

Photo by Carsten Peterson

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President's Corner by Maureen Nolan-Wilde, President 2015

Discovery Challenge, Ocean Discovery and Beach & Bay Days, Feather Fest, hawk and sea turtle monitoring, restoration and school trips at the Park, TCPP and in the prairie are just some of the volunteer opportunities we have worked during the first five months of this year.

Meanwhile, our Advanced Training team has continued to provide a varied menu of events. We have also graduated a new class of Master Naturalists, with the assistance of over 50 existing members. And, coming this month, is Camp Wild, our annual volunteer effort with the kids at Galveston Island State Park.

It's time to take a breath and celebrate our accomplishments. Our efforts have made a difference and are not only appreciated by our partners but also by the community at large.

Some news to report: A team led by Jim Duron has been working on our new volunteer service and advance training reporting system. We will join the rest of the Master Naturalist chapters in adopting the system later this year. We'll be saying goodbye to Excel spreadsheets and will be able to log our hours online.



Camp Wild Logo

There will be some changes with the new system; for example, we'll have to post our volunteer/advance training hours within 45 days of the event. To make the transition easier, the team has been working closely with the State and is arranging hands-on training sessions and preparing communications that describe the benefits of the system, while also creating some on-line help. More information is coming, so please stay tuned.

Looking forward to seeing you on the beach, at the bay, in the prairie or in the classroom.

Next Chapter Meeting

June 4th

Mobilizing for Monarchs:
Public and Private Action
for Conserving Monarch
Butterflies

By

Jaime Gonzalez
Katy Prairie Conservancy

At Carbide Park

Prairie Ponderings by Diane Humes

May and October are "transect months" on the Armand Bayou Nature Center prairie, and also a good excuse to get out on the prairie and find out what's out there, so the Prairie Friday team is gearing up for the 2015 spring season. A transect is a line, in this case 100m (approximately) between two poles, in which to make 20 random samples of the vegetation. Recording the presence (or absence) of a species from a list representing the spectrum of plants from Indian plantain - prairie climax - to Chinese tallow - non-native invasive, we hope to learn of the progress of prairie restoration.

Prairies are grasslands composed of a mix of warm and cool season grasses, forbs, and maybe, trees, although trees do not dominate. Often thought to exist in the temperate zone between desert - too dry for trees - and forest, prairies have a more complex natural history than just rainfall and climate.

Southern grasslands, such as our coastal tallgrass prairie, most definitely exist with higher than average rainfall; various factors operate in positive and negative feedback loops to create and maintain a prairie.

Climate is important. Grasslands are better adapted to reduced precipitation than forests; trees are more likely to be killed by increased drought intensity or duration and allow grasses to establish.

Water and the seasonal pattern of water level - hydroperiod - is important. A strong contrast between dry and wet seasons inhibits trees, while promoting grasses; grasslands transpire less water than forests, generating a positive feedback.

Fires are common on prairies, historically set by lightning and humans. Fire is a promoter of grasslands; increased grassland leads to increased fires, another positive feedback. Heavy rains and flooding reduce fires, but wet-dry cycles favor fires by increasing the load of fine fuels.

Wind and disturbances that kill or damage trees and open the forest canopy tend to benefit grasses and other plants requiring sunlight. The coastal prairie is a windy place; think hurricanes, tornadoes, and assorted other storms.

Increasing areas of grassland support increasing numbers of grazers. Their feeding, rooting, and tree-destroying activities favor more grasslands - another positive feedback. Trampling and wallowing by herbivores may also be beneficial for the diversity of prairie forbs. Large native herbivores - think bison, mammoths, mastodons, or even elephants - are now missing from the prairie, but their actions may be mimicked by haying or mowing.

Large predators kept the herbivore numbers in check and are also now missing from the ecosystem. Overgrazed grasslands lead to reduced fires - another feedback resulting in loss of grasses and invasion of trees.

So, on our formerly over-grazed, partially-restored, invaded, much-loved, mowed, and burned prairie, our living museum, will our data-collecting efforts yield ancient wisdom? Will we learn that what we really need to do is bring back the woolly mammoths? Do Chinese elephants eat Chinese tallow trees???

Wetland Wanderings by Diane Humes

Beloved by water garden owners, the Amazonian invader, *Eichhornia crassipes*, or Common water hyacinth, has taken over Armand Bayou and surrounding waterways for the last year, due to a perfect storm of events. This plant, one of the "world's worst weeds", is a freshwater floating tropical plant which became established within the bayou's waters about 1995. With its incredibly high rate of growth - doubling in less than two weeks - it quickly took over and established incredible, thick, tangled and matted masses of vegetation in various stages of living, reproducing, dying and putrefying, and also completely blocking navigation upstream of Bay Area Boulevard.

(Photo Credit: J.S. Peterson, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database)



Despite the beautiful lavender blossoms, most of us wanted to kill this plant. Herbicide could be and was applied, but there was a limit to what could be done. Extreme incursion of saltwater would have killed it, but we neither had a drought nor great storm surges from the Gulf of Mexico. A great rain event could have washed it all downstream, but it didn't happen. Just like Goldilocks, conditions were "just right" for continued propagation of water hyacinth.

But, good news: on April 18, Saturday night, we finally had a weather event - a rather spectacular one. While most of us were (hopefully) in our homes or other safe places, perhaps watching the lightning flashes and the power flickering on and off, the storm dumped nearly five inches of rain onto the upper Armand Bayou Watershed in a half an hour, creating a great pulse of water which washed downstream and dislodged the trash-filled mass of plants. Sunday morning showed the bayou and Clear Lake littered with floating mats of water hyacinth (yeah!) and the bridge free of obstruction.



Photo by Diane Humes

The masses of plants are still sloshing around Clear Lake, which is pretty fresh for the moment, but they will die when they hit salt water. Expect, that is, hope, to see Galveston beaches littered with water hyacinth carcasses.

Beach Patrol- Recent Observations by Steve Alexander

Nature often moves slowly. For example, when rebuilding dunes, she takes her time, piling wind-blown sand onto the beach grain by grain. And when piles are deep enough to support roots, plants appear, covering the piles of sand in a layer of green.

But men and machines can intervene to speed up this process, changing a slow multi-year project into one that takes only a few short months. Such was the case on the west end of Galveston Island's seawall when it was decided that protecting FM 3005 was a priority. The resulting dune, built in a matter of months, was discussed in the February 2015 issue of *The Midden*.

The addition of dune plants, a labor-intensive process organized by Artist Boat, recently completed this dune-building project. On multiple dates, hundreds of volunteers planted beach panic on top the freshly built wall of sand. The success of this building and planting project will be followed and reported in the future.

On another note, has anyone else noted the relative absence of seaweed so far this year? In recent years, it seemed the beachfront was inundated by seaweed by this time. But this year, it has yet to cloak our beaches. What is far more common now (as of this writing) is the presence of water hyacinth washed down from freshwater areas to the north.

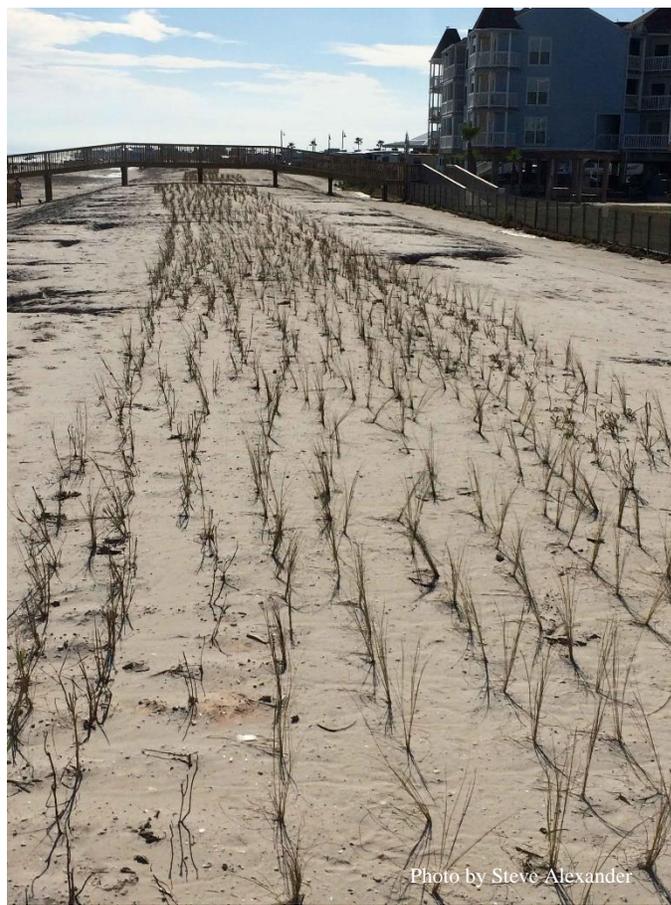


Photo by Steve Alexander

Deer Park Prairie AT by T. J. Fox

Two hundred years ago the coastal prairies of Texas and Louisiana covered more than 9.5 million acres. That is slightly smaller than the combined size of Massachusetts and New Jersey. Today less than 1% of that vast ecosystem survives. About 65,000 acres remain in Texas with a minuscule 100 acres in Louisiana.

A group of twenty-four members of our chapter visited a fifty-one acre remnant of that 9.5 million acres, the Lawther-Deer Park Prairie.



Photo by Frank Budny

We obtained approval to visit the site from The Native Prairies Association of Texas, the current owner. They provided two "Meadowlarks" (guides) to take us through the site.

It is said that getting there is half the fun. Well in this case getting there took most of the planning. The site is located in Deer Park; surrounded on three sides by housing subdivisions and on the fourth by a cemetery. Parking is tight so we met at a strip-mall about six blocks away and car-pooled to the site. Access is across the

lawn of a subdivision house that came with the property.

This piece of prairie is called a "wet prairie" and with all the recent rains it certainly lived up to its' name. Rubber boots were not a necessity but certainly helped. Once on the site, the surrounding houses and street noises fade and go unnoticed. There is so much to see.

The number and range of plants is over-whelming. Most of the bluestem grasses are represented plus many varieties of paspalum, salvias of all kinds, native Texas milkweed and too many flowering plants to count. To date, almost 350 plant species have been identified from trees to ground covers.



Photo by Chuck Snyder

Unfortunately, the site bears the signs of human presence. St. Augustine grass has spread from the back yards of the surrounding houses and the invasive Chinese tallow can be seen in a "tallow mottes" and growing as low bushes among the native plants. Much work needs to be done to rid the site of invasives but, it will be well worth the effort.

Keep Looking Up by Diane Humes

Hawk Watch is finished for the 2015 season and, as with Turtle Patrol, few animals were seen. But, wildlife monitoring is not for the faint of heart and we must always be prepared for anything.

So, thanks to Mike Wehrman, who noticed a report of a most interesting wildlife sighting - a California condor in Los Alamos, NM! This is a confirmed sighting and pretty exciting news - probably the first California condor in New Mexico in recorded history! And Texas could be next!

The condor was spotted in birder Joe Fitzgibbon's back yard, being harassed by ravens on April 25, 2015. Joe knew it couldn't be a turkey vulture - no red head. It had a large N8 radiotransmitter tag on its wing, so he knew it had to be a condor and contacted the Peregrine Fund, which is monitoring condors in Arizona and Utah.

The Peregrine Fund folks were glad to hear from Joe; bird N8, a teenager, had been released in the Grand Canyon, but had been missing and feared lost since February.



California condors were nearly extinct due to poaching, lead poisoning, and habitat loss; in 1987, the remaining 22 wild birds were captured in order to save the species. After only a few years of captive breeding, condors were reintroduced into the wild in 1991. Bird numbers have gradually but steadily increased, with a continued breeding and release program, and birds are beginning to spread out, especially young ones.

Today there are five active release sites for condors: Grand Canyon's Vermillion Cliffs in Arizona, Big Sur, Pinnacles National Park, Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, all in California, and Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park in Baja California, Mexico. The total population is 425 birds, of which 219 live in the wild and 206 are in captivity at San Diego Wild Animal Park, the Los Angeles Zoo, the Oregon Zoo, and the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho.

California condors, with the largest wingspan of any North American bird, are more often mistaken for distant small airplanes than other birds. Hawk watchers take note: the white wing patches on the leading edge of the wing contrast with turkey vultures, most especially if the bird sports a numbered tag on its wing.

So, in your own travels this summer, perhaps you will visit a condor release site or a breeding program site. Wherever you go, keep looking up. Condors often fly huge distances searching for food - up to 160 miles. And juveniles have been known to wander. Might even decide to visit Texas.

June Bugs by Diane Humes

"He jumped on me like a duck on a June bug."

The June bug landed on the bed and my cat went on alert, all his muscles tense; he was ready to pounce. I had thought I was ready for sleep, but instead bravely ushered the insect - don't call them bugs - out the door where he belonged.

Also known as June beetles or May beetles, June bugs are scarab beetles, members of the genus *Phyllophaga*, boasting more than 260 species. The name comes from two Greek words: phyllo, meaning "leaf" and phagos, meaning "eater"; thus, June bugs are "leaf-eaters". And, the particular species that flew in the room in late March - first time it was warm enough to open the door! and attracted my cat's attention, was *Phyllophaga crinita* - "leaf-eater with hairy tufts".

Phyllophaga crinita, is noticeably hairy, with 10-segmented antennae, reddish-brown in color, about an inch long, more or less, with no particular markings. Adult beetles are nocturnal and attracted to lights - hence, their fondness for my house windows on that warm night and streetlights - perhaps dying after too-long exposure to light - explaining the piles of dead beetles found under porch lights. June beetles are found in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Iowa, and Missouri and, in Mexico,

Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Chihuahua; they are most common in Texas and Tamaulipas.



The life cycle of a June beetle or May beetle (why did I see them in March?), takes about a year, although colder temperatures in northern areas may prolong the life cycle to two or more years. Adults become active in spring and summer, when temperatures warm, emerging from the ground to mate. They sometimes fly in large numbers, but are harmless, feeding on foliage of trees and shrubs, generally doing little damage. Females lay eggs underground in mid-summer, then die.

The eggs hatch after about 18 days as white grubs which grow to the familiar whitish, curved creatures with the brown/black heads commonly found in our gardens. The grubs molt twice before winter, and over-winter in the grub stage, becoming active on warm days, but live in the soil feeding on the roots of plants. Following pupation, the adults appear in late spring and summer and the cycle continues.

The larval stages are the potentially destructive ones, as far as people are concerned. White grubs especially love the roots of grasses and cereals, most especially Bermuda grass, and St. Augustine, earning the hatred of lawn warriors and golf course managers. Large numbers of June beetle grubs can do significant damage, which has led to chemical warfare and all other sorts of paranoia. To protect your own little piece of heaven, keep your turf healthy - water deeply to encourage deep root growth, and mow the grass high and less often, mulching the clippings on the lawn.

Crows like to eat white grubs; an indication of their presence might be flocks of crows poking into the grass or peeling it back to get to the grubs. Other grub predators include wasps, nematodes, amphibians, moles, skunks, and armadillos.

Grubs may be tasty, but adults are gobbled up. One spectacular flight of adult June beetles occurred in late summer in Georgia, as witnessed by Todd Schneider of the Georgia DNR, who reported:

“...I visited the site...where Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites have been congregating and feeding on June bugs. I arrived at 9am and was greeted by a spectacular site, ten swallow-tails soaring, banking, and plunging after June bugs. This went on for about ten minutes and then the birds caught a thermal and disappeared. At that point I thought they were gone for good, but they reappeared several minutes later... By this

time the number of Swallow-tails had grown to 12-13 and there were about 5-6 Mississippi's mixed in..soon we had 25-30 Swallow-tails and 20 Mississippi's....by about 11:10am the show was over - or so I thought. As I walked to my truck, a single Mississippi appeared and began to swoop over the field. Soon there was another and another. Within minutes there were a dozen. At noon a lone Swallow-tail joined them and soon after that 5 more Swallow-tails. What a sight! At 12:30 I had to leave for home, but the Swallow-tails and Mississippi's were still feeding over the field. This is certainly one of the coolest birding experiences a person could have.”

I think all Master Naturalists could relate to three and a half hours of Swallow-tail and Mississippi Kites swooping around our heads catching June bugs!

People don't always appreciate June bugs.

This innocuous insect that neither bites nor stings was once blamed for a mysterious flu-like illness. Whether a June beetle was even found is in dispute, but an epidemic broke out in a US textile factory in 1962. Flu-like symptoms were reported and the news spread through the factory that a bug had bitten the victims. A total of sixty-two employees developed this illness; some were hospitalized; most stayed home for days to recuperate. Fifty of the sixty-two cases occurred after the news reported the story. With no evidence at all of anything to cause this illness, the final verdict was hysterical contagion - poor June bug!

So, don't get excited or upset when the June bugs beat on the windows or when you dig a few up on the garden. They won't hurt you and maybe the kites will come around looking for them.

“It is better to be a young June-bug than an old bird of paradise”
- Mark Twain

Beach & Bay - Come Out to Play Day by Rick Becker

Well, the big buildup is over and Beach & Bay - Come Out to Play 2015 is now just a memory. I hope it is as good memory for each of you as it is for me. The weather was absolutely perfect and everything went off without a hitch. Many of the visitors went out of their way to express their thanks for the volunteers taking time to offer such a fun and educational event. But even beyond the fun, our park visitors learned how to enjoy nature responsibly and, hopefully that is a lesson that will stick.

We had a total of 755 visitors for the day, which is 255 more visitors than we had last year. While the beach



Photo by Alan Wilde



Photo by Helle Brown

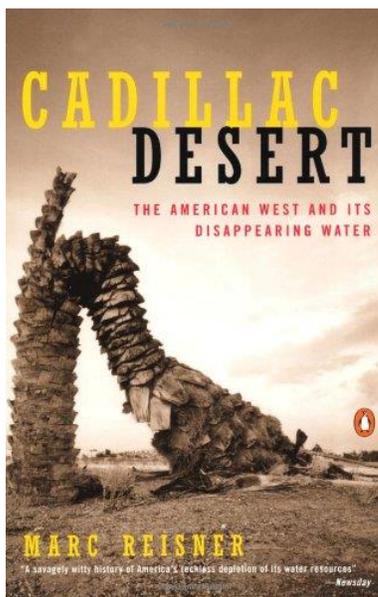
was the biggest draw, we had a steady flow of people throughout the park for most of the day. All of you made this day a memorable one for each of them.

The Beach & Bay committee will meet in the next few weeks to conduct an after action review of the event and planning process. We will look at what went well, what did not go well and what we can improve for the future. I would appreciate any feedback from the volunteers so we can continue to improve and build on what we have accomplished.

Again, all of the Beach & Bay committee would like to express our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers and all of the park staff. It was your enthusiasm, creativity and dedication that made this event a success. I hope to see you all at Beach & Bay - Come Out to Play 2016!

Heritage Book Study – Selections for 2015 by Madeleine K. Barnes

We are currently reading *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water* by Marc Reisner and we will wrap up our reading of the final third of this book for discussion on June 1st.



You probably have seen various news stories about the California drought that is ongoing. What do you know of the water history of California and the large semi-arid region that is that state? Ever hear of the St. Francis dam and what happened when it failed? The death toll was higher than from the San Francisco earthquake yet many have never heard of it. Follow the pursuit of water by almost any means to stay ahead of the increasing needs by agriculture for irrigation and the growing populace.

How did this all develop and what part did the rivalry between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Army Engineers play in the efforts to capture and control water supplies and at what financial and environmental cost? Are there lessons here for all of us? Pick this book up and read it for the final discussion in June.

The remaining selections for 2015 are listed below and the first half of the book is to be read prior to the first meeting listed and the second half is to be read for the second meeting listed.

- *Grass* by Joe C. Truett - July 6th & Aug. 3rd
- *Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver* by J. Frank Dobie - Sept. 14th & Oct. 5th
- *Adventures of a Frontier Naturalist: The Life and Times of Gideon Lincecum* by Jerry Bryan Lincecum - Nov 2nd & Dec. 7th

Are there books that you are interested in learning more about as a master naturalist? Or is there an author that you want to read more of their writing? Would you enjoy some lively discussion and exploring differing perspectives with your reading? Then take a moment to send the title and author's name to dwbmkb@aol.com for consideration as a possible selection for the Heritage Book Study in 2016 and come join us to read, learn, discuss, and earn advanced training hours too. We welcome your participation each month for two hours on the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00a.m. at the Agrilife Extension office. If the first Monday is a holiday, then we meet the following Monday as is the case in September when we will meet on the 14th. We look forward to seeing you!

Our New Reporting Tool – Volunteer Management System (VMS) by Jim Duron

Volunteer Management System, VMS, is a network-based database system, based on the Samaritan Software Package, which is used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as its volunteer reporting system. Our leaders at TMN have decided that all chapters will report their volunteer and advanced training hours using VMS. Currently their goal calls for the complete transition to VMS by the end of 2015 for all TMN chapters.

Chapter members: please continue to report your volunteer hours on the existing chapter Excel spreadsheet. We have not yet made this transition!

A team of seven chapter representatives - Beth Cooper, Julie Massey, Helen Mueller, Jo Monday, Chuck Snyder, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, and team lead Jim Duron - has been working hard on the initial setup for this transition. Also, a representative from another chapter is assisting the transition team.

During the month of April, the team reviewed VMS documents and activities necessary for the chapter to begin entering hours. With a list of tasks in hand, the team generated a project plan to schedule and track the progress of the transition.

For the first step, the VMS team gathered member information and entered the data into VMS-defined spreadsheets for bulk loading into the system. Because of a very short timeframe, the decision was made to enter all the active members from 2014 and the new 2015 class. Ultimately, every member of the chapter,

since its inception, will be entered for tracking the chapter's volunteer hours.

(This is a big job - thanks to everyone for all the hard work, especially Helen Mueller!!!)

During the months of May and June, the team will be establishing the infrastructure members need to enter their own volunteer hours. The current goal is to define most of the volunteer service and advanced training activities, now called opportunities, to enter into the system and generate training packages to support the transition. The VMS team projects member training and data entry to begin this summer, hopefully, in late June or early July.

**Volunteers don't get paid,
not because they're worthless,
but because they're priceless!**

– Sherry Anderson

The VMS team is setting up training sessions for chapter members. **We will all be trained in the new system!** The sessions will include all of the information that members will need to log into the system and begin reporting their volunteer hours. Yes, there will be some bumps on the road, but we will work them out as a community when they happen. We will continue to provide updates about the system and the chapter's progress in the coming weeks.

The Power of Food, Fun, and Friendship; Words from the Class of 2015

Wonderful!

My naturalist brain is happy!

Lunch was fantastic; everyone was so friendly.

Would like to be outside longer.

What is a naturalist?

Amphibians are neat.

Perfection gets in the way of Greatness.

I'm really going to like this.

Great food! Friendly folks!



Photo by Chuck Snyder



Photo by Vic Madamba

Excellent! Only improvement would be to have it go a little longer.

Awesome! Love Julie so so much!

The fun, excitement and enthusiasm for this class that I have seen on the faces of my classmates have brought back many memories of my kids in class many years ago.

I feel like a child with a toy box with the Master Naturalist program.

Awesome! Can't wait to plant.

Plankton is very exciting. Had so much fun!

A learning experience that was very very fun!

Awesome!! Makes you want to volunteer!

Plankton is more than a word.

Texas has coral reefs!

Longer!!!

Fish printing is fun.

Absolutely the best! No improvements!



Photo by Helle Brown

Spring Hawk Watch by Lynn Wright

The 20th year of the Sylvan Beach Spring Hawk Watch has come to a close.

From March 1st to May 1st, hawk watchers reported 4,742 migrating raptors: 339 Turkey Vultures, 196 Black Vultures, 19 Swallow-tailed Kites, 1,678 Mississippi Kites, 28 Cooper's Hawks, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 2,362 Broad-winged Hawks, 67 Swainson's Hawks, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Northern Harrier, 22 Osprey, and 27 unknown raptors.

A rainy April made counting the migrating raptors on their trek north challenging this year. There were days without any raptors and there were days like April 29th, when 2,781 raptors flew over Sylvan Beach -- over half of the raptors counted this year. Although the Broad-winged Hawk and Mississippi Kite counts were lower than average this year, the number of Swallow-tailed Kites was one of the highest.



Photo by Lynn Wright

Many thanks to all who watched, waited, and counted this season.



Photo by Alan Wilde



Photo by Alan Wilde



Photo by Chuck Snyder

Texas Master Naturalists -
 Changing Texas
 one hour at a time!
 – Dick Benoit



Photo by Chuck Snyder



Photo by Chuck Snyder



Photo by Alan Wilde

Guppies from Julie

Recently at a meeting at Texas A&M Galveston, I sat among some of the top researchers in the state vying for Texas Sea Grant research dollars. The experience reminded me of how unique Sea Grant is across the nation!

Texas Sea Grant is a collaboration of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the State of Texas and universities across the state. It is part of NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program, a network of 33 university-based programs in coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam. Headquartered at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas Sea Grant has staff located at Texas A&M University at Galveston and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and in communities along the coast (that's me and my compadres).

Nationally, Sea Grant concentrates on four focus areas. These areas are critical to the health and vitality of the nation's communities and coastal resources. They include:

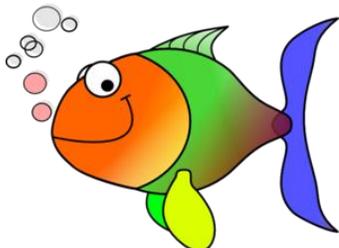
- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems,
- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture,
- Resilient Communities and Ecosystems,
- Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development.

As I visited with the researchers about how to inform the public of their research, the conversation always turned toward "the amazing Texas Master Naturalists!" The field trips, restoration activities, Junior Naturalist programs and more that you implement educates others about our unique coastal resources. These researchers recognize that partnering with Texas Master Naturalists is one of the best ways to share their research results with the public!

Texas Sea Grant's mission is to improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of Texas coastal and marine resources.

Texas Master Naturalists help Texas Sea Grant accomplish this mission!

Thank you!



The Midden

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Comments? Suggestions? Want to join the team? Contact: Diane Humes at treimanhumes@earthlink.net.

Midden Editorial Team

Steve Alexander	Comm. Team Chair
Diane Humes	Editor
Carolyn Miles	Production Editor
Chuck Snyder	Photo Editor
Madeleine K. Barnes	Proofreading Editor

The Midden Deadline for the next issue

July 6th

If you have Advanced Training or Volunteer Opportunities, please submit information to Cindy Howard, howardc@uhcl.edu

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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.

June and July Activities

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter Meeting - June 4th

Mobilizing for Monarchs: Public and Private Action for Conserving Monarch Butterflies

Presenter: Jaime Gonzalez with Katy Prairie Conservancy

6:30 Social, 7:00 Presentation, 8:00 business meeting
AgriLife Extension Office 1 Hour AT

Plant Taxonomy - June 18th

9a.m. - Noon 3 hours AT, limit 50

Location: Extension Office

Presenters - Diane Humes

Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Sea Center Texas - July 16th

9a.m. - 3p.m. 4 hours AT, limit 24

Location: Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson

Car pools to be determined

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. AgriLife Extension Office

10am-Noon 2 hours AT

Contact: Elsie Smith (409)945-4731

We are currently reading: *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water* by Marc Reisner

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 -

- Stormwater Wetland Team, every Thursday, 9 - Noon. Contact: Contact: Mary Carol Edwards mary.edwards@agnet.tamu.edu
- 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 Stennie Meadors Stenmead@aol.com

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 - June 2, July 7

2-4p.m. at the Extension Office

Committee Meetings

Communication - July 7

9-Noon at Extension office

Advanced Training - June 15, July 20

10-Noon at Extension office

Education/Outreach - June 16, July 21

10 to 11:30a.m. at Extension office

Stewardship - Meets quarterly. Next meeting to be determined

