



COASTAL PRAIRIE COURIER

December 11, 2013



Just a reminder for Facebook users! The Coastal Prairie Chapter's Facebook account can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/TXMNCoastal> . "Like" and share photos and information with your friends.

***Please send in your news articles, personal stories, and nature-related information to Lynn Trenta at: lynn@txtrentas.com and upcoming events to Susan Walther at: susanwalther523@gmail.com. ***

PRAIRIE NEWS

Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP)



Sunday November 24—Than Colvin and Mark got out to the SCNP Prairie Demo Garden in the chilly weather and planted quite a few plants in the north bed, as well as scattering wildflower seeds. Seen in photo is Than at work. Photo courtesy of Mark Morgenstern.

Friday, November 29-Mark and Drea Morgenstern led members of our chapter on a tour and seed collecting outing at the wonderful Nash Prairie. The weather turned out to be great and we collected quite a few seeds for the upcoming "grow-out" for the Seabourne Creek Nature Park Prairie. It was a fun time for everyone! Seen in the photo below are: Than Colvin, Karl Baumgartner, Mark Morgenstern, Glenda Norwood, Lynn Trenta, and Jim Butcher, as well as a Cradle of Texas Master

Naturalist. Drea Morgenstern, Barbara Willy, and two Houston Native Prairie Association members also participated.





Prairie Demo Garden

Thanks to the volunteers who came out after the monthly bird hike to work in the demo garden. Leon and Jeanette Macha, Donna Pisani, Jimmie Brannon, Barbara Willy, and Lynn Trenta collected swamp sunflower and other seeds to be used in the prairie restoration or grow out.

Blackland Prairie Article

Linda Rippert passed on this great article from Skip Kiphard about preserving prairies. Although this is not in our area, Linda thought that our group would appreciate that other people are going through the same fight we are fighting here in Ft. Bend Co. The link to the article is:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/Change-Agent/2013/1104/Environmentalists-work-to-save-a-precious-patch-of-Texas-blackland-prairie>

Article about Mima Mounds can be found at this link: [Mystery of odd mounds solved?](#)

CPTMN at Katy Prairie

[Vanishing Katy Prairie designated as critical bird habitat - Houston Chronicle](#)

BUTTERFLY GARDEN



Linda Rippert wants to thank the people who came out last Thursday for the last butterfly garden workday of the year. We made quick work of the things that needed to be done, because we had such great helpers. They included Lea Hyman, Rick Adams, Terri Schwab, and Kathy Moore. About the time we were almost finished, the anticipated north winds started up, and we had a couple of short light showers as the thermometer went down pretty quickly. Thanks to all of you for assisting--it was a pleasure working with you. Than Colvin showed up at the park just as we were leaving, and was really disappointed we had finished before he could get there!!

I will still be on the team of members working in the butterfly garden in the future, and I encourage lots more of you to come out and show your support to Lea and the other team members next year!

Linda Rippert

SCNP FERAL HOG UPDATE

As many of you know, the hogs are tearing up SCNP (see destruction photo courtesy of Karl Baumgartner). The CPTMN feral hog trapping team with the help of Major Stevenson Jr., local AgriLife Extension employee, will be assembling and baiting a catch-gate corral trap with fermented corn this next weekend. For more information, please contact kbum@pdq.net



SCNP BIRD HIKE



Bird Hike Publicity

Attached to the email is a wonderful news article about the monthly SCNP bird hike, written by CPTMN Publicity Chair, Carol Pawelek. This is great publicity for the bird hike, SCNP, and CPTMN!



December 4th SCNP Bird Hike

Wayne and Vicki Poorman reported that 21 people participated in the SCNP monthly bird hike. This is the largest hike we've had, with quite a few visitors. Several of the visitors were also interested in learning more about our Master Naturalist chapter.

The birds spotted included: Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Egret, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Crested Caracara, male Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Carolina Wren,

Northern Harrier, Red-Shouldered Hawk, and American Pipit. For a copy of the Bird Field Check list go to the home page of CPTMN website, [Coastal Prairie Chapter | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service & Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#). You can also find it on the Seabourne Creek Park page, under Signature Projects.

GREEN ASH SEED COLLECTION PROJECT



At the State conference Peggy Romfh (Cradle of Texas) attended Minnette Marr's (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center) presentation on the Green Ash Seed Collection project. She has requested help from all Master Naturalist Chapters to harvest seeds of the Green Ash Tree which could come under attack from the Emerald Ash Borer in the near future. Working

together, Peggy and Minnette have written the attached procedure that walks a collector through the process. The Cradle of Texas Chapter is currently using this procedure to collect seeds in the Brazoria County Area. References, forms and additional information are contained within the procedure.

For additional questions Minnette Marr can be reached at mmarr@wildflower.org. This article comes to the Master Naturalists courtesy of Mike Mullins, Cradle of Texas Chapter.



Additional Information about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Carol Pawelek, Coastal Prairie Publicity chair added the following information. "While working with the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation - Division of Lands & Forests prior to my return to Texas in 2012, I had first-hand experience with this infestation. It is a serious, serious problem and affects all species of ash trees. Trees die within two years of attack. The adult EAB is shorter than the diameter of a penny and therefore difficult to detect. It is actually a beautiful emerald green jewel tone adult. Ash tree seed collection is definitely called for.

I spoke with Arborist Barry J. Ward, Exec. Dir. of Trees For Houston, at a presentation this past Tuesday evening and asked what the latest report indicated as to the spread of the EAB. He stated that it had made its way to Missouri. The link below will take you to a national map displaying current infestations with details by affected states.

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/surveyinfo.cfm#sthash.g6YcsGOu.zjuLP2pH.dpbs>

Carol Pawelek, CPTMN Publicity Chair

EAGLE SCOUT OSPREY PLATFORM PROJECT



Saturday morning in the freezing mist, Thomas Heath (Troop 1880)

completed his Eagle Scout Project. The project consisted of constructing and mounting an Osprey nest platform on a power pole. The new Osprey Tower is located along the Brazos River in the back of the Rosenberg City Cemetery on Avenue D.

The project had previously been reviewed and approved by the Rosenberg Parks & Recreation Board and the Rosenberg City Council. The power pole was donated by Urbish Electric. James Urbish and his team also donated time and talents to drill the hole and set the pole.

Rick Adams, CPTMN Eagle Scout Coordinator

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Chapter Annual Meeting and Christmas Party was held at the beautiful house of Karen Showalter. The decorations were lovely, the food was great, and there were lots of comfortable areas available for eating, drinking, and visiting. Above photos (from video) were taken by the Czachs, who attended in their Dickens on the Strand attire, adding a touch of "Christmas Old" to the festivities.



Officers Doug Simons, President, Diane Russell, Vice-President, Lynn Trenta, Secretary, and Linda Lourim, Treasurer, were installed as well. It was a fun time for all! The photo (left) shows the party winding up (LT).