



# COASTAL PRAIRIE COURIER

February 1, 2014



## **SEABOURNE HONORED**

The chapter was recently awarded Honorable Mention by the Houston-Galveston Area Council in the 2013 Parks and Natural Areas Awards for the Seabourne Park Ecosystem Restoration Project. Thanks to all the chapter members who have worked to make the Park what it is today and to Barbara Willy for submitting the project in the competition.

*Doug*

CPTMN members in the photo are from the right: Barbara Willey, Jim Butcher, Cynthia McConathy, and Karl Baumgartner.

## **CHAPTER MEETING, PROJECT FAIR, AND NATURAL JEOPARDY**



Pat Mollere and Jim Butcher with Youth Outreach



Diane Russell with Monarch Butterflies

January 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday, CPTMN presented their first Project Fair and rolled out a new game for the chapter, "Natural Jeopardy." Both events were well-received and a lot of fun! At the Project Fair, different activities that are available to chapter members were presented at tables with photos and exhibits that illustrated the activity. Chapter members who are involved in the activity manned the tables and talked to the visitors.

Natural Jeopardy followed the Project Fair with 3 teams of people instead of individuals. The questions were about different topics related to nature, such as birds, native plants. This proved to be a challenging, but fun game. There has been some discussion of having a regular night for this game—Jeopardy, anyone?

More Project Fair Photos can be seen below. Other chapter members at the project fair were Karl Baumgartner, representing Seabourne Creek Nature Park, Linda Rippert presenting a butterfly exhibit and Barbara Willy representing Brazos Bend State Park. Photos were taken by Jamie Harris. Thanks, Jamie!



**Mark Morgenstern SCNP Demo Garden**



**Stella Davison and Toni Huff with KPC**



**Bob Schwartz, Wayne & Vicki Poorman, Bill Johnson at the Birding Exhibit**



**Doug Simons at the Seabourne Park Creek Exhibit**



**Hal Fuglaar, Mac McDonnell and Lisa Marler**



**Susie Doe with native plants and microscope**

## **FERAL HOGS, WALLOWES AND PRAIRIE SEEDS**



January 4<sup>th</sup> CPTMN volunteers came out to work at Seabourne Creek Nature Park in the demo garden and in the prairie area. Mark Morgenstern, Prairie Demo Garden Coordinator led the seed collecting effort by Than Colvin, Cyd Johnson, Linda Lourim, Doug Simons, Glenda Norwood, and Lynn Trenta. After collecting the seeds from the demo garden, volunteers scattered the seeds among the many feral hog wallows in the prairie. Sal Cardenas and Mark also put in some heavy labor, shoveling more soil into the North bed.

Meanwhile, the feral hog team was working on baiting the hog trap. Karl Baumgartner, Jim Butcher, Jimmy Brannon, Hal Fuglaar, and other volunteers have been baiting the trap in order to catch the hogs doing the damage in the prairie. As the picture shows, we did trap one of the varmints. There have been 2 more hogs trapped since this one, making a total of 3 at last count.

All in all, the weather was great, goodies were eaten and we had a good time. Photos were taken by Karl Baumgartner, Wayne Poorman, and Lynn Trenta.

## **KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY AND HIGHWAY 36A ARTICLE**



Linda Lourim, CPTMN Treasurer, sent this link to an article about the Superhighway 36A:  
<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/texas/article/Planned-highway-could-cut-into-prized-Katy-Prairie-5168650.php> . Good reading. Thanks, Linda.

## BIRD TALK



Western Tanager



Female Boat-tailed Grackle-WP

## Bird Hike

On January 8, on the monthly Seabourne Creek Bird Hike, Wayne and Vicki Poorman welcomed Mark and Debra Scheuerman, who along with Bob Schwartz, volunteered their knowledge and skills which made it possible for the large group to receive individual help to become better birders.

Wayne and Vicki reported on the hike: "A dreary, drizzly day yielded great results for our bird field checklist. We added 3 new species: Song Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle (not common for this part of Fort Bend Co), and a Western Tanager (rare bird for Fort Bend Co.) Thanks, Jerry (CPTMN Jerry Carpenter), for the photo to document the Tanager. The list is up to 164 birds now. Final thought: One joyful moment on the hike was when a birder gasped at the sight of a beautiful, red Northern Cardinal near the bird sanctuary. We are indeed lucky to have this fine, feathered friend to brighten our cloudy, cold winter days.

Our ongoing success is a result of the hard work of our Master Naturalists and the community in developing a city park into a nature park."

## Biological Inventory Team



January 14<sup>th</sup> the CPTMN Bird Biological Inventory Team (BIT) conducted our chapter's first bird survey on a landowner's property to identify the number of species there. Accompanied by the landowner, Bill Johnson and Bob Schwartz, Bird BIT members, along with Carol Pawelek, Publicity Chair, identified 34 species of birds over 4 hours. Bob Schwartz stated that "the highlight birds were Bald Eagle, Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglet...It was a very interesting outing at a very nice property and we hope to resurvey the same area again in the future. The property owner was very enthusiastic about our survey and seemed to enjoy the birding very much."

Participating in the Bird BIT is a great opportunity to put birding skills to use for a wonderful cause. The chapter would love to see more birders participate in this volunteer project. Kudos to these BIT members!

## Bird App for Electronic Devices



Jim Butcher and Wayne Poorman have discovered the new app from Cornell Lab, Merlin Bird ID. It works on any Apple mobile device (iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad) that can run iOS 7 or newer operating systems. You will need iOS 7 (or newer) in order to install Merlin Bird ID.

The Android version will be released in spring 2014. If you would like to be notified when the Android version is available, please sign up here [Android Update Sign Up](#).

There is also a sign up list to be notified when the program is available for Android devices.

[http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/?utm\\_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm\\_campaign=7d1383f8a2-Cornell+Lab+eNews+2014+1+09&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_47588b5758-7d1383f8a2-302880261](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=7d1383f8a2-Cornell+Lab+eNews+2014+1+09&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-7d1383f8a2-302880261)

## Killdeer on Skates?

Karl Baumgartner snapped this photo of Killdeer walking on the wetlands area ice recently—a sight not often seen in Seabourne Creek Park!





Bud Hensley

## ENTICING PREDATORS TO PATROL YOUR GARDEN

Winter is a good time to begin planning which native flowering plants and herbs to cultivate in your yard this spring to create a haven for beneficial insects 01-15-2010 // Janet Marinelli

IT'S EASY TO LOVE BUTTERFLIES. But for many gardeners, attracting these beautiful pollinators is where the infatuation with insects begins and ends. Invite carrion beetles and assassin bugs to a flower border or vegetable patch? Only the intrepid dare go there.

Yet there are good reasons to create a backyard buffet for these and other so-called beneficial insects (*robber fly, left*). They are the tigers and barracudas of the insect world, preying upon many of the organisms that ravage prized garden plants. So many homeowners have pest problems largely because their yards are not inviting to the predators and parasites

that in natural ecosystems keep pesky creatures in check.

Although a number of biological pest controls—the fancy term for beneficial insects—are sold at local nurseries and mail-order suppliers, the most effective way to entice predators to patrol your yard is to grow their favorite flowers. Winter, when you're perusing the pages of nursery catalogs and dreaming of spring, is a great time to look for the blooms these creatures love best: [asters, coneflowers and other daisy like native wildflowers](#), as well as popular culinary herbs such as dill and parsley that produce inverted parasol-shaped inflorescences.

For the rest of the article, which goes on to tell you the plants to put in your garden that will attract these advantageous insects go to: <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Gardening/Archives/2010/Enticing-Predators-to-Patrol-Your-Garden.aspx>

## CLIMATE CHANGE



Lan Shen, HNPAT President, shared the following information source for climate change. "Here is a [list of webinars on climate change](#). These webinars are online for viewing after they are shown live. They are made for educators and schools, but I always find one of the easiest ways to start learning about a subject is to start with children's books or as these - videos for schools." Past webinars online/ list of future ones are at: <http://climatechangelive.org/index.php?pid=199> . For a list of webinars subjects that this organization has made in the past, go to <http://pwnet.org/links.php> The website

homepage is at: <http://ClimateChangeLIVE.org> For more information about ClimateChangeLIVE, contact Kristy at [lierckx@pwcs.edu](mailto:lierckx@pwcs.edu).

*Coastal Prairie Chapter Members,*

Please feel free to submit articles about volunteer activities that you are undertaking. We can all learn more ways to provide education and outreach to our community. Contributions of nature-related topics are also appreciated as naturalists need to know about the world around us. Please send to: [lynn@txtrentas.com](mailto:lynn@txtrentas.com) .