January 15, 2015
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Coastal Prairie Chapter Courier

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We are a group of trained volunteers who share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Diane Russell

A new year begins, bringing with it a new Board of Directors ready to get to the work of planning and organizing our activities. We have an impressive group of Board members this year, each uniquely qualified for his or her position. If you see them, please give them a big thanks for stepping into these positions of responsibility, which can sometimes be demanding and time-consuming:

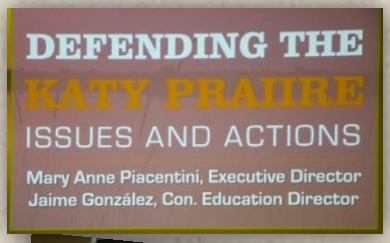
President: Diane Russell
Vice-President: Carol Pawelek
Secretary: Sharon Smith
Treasurer: Linda Lourim
Past President: Jim Butcher
Program Chair: Georgia Messemer
Communications Chair (Website/Courier): Lynn Trenta
Communications Co-chair (Bulletin): Susan Walther
Membership Chair: Reene Spahr
Membership Co-chair: Carrie Sample
Publicity Chair: Chad Norvell
VSP/Outreach Chair: Michelle Sullivan
VSP/Outreach Co-chair: Julie Near
Training Class Co-chairs: Than Calvin, Wayne Helbert, and Lisa Feighery
Advanced Training Co-chairs: Cyd Johnson and Jane Schnell

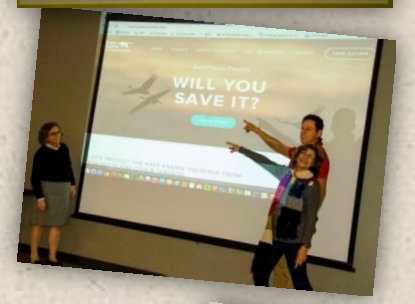
On Saturday, January 10, a retreat was held at Karl Baumgartner's property near Rosenberg for us to discuss past and future issues impacting the Chapter. We are hopeful that this "idea session" will lead to some new and innovative approaches to fulfilling our Chapter's mission goals, which are to provide **education, outreach** and **service** for the beneficial management of our natural resources. While we'll be strongly focused on community outreach and service this year, know that we value any contribution by each member and want everyone to find enjoyment and fulfillment in the type of service that resonates best. We are all volunteers, and life is too short for our work not to be both meaningful and enjoyable.

Better communications among members and, later in the year, new trainees, is another goal we have set. You may expect to hear occasionally from someone on our Membership Committee just to see if you have questions or concerns, or to ask if you would like to assist in some area of endeavor. We hope to have established members help mentor our fall trainees, for example. We will have two General Membership meetings this year where we provide a forum for members to discuss their pet projects and for others to find places they might be interested in plugging in to.

So stay tuned and let any of us know if you have ideas to share or want to participate in any way on one of our committees.

Proposed Highway 36A Impact on Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC)





At our January program, Mary Anne Piacentini, KPC Executive Director, and Jaime Gonzales, KPC Conservation Education Director, gave a rapid-fire, impassioned account of the challenges being faced by KPC in the near future. These are challenges not only for those invested in the goals of KPC, but ultimately will impact wildlife, migrating birds, residents of Waller County, downstream watersheds in Harris County, and all Texans who go to their properties to hike, hunt, bird watch, visit a prairie, or just enjoy relief from the congestion that is steadily encroaching upon all of our westward areas.

We learned that plans are being considered not just for highway construction near or across their conserved lands, but also power lines and a Dallas-Houston bullet train. Any of these proposed developments placed even in proximity to KPC properties would contribute to land fragmentation and noise, light and water pollution in one of the few remaining areas close to Houston that still represents a piece of our pristine Texas landscape. KPC is trying to protect and enhance these lands in their natural state for the generations that follow us to continue to enjoy and benefit from.

If you would like to learn more about these impending developments and what you can do to help, go to their website, www.saveourprairie.com. There you can find in-depth information, including maps of proposed projects.

Diane Russell, President

Photos by Ron Spahr

Seabourne Creek Park 2015 Projects

Volunteering opportunities are available at Seabourne. To help with the Prairie Demo Garden contact Mark Morgenstern at morgy@consolidated.net or Lynn Trenta at lynn@txtrentas.com. If you want to help with the Butterfly Garden contact Lea Hyman at slhyman1983@yahoo.com. For other volunteer opportunities email Karl Baumgartner at kbum@pdq.net.

Karl Baumgartner, Seabourne Creek Nature Park Project Manager, has proposed the following projects for the park this upcoming year:

- Greenhouse for native prairie restoration
- Covered picnic tables, family picnic area
- Paths and trails
- Irrigation
- Seabourne Lake and trees
- Prairie restoration & bird sanctuary
- Signage – 3 interpretive signs and plant & tree identifications signs
- Prairie Heritage Festival
- Outreach projects
- Administrative

Thank you, Karl, for your continued support of Seabourne Creek Nature Park and the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists.

Roseate Spoonbill among Birds Spotted on Bird Hike

The January Bird Hike at Seabourne Creek Nature Park was another successful venture. Twenty-two folks, including eleven guests, enjoyed seeing a total of 50 species, including this Roseate Spoonbill flying along the creek and into the wetlands."

To find the latest bird list, now at 183, go to CPTMN Website Homepage or attached to this newsletter.

Brazos Bend State Park Friday Morning Bird Hikes

All guided bird hikes will meet at 40 Acre Lake parking lot at 8:30 am. Hikes will be led by park naturalist and trained volunteers. All levels of experience are welcome. Bring your binoculars.

2014 - 2015 Schedule

Friday, January 23, 2015
Friday, February 20, 2015
Friday, March 13, 2015
Friday, March 27, 2015
Friday, April 10, 2015
Friday, April 17, 2015
Friday, May 8, 2015
Friday, May 22, 2015

These hikes are free of charge after regular park admission.
Hikes are subject to change without notice. Please check our website at www.brazosbend.org for changes or cancellations. View the current Bird Sightings or Ebird Hotspot Brazos Bend SP (UTC 117)

Chapter Members Achieve Milestones, Certify, and Recertify

There were 21 Initial Certifications this year, 45 Re-certification, 9 – 250 Milestones, 4 – 500 Milestones, 3 – 1,000 Milestones, and 1 – 2,500 Milestone
We started with 94 members, added 17 Members-in-Training for a total of 111 Members. 9,396 Volunteer Hours were submitted and there were 1,154 Advanced Training Hours.
139 Outreach Events with 62 Direct and 77 Indirect

2,500 Milestones
Jim Butcher

1,000 Milestones
Don Johnson, Lynn Trenta, Than Colvin

500 Milestones
Rick Adams, Susan Archer, Pat Mollere, Bob Schwartz

250 Milestones
Teresa Bailey, Stella Davison, Johnny Fife, Bill Johnson, Leon Macha, Carol Pawelek, Linda Rude, Bill Sewell, Susan Walther

2014 Re-Certification
Rick Adams, Susan Archer Teresa Bailey, Karl Baumgartner, Jim Brannon, Jim Butcher, Jerry Carpenter, Than Colvin, Rick Davison, Stella Davison, Diane Eismont, Jamie Fairchild, Marianne Feeney, Johnny Fife, Toni Huff, Lea Hyman, Bill Johnson, Don Johnson, Penny Johnson, Leon Macha, Lisa Marler, Margo McDowell, Jeff McMullan, Georgia Messemer, Pat Mollere, Gary Moore, Katy Moore, Mark Morgenstern, Carol Pawelek, Donna Pisani, Vicki Poorman, Wayne Poorman, Ramona Ridge, Linda Rippert, Linda Rude, Diane Russell, Carrie Jo Sample, Gloria Scheel, Jane Schnell, Bob Schwartz, Bill Sewell, Doug Simons, Nancy Sparrow, Lynn Trenta, Susan Walther

2013 Fall Class - Initial Certification
Sal Cardenas, Rick Davison, Stella Davison, Marianne Feeney, Lisa Feighery, Wayne Helbert, Nancy Huffman, Cyd Johnson, Linda Lourim, Jeannette Macha, Leon Macha, Amy Norvell, Chad Norvell, Ramona Ridge ,Katie Sallean , Jane Schnell (2014 Class), Sue Schwaller, Reene Spahr, Ron Spahr, Bruce Vest, Jeffrey Wellman

Lisa Marler, 2014 Membership Co-Chair

CPCTMN 2014 --What did We Do Last Year?

1. The Chapter had its **10th anniversary**
2. First prize award for the **Chapter Information Brochure** by Carol Pawelek at the TMN State Meeting
3. **Prairie Heritage Festival** Nov. 1, drew in 645 visitors to Seabourne Creek Nature Park in Rosenberg.
4. The Chapter shared with Rosenberg Parks and Recreation Department an award for **Honorable Mention** by the Houston-Galveston Area Environmental Council for the SCNP wetlands restoration project.
5. Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP) was included for the first time in Texas Parks and Wildlife **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** map. Wayne Poorman states that we are now an e-Bird Destination.
6. The SCNP **Butterfly Garden** continued to draw in butterflies and visitors and added a wildflower patch.
7. The **Bird Sanctuary** The feeders were rebuilt or replaced and native nectar plants and trees were added to ensure a steady supply of food year-round.
8. The **Prairie Demo Garden Volunteers** produced beautiful flowers and grasses and supplied seeds/plants for the Prairie Restoration Project.
9. The **Seabourne Wetlands** continues to be improved with the maturation of aquatic vegetation on the margins, resulting in a large increase in both coastal migrant birds and resident aquatic species. A floating dock to facilitate access to the water for studies was added also.
10. In **Seabourne Prairie**, herbiciding of invasives continued against KR bluestem and other demonic forces. Volunteers planted prairie plants and seeds in the prairie.
11. This year we hosted the **Prairie Restoration Roundup at Seabourne** with the Coastal Prairie Partnership. This event brought 81 landowners and prairie enthusiasts from various parts of Texas.
12. **SCNP Scouting Projects** were manifold and included bluebird nest boxes and interpretative signs, planting 350 grasses & forbs to the Seabourne Prairie, adding new trees, rebuilding shelves in tool shed and building new shed, rebuilding the south dock of Seabourne Lake, installing 6 owl nesting boxes, and removing trash from the property.
13. **Outreach Events**—There were 62 direct and 77 Indirect (totaling 139), were conducted this year, among them:
14. **School Events at Sartoria Science Night, Velasquez Elementary School, and others.**
15. **Interpretive walks** through SCNP with boy scouts and the Holy Rosary 4th Grade
16. **Monarch Waystation** set up at St. Thomas University.
17. **Marvelous Monarchs Presentations** at Velasquez Elementary, Living Word Learning Center, Church of the Holy Apostles or homeschoolers, and the Exchange Club of Rosenberg.
18. **Earth Day Events** in Fulshear, Richmond and Clear Lake highlighting Monarch life cycles and water usage.
19. Skulls & pelts presentation to **Ft. Bend Master Gardener's Earthkind Kids Kamp**.
20. **Fourth of July Celebration in Rosenberg**-MNs manned guided horse-drawn wagon rides.
21. **Ft. Bend County Fair at the AgTivity Barn.**
22. **BOO-Berg Halloween Festival** in Rosenberg teaching about bats
23. **Fulshear Farmer's Market**.

Master Naturalists Win at Fort Bend County Pecan Show

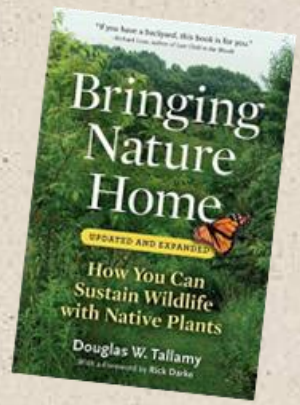
Several Coastal Prairie Chapter Members placed at the recent Fort Bend County Pecan Show. These members' names are highlighted in green in the following list. Seen in the photograph, are: Front row from left: Angie Pavlovsky, **John Cotterell,** Bernie Brezina, Bryan Boshart, Michael Weston and Bill Birdwell. Back row: **Bill Archer**, Dave Gerstenberger, Cliff Bergman, Reggie Ware, Pete Pavlovsky, Malcolm Zurek, Ray Lehrmann, Jim Stepp, Kelly Kehrer**, Gloria Scheel**, Boone Holladay and Becky.

Bill Archer, qualified for and will compete in the Texas State Pecan Show, held in conjunction with the Texas Pecan Growers Association Conference & Trade Show held in June in Frisco.

Doug Tallamy Speaks: A Recommendation

The book "Bringing Nature Home" by Doug Tallamy should be required reading for Master Naturalists as it champions biodiversity in our urban and suburban environments. To learn more about the book and to explore Doug Tallamy's wonderful and practical ideas about growing native plants to "bring nature home" go to: http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/

Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor



As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great. All we need to do is plant native plants!"— ***Doug Tallamy***

CPTMN 2015 Board Members

2015 Officers

President	Diane Russell
Vice President	Carol Pawelek
Secretary	Sharon Smith
Treasurer	Linda Lourim
Past-President	Jim Butcher

2015 Committee Chairs

- Programs Georgia Messemer
- Communications/Website Lynn Trenta and Susan Walther
- Publicity Chad Norvell
- Volunteer Service Projects Michelle Sullivan and Julie Near
- Membership Reene Spahr and Carrie Sample
- Training Than Colvin , Lisa Feighery , Wayne Helbert
- Advanced Training- Cyd Johnson , Jane Schnell

We're on the Web!

See us at:

http://txmn.org/coastal/

New information on Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed---Are We Doing the Right Thing?

New research has shown that growing Mexican Milkweed may be harmful to the Monarch Butterflies, encouraging Oe. To read the article in Science Magazine go to:

http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2015/01/plan-save-monarch-butterflies-backfires

Check out our Facebook Page at

TXMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook

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