



COASTAL PRAIRIE COURIER

March 1, 2014

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAPTER MEMBERS!



Congratulations to the following members who received service award pins, but were not present at the quarterly meeting. All of your volunteer work is greatly appreciated!

<i>Jerry Carpenter</i>	<i>250 hours</i>
<i>Celia Chipman</i>	<i>Certification</i>
<i>Diane Eismont</i>	<i>2013 Recertify, 500</i>
<i>Johnny Fife</i>	<i>2013 Recertify</i>
<i>Bill Godley</i>	<i>250 & 500 Hours</i>
<i>Gary Moore</i>	<i>2013 Recertify</i>
<i>Kathy Moore</i>	<i>2013 Recertify</i>
<i>Gloria Scheel</i>	<i>1000 Hours</i>
<i>Susan Walther</i>	<i>2013 Recertify</i>

SEABOURNE OUTREACH



Last Saturday, February 22, Jim Butcher, Past CPTMN President, guided a group of 8 boy scouts from Wolf pack 940 on an interpretive walk through Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Included in the interpretation were the 4 SCNP Ecosystems, 5 trees, 5 birds and 5 native plants. He also spoke about the history of the area and they even left speaking a few words of Karankawa.

Way to go, Jim!

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH TRAINING



Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) conducted a training class and demonstration for CPTMN members on February 10th. Pictured are: Jamie Fairchild, Diane Russell, Lynnsey Dohmen (TWA Coordinator), Lynn Trenta, Donna Pisani, Pat Mollere (Outreach Chairman), Mary Pearl Meuth (TWA Coordinator), Stella Davison, Doug Simons, and Jim Butcher. Thanks to Diane Russell for being a gracious host to our group. We had a fun time!

BUTTERFLIES



Aphids are annoying pests and often affect the Mexican Milkweeds that serve as host to the Monarch Butterfly. To learn about them and some ways to get rid of them go to these websites from My Monarch Guide:

<http://www.mymonarchguide.com/2007/08/there-are-these-little-orange-things.html>

<http://www.monarchbutterflygarden.net/control-aphids-milkweed-plants/>

Choose Frostweed for Your Butterflies

By Znobias Wootan on May 23rd, 2011 (all photos courtesy Native American Seed Company)

When you choose plants that will attract butterflies it is important to remember that there are two types of food sources that butterflies depend upon; one is a larval food source and the other is a nectar source for the adult butterfly.



Frostweed, *Verbena virginica*, is truly an exceptional nectar source for butterflies. Along with the *Liatris* species, it is one of the few plants that bloom in late summer, the hottest part of the year, and continue blooming until frost.

Beautiful white blooms in fall attract pollinators. Pipevine Butterflies, Monarchs and Great Purple Hairstreaks are a few of the many butterflies that love the bountiful nectar of the Frostweed. It has been selected as a monitoring plant by Monarch Watch because of its importance as a nectar source for the Monarch butterfly. The flowers

form a white disc 3-6 inches across providing a mini buffet table for the butterflies.

This biennial, also known as white crownbeard, ranges in height from 3-6 ft tall. Last year the plants underneath my largest live oak were at least 6ft tall. This year without any rainfall and no supplemental water this same area has Frostweed that is only 2ft; maybe it will reach 3ft by fall.

The stem is straight and un-branched until the flower heads appear. Frostweed has large leaves that are a dark green in color and Native Americans would roll them and smoke them in special ceremonies like tobacco. The Native Americans also used different parts of the plant to ease gastrointestinal symptoms mainly as a laxative, and they also believed that it would help the urinary tract and certain eye ailments.



Unique ribbon ice sculptures form during first frost.

It is a stately robust plant and can dominate the area that it is planted in. It seems to love growing under my mature live oaks and pecan trees here in Junction and can be found growing throughout Texas in shade to part shade and in areas that are dry to moist. Its best use is in naturalized landscapes and you will be rewarded in the fall by the butterflies that will flock to it in droves.

The first frost is when Frostweed performs a unique trick that is truly a marvel of nature. The stem splits and as the sap oozes out of the winged stem it freezes and as it is freezing it curls into fascinating ribbons forming mini ice sculptures. The plant was named Frostweed because of this unique characteristic.

Consider adding Frostweed to your habitat. It is a necessary nectar source especially in drought years like we are having now. *The above article was sent by Diane Russell.*

MEMBERS' PHOTOS

Diane Russell snapped this photo of cormorants overlooking a group of pelicans in her neighborhood lake.



Barbara Willy caught a Great-horned Owl last week in a photo out at Brazos Bend State Park.



and Sandhill Cranes this week also at BBSP.



BIRD HIKE, EBIRD AND A NEW SPECIES

Bird Hike

Vicki and Wayne Poorman reported on the February 5th bird hike out at Seabourne Creek Nature Park below.

“On a blustery, winter day, we had some enjoyable moments. Everyone was able to see a Brown Creeper, creeping up a tree - very exciting because they are difficult to find. Everyone also enjoyed seeing a Ruby-crowned Kinglet display his bright, ruby crown - an event that doesn't happen on a regular basis. And how delightful it was to view a beautiful Roseate Spoonbill through Bob's scope. The bright, pink bird against the green vegetation on the bank of the creek just makes one's spirit soar!

Mark taught a wonderful lesson on distinguishing Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants. The park currently has both species present. He also entered our bird list on eBird with his phone app.”

e-Bird

If you have an eBird account you can accept this checklist into your eBird account by clicking on the link below:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/shared?subID=UzE2Nzk3MDI1&s=t>

You will then be able to view, edit, or delete it. Learn more about eBirds checklist sharing process at

<http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/1010555-understanding-the-ebird-checklist-sharing-process>

Vicki and Wayne Poorman, CPTMN Bird Hike Coordinators

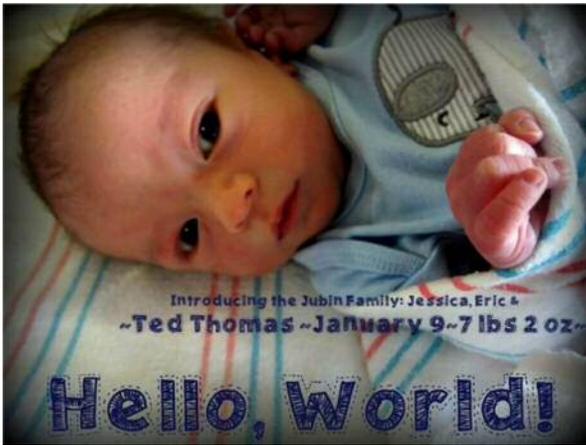
A New Species



Sunday, February 9th, Vicki and Wayne spotted **the 165th species** for Seabourne Creek Park! Wayne verified it with Mark Scheuerman that it was an immature Black-crowned Night Heron and a newly identified species.

For news about the latest bird hike and a new bird list go to the CPTMN Website, either on the home page or the Seabourne Creek Park Page under Signature Projects.

GOOD NEWS!!



Congratulations, Jessica and Erik Jubin!

Jessica and her husband welcomed Ted Thomas Jubin into the world on January 9th, 2014! Go to the chapter's website to see more great photos of Ted at <https://www.facebook.com/TXMNCoastal>.

PUBLICITY CORNER



Carol Pawelek, CPTMN Publicity Chair, has added a new member to the Publicity Committee. Chad Norvell has graciously signed on to help with publicity duties and will be issuing the monthly program press releases. Thanks, Chad!

SIGN-IN SHEETS



When chapter members coordinate an activity, remember they need to have a sign-in sheet and note attendees that are non-members (and hopefully get their contact information.)

If you conduct an outreach event, you need to turn in an event sheet. This sheet goes to the Texas Master Naturalists for important grant information.

Both of these forms are attached. They also can be found on the website under Members Login and "Chapter Forms".

UPDATE FROM JIMMIE



Note to CPTMN members and advisors:

I would like to thank you for your wishes and prayers for my speedy recovery following a series of surgical procedures on my leg. I am now in the third week of Re-hab (physical therapy), progress has been a lot slower than what I expected.

Thanks for the "get well" cards, phone calls and visits and hoping that I will see all of you soon.

Jim Brannon

INVITATION FROM BOONE



See Boone's note below. He has encouraged all CPMN members to submit content for the spring "Fort Bend Gardener" newsletter.

Anything that includes "natural" gardening, creating home habitats for wildlife, benefits of native plants...are all great topics.

Just FYI, we currently reach over **1500 people** with this quarterly publication. This is a great way to get your word out, to show what you are doing, and to spotlight Seaborne projects.

I will start aligning content next week, so let me know what you come up with.

Many thanks.

Boone jb.holladay@ag.tamu.edu