



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

Prairie Heritage Festival *By Jim Butcher*



Table of Contents:

PHF.....	1
TMN Annual Mtg.....	4
SCNP Prairie Planting....	5
Plant of the Month.....	6
Our Own Backyards.....	7
Book Corner.....	9
Lighter Side.....	10
FB Science Night.....	11

Chapter events and nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter need to be sent to [Lynn](#) by the 25th of the month.

Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome. Thanks.

**Lynn Trenta,
Courier Editor**

This year, the 6th Annual Prairie Heritage Festival was held at Seabourne Creek Nature Park on November 4th. The weather was clear and comfortable. We featured approximately the same number of speakers and exhibitors as last year, but the attendance was 363, down from 442 of last year.

Thirty-nine chapter members participated in the event, along with various other volunteers.

We had 7 individuals indicate they would like additional information about our chapter

Total expenses were \$5,205.14, approximately the same as last year. This doesn't include chapter revenue from native plant sales, face painting or sales of our SCNP T-shirts.

Publicity was concentrated into social media this year. The only form of print publicity was by distribution of fliers. Media sources attendee feedback showed that social media was the number one named source of contact for attendance, with word of mouth being next. Ten people stated that they were returning from last year and "other" was the number one unnamed source.



Prairie Heritage Festival Photos by Rhonda Kuykendall (continued)

Thanks to Rhonda Kuykendall for these great photos!



Prairie Heritage Festival Photos (continued)



Annual Meeting at Corpus Christi *By Carol Schwartz*



The TMN Annual Meeting was the largest ever with 555 attendees and 45 of the 48 chapters represented. Our chapter had the 3rd highest number of members attending at 27 members.

Milestone Awards for our chapter are as follows:

- 250 Debby Wendt and Margo Johnson*
- 500 Margo Johnson, Bill Johnson, and Amber Leung*
- 1000 Susan Walther and Michelle Sullivan*
- 2500 Lynn Trenta*
- 4000 and 2017 Presidential Volunteer Service Award*
Jim Butcher and Diane Russell
- 5000 Jim Butcher*

Next year, 2018, will be the Texas Master Naturalist's 20th Anniversary. The history for this goes back to 1997, which was the TMN program's pilot year. 1998 was the first official year for the program. Carol is uploading selected Prairie Heritage Festival photos to the TMN 20th Anniversary Project Site. She and John Donaho also videotaped various chapter members related to our projects.

Also, next year individual chapters are needed to man the Bookstore, Silent Auction, Field Trips and Vendors.

There is a possibility of chapter t-shirts/quilts, a contest for the 20th Anniversary slogan and the 20th Anniversary t-shirt design.

Prairie Planting at Seabourne *By Lynn Trenta*

Wednesday, November 29th, 8 chapter members and 6 LDS Volunteers came out to plant prairie plants as part of the Seabourne Prairie Restoration Project. It was perfect weather and due to the preparation of the area with irrigation by Jerry Trenta and the placement of the prairie plants by Jerry and Jim Butcher, the planting took just a little over an hour. This is a new record, to be sure!

This is an ongoing project and our process has been improving as we have gone along. Engineer Jerry Trenta has added organization to the project and streamlined much of the process. Mark Morgenstern has generously propagated the necessary seedlings for the project. Jim Butcher has consistently headed up the bump ups from seedlings to gallon potted plants, ready to plant.

So, if you would like to be outside contributing to a worthy cause, our chapter's Seabourne Prairie Restoration Project is a good choice. As a chapter member, you will accrue VSP hours as well. And, you may just have some fun out there!



Plant of the Month, Indian Blanket *By Mark Morgenstern*

This month's featured plant is Gaillardia pulchella. Common names are Indian blanket or firewheel. This is a hardy plant can be seen from the Surfside beaches to roadsides of San Antonio. It also is the state wildflower of Oklahoma. The color ranges from red to yellow and brown. West of here I have seen deep maroon along the roadsides. There are many cultivars also. I stay away from those due to the beauty of the natives themselves.

Gaillardia is an annual, but in warm coastal areas can be a short-lived perennial. It readily reseeds and blooms all summer. It is still blooming on my property and others. It doesn't grow on Nash, Mowotony or Deer Park Prairies. It does grow in Brazos Bend State Park. However, on the Deer Park Prairie there is another species, Gaillardia aestivalis. You can gather some on their posted collection dates. Because of their value to bees and butterflies, we should have this in all our habitat gardens. Anyone in need of seed can collect it at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. See me or Lynn and we will show you the plants.



In Our Own Backyards and Other Places

Phoebe's Are Here! *By Diane Eismont*



The Eastern Phoebe is the only flycatcher wintering in the South. I know he's arrived when I hear his song, which says his own name, "feebee." He arrived in late October this year.

In this picture he is on the house gutter looking for insects. A friendly bird, he often follows along on walks, hoping insects will fly up.



Yellow Garden Spider *By Amber Leung*

Our yellow garden spider. This old lady has retired from the garden to guard her eggs. She won't be with us much longer, but hopefully we will see her young emerge in the spring.

New Monarch *By Kristi Johnson*

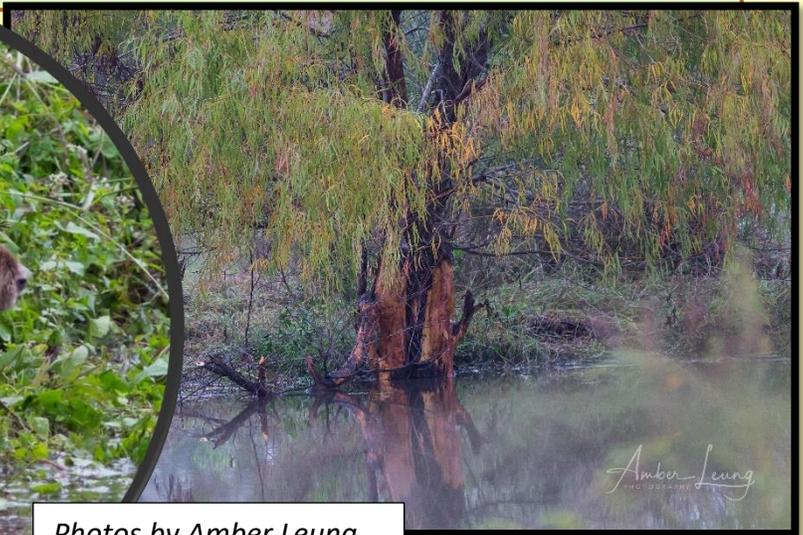
The Monarch in the photo is waiting for its wings to dry.



In Our Own Backyards and Other Places (Continued)

Seabourne's Beaver Spotted *Photos by Amber Leung*

Mark Scheurman, our resident bird expert, spotted a beaver while on the November Seabourne Bird Hike, as well as evidence of its presence. Amber took these photos at that time. Just recently, Garrett Engelhardt took several photos which showed more of the beaver's activity, as posted on Facebook.

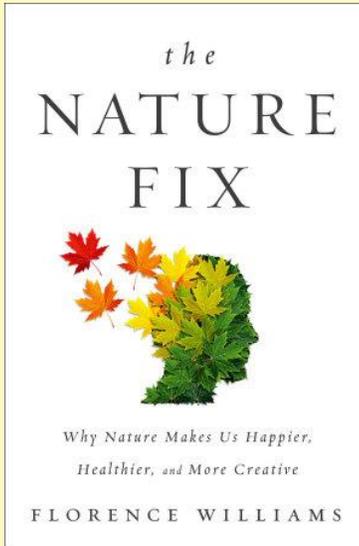


Photos by Amber Leung

Photos by Garrett Engelhardt



Book Corner

**The Nature Fix**

By Florence Williams

An intrepid investigation into nature's restorative benefits by a prize-winning author.

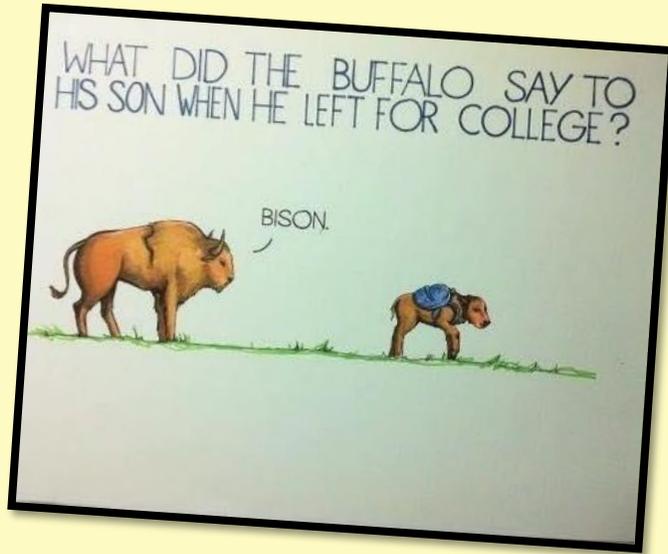
For centuries, poets and philosophers extolled the benefits of a walk in the woods: Beethoven drew inspiration from rocks and trees; Wordsworth composed while tromping over the heath; and Nikola Tesla conceived the electric motor while visiting a park. Intrigued by our storied renewal in the natural world, Florence Williams set out to uncover the science behind nature's positive effects on the brain.

*In this informative and entertaining account, Williams investigates cutting-edge research as she travels to fragrant cypress forests in Korea to meet the rangers who administer "forest healing programs," to the green hills of Scotland and its "ecotherapeutic" approach to caring for the mentally ill, to a river trip in Idaho with Iraqi vets suffering from PTSD, to the West Virginia mountains where she discovers how being outside helps children with ADHD. *The Nature Fix* demonstrates that our connection to nature is much more important to our cognition than we think and that even small amounts of exposure to the living world can improve our creativity and enhance our mood. In prose that is incisive, witty, and urgent, Williams shows how time in nature is not a luxury but is in fact essential to our humanity. As our modern lives shift dramatically indoors, these ideas—and the answers they yield—are more urgent than ever.*

About the Author

*Florence Williams is a journalist and contributing editor to *Outside* magazine. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *National Geographic* among others. Her first book, *Breasts: A Natural and Unnatural History*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2012 and the winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in Science and Technology. Williams lives in Washington, DC.*

The Lighter Side



Thanks to John Donaho (Facebook)



CPTMN 2017 Board Members

2016 Officers

- President [Amber Leung](#)
- Vice President [Debby Wendt](#)
- Secretary [Jamie Fairchild](#)
- Treasurer [Doug Simons](#)

2016 Committee Directors

- Past-President [Diane Russell](#)
- Programs [Debby Wendt](#)
- Communication [Lynn Trenta](#)
- Volunteer Service Projects [Margo "Mac" McDowell](#) (interim)
- Membership [Michelle Sullivan](#)
- New Class [C.J. McDaniel](#)
- Advanced Training [Margo Johnson](#)
- Publicity [Teresa Bailey](#)
- New Class Representative—Open
- Seabourne Creek [Karl Baumgartner](#)
- State Representative [Carol Schwartz](#)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal>

Science Night-Fort Bend Recovery

JOIN US! JOIN US!

SCIENCE NIGHT

Hurricane Harvey Fundraiser

- Meet a NASA scientist.
- Collect shark teeth.
- See the night sky through telescopes.
- Watch astronomy shows in the Discovery Dome.
- Learn about wildlife and how to photograph it!

WHEN

Friday, December 1st
6 - 8 pm

WHERE

Dulles High School
550 Dulles Avenue
Sugar Land, TX 77478

*TICKETS

\$10 per person

**All proceeds will be donated to Fort Bend Forward Harvey Recovery Fund.*

Purchase your tickets online [here](#) or at the door. (tinyurl.com/dhsscienight)

Donations will be accepted.

**All ticket purchases and donations are tax deductible.*

FAMILY FUN



PRESENTATION BOOTHS & ACTIVITIES

Fort Bend Astronomy Club

- Gravity and Laws of Motion
- Telescope Display
- Apollo 11 Mission 
- Telescope Viewing

Fort Bend Photography Club

- Creative Photography
- Macro Photography
- Wildlife Photography 

Houston Gems and Mineral Society

Paleontology

Houston Museum of Natural Science

- Discovery Dome (inflatable planetarium)
- Texas Wildlife and Birds 
- Physics
- Salt and Salt Domes
- Paleontology

Wildlife Center of Texas

Birds of Prey/Wildlife Rehabilitation

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Check out our Facebook Page at [TXMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#)

To post photos and information, email

[John Donaho](#)

Also, share our chapter Facebook entries with your friends on your Facebook Page

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

1402 Band Rd
Extension Office
Rosenberg, TX 77471—8678
Phone: 281-633-7033