



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

## Sea Turtle Program *By Debby Wendt*

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Photos of the program by Diane Russell

**Chapter events and nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter need to be sent to [Lynn](#) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome. Thanks.**

Lynn Trenta,  
Courier Editor

**The July 6 program was presented by Joanie Steinhaus, Campaign Director of Turtle Island Restoration Network, which began due to turtle slaughter in Mexico. There are seven species of sea turtles in the world and five species in Galveston. All the sea turtles are either endangered or threatened. The focus of the organization has grown to include, whales, sharks and other aquatic animals. The Kemp's Ridley Turtle became Texas's official state Sea Turtle in May of 2013. This turtle is the rarest and smallest sea turtle species in the world. They nest in stormy weather. The waves lift them higher to reach the shore more easily. Other turtles nest at night. The Leatherback turtle migrates from the Pacific and Indian Oceans to the Gulf of Mexico. The Loggerheads mainly nest from Mississippi to Florida. They use their back flippers to dig out a cavity where they may lay as many as 60-100 eggs. Rancho Nuevo in Mexico is the main nesting spot which covers about 20 miles of coastline. In 1964, it was discovered when about 40,000 Kemp's Ridley Turtles were nesting and the numbers dropped to about 385 nesting turtles in 1985. This discovery led to the creation of T.E.D.s, Turtle Excluder Devices, which are required for all shrimp boats starting in 1987. Currently there are about 22,000 nesting Kemp's Ridley Turtles. Hawksbill Turtles became endangered due to their tortoiseshell being used for jewelry, combs and other items. Green Sea Turtles are omnivorous. Sea grasses and kelp are their favorite food. The Leatherback Turtles migrate the greatest distances. Water passes through their super thick oil saturated shell to help them cover long distances. They can be up to six feet long and weigh up to 1,200 pounds. Their favorite food is jellyfish.**

---Continued on next page---

## Sea Turtle Program (Continued)

Outreach projects teach about the Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary and T.E.D.s. Volunteers are asked to help locate turtle nests from April to July along 72 miles of coastline 45% of the nests are found by visitors to the Gulf Coast and others are found by volunteers. There are four different types of tags to locate and study the turtles. The dangers of plastic bags and fishing lines and hooks were also discussed. For more information go to:

<http://TexasSeaGrant.org/programs/monofilament-recovery-and-recycling>. To learn more about sea turtles go to [SeaTurtles.org/Gulf](http://SeaTurtles.org/Gulf)

## John Gordy Talks about Plant and Insect Interaction

The July 3<sup>rd</sup> Program, social time 6:30pm, will be from 7-8 at Rosenberg Civic Center and John Gordy, AgriLife Extension County Agent will be talking about the interaction between plants and insects. Come join us!



Photo by Lynn Trenta

## Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

Please note that it is not time to register yet, but everyone can review the extensive list of session offerings now to make the registration process in August more efficient. Some sessions close very, very quickly. So, having a prepared list of selections going into the registration online is wise indeed. There is also a clarification on hotel room selection." We want to share with you our FULL agenda for the 18th Annual Meeting. And it is full too! [Annual Meeting Booklet FULL 7/17](#)

We have session sign ups as part of our registration once it goes live in **early August**. As in years past, on page 3 of the registration system, each participant will be asked to sign up for technical sessions and field sessions they intend on attending. We do this for many reasons. Some of our presenters have requested a limited number of participants in their session due to material supply or activity, we may limit based on the classrooms capacity, or very specifically limit session attendance for field sessions based on the number of seats on the vans.

Please prepare before registration opens with your preferred attendance of sessions, and possibly even a few back up options. Please note - **our field sessions always fill up very quickly!** We want everyone to be able to attend all the sessions that interest them, but with an agenda as full and diverse as ours, there are always other fantastic options to attend.

Lastly, signing up for sessions during registration also doesn't 'lock you in' to attending those sessions by the time the meeting rolls around – it only guarantees you a spot in the room. If you change your mind once you arrive at the meeting, you can always attend another onsite session you didn't sign up for, just being mindful that the seats in the room may have been 'saved' by those participants who did register for that session originally. Another note we'd like to share with your chapter members – rooming at the Annual Meeting. **Our registration for the meeting INCLUDES your lodging at the Omni Corpus Christi. As you register for the meeting, you will be selecting what lodging accommodations you will be using – meaning – how many folks you will be sharing a room with. It is very important to have this decided prior to registration opening.** Please decide on who you will be lodging with so when registration opens you are prepared to make the right selection. **You WILL need to list the name of your roommate on the registration page.** Changes can always be made up until registration closes, but it does take extra time.

## TPWD Texas Pollinator BioBlitz Returning



*The 2nd Annual Texas Pollinator BioBlitz returns this fall, so mark your calendars for some photographic fun!*

*Dates: September 23-October 8, 2017*

*We'll offer up daily challenges, links of the day with some great pollinator information and tips, video how-tos on photography and other topics, additional resources, and more!*

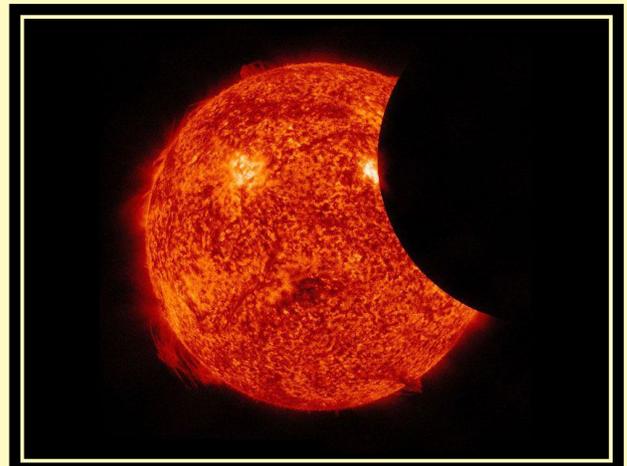
*Share with friends so that they can [sign up](#), too. Post your pollinator photos during the event to your own Instagram or Facebook accounts (#txpollinators17) or check [the online event calendar](#) to find events near you as we get closer to the event.*

## Solar Eclipse August 21<sup>st</sup>—from Wayne Poorman's Facebook

*It's tempting to stare at the sun during a solar eclipse, but if you try to do so without protection, you could damage your eyes. This image of a partial eclipse in 2012 was taken by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory satellite. (Courtesy of NASA/SDO and the AIA, EVE, and HMI science teams)*

*Read more:*

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/geo-you-need-view-upcoming-solar-eclipse->



## New Territory Reduces Light Pollution and Saves Money in the Process

*Text and Photos by Linda Lourim*

*If you've driven through New Territory in the evening recently, you may have noticed some new lighting fixtures in the public areas. The beautiful period-style globes have been replaced with beautiful "shielded" period-style globes. New Territory Residential Community Association staff, recommended the change and held a workshop for the NTRCA Board to demonstrate the proposed new fixture design. They also recommended changing from high intensity discharge lights to LED. The Board was appreciative but not convinced.*

*Along came me. I drive past the unshielded lights on my way home and have been increasingly perturbed since attending our chapter's June 2015 monthly meeting about light pollution and the Dark Sky program. Cindy Luongo Cassidy, a TX Master Naturalist in Driftwood, TX, was the speaker and discussed her success in modifying Dripping Springs' outdoor lighting ordinance, resulting in it being named the first International Dark Sky Community in Texas.*

*I chose to speak during the homeowner segment of the September 2016 board meeting, identifying myself as a TX Master Naturalist, and used my 3 minutes to discuss light pollution, our bad light design and distribute the handouts Cindy had used in her presentation. This was very timely reinforcement of their demonstration. I am happy to report the board did approve the conversion recommendation and phase one of the project has converted 151 lights to the shielded design! Phase two begins in September with another 144 lights conversions planned.*

*The moral – speak up. You have credibility as a TX Master Naturalist.*



Before



After

## Meet Michelle Sullivan *By Lynn Trenta & Margo Johnson*

*Michelle grew up as an “Air Force Brat”. Although this may not sound like a good thing, it may have contributed to her strength of character we see so often. She is a “pillar” in our group.*

*Michelle took over as VSP co-chair, along with Julie Near, soon after joining the chapter. We can thank Michelle and Julie for creating our outreach “wagon on wheels” (WOWs) and creating the “Weekend Walks at Seabourne Creek Nature Park”.*

*During her tenure as VSP Director, she undertook the large job of installing and managing the Volunteer Management System (VMS), along with Margo Johnson and Jade Hems. She is always there at our chapter functions, helping to make sure everything goes off as planned. She may be serving Vincent Mannino’s gumbo at the Chapter Christmas Party, or teaching kids to fish at “Fishtastics” or announcing the volunteer service awards and milestones, with wonderful comments about each person. Michelle has also been helping our TPWD advisor, David Lobpries, with the white-tailed deer wasting syndrome program. She provides and posts crucial information for the chapter on the website. She serves as one of the “backbones” of the chapter, providing support that makes her indispensable.*

*Margo Johnson says that she “currently has the monthly task of approving Michelle’s hours and what she does for the chapter is AMAZING! She always sends me the nicest messages asking me to go in and approve. What I like in her messages to people about AT (& VSP) hours is that she always does it diplomatically and thoughtfully. She has a true sense of fairness (to the individual and to Agrilife) when it comes to approving AT hours. The WOW’s are WONDERFUL!!! We have taken out several. The thoughtful details for the user/teachers and the learners are truly imaginative. One thing I enjoyed at the Convention and at board and regular meetings is how INCLUSIVE she is---she makes each get together a PARTY with her enthusiasm”.*

*We salute you, Michelle and award you the blue doughnut this month!*



Photo by Lynn Trenta



Photo by Jade Hems



Photo by Diane Russell

## Plant of the Month *By Mark Morgenstern*



*Our plant of the month is rosinweed sunflower. This easy to grow native perennial goes by the Latin name *Silphium gracile* or the common name of slender rosinweed. However, on the Deer Park Prairie the species growing there is *Silphium radula* or roughstem rosinweed. Under good conditions they can bloom early in March until December. They attract butterflies and have special value to native bees according to the Xerces society.*

*The water requirements are low and the soil moisture can be wet or dry once established. Seed collection is available now at Seabourne creek and Nash prairie and rosinweed can be also found along roadsides. The flat papery seeds form behind the flower and will fall into your hand when ripe. They germinate better if covered with a ¼" of potting soil.*

*Anyone interested in seed collection should contact me at [markmorg64@gmail.com](mailto:markmorg64@gmail.com) or come to Seabourne park on Wednesday mornings. We can't grow enough of this awesome plant!*

## Native Plant Society's Wildscape Workshop coming in September



**September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00am to 3:30pm, the NPSOT hosts their annual Wildscapes Workshop at Houston Community College – West Loop Center, 5601 W. Loop South, Houston, 77081. For anyone interested in native plants this is a must go! For a look at the agenda and to register you can go to <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop/> . **This fills up fast so make your reservations soon!****

## Church Volunteers Help Out at Seabourne Prairie

*Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 32 members of a wonderful church group (The Church) came out to help us by planting our home-grown prairie plants into our prairie pathway area, separating and bumping up seedlings.*

*Several chapter members were there to supervise these eager volunteers. Many thanks to Jim Butcher for organizing this event and many thanks to chapter members Karl Baumgartner, Jim Butcher, Sal Cardenas, Natalya Crawford, Garrett Engelhardt, Carol Hawkins, Amber Leung, Linda Lourim, Mark Morgenstern, Pradeep Sethi and Jerry Trenta.*



Photos by Karl Baumgartner



Photo by Amber Leung

## Seabourne Creek Nature Park: From the Beginning

By Karl Baumgartner

*This summer marks the eighth anniversary of Coastal Prairie Chapter's involvement with Seabourne Creek Nature Park. It all started on June 23, 2009 when Rosenberg City Council voted to set aside 20 acres of the property as a prairie restoration area, and our relationship was initiated as advisor to the City.*



*But at the time there was not yet a Seabourne Creek Nature Park! The area had been an abandoned cotton field, basically dormant since the City acquired the land in 1993. When we were requested to assist in the proposed prairie restoration project, civic leaders had no idea that the Chapter would be able to transform the park into the beautiful retreat it is today.*

*Following the City Council meeting, Chapter members visited Seabourne for the first time and were amazed by the park's underutilized potential. One hundred sixty-five acres, four ecosystems! We started thinking, "Let's do more than a prairie restoration-- How can we convince the City to let us create a Nature Park?"*

*For research, we decided to call another TMN chapter. The Cradle of Texas Chapter in Lake Jackson had experience in developing "Partner Agreements," cooperative agreements with local entities. They graciously invited us to attend an upcoming chapter Board meeting. Twenty-one members (half our Chapter at that time) trooped to Brazoria County. We talked to them about their VSP program, AT, training programs, and we obtained a copy of their Partner Agreement.*



*Our Board met at Seabourne to discuss our plans. We were called "The Eight Optimists." The Park was barren with almost no visitors, no signage, no trees along the paths, and we had no money. No one had heard of Coastal Prairie Chapter. The only two signs were NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and WATCH OUT FOR SNAKES.*

**Seabourne Creek Nature Park (Continued)**

*We forged ahead. We created a new expanded Partner Agreement which included our vision for Seabourne plus a blueprint for our proposed working relationship with the City. It was distributed to all Chapter members and at our Thursday night Chapter meeting September 3, 2009, members unanimously voted to present it to Rosenberg City Council.*

*On October 28, 2009, the City accepted our proposal and executed the Partner Agreement. In January, it was used as the foundation of a Grant request. The Rosenberg Development Corp. provided the chapter a \$20,000 grant, to plant trees and install an irrigation system.*

*The Partner Agreement has been used as the cornerstone of our grant documents ever since. The Chapter is the recipient of \$50,000 RDC Grant annually, used for SCNP improvements that we conceive of and recommend. This financing method has made us the envy of TMN chapters throughout the State.*



*We named the 165-acre site SEABOURNE CREEK NATURE PARK. The Fort Bend Herald provided editorial support and started using the name. Ultimately the City started using it as the official designation. A major City landmark was born!*

*We contacted Latter Day Saints group for volunteer help, and planted trees.*

## Seabourne Creek Nature Park (Continued)



*We designed and built a beautiful Butterfly Garden. Nancy Greig, Director of Cockrell Butterfly Center, visited and told us the Seabourne Butterfly Garden was one of the most productive butterfly gardens she had ever seen in the Houston area.*

*We also began work on the Seabourne Prairie, and designed and created the exceptional Prairie Demo Garden.*



## Where Are We Today?

*Today there are also bird hikes arranged by our members, tree-lined walking paths, a 4-acre Seabourne wetlands pond, bass fishing in the lake and much more. Every evening, 30-40 cars are in the parking lot.*

*And still so much future opportunity. Introducing youth groups to the natural world, outreach to the community, continuing work on the prairie and the habitat and the natural ecosystems.*

*In my view, with respect to both the community and the Chapter members, we have been lucky.*

**In Our Own Backyards and Other Places**

**Attracting Fruit-eating Butterflies to Your Yard** *By Diane Eismont*

*Some butterflies - such as Hackberry Butterflies, Viceroy, Question Marks, Red Admiral, as well as Bumble Bee Moths, prefer overripe fruit to flowers!*

*This is a great way to watch butterflies with kids!*

*Directions: Take a bird feeder & line with plastic. Add fruit peels & discarded pieces from fruit like watermelon, papaya, pineapple, cantaloupe, etc. Put the feeder where you can see it from inside so you know when butterflies are there. Approach cautiously. Use an ant moat above the feeder and change fruit when moldy. (It can also draw fruit flies & the occasional wasp.)*

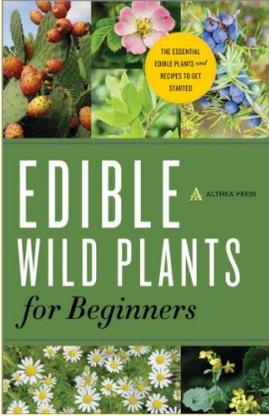


In Our Own Backyards and Other Places (Continued)

Banding Doves in Garrett's Backyard *By Garrett Englehardt*



## Book Corner

**Edible Wild Plants for Beginners**

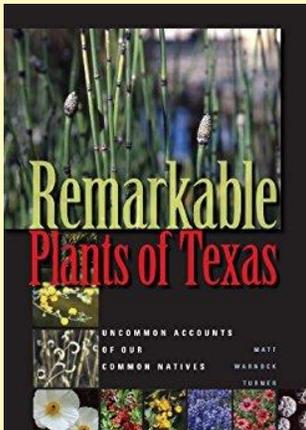
By Althea Press

*Wild plants are not only beautiful, but they can also be an affordable and sustainable way to add flavor and nutrition to your diet. **Edible Wild Plants for Beginners** provides you with the essential information and guidance to begin foraging for edible wild plants and including them in your diet. **Edible Wild Plants for Beginners** provides profiles of common edible wild plants and includes information on dangerous look-alikes, the best time to harvest, where to find each type of wild plant, and how to cultivate your own garden. From natural remedies to delectable dishes and exotic cocktails, **Edible Wild Plants for Beginners** provides more than 95 ways for you to use these newfound ingredients.*

***Edible Wild Plants for Beginners** will help you explore the world of edible wild plants and teach you how to use them in your home and kitchen, with:*

- *More than 95 easy-to-follow edible wild plants recipes and remedies, including Amaranth Vegetable Curry, Pickled Jerusalem Artichokes, Chamomile Cookies, and a Purslane Martini*
- *Tips for foraging, harvesting, and cultivating edible wild plants*
- *Techniques for serving, preserving, and cooking with edible wild plants*
- *31 edible wild plant profiles, including descriptions, distinguishing features, preparation and collection tips, and common uses*
- *10 simple steps to making tinctures*
- *A guide to identifying edible wild plants and avoiding common poisonous plants*

*With **Edible Wild Plants for Beginners**, you'll be able to start living sustainably, saving money, and adding variety to your diet the way nature intended.*

**Remarkable Plants of Texas**

By Matt Warnock Turner

*With some 6,000 species of plants, Texas has extraordinary botanical wealth and diversity. Learning to identify plants is the first step in understanding their vital role in nature, and many field guides have been published for that purpose. But to fully appreciate how Texas's native plants have sustained people and animals from prehistoric times to the present, you need **Remarkable Plants of Texas**. In this intriguing book, Matt Warnock Turner explores the little-known facts—be they archaeological, historical, material, medicinal, culinary, or cultural—behind our familiar botanical landscape. In sixty-five entries that cover over eighty of our most common native plants from trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to grasses, cacti, vines, and aquatics, he traces our vast array of connections with plants. Turner looks at how people have used plants for food, shelter, medicine, and economic subsistence; how plants have figured in the historical record and in Texas folklore; how plants nourish wildlife; and how some plants have unusual ecological or biological characteristics. Illustrated with over one hundred color photos and organized for easy reference, **Remarkable Plants of Texas** can function as a guide to individual species as well as an enjoyable natural history of our most fascinating native plants.*

The Lighter Side

## *The Fifteen Funniest Church Bulletin Bloopers!*

1. The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00. Please use the back door.
2. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
3. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
4. Ushers will eat latecomers.
5. Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.
6. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
7. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
8. Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.
9. Potluck supper; prayer and medication to follow.
10. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
11. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
12. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
13. The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
14. Announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer & Fasting Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals."
15. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

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
- State Representative [Carol Schwartz](#)

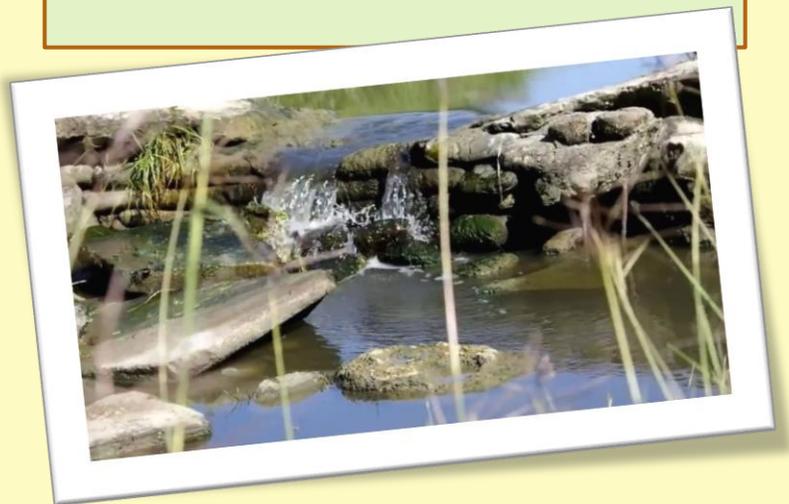
We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal>

John Donaho Videos of Seabourne

Chapter Member John Donaho takes wonderful videos of Seabourne Creek Nature Park. One of his most recent ones can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RT87aGQWEpw>. This video and others should be appearing on the chapter website soon.



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

To post photos and information, email

[John Donaho](#) or [Lynn Trenta](#)

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

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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