



Special Interest Articles:

- July Program
- Fulshear Market
- Gideon Lindecum MN Visit

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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

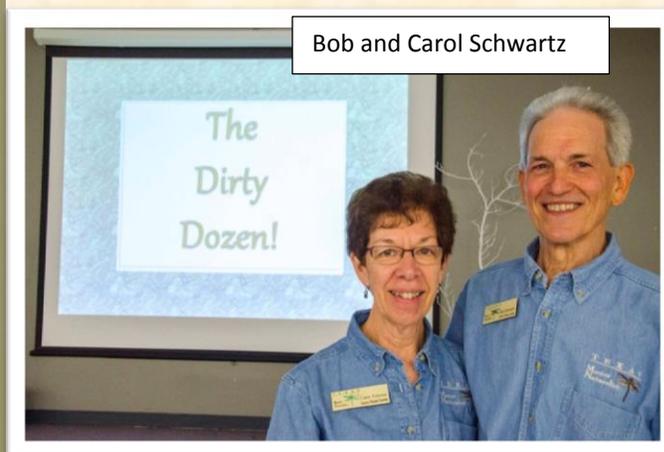
Chapter program about the “Dirty Dozen”

Our Coastal Prairie Chapter Meeting Thursday, July 2nd, at the Bud O’Shieles Community Center gathered together members and guests to learn about invasive species predicted to be coming into Texas soon. Our own Master Naturalists, Bob and Carol Schwartz, gave a Texas Parks and Wildlife- based presentation about the “Dirty Dozen”, twelve invasive species that are poised to enter thirteen U.S. States, Texas among them. These invasive species are non-native/alien to the ecosystem and are harmful to the environment, economy and human health.

Carol, who had worked on a project concerning the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), presented additional information about this small, fast-multiplying insect, one of the encroaching invasive species, including ways to identify infestation from the EAB.

Other species that are now in Texas were discussed, including the Giant Reed, Giant Salvinia, Zebra Mussels, and Chinese Tallow.

*To learn more about invasive species and/or report a sighting go to: <http://texasinvasives.org/>. We need to be on the lookout for these species that are on their way into Texas. **Attached is the “Dirty Dozen” invasive species list.***



Bob and Carol Schwartz



David Risch & Sandy Rushworth

At the general meeting which followed, David Risch & Sandy Rushworth

gave a talk about the Houston Museum of Natural Science’s Farish Hall of Texas Wildlife and the applicable information and enjoyable volunteer opportunities available to MNs. Thanks for sharing this with our group. Photos by Ron Spahr

Fulshear Farmer's Market Master Naturalists spread the Word

Diane Russell and Pat Mollere attended June's Fulshear Farmers' Market to spread the word about gardening to attract Monarchs and pollinators, and to raise awareness about our upcoming training class and Prairie Heritage Festival. A steady stream of families stopped at our CPTMN Butterfly Booth, where we were fortunate to have a large perfect butterfly that had just emerged hang around the entire morning to be our good will ambassador, along with the caterpillars! These families really are like sponges, eager to know about what our Chapter is doing in their communities, and apparently interested in joining us at some level of participation - either as future members, at programs, bird hikes, or eagerly awaiting PHF this fall. We universally received a warm and enthusiastic reception there.

Please consider joining us and signing up for these outreach events - they are personally rewarding and fun (and yes, a little hot in the summer!), and extremely important for our Chapter's growth and community recognition. Feel free to call any of us for more information or if you are uncertain where you can help."

"If you see Ramona Ridge, be sure to give her a big THANKS for organizing the Farmer's Market in Fulshear and overseeing it every single Saturday. It is a grand thing she is doing for the community - both the industrious people who have organic and homemade products to sell, as well as the community that is given access to them. Photos by Diane Russell.



"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly, "one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower." ~Hans Christian Andersen

Dona Marie Clubhouse Visit

Three of us from the Coastal [Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter](#) visited the Dona Marie House, a farm-based psychosocial rehabilitation center helping those living with mental illness, in June at the invitation of fellow board member Sharon Smith. We were blown away at this beautiful oasis and what is being done here. Fragrant aromas wafted from the kitchen as lunch cooked. The beautiful acreage and ancient oak trees were beautiful and extensive gardens were thriving under Sharon's green thumb. There were sweet Nubian goats, a pen of chickens and a Salvador Dali art cow - wonderful!

Our Chapter is looking forward to helping her develop a pocket prairie as well, and before long there will be Monarchs and other butterflies and pollinators of all sorts in abundance. This is such a wonderful organization and we want to thank everyone for the outstanding and unique contribution they offer to the surrounding community. We have never seen anything like this elsewhere. Photos provided by Facebook.

Diane Russell, CPCTMN President



Seabourne Creek Nature Park Prairie Demo Garden Hosts Gideon Lincecum Master Naturalists

Wednesday, July 8th, 5 members of the Gideon Lincecum Master Naturalists, along with Natalie James, the Brenham ISD Outdoor Learning Specialist, their contact with the schools, visited our Seabourne Creek Prairie Demo Garden, Plant Nursery and Prairie. Some of them had attended the Prairie Restoration Roundup last Fall and were impressed with the Seabourne Projects. They are in the process of learning how to put in a prairie garden or pocket prairie for 4th graders in the Brenham School District and wanted to see how we had put together our garden.

Chapter members Karl Baumgartner, Diane Russell, Jim Butcher, and Lynn Trenta were at the demo garden area to show them around and represent our chapter. We had a wonderful exchange of ideas about the garden and also about our different chapters' activities. We hope to be seeing more of this MN group in the future (Field Trip, anyone?) It is important for MN Chapters to get together, communicate and learn from each other.

Thanks to our hosting MNs and also to the wonderful regular volunteers in the garden: Glenda Norwood, Than Colvin, Sal Cardenas, Linda Lourim, Jim Butcher, Bill and Margo Johnson and Lynn and Jerry Trenta. We appreciate everyone for their valuable contributions. It is making a difference!

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](#).

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

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



Master Naturalists See Rare Birds



Early last month (5th - 8th), Carol and Bob Schwartz had the opportunity to go to the Hill country on a birding trip with about six (6) other people. The highlight of the trip was to see two specialty birds of Texas, the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. They were successful with both birds. ...Texas is the only state in the US in which the Golden-cheeked Warbler can be seen.

Way to go, Bob and Carol! Photos by Bob Schwartz



Also, Karl Baumgartner spotted A bobwhite on his Lavaca property and snapped this photo.

Another rare bird nowadays!



Members Spot Lepidoptera

This month, 3 MN Chapter Members sent in photos of insects from the order of Lepidoptera. Donna Pisani raised a Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly seen below from some pipevine plants she had bought. Thanks for sending the photo. Beautiful butterfly!

Don and Penny spotted a *Manduca rustica* moth on the wall at church and sent in this great photo and website: <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Manduca-rustica> Thank you all also for sharing this information and photo!

Lynn Trenta shot a photo of this purple hairstreak (let me know if this is incorrect) on a rattlesnake master at the SCNP Prairie Demo Garden.



Manduca rustica



Pipevine Swallowtail



Purple Hairstreak

Chapter Members Help at 4th of July Celebrations

Saturday, July 4th, Coastal Prairie Chapter Members volunteered as wagon masters and manned a table for the 4th Celebration at Seabourne Creek Nature Park.

Jim Butcher, Georgia Messemer, John Cotterell, Jimmie Brannon, and Jimmie Brannon served as guides for visitors who boarded the horse-drawn wagons to tour Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Adults and children alike piled onto the wagons and enjoyed the ride.

Diane Russell and Lynn Trenta were on hand to talk to visitors about our chapter and the upcoming Prairie Heritage Festival.

Many fun activities were available to families. A live band played for much of the evening, hot dogs were consumed, children's faces were painted, a rock climbing wall challenged the kids and bounce houses were in constant use. These all added to a lively and festive atmosphere.

Then around nine o'clock the fireworks started and we were all treated to a fantastic display with an "over the top" finale.

This was a wonderful celebration of our Independence Day. Thanks to all of the MN volunteers and to the City of Rosenberg for such a vibrant and fun festival. Photos by Wayne Poorman.



National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT) Plan (Recently in Bulletin)

In 2016, the U.S. Forest Service (FS) will begin a four-year process to revise the existing National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT) forest plan. Usually, forest plans are revised every 10-15 years. However, our existing forest plan is already 19 years old! To say we are overdue for a change, is a vast understatement. Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Angelina, and Sabine National Forests and LBJ and Caddo Grasslands all deserve a revised plan with better and more protective environmental measures

The revised forest plan will occur in three phases and include an assessment of existing information; revision of the plan; and monitoring that ensures the forest plan does what it says it will do.

The forest plan must use the best scientific information and contain desired conditions (a snapshot of what the forest will look like in the future with plan implementation); objectives that provide measurable progress using a reasonable budget; standards and guidelines to constrain projects or activities; suitability of lands for multiple use activities (wildlife, range, water, timber, and recreation); and goals which provide broad statements of intent.

Some of the issues that will play a role in the forest plan revision include protection of water quality (for our cities, recreation, and fish) and stream-side vegetation (called riparian areas); continued protection and an increase in the number of federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW); trail uses, locations, and impacts; protection of wilderness and scenic areas; management of unique areas, like blackland prairies; other recreational uses; adequate law enforcement; and a budget sufficient to implement the forest plan.

The Sierra Club wants people who love forests and want to get involved. If you want to visit and get to know Sam Houston National Forest and if you want to be part of the team that provides input into the revised forest plan please contact Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or brandtshnfbt@juno.com.

Our NFGT are too important not to speak up for wildlife, wilderness, water, landscapes, plants, and compatible recreation. See you in the forest!

Brandt Mannchen, Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club



Vote for Your Favorite Texas State Park!



Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has partnered with [Budweiser for the "This Bud's for Texas Parks" contest](#). You're invited to vote as often as once per day from now to Sept. 30 for your favorite Texas State Park; the park with the most votes will receive a \$25,000 grant.

Thanks to Barbara Willy and Carol Schwartz for sending this in. We recommend voting for Brazos Bend State Park, which will require months of repair work after the recent flooding; however you are of course welcome to vote as you choose. Note that this competition is for state parks only, so BBSP does not compete in any way with Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Voting via the link above takes less than 5 seconds!

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Toad Abodes You can Make –Celebrate Frog Week 7/12-7/18

You can choose to buy a toad abode (you can find them at your local garden store) however, making your own toad abode might take even less time. DIY toad abodes are inexpensive, easy, At first glance you might think that a toad abode is just a cute garden decoration, but you will be pleasantly surprised to know that toads really do use these little cottages! It could take anywhere from a couple days to a few months for the toad to find and claim your provided home, but once they do they make great yard companions. (This information courtesy of the Houston Arboretum)



Please send in nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter by August 13th 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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