

The Midden



Photo by Scott Buckel

Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists

October 2012

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End of Summer by Diane Humes, President 2012

End of summer is upon us, although snow is not in the forecast. And hopefully not hurricanes either. But, there are a lot of upcoming events for our chapter, including the State Meeting at Camp Allen in Navasota, October 26 - 28. Sign up online: txmn.org. Don't delay; it looks to be a good meeting. This is a great chance to meet old friends and new from across Texas and compare Master Naturalist notes.

Don't forget the chapter meeting, October 4. We will be viewing a wonderful film titled "State of the Gulf" by TPWD - the history and latest info about the Gulf of Mexico. We'll bring the popcorn - you be sure to come!

According to GBAC Bylaws, almost all our board members need to vacate their present positions. This will necessitate a shake-up and we will have vacancies. So, be thinking about how you would like to fit in as a member of the chapter leadership. A Nominating Committee will be forming soon.

"Think global, act local" as a phrase apparently originated in 1915 referring to town planning, but has come also to refer to many efforts, implying the need for "adequate grasp and treatment of the whole environment, and in active sympathy with the essential and characteristic life of the place concerned". In these days of globalization and world-wide spread of species, it takes on even more meaning. Battling invaders from all parts of the globe requires knowledge of where they came from. And maybe from beyond!?! Don't forget those Martians.

Next Chapter Meeting

October 4, 2012

Movie night -
"State of the Gulf"
By TPWD

Speaker

To be announced

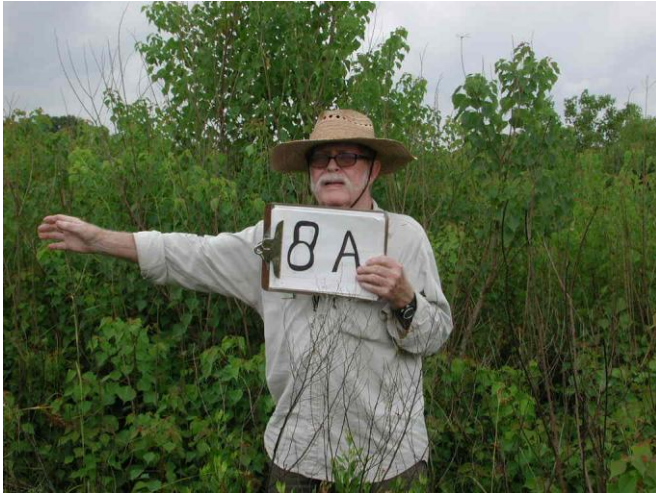
At Carbide Park



Be the change you wish to see in the world!

Prairie Ponderings by Dick Benoit

Prairie Pioneer Profile of Jim Crabb:



Jim has been involved with the prairie at Armand Bayou Nature Center since the beginnings of its restoration efforts. One of the main mowers of the prairie in the 1990's, he is also on the Tallow Whacking Team. Each

winter he is on the fire lines or in charge of one of the fire vehicles on the Burn Team. He was involved with the erection of the prairie platform and establishing the interpretive trail and signs and the first custodian of the demonstration prairie garden in front of the prairie platform.

Jim was one of the original prairie restoration team that rescued plants from the Spencer Prairie in the early 2000's. He helped rescue over 3,000 three-gallon plants before the prairie was flooded for a detention pond in Pasadena. Jim also has been on many Transect Monitoring Teams since their inception in 1999. He has diligently applied his identification skills each spring and fall along transect monitoring lines. The last six years Jim has put most of his efforts in the sprigging efforts of rescued plants with the Potting Team.

Jim Crabb exemplifies what it is to be a modern prairie pioneer that has brought a positive attitude and an old fashioned work ethic to helping restore the prairie at Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Wetland Wanderings by Diane Humes

Most wetlands - that interface between high ground and submerged land - have been filled or covered with concrete. Prairies, likewise, have been plowed or developed. In our area, prairies and wetlands intergrade with each other and perform similar functions of water purification, groundwater re-charge and flood control, as well as being home to a myriad of creatures. A lot of time, money, and labor are currently being spent to restore the land for the benefit of people and all other creatures.

The wetland and prairie restoration at Sheldon Lake State Park is designed to re-create or at least mimic, the wetland/prairie complex habitat of pre-settlement years. It is part science and part art. You, the Wetland Restoration Team member, are the artist, following scientific principles, creating the beautiful wetland. You create the future wetland by your placement of wetland plants.

The Wetland Restoration Team is finishing up the Wetland Plant ID class; normal workdays will resume. To learn how to participate: contact Marissa Sipocz m-sipocz@tamu.edu.

Here is an example of the results:



San Jacinto State Park

Annual Master Naturalist Regional Meeting by Madeleine K. Barnes

Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center was the location for the 2nd Annual Regional Meeting hosted by the Heartwood Chapter on July 14th. Thirteen chapters were represented with 75 participants enjoying this new facility that is only a year old.

The event consisted of a tasty breakfast and lunch and the following learning sessions: Wildscapes, Building Soil

and Composting, TPWD Wildlife Monitoring & Nature Tracker Program, Choosing Native Plants, Water for Wildlife, and Applying What We Learned.

Good food, excellent presentations, good discussions, and opportunities to meet and share with other Master Naturalists from around the state represented the fare of the day.

Got Recycling Bins? by Madeleine K. Barnes

What happens to all the stuff you put into a recycling bin? To answer this question, inquiring master naturalists hit the road on July 10th, traveling to the Waste Management System (WMS) Recycling Center near South Post Oak in Houston.



Photo by Diane Humes

WMS Education Coordinator, Laura Stein, presented the details of their single stream recycling plant that was retrofitted and opened in August 2011.

Plastic bags, plastic containers (classified as 1- 5 and 7), cardboard, newspapers, glass, and metal cans are all separated by equipment with minimal hand sorting. These materials are then broken down, bundled, or placed into bins for resale to other recycling distributors or for processing into pulp, pellets, sand, glass pieces, and liquid metals.

The end result is new products such as durable glass tiles, countertops in amazing colors, weather/insect resistant outside decking, plastic bags and containers, and paper for printing and boxes.

This particular site recycles materials from many locations within our chapter area including Galveston, Pearland, and Houston.

In addition, we also stopped by to see Becky Edmondson, GBAC member, who gave us a tour of the Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention Basin, part of the Brays Project, and the Westbury Community Garden. Willow Waterhole got its start in May 2004 and consists of 280 acres in six compartments. Residents/volunteers are seeing the benefits for wildlife and a growing number of species are being drawn to this evolving habitat.

Conservation Fact: Paper can be recycled up to seven times without additional cutting of trees and further loss of habitat.

Monarch Butterfly Workshop by Vic Madamba

There were no monarch butterflies ready for the workshop scheduled August 10th, so the date was postponed until August 17th. The workshop location was also changed from the Texas City Prairie Preserve to the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH). Thanks to Emmiline and her bug magic, all 16 that signed-up were notified of these changes along with the support staff.

On the 16th, we were notified that the monarchs were not cooperating and didn't appear ready to hatch. At this point we had 22 TMN signed-up, so what was the instructor to do?

We asked the monarch guardian about other butterflies since cancelling the workshop wasn't possible. Our

monarch guardian said yes, we have other butterflies; they arrived that evening, fifty painted lady butterflies. So, the workshop was on!



Photographer unknown

Cindy, an EIH staff member, had all things ready and gave the instructor a quick checkout. The instructor then presented highlights of the monarch Butterfly and covered tagging procedures.

Tagging supplies were handed out, which included a tagging handout, tags, toothpicks, and tagging forms. After covering where to hold the butterfly and where to tag, the instructor then covered procedures for *Oe (Ophryocystis elektroscirrha)* testing. Finally, handouts, stickers, index cards, and forms were disseminated.

Now it was time for the practical portion. The butterflies for the practical were kept in another room and brought out for the practical. The practical covered: catching a butterfly out of the cage, preparing it for tagging, tagging, filling out forms, and *Oe* testing. All this was completed on a butterfly half the size of an adult monarch. The butterflies were returned to the cage and mass released outside at the EIH habitat after the practical was completed.

The atmosphere indicated a successful workshop even with all the changes. No butterfly was harmed at anytime during the training. We are thankful for all the support in making this workshop a success and especially to Wendy Reistle, EIH Program Coordinator.

Master Naturalists Role in Educational Activities at GISP by Nathan Veatch

Members of Galveston Bay Area-Texas Master Naturalists were very involved at Galveston Island State Park during the last year. As volunteers with The Friends of Galveston Island State Park, they conducted 38 school and adult interpretive fieldtrips to the beach and bay-shore habitats during the September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012 calendar year, hosting 1636 students and adults.

FoGISP volunteers worked with two training classes of Master Naturalists (GBAC-TMN and Gulf Coast), FeatherFest participants, 5th grade through high school students, home schoolers and a RV club. Twenty-five Master Naturalists played a large role in Camp Wild, the summer camp for 4th and 5th grade students. Our chapter hosted 18 teachers for the Treasures of the Bay workshop at GISP. Kayaking trips were also available on a reservation basis and kayaking was one of the featured activities at Camp Wild.

Of the sixteen volunteers that regularly staff the Nature Center from March 24 until late November from 10 am until 2 pm every Saturday and Sunday, one is a Gulf Coast Chapter member and the rest of the volunteers are members of our chapter. 944 park visitors viewed the exhibits in the Nature Center in 2011/2012. 286 visitors took the regularly scheduled interpretive tours to the beach and bay habitats led by sixteen our chapter

members. These tours are offered every Saturday and Sunday at 10 am and begin at the Nature Center.

FoGISP/GBAC-TMN presented an Advanced Training workshop on shells and sea-beans in December of 2011 attended by 22 volunteers at GISP and this workshop was repeated in February 2012 for 37 Master Naturalists at the AgriLife Extension Office. In addition to increasing many of the current guides' expertise, we added 5 new interpretive guides at the park. The sand table display was updated and shells and sea-beans were catalogued so that Nature Center hosts and visitors can easily identify them. Twenty-two Master Naturalists attended an Advanced Training workshop presented by Dr. Steve Alexander on the adaptations and interrelationships of 15 bay-shore plants on April 28 at GISP.

Dune plant restoration stewardship activities have also been accomplished under Dick Benoit involving several Master Naturalists. Dick's group worked 20 times for an average of 3 hours, put in 300 man-hours and were involved in potting 4,500 one-gallon plants and in also planting 4,500 one-gallon plants in the dunes.

I wish to thank all who volunteer, many of whom serve in several capacities: Steve Alexander, Bill and Jamie Ashby, Madeleine Barnes, Carey Battle, Frank and Carole Bowser, Larry and Bobette Brasfield, Frank

Budney, Root Choyce, Jack Clason, Raini Cunningham, Billy Dunlop, Cheryl Folkles, Shirley Foster, Ellen Gerloff, Mary Jean Hayden, Cindy Howard, Terry and Allen Jackson, May Lou Kelso, Cindy Lining, Sandra Linton, Kim Lytle, Vic Madamba, Julie Massey, Mel and Shirley

Measeles, Carolyn and Scott Miles, Tawy and Cliff Muehe, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Diane Olsen, Billy Patterson, Cipriano Romero, Norma and Sandy Rubin, Fran Ryan, Lynn Smith, Rita Smith, Sara Snell, Nathan and Jill Veatch and John and Lynn Wright.

State of Texas Water by Diane Humes

Sylvia Earle, oceanographer and National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence, says, "our world is blue", and reminds us that without the "blue" there can be no "green". Water - the blue - is the key to life; without water there is no life and it is not negotiable.

The Earth has lots of water. Using estimates of global water distribution, one can calculate the total volume of planetary water to be about 333 quintillion (333×10^{18}) gallons - not that anyone can imagine such a number. One cubic mile of water equals about 1.1 trillion gallons. However, readily available freshwater from lakes, rivers, and groundwater makes up less than 1% of the entire amount of water on Earth. Water is continuously recycled and reused; we can contaminate it, but not create more of it.



In Texas we became acutely aware of how unreliable water supplies could become during a time of drought, when rainfall in 2011 - averaging only 14.8 inches across the state - plunged us into the worst drought ever recorded. At the height of the dry spell, 88% of the state was in "exceptional drought", according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Agriculture suffered the biggest losses - \$7.62 billion lost between farmers and ranchers and a decline of 600,000 cows, the largest such single year decline, ever. Agriculture and industry, the biggest losers, are the biggest users of water.

The 2011 drought is now the Drought of Record, but lack of rain - not a new story - occurred in at least one region of Texas every decade in the 20th century. The worst remembered drought lasted from 1950 - 1957 and had effects which linger today. With every county but one in drought, rural residents left for the cities in droves. Between 1950 and 1960 the number of Texas farms and ranches decreased from 345,000 to 247,000. The drought finally ended in 1957 - be careful what you wish for - with massive rains causing flooding in every major

river and tributary. In 1961 Texas wrote its first Water Plan.

The ninth and newest water plan is "Water for Texas - 2012 State Water Plan", described in the July 2012 issue of Texas Monthly as, "a wish list" of over 500 projects, including 26 new reservoirs. This list, the Plan, is compiled by representatives of water utilities, river authorities, agriculture and industry, among others, for each of the sixteen regions of the state. Only by inclusion in the Plan is a project eligible for consideration for a low-interest loan from the State of Texas. Loans are granted by the Texas Water Development Board, (TWDB). Individual projects are reviewed only by those seeking to build them; the TWDB is responsible for resolving possible conflicts between regions and their projects.

In the Plan's own words, "The purpose of this Plan is to ensure that all our communities have adequate supplies of water during times of drought" and "the current TWDB estimate indicates that Texas will need to invest about \$231 billion by 2060 to meet the state's needs for water supply, water and wastewater infrastructure, and flood control. The 2012 SWP recommends water management strategies that represent an estimated \$53 billion, or 23 percent of these total needs."

And from the TWDB website, www.stateoftexaswater.org, "In serious drought conditions, Texas does not and will not have enough water to meet the needs of its people, its businesses, and its agricultural enterprises. This plan presents the information regarding the recommended conservation and other types of water management strategies that would be necessary to meet the state's needs in drought conditions, the cost of such strategies, and estimates of the state's financial assistance that would be required to implement these strategies. The plan also presents the sobering news of the economic losses likely to occur if these water supply needs cannot be met. As the state continues to experience rapid growth and declining water supplies, implementation of the plan is crucial to ensure public health, safety, and welfare and economic development in the state."

At three hundred pages, the 2012 Plan is daunting reading, but informative. It concludes with five policy

recommendations: reservoir designation and protection - to prevent loss of reservoir sites by easements or other designations, such as occurred with the proposed Fastrill Reservoir which instead became the Neches NWR; reservoir acquisition by the state; elimination of restrictions on interbasin transfer of water; removal of TWDB from the petition process; and a requirement that public utilities conduct annual water loss audits, instead of every five years. Complicated stuff, to be sure, but perhaps we need to inform ourselves.

What can a Texas Master Naturalist do? We are already doing some of it. We monitor the bayous and restore wetlands and prairies, clean the beaches and bays; we could always do more. We could all take the 40-Gallon Challenge. I recently stayed in a LEED certified facility that used 1/3 the normal consumption of water. All

fixtures conserved water - faucets ran for 10 seconds, showers for 2 minutes and toilets were dual flush, except the four composting toilets. It was perfectly comfortable; hygiene and civility were not compromised!

Didn't see much conservation or wildlife in the Water Plan 2012; we need to ponder the needs of nature AND people. Join the Book Study Group in reading Andrew Samson's "Water of Texas". Read the 2012 State Water Plan. Next year, 2013, is the Year of Water, so get ready for a wet year!

"Thousands have lived without love-----not one without water." W.H. Auden

One estimate of global water distribution

Water Source	Water volume, cubic miles	Water volume, cubic kilometers	Percent of freshwater	Percent of total water
Oceans, Seas, Bays	321,000,000	1,338,000,000	--	96.54
Ice caps, Glaciers & Permanent Snow	5,773,000	24,064,000	68.6	1.74
Groundwater	5,614,000	23,400,000	--	1.69
Fresh	2,526,000	10,530,000	30.1	0.76
Saline	3,088,000	12,870,000	--	0.93
Soil Moisture	3,959	16,500	0.05	0.001
Ground Ice & Permafrost	71,970	300,000	0.86	0.022
Lakes	42,320	176,400	--	0.013
Fresh	21,830	91,000	0.26	0.007
Saline	20,490	85,400	--	0.007
Atmosphere	3,095	12,900	0.04	0.001
Swamp Water	2,752	11,470	0.03	0.0008
Rivers	509	2,120	0.006	0.0002
Biological Water	269	1,120	0.003	0.0001

Source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources (Oxford University Press, New York).

North American Prairie Conference 2012, Winnipeg, MB by Diane Humes

"Just because you're saving the world, doesn't mean you can't have fun!" Candace Savage, keynote speaker

In August I had the pleasure of attending the North American Prairie Conference 2012 held in Canada at the University of Manitoba. I heard research presentations,

big-picture addresses, and saw the tallgrass prairie south of Winnipeg. I represented our chapter of Texas Master Naturalists and described the prairie restoration efforts at Armand Bayou Nature Center during one session. Needless to say, very few of the 235 attendees had ever

heard of Master Naturalists, let alone visited ABNC. Well, now they know a little more.

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta - the Prairie Provinces - have been mostly converted to farmland; they are the Canadian breadbaskets. In seeing all those farms, I wondered how much farmland it takes to keep me baking bread for a year. The answer, from the internet and my calculations, in round numbers, is I need about 0.2 acres of wheat.* So, my personal contribution to agricultural conversion is pretty small, but there are a LOT of people in this world besides me.

Issues were the same everywhere, with details differing by location; that is, grassland habitat has all but disappeared worldwide. It has been developed, plowed - Manitobans called it the "great plowdown" - and prairie remnants are few and scattered. Surprisingly, most remnants are found near and in the cities and are very small; restoration projects are being undertaken on abandoned sections of agricultural land. Restoration issues include invasive species, battle with woody species, and economics.



Some issues were unknown to the non-Canadians in the audience. The government of Canada proposes to

relinquish its long-preserved pasture lands - managed common grazing lands - the last strongholds for endangered prairie species. The lands will return to the provinces, ostensibly to save money; in Saskatchewan, provincial leaders have vowed to sell off 1.78 million acres immediately. This issue is still evolving.

Most agreed the answers to prairie rescue and restoration required people, "grass huggers" into the next generation, however we can engage them. We are, after all, living in the Anthropocene - the age of human domination of the earth. Kenneth Higgins, from South Dakota State University, has developed a new equation for our times:

$$E^2 \times P^{10} = \text{GSUP.}$$

E equals Education times Experience, **P** is for People, Partnerships, Persistence, Prose, Poetry, Plants, Paths, Phenology, Pennies for Prairies which taken together equal **Green Side UP!**

I had a glorious time Up North, as we say in Michigan. In addition to NAPC2012, I participated in a pre-conference field trip to Churchill, MB to see arctic wildflowers, beluga whales, polar bears, caribou, birds, fresh cool air, blue sky, endless sunshine, food, fun, and (new) friendships along Hudson Bay. Many thanks to the chapter for paying my meeting registration, thanks to Julie for suggesting it, and the Board for agreeing to it. If you want to see all my slides, just say the word.

**(1300 pounds of wheat per acre, yield in US = 26 bushels per acre, 50 lbs wheat per bushel or 1300 lbs per acre. 1 lb wheat = 0.85 lbs flour. 0.8 lbs flour per pound of bread = 1 loaf OR 1381 loaves per acre. 43560 square feet = 1 acre, to it takes 31 square feet per loaf of bread. I might need 250 loaves per year.)*

Child Protection Training Required by Julie Massey

Texas A&M University System is implementing a Child Protection Training Program for all volunteers working directly with youth. This training is in addition to the background checks currently required.

The objectives of the training are to teach warning signs of child sexual abuse and molestation, different forms of child abuse, types of sexual offenders and their strategies, how to respond and report cases of abuse, and strategies for maintaining a safe environment for youth.

This training is to be completed by volunteers every two years. Master Naturalist volunteers who work with youth will be registered as a 4-H volunteer. You can then take the training online using the 4-H Connect website. (You will not be registered as a 4-H volunteer without being contacted first.)

If you have any questions, please drop me a line at jmassey@ag.tamu.edu or give me a call at 281-309-5063. More information will be provided in the near future!

Guppies from Julie

Fall is a time of change and looking forward! Have you noticed the new logos for Texas Sea Grant and AgriLife Extension? The logos more clearly reflect the agencies connection to Texas A&M University! (Great news for all my Longhorn Master Naturalist friends!)



As plans for 2013 are being developed, the issue of water for Texas is a hot topic for Extension Offices across the state. The drought of 2011 and the continued drought conditions in much of the state today has put the

issue of water in the headlines and on our minds! I will be working with my fellow Extension agents to address issues associated with water in 2013. Water is now being considered a crop by large land owners and conservation organizations in Texas and across the nation!

If you have ideas for water conservation education programs and projects or new audiences, please drop me a line or give me a call! Ideas might include rainwater harvesting workshops or home water audits.

In addition, a non-point source pollution survey for homeowners will be conducted by the Extension Office. This same survey was conducted in the 1990's. The survey will be used to assess changes in homeowner habits and knowledge on non-point source pollution. It will also help identify topics for education programs to reduce run off impacts to the bay and Gulf in 2013 and 2014!

Highland Lakes Chapter to visit!

We are going to have visitors - 45 to be exact! Members of the Highland Lakes Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists will join us from November 12 - 16. They are looking forward to learning about our coastal ecosystems and volunteering to restore dunes and prairie while in the area! Their schedule includes dune restoration at Galveston Island State Park on Monday, beach and bay field trips on Tuesday, sea turtles and trawling on Wednesday and a trip to Bolivar to work with Audubon on Thursday! Friday will be relaxing with birding at Big Reef Park!

If you would like to join us and visit with the Highland Lakes visitors, please contact me! They hope to return the favor by hosting you in the future!



The Midden

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For comments on this issue or to suggest content for future issues, please contact **Nathan Veatch** at 281-480-6985 or by e-mail at nveatch@swbell.net.

Midden Editorial Team

Steve Alexander	Chair
Nathan Veatch	Editor
Diane Humes	
Carolyn Miles	

The Midden Deadline for the next issue

November 4th

If you have Advanced Training or Volunteer Opportunities, please submit information to Verva Densmore, rhdensmore@yahoo.com.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas cooperating.

October and November Activities

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter Meeting - October 4th

Movie night -- "State of the Gulf" by TPWD

Presenter: to be determined

6:30 Social, 7:00 Presentation, 8:00 business meeting

Carbide Park 1 Hour AT

Insect Collections - October 5th

9am-1pm - 4 AT

Texas City Prairie Preserve

We will learn proper collecting and pinning procedures to begin an insect collection. (Class is full)

Presenters- Michael Warriner, TPWD Invertebrate

Biologist

Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Vulture Workshop - November 10th

9 -11:30am - 2.5 AT

Carbide Park

Vulture, nature's noble caretakers.

Presenters - Ken Kramm,

Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Sea Turtles and More - December 5th

9am-Noon - 3 Hours AT

Galveston, NOAA Building 216, Ballroom

Information on gulf-coast sea turtles, GBMN volunteer partnership & work being done at the Fisheries,

upcoming volunteer opportunities with the Flower Banks,

turtle patrols and more as well as a visit to the turtle barn

Presenters - Dr. Steve Alexander, Shelly Dupuy, Dr. Ben

Higgins, Carlos Rios, Maureen Nolan-Wilde and staff

from NOAA,

Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Ongoing

Galveston Island State Park

10 am at the Welcome Center

Every Saturday- Beach Explorations

Every Sunday- Bay Explorations

Tours 1 to 1 ½ hours long. Bring water and family.

Heritage Book Study Group

First Monday of every month. Texas City Prairie Preserve

10am-Noon 2 hours AT

Contact: Elsie Smith (409)945-4731

We are currently reading: *The Life History of a Texas*

Birdwatcher: Connie Hagar of Rockport by Karen

Harden McCracken

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Activities:

Tuesdays -

- Sheldon Lakes State Park, Contact: Tom Solomon crandtr@sbcglobal.net

- Texas City Prairie Preserve, Contact: Jim Duron wishkad@yahoo.com
- Environmental Institute of Houston at UHCL, Contact : Wendy Reistle reistle@uhcl.edu

Wednesdays - Wetland Restoration Team, Contact:

Marissa Sipocz m-sipocz@tamu.edu

Thursdays -

- Horseshoe Marsh Prairie, third Thursday of each month, 9 - Noon. Contact: Tom Solomon crandtr@sbcglobal.net
- San Jacinto State Park, Contact: Tom Solomon crandtr@sbcglobal.net

Fridays - Prairie Friday, ABNC, 8:30 - 11:30am, Contact:

Dick Benoit RBenoitTEX@aol.com

EDUCATION-OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bay & Island Adventures - Volunteers teach six in-class hands-on modules on a once a month basis in Dickinson and Galveston Schools. Presenters and helpers are needed for eleven 4th and 5th grade classes. Contact: Sara Snell snellsw@verizon.net.

Education and Outreach Committee - Lots of work to do and we can use your help developing a speakers bureau; responding to requests for exhibit booths, fieldtrip guides and presenters, planning Camp Wild and Treasures of the Bay; and developing a library of education-outreach materials. Contact Sara Snell snellsw@verizon.net.

Partner and Associate Programs - Many organizations sponsor guided walks and education programs or need volunteers to man their nature center. Go to www.gbamasternaturalist.org click on "Volunteer Opportunities," then click on "Partners, Sponsors and Associates" for the list, then click on their website for information and contact.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board Meetings - September 25th, November 5th
2-4 at the Extension Office

Committee Meetings

Communication - November 5th

9-Noon at Extension office

Advanced Training - October 15th, November 19th

10-Noon at Extension office

Education/Outreach - Meets as needed. None currently scheduled.

Stewardship - Meets quarterly Next meeting to be determined