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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*

## Night Sky Program

*Our Coastal Prairie Chapter Meeting Thursday, June 4th, at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center gathered together members and guests to learn about "light pollution" and how you can help alleviate its affects! We hosted guest speaker Cindy Luongo Cassidy, a section leader from the International Dark Sky Association and a consultant with Texas State Parks system on light assessments. Her timely program discussed how we use the cycle of light and dark to trigger life processes. We learned about how artificial night light can cause habitat destruction to our flora and fauna and learn ways to lessen these harmful effects.*

*As a wonderful gesture, Cindy Cassidy gave an in-service follow-up session on Friday morning to teach us how to go about giving presentations on the topic of light pollution. She provided several PowerPoint presentations for different audiences and also gave a hands-on demonstration of visual aids she has used that have proven to be well received, especially in the schools. We further discussed how to talk about light pollution to adult audiences and how to answer typical questions. It was a great two AT hour session and our thanks to Cindy for doing this for us.*

*Photos by Ron Spahr*

*Georgia Messemer, CPCTMN Program Chair*



## *Fulshear Sculptures*

*If you drive the backroads of Fulshear, you will find fine examples of the nature wood carvings of artist Jim Phillips. He is famous for transforming the shattered remains of trees in Galveston following Hurricane Ike into beautiful sculptings for the public to enjoy. While most of his wood carvings in Fulshear have been privately commissioned and can be found in yards and subdivisions, our Chapter's own Ramona Ridge worked with the Fulshear Parks Commission in 2013 to place this beautiful horse sculpting on the side of Wilson road. It stands there silently and without tribute - just a lovely piece of art for the casual passer-by. Thanks to these people for their love of art and nature, and for making it available in such an unexpected way. Photos by Diane Russell*

*Diane Russell, CPCTMN President*



## Earth Day at Cross Creek

Chapter Master Naturalists volunteered at an Earth Day Event sponsored by Tajana Mesic's company, the Green Grove Group, who generously donate money to our Chapter for helping with Earth Day every year. This fun event at Cross Creek Ranch in Fulshear brought 405 visitors to our presentations. Michelle Sullivan headed up the Backyard Investigation table and was assisted by her son, Patrick, and Jessica Jubin. Jeff McMullen came with his honeybees. Diane Russell headed the Monarch Life Cycle table and was assisted by Reene Spahr and Barbara Willy.

Thanks to our outreach volunteers for providing this great information and fun education to the community.

*Photos by Ron Spahr.*

*Diane Russell, CPCTMN President*



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*There is something of the marvelous in all things of nature. Aristotle*



## Seabourne Creek Nature Park

New time for Demo Garden Work Days-8am-10:30am

Volunteer opportunities are available at Seabourne Creek Nature Park.

To help with the Prairie Demo Garden contact Mark Morgenstern at [Mark Morgenstern](#) or [Lynn Trenta](#).

If you want to help with the Butterfly Garden contact [Lea Hyman](#).

To help with the Bird Sanctuary contact [Bill Johnson](#).

For other volunteer opportunities email [Karl Bumgartner](#).

Despite all of the rain, Seabourne Creek Nature Park was the site of many gardening events this past month. Both the Butterfly Garden and the Prairie Demo Garden saw big changes.

The Butterfly Garden was thoroughly weeded and pruned and then a stock of new plants introduced into this beautiful garden. Thanks go to Lea Hyman, Linda Rippert, Jane Schnell, Doug Simons, Kathy and Gary Moore, Linda Lourim, Terry Schwab, and others who worked in the garden.

The Prairie Demo Garden volunteers removed some grasses that had become invasive. A large shout-out of thanks goes to Sal Cardenas, Than Colvin, and Jerry Trenta who removed these grasses and then planted them in the SCNP Prairie. Glenda Norwood and Lynn Trenta also manned the shovels to remove grasses from the garden plots. Other gardening tasks were undertaken by Donna Pisani, Diane Russell, Linda Lourim and Sal Cardenas. Plots are in the process of being prepared for adoption.

Seedlings at the Demo Garden were also bumped up into larger pots to be ready to go into the prairie. Than Colvin, Teresa Bailey, Jimmie Brannon, and Jim Butcher worked on this timely project. Jim Butcher also mowed and trimmed around the garden as well.

*Photos by Lynn Trenta*

We had a visitor hiding in the grass—see the spider below.



## Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Competitions



"To all Coastal Prairie Chapter members who enjoy producing pieces of art, photography, sewing, stitching, scrapbooks, newsletters, brochures--Consider submitting an example of your work to be judged at the annual TMN state meeting in the fall. Several of us attended last fall and were quite surprised at this fun competition. The photography category was intensely competitive. Beware, and be creative, because great photographers are to be found in the Naturalists! There were many newsletter and chapter brochures, and our own Carol Pawelek received the top award for the Chapter brochure she designed in 2014. Other categories, like paintings, sewing, stitchery, quilting, carvings and sculpture, had almost NO submissions. Maybe one submission each! Wide open for us to take home some blue ribbons! You don't donate your artwork; you can keep it, but you now have five months to prepare. Rules are attached. Good luck!

*Diane Russell, CPCTMN President*

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*Look! Look! Look  
deep into nature  
and you will  
understand  
everything.*

*Albert Einstein*

## Texas Monthly Horned Lizard Article

Alex Dropkin, a freelance writer who asked for Master Naturalist members' stories on horned lizards last year, sent a thank you to those who sent stories to him.

He also sent a link to his Texas Monthly article which incorporated these stories. Here's the link:  
<http://www.texasmonthly.com/story/what-happened-to-the-horned-toad-texas-state-reptile?fullpage=1>



## The Coastal Increase Seed Program

Lan Shen, President of the Houston Native Prairie Association, spoke to our chapter at the Program Meeting about the **Coastal Increase Seed Program**. Seeds are needed from our area and our members can help collect seeds for this important project. To find out more go to <http://prairiepartner.org/group/prairie-seed-council-of-texas/page/seed-collecting-resources> and/or contact [Lan Shen](#) to volunteer.



## Katy Prairie Conservancy Summer Science Nights

Diane Russell and Reene Spahr took the Monarch Show on the road to Katy Prairie Conservancy for Summer Science Nights on June 10. They and the families that attended were greeted before they even got in the door by a snake in the grass, which prepared everyone for the fact that the unexpected is to be expected at Indiangrass Preserve. After learning all about Monarchs and doing some cool crafts, everyone took a walk, which began with the flight of resident barn owls as they began down the path. Indiangrass Preserve is a beautiful, quiet space on a summer night as the sun sets - such an asset to the greater Houston area!

*Photos by Reene Spahr*



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Hummingbird Babies Birth to Fledging Video

Susan Archer sent in this great video of 2 hummingbirds from birth to when they leave the nest. Check out this wonderful video!

[Hummingbird Babies Birth to Fledging the Nest - First Flight - Amazing!](#)



Please send in nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter by July 13<sup>th</sup> to [Lynn](#). Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome.

Thanks.

Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor



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

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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