



Special Interest Articles:

- September Program
- New Class
- Monarch Gateway

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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

Jaime Gonzalez Program on “Cutting Edge Conservation”

Jaime’s presentation revolved around new concepts in conservation biology and restoration. He emphasized that in this complex, multi-variable field, there is a lot of trial and error and that no one has all the answers. In his program the following concepts were presented without judging their relative merits.

Sixth Extinction *52% of the world’s wildlife has disappeared in the past 40 years and the rate of species loss is the largest since the time of the dinosaurs. Within the century, species numbers could be cut in half, an unprecedented amount. Excavations in our local area show that people have been living here for 12,000 years, coinciding with the time that extinctions began. Megafauna decimation at the end of the last ice age was due to the impact of humans, not the climate.*

Climate Change *Bird ranges have moved north, as witnessed at Katy Prairie Conservancy, now seeing birds from further south not previously in this area. Mangroves are now being seen in Galveston Bay and there are concerns about sea levels rising.*

Shifting Baseline Syndrome *is seen in the diminishing size of animals, caused by humans killing most of the big animals and the increasing number of bacteria levels in the ocean. As the environment was not well documented before the 1800s, we don’t have a true picture of how much the ecosystems have changed and we don’t know how they will change in the future.*

Nature Disconnect *This can be seen by the low number of children who spend time outside and can’t identify common animals. Many people today do not have contact with nature. Photo of Jaime Gonzalez by Diane Russell. Others from web*



CUTTING EDGE CONSERVATION (continued)

The following are ideas and solutions for the present ecological situation.

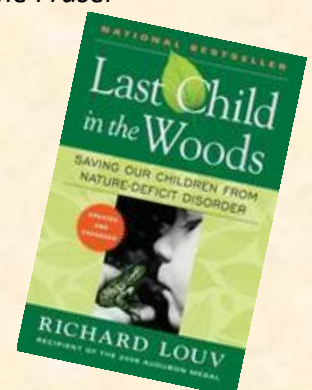
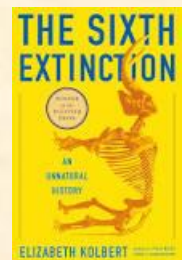
1. **Novel Ecosystems** – This theory states that we may be wasting time and money on conservation efforts. It considers that ecosystems should function for humans and “emerging” ecosystems should be accepted.
2. **System Migration**-- If you know a species will go extinct because of climate warming, should you disperse it further north? This is already being done with certain tree in the South.
3. **Missing Predators**--What if predators that have been lost were reintroduced? The video [How Wolves Change Rivers](#) illustrated how the reintroduction of wolves at Yellowstone National Park caused a trickle-down effect in which every aspect of the park came back into balance, including the physical geography of the park.
3. **Rewilding Cities**—This idea is to introduce wildscapes into urban environments. An example of this is the work that’s been done in the Texas Medical Center area with the reintroduction of prairies at various sites.
4. **Resurrecting Species**-- This controversial idea, to bring back species similar or identical to what has been lost, like tapirs, camels, etc., includes genetic manipulation to bring back passenger pigeons, Carolina parakeets, and the Tasmanian wolf.

He concluded by saying conservation biology is part of a necessary discussion on how to take care of the planet, and urged the audience to come to the following conferences, which will be advertised elsewhere:

- October 20-22 at Rice University: **People & Nature Conference** Website - PeopleAndNatureConference.org or flyer at <http://tinyurl.com/PeopleAndNature>
- November 12-14 at Houston Zoo: **Southern Plains & Prairie Conference** Website: SouthernPlainsConference.org or flyer at <http://tinyurl.com/2015-SPPflyer>

Jaime’s reading list on current conservation topics

- [Resurrection Science](#) by M.R. O'Connor (out September 2015)
- [How to Clone a Mammoth](#) by Beth Shapiro
- [Rewilding the World: Dispatches from the Conservation Revolution](#) by Caroline Fraser
- [Last Child in the Woods](#) by Richard Louv
- [Resilience Thinking](#) by Brian Walker
- [Biophillic Cities](#) by Timothy Beatley
- [Cows Save the Planet](#) by Judith Swartz
- [Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild Word](#) by Emma Marris
- [The Sixth Extinction](#) by Elizabeth Kolbert



New Coastal Master Naturalist Class Starts!

The new class of Coastal Prairie Master Naturalists is off and running! Almost 20 new trainees crowded into the AgriLife Extension Educational Center at Rosenberg to begin their training on August 22nd. Chapter Members Than Colvin, Lisa Feighery, and Wayne Helbert are heading up the Training Committee this year. Many thanks to these hard-working chapter members!

This year, several members, serving as mentors to the new class, were on hand to greet their class charges. Many thanks go to Carrie Sample, membership committee, who matched all of the new class members to a mentor, an active Chapter Member. These mentors will help their mentees as they go through the class and beyond.

Already, several new class members have dived into chapter activities. John Donaho and Roger Hathorn have been sharing photos on the Chapter Facebook and with the Communications Chair. Jade Hems is a big help in the Prairie Demo Garden at Seabourne. Avan Wolff accompanied several of our group on a field trip to Sheldon Lake to learn about prairie plants from Tom Solomon. Margo Johnson, wife of Coastal Prairie Member Bill Johnson, has been working in the demo garden, helping with the Seabourne Bird Sanctuary, and volunteering at the Smith Point Hawk Watch.

There are so many opportunities for involvement in our chapter, I am sure that everyone will find something they want to do. Welcome to all of the new class members!



Photos by John Donoho



Photo by Roger Hathorn



Silent Auction Items Needed from Members

We're less than two months away from the Annual Conference in Horseshoe Bay and it's time to start thinking about donation items for the silent auction. Money raised by the silent auction is used for TMN project grants, scholarships to the annual meeting, and eventually, to bring in big name speakers/presenters and trainers for future annual meetings.

This year we're asking each TMN chapter to donate a minimum of 8 items to the auction, if possible. Individual members may wish to join together to make a "themed" basket that represents their region. Otherwise, there are many types of items that are appropriate for the silent auction, including: items solicited from businesses, hand-made items and individually purchased items. Some examples are: paintings, photographs, jewelry, hand-crafted wood objects, natural arrangements, other art, outdoor gear, tools, nature guides, books about nature and generally anything related to nature. Gift certificates for trips, tours and hotel/BB vouchers always stimulate heavy bidding. Use your imagination and keep naturalist themes in mind. If it's something you'd like to have, someone else probably would too!

Items should be brought to the Conference on Friday if possible but will also be accepted Saturday morning. Each item should have a Silent Auction Bid Sheet with it, filled out in advance if possible (copy below), identifying the item, the donor, estimated value and suggested minimum bid. Silent Auction Bid Sheets will also be available at the Conference.

Fredi Franki and Beth Mortenson are co-chairs for the Silent Auction. Please contact them if you have any questions, using the contact information below.

Please consider contributing to this event. It's a great way to support the TMN mission.

We look forward to seeing you in Horseshoe Bay!

Sincerely,

Fredi Franki [512-431-4725](tel:512-431-4725) ffranki@nctv.com

Beth Mortenson [972-741-7121](tel:972-741-7121) bmorte@gmail.com



Texas Invasives' Newsletter and Info

http://www.texasinvasives.org/pages/iwire/August_2015.html

Sentinel Pest Network and Invaders of Texas Species Workshops

Invaders of Texas workshops train volunteers to become citizen scientists to detect and report invasive species. Workshops include information on the Sentinel Pest Network which serves to increase the awareness of early detection of Emerald Ash Borer, Cactus Moth, Asian Longhorned Beetle, and other pests of regulatory significance.

Workshops are tailored to meet the interests of your volunteer group, and supplementary session examples include an introduction to the TX Invaders mobile application and the Eradicator Calculator, a feature on Texasinvasives.org designed to help organize and track volunteer-based eradication efforts. Photo from web

Upcoming Workshops:

CHANGED! Saturday, December 12, 2015

Location: Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary, Houston



Attwater Prairie Chicken Video

Our Chapter President, Diane Russell, found this great video about the Attwater Prairie Chicken <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/08/science/the-fight-to-save-a-prairie-chicken.html?emc=eta1&r=0> Photo from web.



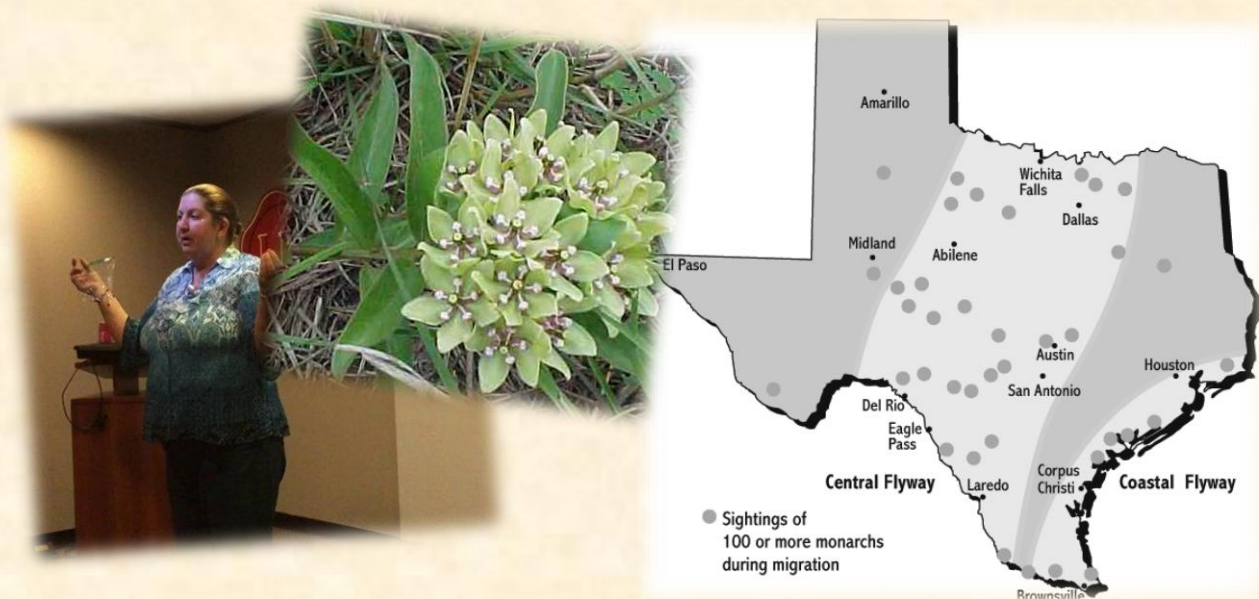
Monarch Host Cities Partnership Project

The Coastal Prairie Chapter has now partnered with Monarch Gateway 501c3. This non-profit organization is seeking to form contiguous Monarch Host Gardens and other sources of native milkweed and nectar plants. These plants support the Monarch Butterflies on their spring and fall Monarch migration along coastal and central migration corridors. This organization is led by Coastal Prairie Chapter 's own Barbara Willy.

Monarch Gateway partners with organizations to form the Monarch Host Cities Partnership Project . This project has as its goals to:

- *Create or restore educational Monarch Host habitat in city parks*
- *Restore milkweed colonies to optimum Monarch habitat sites*
- *Restore prairie sites to include milkweed and pollinator plants*
- *Create large acreage Pollinator Plots*
- *Encourage HOAs to create Monarch Host Gardens on HOA property*
- *Encourage corporations in city to create Monarch Host Gardens*
- *Encourage utility ROW owners to create Monarch Host Gardens*
- *Partner with local organizations to create project capacity*
- *Ensure mowing and pesticide practices support Monarch/milkweed cycle*
- *Sustain Monarch & pollinator habitat by incorporating project into 10 year official park plans*
- *Quarterly workshops for residents and landowners on restoration, how to grow milkweed*
- *K-12th grade TEKS coordinated Monarch lesson plans*

If you want to work with Monarch Gateway, please email Barbara Willy (barbaraankeller@aol.com) See the attached the Monarch City Host Sign-up flyer. Photos from HNPAT, web, and from Barbara's flyer.



Butterfly Garden gets a Cleaning



The butterfly counts
not months but
moments, and has time
enough.

~Rabindranath Tagore

Saturday, September 12th, Chapter Volunteers came out to spruce up the Seabourne Creek Nature Park's Butterfly Garden. This beautiful garden needs our care. It is always a big hit at the Prairie Heritage Festival when the butterflies are in abundance.

Thanks to Linda Rippert and Diane Russell who are spearheading this project. Out to help on Saturday were Linda, Diane, Lea Hyman, Gary and Kathy Moore and Sharon Smith. Thank all of you for your hard work! It is very much appreciated!

Monarch Photo by Wayne Poorman, Fritillary from web

Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Registration is Open!

*This year's meeting is scheduled for **October 23rd through 25th** at the hill country scenic **Horseshoe Bay Resort**, located on the shores of Lake Lyndon B Johnson. Registration for this highly anticipated event is NOW available through the Annual Meeting page on the Texas Master Naturalist State website at <http://txmn.org/2015-annual-meeting/>. Additional information about the annual gathering weekend, annual awards and contests, the advanced training sessions agenda, and registration details can be found on the website as well.*



Let's get a good Coastal Prairie Chapter Group to go this year!

To get the classes you want, register NOW!

Master Naturalists go to Sweetgrass

The open house at the Sweetgrass Community Lakehouse was very well attended by the residents of the Del Webb sub-division. Some 260 residents were pre-registered for the event, with more attending. Our chapter was represented by Jim Brannon, John Cottrell and Georgia Messemmer, who organized our chapter's participation. There were approximately 20 other volunteer-based organizations there also. The crowd of residents showed an interest in our group's activities. At times all 3 of us were engaged in conversation with the residents, handing out brochures and promoting our chapter and Prairie Heritage Day. There were quite a few people who requested additional information, including information about next year's training class. The Sweetgrass staff was very accommodating and helpful and we were treated to sandwiches and drinks.

Photos and information sent in by Jim Brannon



Mark Morgenstern teaches Prairie Plant Propagation 101

September 12th, Mark Morgenstern, held a workshop on planting prairie plants. In attendance were Glenda Norwood, Jade Hems, Nancy Huffman, Carol and Mark Dylla, and Lynn Trenta.

We were treated to Mark's wonderful enthusiasm for prairie plants and learned that prairie seeds should not be covered with soil when planting. The trays of soil should be soaked with water for a couple of days before you plant the seeds and then kept moist until the seedlings sprout. Only the mist setting should be used when watering.

At the workshop, Mark planted several plants that we are going to use for our Seabourne Creek Prairie Restoration. Among them are Texas Coneflower, Rosinweed, Liatris, and Blue Mistflower.

One of the 24 plant flats may produce from 500-700 seedlings. These seedlings will be bumped up into gallon pots and then planted in the prairie.

After the workshop, we shared some great pizza and camaraderie.

Photos by Lynn Trenta



Pollinator Beetles

Check out this website about pollinator beetle. There are 52 native plant species pollinated by beetles—who knew?

http://texasento.net/TX_Pollinators.html



End of Summer Sale of TMN items at the AgriLife Bookstore Almost OVER!

If you haven't heard yet, our Texas Master Naturalist Bookstore is holding an END OF SUMMER FLASH SALE. Select Items are 15% off through September 30th! There are limited stock and limited sizes available for some items.

Get your gear now by visiting the TMN AgriLife Bookstore website: <http://www.agrilifebookstore.org/categories/1841.htm>

Please send in nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter by October 10th to [Lynn](#). Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome.

Thanks.

Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor



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- Training [Than Colvin](#), [Lisa Feighery](#), [Wayne Helbert](#)
- Advanced Training- [Jimmy Brannon](#), [Lynn Trenta](#) (temporary co-chair)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal/>

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

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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