



COASTAL PRAIRIE COURIER

November 26, 2013



Linda Rippert's SCNP Butterfly Garden

My sincere thanks to all the people who came out to work in the Seabourne Creek Park Butterfly Garden in October and also took home bags of prunings and clippings to help dispose of them: Than Colvin, Jim Butcher, Rick Adams, Syd Johnson (new class), Donna Pisani, Kathy Moore and Bill Johnson.

The tagged Monarch butterflies spotted on Nov. 6th at the SCNP Butterfly Garden and originally thought to have come from Wisconsin actually were caught and tagged by a couple from Needville when they were visiting the SCNP Butterfly Garden on Nov. 1st. Northern taggers give away their extra tags to more southern taggers as the Monarchs migrate south.

Linda Rippert, Butterfly Garden Coordinator



Seabourne Creek Demo Garden

Saturday, November 16th, volunteers bumped up 180 plants, cleared pathways and prepared a large bed for wildflower seeds and other plants. Seen in the photo are Georgia Messemer, Jim Butcher, Glenda Norwood, Lynn Trenta, Celia Chipman, Mark Morganstern, and Karl Bumgartner. Photo was taken by Jimmie Brannon, who also volunteered.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who make the demo garden a wonderful place to visit.

Mark Morganstern, Prairie Demo Garden Coordinator



Volunteer Seed Collectors—"From Patio to Prairie"

Be a part of restoring our Seabourne Creek Nature Park Prairie! One way that you can participate is to collect seeds at the Nash Prairie November 29th tour or other seed collecting outings. Most of the seed collection projects allow volunteers to keep some of the seeds that they collect.

The chapter will also provide seeds that you can plant. At the next demo garden work day, Mark Morgenstern, Jim Butcher, and Jimmie Brannon will be providing instruction on planting the prairie plant seeds. Also, at the January 21st Quarterly Meeting, we will be distributing the seeds, soil, and pots for this great project. For more information, contact Jim Butcher at jrmbutcher66@yahoo.com.



Class of 2013 graduation party

The graduation celebration welcomed the new class of 2013 to our CPTMN group at the 2013 Class Graduation Party held November 9th at the Fort Bend Country Club in Richmond. A good time was had by all. Congratulations to the new class! We look forward to getting to know and work with you.



Christmas Bird Count Program

Bill Honig presented a great program on The Christmas Bird Count. The Monthly Program was held at the Cinco Ranch Library and was attended by an enthusiastic group of Master Naturalists and people interested in the natural world. Some interested parents of pre-school children taught about Monarch Butterflies by chapter member, Diane Russell, were in attendance. This illustrates how our volunteer activities can reach the community and spark an interest in nature.

Starling Behavior Video and Article

Barbara Willey, fellow Master Naturalist had been seeing a group of starlings when she went by George Ranch, usually present between 2:30 and 4:00pm. Click on the square to view the video that Barbara took of this phenomenon—pretty amazing!



MOV_1944.MOV.mov

The link below explains that while scientists used to think the starlings' murmurations were some complex mathematical pattern it is now understood to be more like the game of "telephone".

[How Do Starling Flocks Create Those Mesmerizing Murmurations? | All About Birds](#)

Girl Scouts Create Monarch Waystation at Brazos Bend State Park

Nationally Certified Monarch Waystation @ BBSP 27119



Our own Barbara Willey coordinated the design and planting of a Monarch Waystation for 10 girls from Girl Scout Troop 27119 and National Certification has been applied. The girls had to each complete a project that included 20 hours of planning and execution in order to achieve their Bronze Girl Scout

Award. They and their parents used 3 consecutive weekends to complete project. They removed some non-natives like blue bonnets and replaced with native nectar and host plants. The girls raised money to buy 3 trellis and \$80 worth of mature plants. The remainder of the plants was purchased with a Sugar Land Garden Club donation to Brazos Bend State Park. A variety of plants were put into the garden, including 160 native green and antelope horn milkweed purchased from Monarch Watch, passion vines, salvias, guara, coneflower, liatris and many others, totally 385 plants. .

"The Girl Scouts will add Sugar Land Garden Club to signage that will be placed at the garden. I will ask the volunteer organization to purchase signage for individual groups of plants as well as the Monarch lifecycle to show visitors the goal of the garden. The garden club's donation also purchased T shaped stakes for caterpillars to use for their chrysalis. This project was extremely rewarding for me as I had children who had never planted, including some with Asperger's Syndrome."

Barbara Willey, Youth Outreach

Saving the Monarchs at Home

Donna Pisani, fellow Master Naturalist, has recently been growing a brood of Monarchs at her home. The photographs below show her home-made Monarch Cage and the chrysalises hanging from the top. She used the book seen below, recommended by our own Linda Rippert, to learn how to make the cage and feed the caterpillars that she rescued from her back yard.



Invasive species

How can you get involved?

Texasinvasives.org is a Texas-sized partnership of non-profit groups, universities, agencies and natural resource managers who work together to identify and address invasive species in Texas. To detect invasive species throughout Texas, we need your assistance.

Texasinvasives.org is offering training programs to master gardeners, master naturalists, school classes, scouts and any other group interested in fighting invasive species and protecting Texas from the negative effects of invasive species introductions.

To learn more about invasive species in Texas or to schedule a training workshop, visit www.texasinvasives.org/invaders or contact invaders@texasinvasives.org.

Share your news with your fellow Master Naturalists!

To contribute any photos, stories, articles or events that you would like to share with the chapter, please email Lynn Trenta at lynn@txtrentas.com. We have a diverse group of people and there is much to learn from each other.

To let chapter members about any upcoming event, please email Susan Walther at susanwalther523@gmail.com so that she can put it in the Coastal Prairie Planner, formerly known as the Bulletin.

Lynn Trenta, Communications Chair