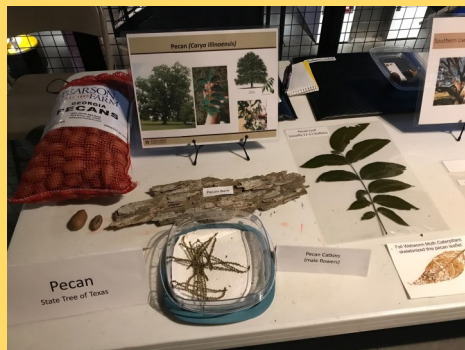


Members Joyce Tipton, Lucy Moyer, Rene Cannavo, Kerry Padilla, and Shannon Westveer manned the Bird WOW for more than 200 attendees at Fort Bend's Festival of One event August 26th.



TMNCPC member **Lynne Woods** created a tabletop Tree Workshop (on Wheels?) of our area's trees to be displayed both outreach Saturdays of August. Room was made upstairs at partner Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land for patrons to explore.

Kayleigh Minin (photo left) volunteered for two back-to-back shifts one Saturday along with Ute Welk, Lynne Woods, Lorie Foux, Cyndi Scott, Chevvy Tang, and Don and Mary Parkhouse.



Seabourne Creek Nature Park in August

By Lynn Trenta, TMNCPC Seabourne Gardens



In August, Seabourne was brimming with activity again in spite of the lofty temperatures. We have moved work hours to 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM to avoid the heat of the day in our hottest month.

Co-Directors Randolph Watson and Jerry Trenta (below) were keeping volunteers busy with a variety of activities.



Native plants were added to the prairie area by the wetlands and were watered in well. Members Jan Kolk, Fran Wilcox, Shree Nath, Kevin Peters, Rebecca and Amado Aguilar, Bob Naeger, and John and Ursula Cooper (and others) braved the heat to ensure we have plenty of native plants there.

Garrett Engelhardt (right) did more heavy-lifting with the bush hog to clear more wetland area.



Houston Wilderness area, volunteers Terri Hurley, Michael Randall, Debby Wendt, Jan Kolk, Caroline Kane, and Johanna DeYoung (Lynn Trenta not shown) all hard at work.

Another important project at Seabourne is the removal of the invasive and aggressive species from our prairie area. Right now baccharis, a woody species, is aggressively taking over the area in section C of the prairie. Huisache is another woody plant being removed there. Co-Directors Randolph Watson and Jerry Trenta, Shree Nath, Fran Wilcox, Kevin Peters (right), Tom Zaal, Sal Cardenas,



Dennis West (above) and others have been undertaking this laborious task.

The arboretum project continues with some of the trees being straightened by Co-Directors Randolph Watson and Jerry Trenta, along with Don and Mary Parkhouse, Sal Cardenas, James Yi and Tom Zaal. The watering crew of James Stepp, Sal Cardenas,

Continued, [next Page](#)

Seabourne Creek Nature Park in August (Cont'd)

By Lynn Trenta, TMNCPC Seabourne Gardens



Continued from [previous Page](#)



Watering team members Mary Saville and Fran Wilcox

Rodney Walther, Fran Wilcox, Mary Saville and others were on the job. The trees' survival depends on this important task.

Shree Nath and Fran Wilcox (photo below) collected basketflower seed heads for Seabourne's first Nature Day on September 23. (See Page [12](#) for more information!)



Despite the heat, the gardens are doing pretty well. In the native plant garden, passion vine is thriving, resulting in the presence of many Gulf fritillaries. Texas lantana and partridge pea are doing well also, supporting butterflies, bees and a variety of

other insects.

New class member Barry Thompson (right) is helping in the butterfly garden, and we are also receiving guidance from him about native bees in both gardens.

Seabourne VSP Leader Jan Poscovsky led the August nature walk on Saturday the 12th, with great turn-out! (Read her article on Page [13](#).)

The Houston wilderness pollinator area is being revived and — pending approval — will be enhanced by a girl scout Gold Award Project. Work is already being done on the pathway there. Invasive species are being removed and native plants are being installed. This project began in 2019 with a grant obtained by the city from the Monarch Flyway organization and the Houston Wilderness.

The Seabourne insect hike centered around dragonflies and damselflies to coordinate with the National Odolympics bioblitz event, August 19-27. Many species were seen at Seabourne, including the Hyacinth Glider and Narrow-striped Forceptail. (See photos on this issue's [cover](#)).



We have had many volunteers help at Seabourne this August despite the triple-digit heat and lack of precipitation, and we thank them so much for supporting this signature project for our chapter. We could not be successful at Seabourne without these valuable chapter members!

Seabourne is a great place to get to know your fellow Master Naturalists, to educate the public about nature, and to



Sal Cardenas on tractor (above) and Jan Kolk installing native plants (below)



Nature Day at Seabourne Creek Nature Park: A Day of Discovery and Conversation

By Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Class of Fall 2022



TMN Coastal Prairie Chapter has cultivated a deep connection with Seabourne Creek Nature Park, often described by our President, Terri Hurley, as "our bread and butter." Aligning with our mission to promote education, outreach, and dedicated service towards the responsible management of natural resources, we are excited to unveil the many wonders that this park has to offer.

This year, we have begun a new venture: a series of **Nature Days** on four distinct dates, each focusing on a different section of the park under our care. These events, scheduled between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on select Saturdays, will feature engaging activities, creative crafts, and informative presentations tailored to each specific area.

September 23, 2023 – Butterfly / Pollinator Garden

December 2, 2023 – Bird Sanctuary

March 2, 2024 – Arboretum

May 11, 2024 – Prairie Demo Garden

The inaugural event will take place on **September 23, 2023**, within the enchanting Butterfly Garden at the front of the park. We extend a warm invitation for all nature enthusiasts to join us. Volunteers are always welcome! (**MEMBERS**: Look for the SignUp Genius to commit to a shift.)

1st Nature Day - [Saturday, September 23, 2023](#)

10:00 AM — 2:00 PM

Come and immerse yourself in the splendor of nature during Seabourne Nature Park's very first Nature Day! Experience the enchantment of our captivating Butterfly Garden, where vibrant colors and delicate wings combine to create an unforgettable spectacle. We have activities for the entire family, including face painting, henna hand art, butterfly origami, and scavenger hunts.

Attendees will have the unique opportunity to listen to 20-30 minute presentations by Texas Master Naturalists (schedule below).

Native wildflower seeds will be distributed to all attendees.

10:15 AM: "Creating an Irresistible Habitat for Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies"
by Jamie Fairchild

11:15 AM: "Harnessing the Power of Native Plants: Drawing Pollinators to Your Landscape"
by Shannon Westveer

12:15 PM: "Native Bees vs. Honey Bees and Building Artificial Habitats for Beneficial Insects" by Barry Thompson

1:15 PM: "Monarch Migration and Milkweed Mastery: A Practical Guide"
by Dr. Dianne Russell

Join us on September 23, 2023, for a day of exploration, education, and appreciation of the natural wonders at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. It promises to be an enriching experience for all, as we celebrate and learn about the vital ecosystems within our beloved park.

August Nature Walk at Seabourne

By Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Class of Fall 2022



Visitors who joined the Nature walk in

August unanimously praised Seabourne Creek Nature Park as a true hidden gem.

A group of twenty-one eager hikers, equipped with binoculars, water bottles, and boundless enthusiasm, gathered in the parking lot at 7:30 AM. This early start was intentional, aimed at outsmarting the summer heat and increasing the chances of encountering the diverse native wildlife that call this park their home.

The one-hour trek meandered through seven managed areas of the park, a labor of love undertaken by the dedicated volunteers of the Coastal Prairie Chapter. These distinct "habitats" included the enchanting Butterfly Garden, the recently upgraded Arboretum, the serene Seabourne Lake, the thriving Prairie Demo Garden, the Prairie Restoration area, the tranquil Wetlands Lake, and the peaceful Woodlands/Bird Sanctuary.

During the walk, Master Naturalist Jan Poscovsky shared interesting tales of the park's history and shed light on the incredible conservation efforts carried out by chapter volunteers. She stressed the vital importance of every citizen becoming stewards of our environment, emphasizing our symbiotic relationship with all living creatures.

For information about upcoming walks, please visit our website:

<https://txmn.org/coastal/seabourne-weekend-walks/>

Join us in exploring the wonders of Seabourne Creek Nature Park and nurturing your connection with the natural world.



Gathering for the August Nature Walk (Jan in green, with hat).

Photo credit: Stan Poscovsky

Fall 2023 Class member, **Adrian Leddy** (below) mans the Skins and Skulls WOW and his wife and member **Sandra Vazquez** mans the Enviroscape WOW at their first outreach event ... just *days* after Session 1! They joined lead Jim Butcher, and members Fran Wilcox, Shree Nath, Barry Johnson, and Shannon Westveer at Campbell Elementary's scout night in Greatwood, Sugar Land.



TMNCPC History Lesson: The Blue Donut

By Jim Butcher (aka The Grand Poobah), TMNCPC Class of 2008

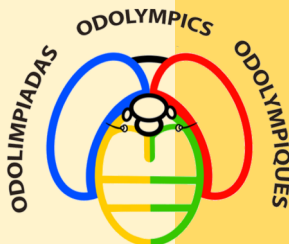


Acceptance is mandatory, Janice Leavitt, as she takes the blue donut from The Poobah. Photo credit: Jan Poscovsky

The origins of our chapter's Blue Doughnut award are murky at best. It is a product of the addled brain of yours truly, Jim Butcher, and in my pre-Poobah days, I had a special affinity for folks going through initial training. The Board had always spoke about mentoring, but nothing seemed to come of it until the COVID days. One thing I have always been allowed to do was bring baked goods to the in-person training sessions.

On a particular session, one of the trainees arrived before all the rest. During the first break, with much fanfare, he was awarded the "Blue Doughnut." He had absolutely no idea as to what he had accomplished to get this prestigious award.

[Click to view](#)
[Odo results](#)
[in Fort Bend](#)
[County](#) —>



Hoiman Low, Ute Welk —#3 and #2 TOP observers for the project — join Shannon Westveer, Sari Garfinkle, Pauline Zinn, Kerry Padilla, Wanda Roof, and John Few

to chase dragonflies at Seabourne Creek for science. Photo credit: Lynn Trenta (behind the phone camera!)

"The Dubious Achievement Award" was off to a good start.

The idea behind it is to provide our chapter with a unique and light-hearted way to break the ice. As so many previous Training Class Directors have said, 10 weeks of initial training is a bit like taking sips of water using a fire hose.

Some previous examples of the fun and usually irrelevant awards include:

- leading a chapter project
- identifying the first purple gallinule at the park
- becoming a first-time mother
- son trainees joining the chapter (2 donuts)
- anticipating the punch lines of my corny jokes
- showing up at Seabourne or a chapter meeting

The doughnut seems to have the greatest impact when unleashed upon an otherwise unsuspecting individual (see photo).

Though acceptance is *mandatory*, consumption is optional. I am told that it has become treasured and coveted by membership, so I look forward to continuing this unique, tradition well into our chapter's future.



Bird WOW at George Memorial and Hased House

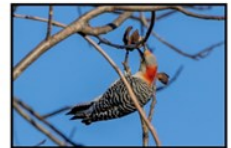
By Joyce Tipton, TMNCPC Secretary



Native plants are one of the best ways to attract birds and to provide fruit, nectar, nuts, and seeds eaten by a wide variety of birds.

Native plants serve as hosts for insects such as butterfly caterpillars that are eaten by many birds. This is an especially important source of protein for bird parents to feed their young nestlings.

Birds also shape their migration patterns around the availability of native plants.



Above, Lucy Moyer presents a PowerPoint on Birds to patrons of the George Memorial Library on July 22; sample slides of the presentation, left and above.

Photo credits: Joyce Tipton

Lucy Moyer and Joyce Tipton gave education and outreach on birds at both [George Memorial Library](#) (July 22nd) and [Hased House of Wharton](#) (August 18th).

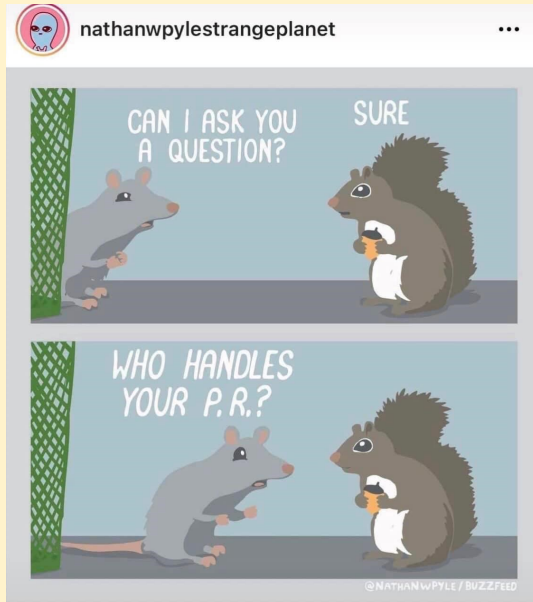
They talked about birds' characteristics, fun facts, how to attract them to your backyard, and how to best enjoy them.

They informed both groups of the challenges facing a declining bird population and what every individual can do to help.

Both audiences were engaged with lots of discussion.

"I took notes of attracting different types of birds by using the right kind of food. As soon as this terrible heat and drought ease up, I'll start researching more native shrubs to plant around the house and yard in order to offer better protection and nesting options. Plus, I pulled out my binoculars to check what I have vs. what was recommended and plan to put them in convenient places."

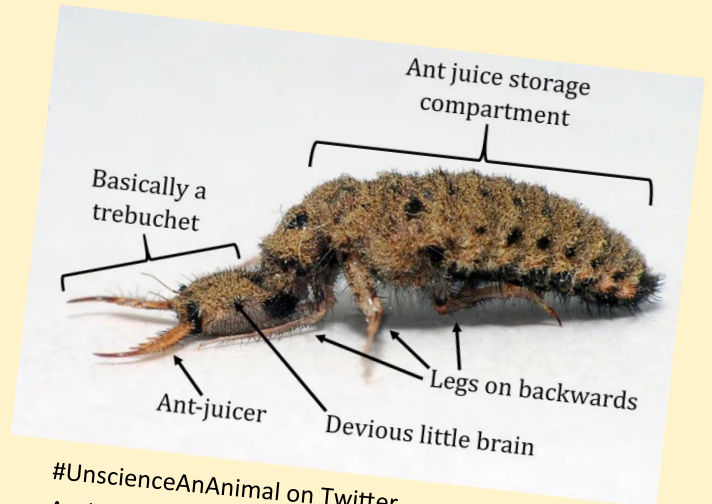
*Pam Nash
Hased House of Wharton*



Shared by Mary Warwick

The Lighter Side

By TMNCPC Various Members



#UnscienceAnAnimal on Twitter

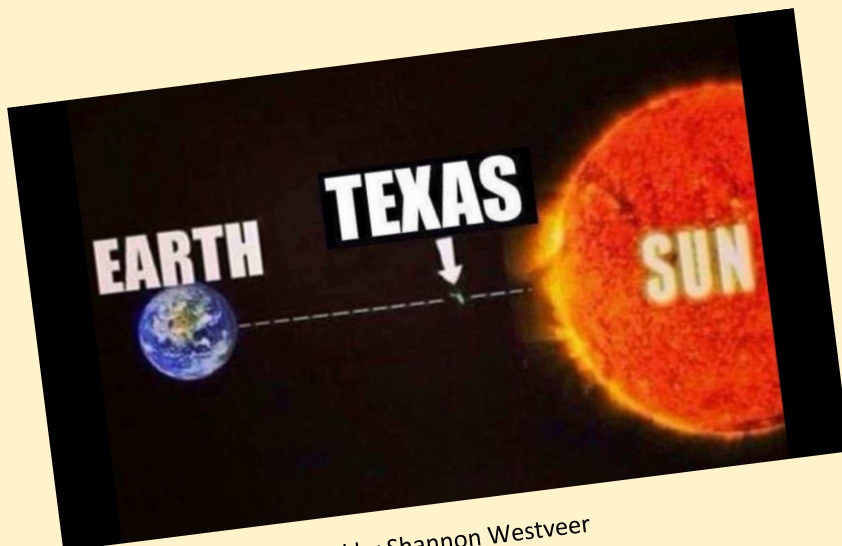
Antlion anatomy shared by Sari Garfinkle

GOT SOMETHING INTRIGUING?

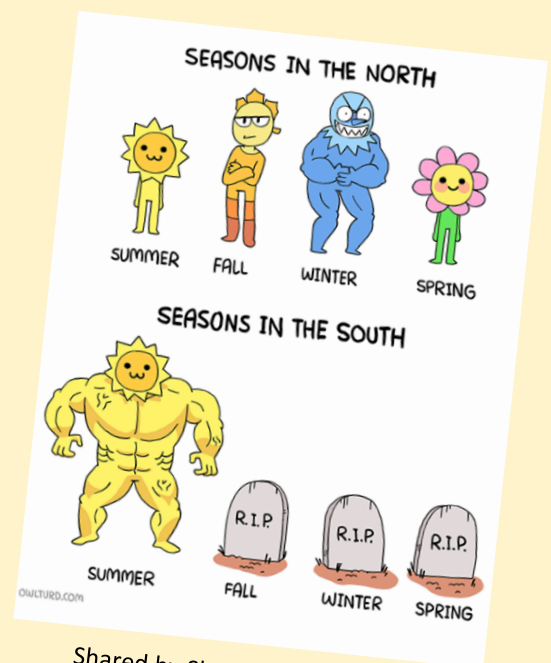
Share it on Facebook (Members Only)
OR on the **#random** channel on Slack.
The Co-Editors will find it!



Shared by Jan Poscovsky



Shared by Shannon Westveer



Shared by Shannon Westveer

Elected Officers

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

Board of Directors

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TPWD / AgriLife Chapter Advisors

Prgm. Coordinator	Brandy Rader
Fort Bend Ag Agent	John Few

SLACK TIP — *Messaging versus Replying*

MEMBERS ONLY. Messaging to a channel (notifying all members in it) is Slack's default. To reply to a specific message, be sure to *thread the reply* so that the *sender* gets notified. You can also post that reply for *all in the channel* by checking the box provided. *Thank you for using Slack!*



SPRING TRAINING — Didn't get in the Fall Class?

No worries! Coastal Prairie Chapter holds two training courses each year: **Spring** and **Fall**. Watch for information to be posted to our website's Home Page sometime mid-to-late December. If you know you'd like to join, please [complete the form provided](#) so you can be notified as soon as the next registration opens in the Spring. **JOIN US!**

REGISTER TODAY!

[https://
txmn.tamu.edu/2023-
annual-meeting/](https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/)

Answers from Page 4 Fall Class Quiz:

1. A, B, D, F, G and H
2. Police officer
3. TRUE
4. Harris, Brazoria



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