



Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists

Prairie Partner Update

May 2013

Welcome to the first monthly edition of *Prairie Partner Update* that lists volunteering opportunities with our community partners in need of your help. We have also included learning activities that will count toward your advanced training. While we make every effort to list activities that can be used for volunteer hours and advanced training, we realize that not every one is included here. Consult the [Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist calendar](http://bptmn.org/calendar/) (<http://bptmn.org/calendar/>) for other options. The approved activities for volunteering and education, listed by both type and by partner, can be found at <http://bptmn.org/info/project-opportunities/>.

Following are activities listed by date, partner name, a contact name, email, phone, project time frame, a brief description of the project and a link to the Web site.

Volunteer Hours

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

City of Plano - Contact Nancy Davis,
ndavis6@verizon.net

The City of Plano is looking for volunteers to move flagged plants to a different part of Oak Point Park. There is a deadline to have all the plants moved by May 1. Meet at 9:30 on **April 23, April 24 and April 26.** Park in the fire department parking lot, which is located on Los Rios north of Parker Road, and walk south on the west side of the road to an ornamental gate. Bring a shovel, bucket, gloves, hat, water and a wagon or wheelbarrow.

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Nature-related photos taken by you are welcome for possible publication in this newsletter. Please email photos to eastbluff@verizon.net.

Did you know that by attending the board meeting you can earn volunteer hours? The meeting is held the Thursday before the BPMN monthly meeting at 6 p.m. at Lifecare Hospital, 6800 Preston Rd., Plano.

If you are not sure if an activity you have come across elsewhere qualifies for hours, contact Vickie Hamrick at vsp@bptmn.org.

Volunteer Hours (continued)

[Blackland Prairie Raptor Center](http://www.bpraptorcenter.org) (www.bpraptorcenter.org) Most projects are ongoing.

Contact Erich Neupert

erich.neupert@bpraptorcenter.org, 469-964-9696, for current projects and dates

Animal care - assist in cage cleaning and feeding of birds of prey

Construction - assist in construction of rehab flight cages and hospital as well as maintaining facilities

Public interaction - engage public in activities to introduce them to raptors on the first Saturday

Prairie rehab - assist in planting and continuing care of prairie

Gardening - preparing and maintaining garden area

[Collin County Adventure Camp](http://www.collincountyadventurecamp.org). (www.collincountyadventurecamp.org)

Contact Ron Bamberg, rbamberg@gmail.com, 972.832.4791. The camp needs trail guides to lead nature walks for children and adults. Ongoing

[Connemara Meadow](http://Connemaraconservancy.org) (Connemaraconservancy.org)

Contact Bob Mione, 214-534-1900, meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org

Invasive removal - Requires minimum training and prior scheduling with the POC below. Training can occur the day of scheduled activity. Must bring work/garden gloves, insect repellent and appropriate sun protection. Normally scheduled at the same day/time as the Meadow Open House (fourth Sunday of each month, noon until 5), but can be scheduled based on volunteer's availability. Check the Connemara web site (Connemaraconservancy.org) for Open House days/times during the summer months. Liability waiver signature required.

[Heard Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary](http://www.Heardmuseum.org) (www.Heardmuseum.org) — The following are ongoing projects at the Heard.

Contact Wes Morrow, Wesmorrow39@yahoo.com, 832-332-9099, for any of these five:

Native Reptile Care - assisting and spotting for feeding, cage cleaning, etc., twice weekly, Tuesday and Saturday. Includes contact with museum guests and learning about native Texas snakes, including pit vipers.

Native Mammal Care - assisting and spotting for feeding, cage cleaning, etc.

Sanctuary - invasive plant elimination, trail maintenance & construction

Bird Banding - prior banding experience preferred, training required

Outreach

Contact Dave Powell, Powell1217@yahoo.com, to find out more about these two at the Heard:

Maintain gardens twice monthly - 1st Thurs. & 1st Sat., working with Native Plant Society and Master Gardeners

Trail Guides - days vary, training required

The Heard requires a [volunteer application](#) and a background check to be on file with volunteer coordinator Beverly Halperin. Master Naturalists get expedited processing. We ask that you attend a volunteer orientation when available. Be sure to check in with the appropriate personnel before any work is performed.

Advanced Training Classes

Texas A&M AGRILIFE Research Extension, Dallas Center. [To register and for more information](#), see <http://dallas.tamu.edu>

May 14 Drip Irrigation DIY, 6 to 8 p.m.

May 16 Container Gardening, 10 a.m. to 12. p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

May 28 Composting, 6 to 8 p.m.

Plano Environmental Education Center. [Online registration](#) required for all classes and tours.
www.Livegreeninplano.obsres.com

May 18, Third Saturday tour, 9:30 to 11 a.m.: Texas SmartScape for Beginners, free. Learn simple, effective landscaping practices to reduce water waste. From appropriate plant selection to landscape design layout, enjoy an up-close view of Texas-friendly native and adapted plants.

This and That

Jim Varnum offers a newsletter listing nature-related activities — some which can be used for advanced training. ViewS it at http://ntmn.org/new/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=13&Itemid=4