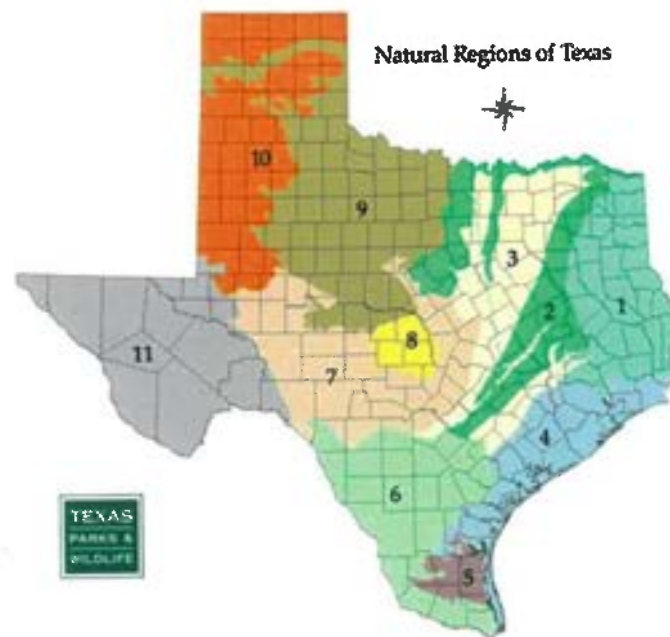




Galveston Bay  
Area Chapter  
Texas Master  
Naturalist  
2023 Scrapbook



# Recertificación PIN TEXAS Ecoregions



1. Pinewoods
2. Oak Woods & Prairies
3. Blackland Prairies
4. Gulf Coast Prairies & Marshes
5. Coastal Sand Plains
6. South Texas Brush Country
7. Edwards Plateau
8. Llano Uplift
9. Rolling Plains
10. High Plains
11. Trans Pecos

# 2023 New Class



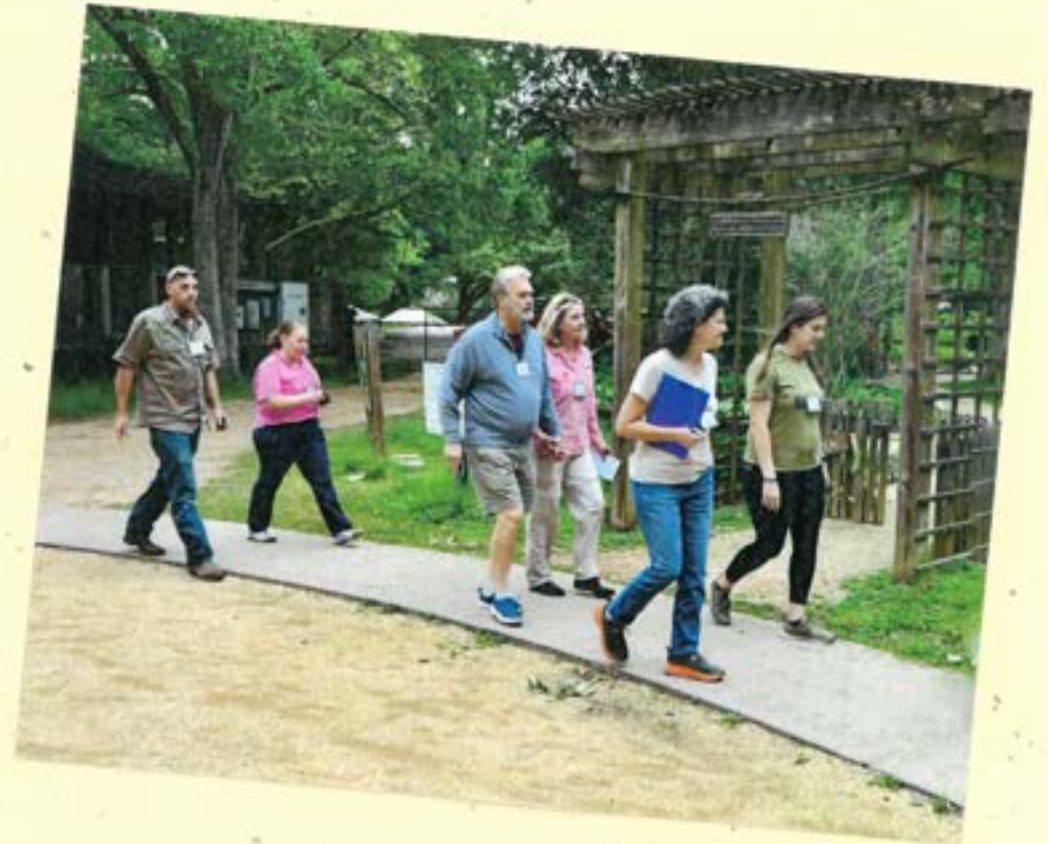
# 2023 New Class



# 2023 New Class



# 2023 New Class



# New Class 2023 Field Experiences



# New Class 2023 Field Experiences





# New Class 2023 Field Experiences



# New Class 2023 Field Experiences







# CAMP WILD



# CAMP WILD



# Beach Heroes

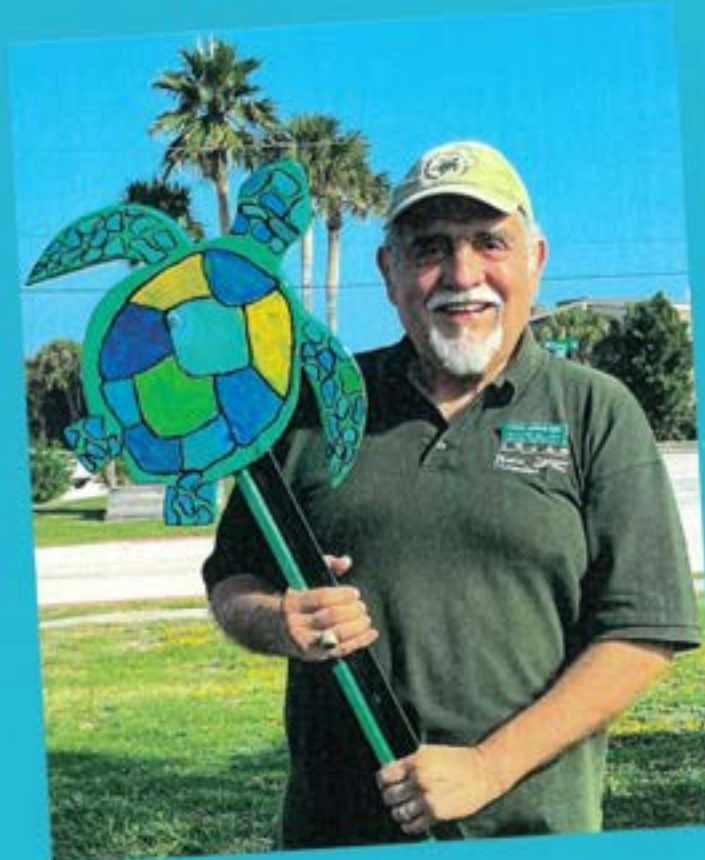


# Beach Heroes





# Beach Heroes



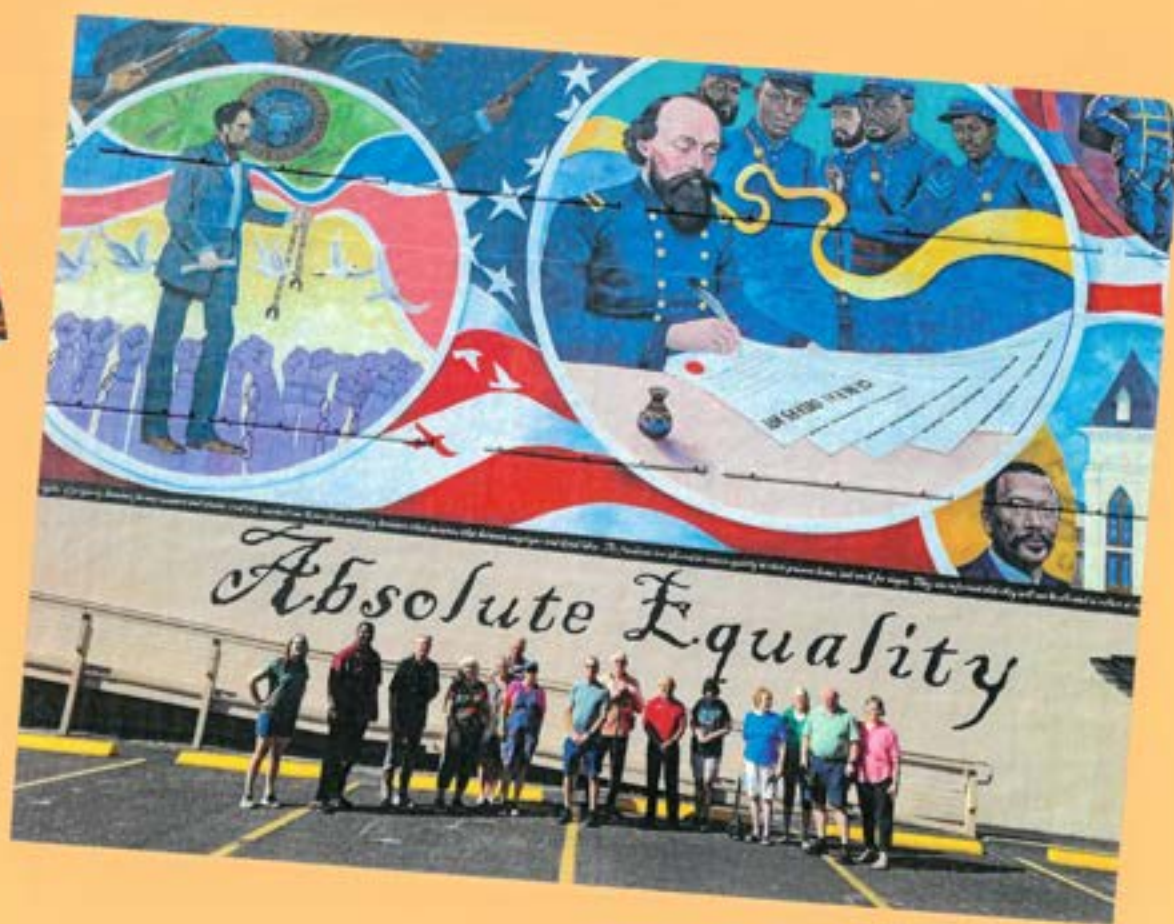
# Beach Heroes



# League City Weather Station



# NIA Cultural Center Tour and Talk







# Outreach



# Outreach





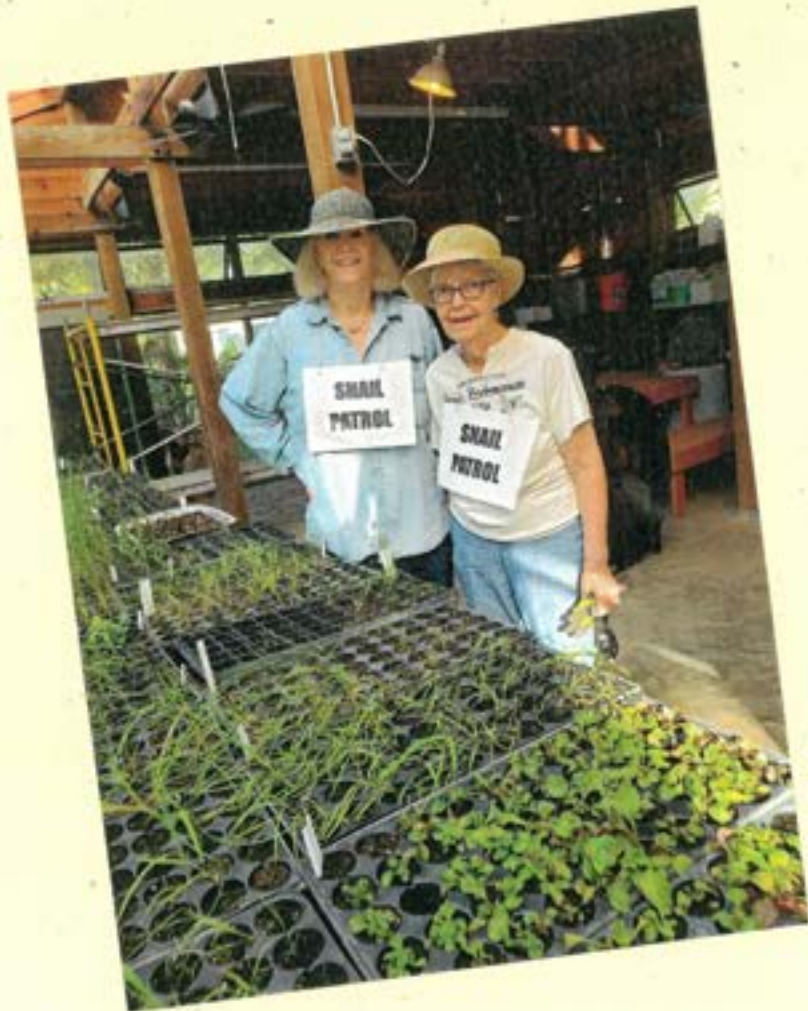
# Hawk Watch



# Hawk Watch



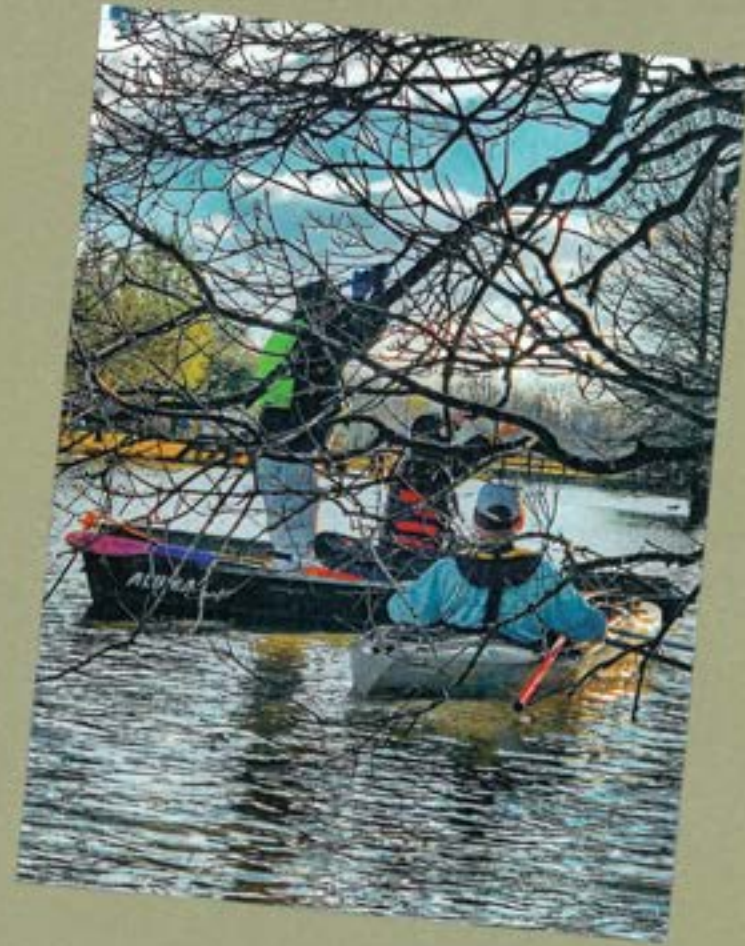
# Armand Bayou Nature Center



# ABNC Firefly Research



# Resoft Park



# Dick Benoit Prairie





1

Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve

## PRESERVE WHAT YOU LOVE

*Maintaining League City's natural resources requires planning and partnerships. As we grow in population, we want to ensure our green spaces are nurtured and that we foster a community respectful of these vital habitats. Learn about some of the measures we are taking to care for our local environment.*

### A Glance into League City's Conservation & Preservation Efforts

#### 1 Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve

Back in early 2022, the Galveston Bay Area Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists reached out to John Orsag—a 25-year veteran of League City's Parks Department and head of the City's conservation efforts—for permission to clear the 44-acre Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve of invasive species and identify plants on the prairie.

Orsag was eager to work with the group, and they planned several workdays to identify plants and clear the invasive Chinese Tallow trees that were threatening to choke out native species. Through their efforts, the prairie—located south of League City Parkway and directly east of Mar Bella Parkway—became a certified Texas Native Prairie in late 2022. The City continues to partner with the Master Naturalists to maintain the health and vitality of the prairie. To-date, there have been more than 200 different plant species identified within this thriving ecosystem.

#### 2 Dr. Ned and Fay Dudney Clear Creek Nature Center

This 148-acre nature preserve was created as the result of a land acquisition in 2005, using grant funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The purpose of the Nature Center is to protect a variety of important local habitats, including:

- 51 Acres of Coastal Riparian Forest
- 24 Acres of Remnant Coastal Prairie
- 21 Acres of Estuarine Mixed Wetlands
- 52 Acres of Estuarine Wetlands

League City's Parks Operations Department partners with local groups and experts—including the Galveston Bay Foundation and the League City Garden Club—to protect and maintain this site. Along with shoreline restoration following severe damage from



## Did You Know?

Less than 1% of Texas Coastal Prairie lands remain intact. Coastal prairie ecosystems are essential wildlife habitats and play a vital role in the health of our local ecosystem. They provide flood control, water filtration, carbon storage, and pollinator support.

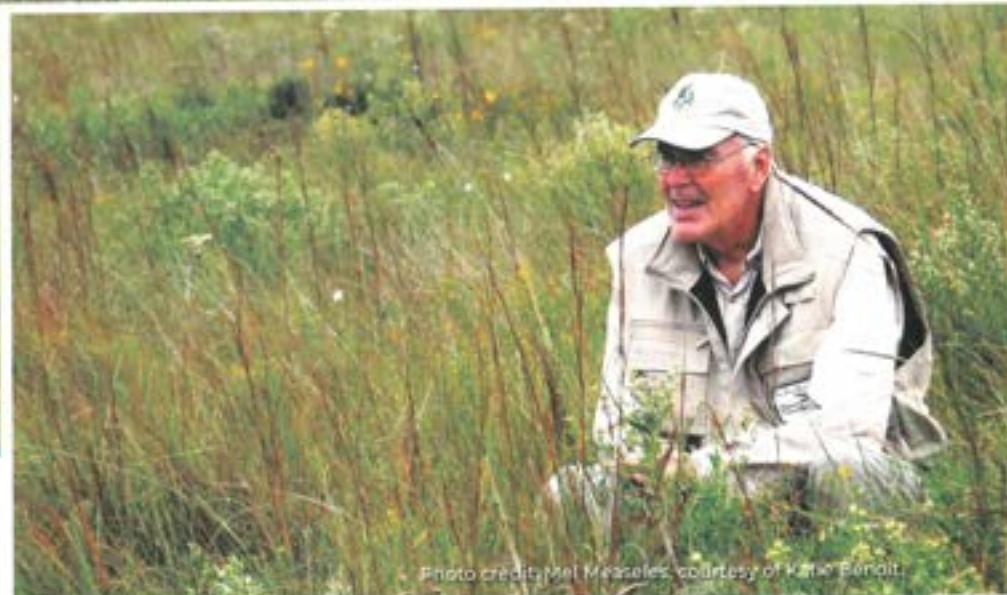


Photo credit: Mel Measeles, courtesy of Katie Benoit.



past hurricanes, efforts are also underway to restore 11 acres of coastal prairie land on the property. In the fall of 2019, work began to remove invasive Chinese Tallow trees. Following the invasive species removal, staff and contractors seeded the entire 11-acre site with coastal prairie plants and wildflowers. In November 2022, the Galveston Bay Foundation donated more than 500 coastal prairie plants to help with the restoration project and will be donating at least 500 more in the fall of 2023. Additionally, The League City Garden Club has been instrumental in cleaning and tending to the on-site butterfly garden, where Monarchs come to lay eggs.

Dick Benoit was a Texas Master Naturalist and League City resident until his passing in September 2022 at the age of 86. He was known throughout the community for his love of nature and was a founding member of the Galveston Bay Area Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. He even coined their motto—Food, Fun, and Friendship! Benoit was one of the first Texas Master Naturalists in the state to serve 10,000 volunteer hours—a testament to his enthusiasm and devotion to

preserving and protecting Texas native habitats and wildlife. The Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve was named in his honor, acknowledging his dedication to our precious coastal prairie habitats.



**Watch here for more about Dick Benoit & his legacy.**



# 2023 Board of Directors

Elected	
President	Pam House
Vice President	Gene Fisseler
Treasurer	Meade LeBlanc
Secretary	Cynthia Hughes

Training Class Representatives	
Spring 2022 Class	Vivian Allen
	Lisa Hardcastle
Fall 2022 Class	Abhi Prasad
	Laura Clark



Appointed	
Volunteer Service (VS) Projects Director	Jo Monday / Kathy Tamer
Advanced Training (AT) Director	Mike Pettit
Membership Director	Patty Trimmingham / Tracy Walpole
Spring Class Director	Diane Humes
Fall Class Director	Gene Fisseler
Communications Director	Mary Doberstine
Sponsor	Julie Massey
Past President	<open>
State Chapter Rep.	Pam House
Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Director	Mohammed Nasrullah