



May 16, 2014 Courier

SHANGRI-LA FIELD TRIP



On a beautiful balmy and breezy day on May 3rd, twenty-three CPTMN members, family and friends met at the truly amazing grounds of Shangri La Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Texas. This 252 acre paradise is not just for humans, but for birds and pollinators of all sorts. We enjoyed strolling through the lush, manicured gardens, viewed myriad displays of flowers and plants in their natural settings, and spent as much time as we could spare at the incredible bird blind viewing the nesting birds. Some of the

flowers, especially the purple and yellow, looked fluorescent. What struck Bill and Diane Russell was that of all the botanical gardens they had seen, these seemed the most vivid. Lunch was delish and then we headed to Adams Bayou and a most entertaining and informative boat ride along the Bayou during which, among alligators and snakes swimming by, we were treated to a view of a hummingbird nest! All in all, it was a most memorable field trip with ohhs and ahhs at every turn. Members attending were Jim Butcher, Karl Baumgartner, Bill and Sue Archer, Wayne and Vicky Poorman, Gary and Kathy Moore, Carol Pawelek, Bob Schwartz, Cyd Johnson, Jerry Carpenter, Diane Russell, Georgia Messemer, Pat Mollere, Jane Schnell, and Gloria Scheel. Thanks to Georgia for organizing the trip for us. One AT hour has been authorized for the boat trip.

Georgia Messemer, CPTMN Field Trip Coordinator

More of Wayne Poorman's Shangri-la Photos can be seen at: [Shangri-la Gardens 2014](#)

CHAPTER MEMBERS' PHOTOS



Rick Adams snapped some great photos at Seabourne Creek recently. You can see more of his photos at: [Rick Adams SCNP Photos 4-2-14](#)

NEW HOUSTON NATIVE PRAIRIE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS WEBSITE



NPAT of Houston has a new website which can be found at: <http://HNPAT.WORDPRESS.COM> Check out what is going on in this wonderful prairie organization.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN



Chicken Not-So-Little: "Threatened" Listing for Lesser Prairie-Chicken Has Big Implications

By: [M. Benjamin Cowan](#) and [Anna R. Kuperstein](#)

On April 10, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS or the Service) published a long-awaited [final rule](#) listing the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The LPC's habitat stretches throughout Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The rule specifically identifies wind energy development, and oil and gas development as "two of the more significant threats" to the species. [more...](#)

TMN RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

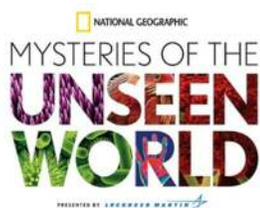
Congratulations to all you Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, Chapter Advisors and program supporters and partners! Due to your dedication and hard work, the Texas Master Naturalist Program has been named the TCEQ Environmental Excellence Winner in the Civic/Community Category for 2014!

Michelle Haggerty, TMN State Program Coordinator

To see the video portraying the TMN program go to: TMN . The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards webpage is at: [Texas Environmental Excellence Award Website](#). Our award is under the Civic/Community Award for 2014.



GREAT VIDEO



Barbara Willy sent in this great video clip (Mysteries of the Unseen Universe). Filmmaker Louie Schwartzberg uses time-lapse technology to show us unseen dimensions of life as we know it, from ocean currents to dragonfly wings. This video previews his IMAX film. You can view it at this link: [The Unseen Universe](#)

BIRDING

Bird Hike



Last Wednesday (May 7th) was a great day for a bird hike at Seabourne Creek Park!

A group of **39** birders recorded a total of 50 bird species, including 3 new birds for the park: Bay-breasted Warbler, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Bank Swallow. A list of our results is attached documenting that a total of **178 species** have been recorded to date.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a successful day.

We are indebted to Mark Scheuerman and Bob Schwartz for their expert guidance, their patience, and for allowing us the generous use of their scopes. We appreciate Carol Pawelek for getting out the word throughout the community about our hikes, and Margo "Mac" McDowell for fielding all the many telephone calls resulting from Carol's effort. Mac stated that she received more phone calls regarding this hike than any other.

Thanks to all the Coastal Prairie Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists for their dedicated hard work to turn Seabourne Creek Nature Park into the showplace that it is becoming.

We also appreciate Fernando Ramirez, from [Stafford METV Channel 16 News](#), for coming out to record the hike. We look forward to seeing his broadcast, and will try to share the exact time and date of the program when we learn more details. Fernando indicated that the program might air in late summer or early fall.

And finally, a special thanks to all the visitors who showed up. You are the reason that we do what we do. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable time, and we look forward to seeing you back when the monthly bird hikes resume this fall.

Several folks asked for a link to all of our bird photos taken at the park. Photos are posted at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/WaynePoorman/BirdsOfSeabourneCreekNaturePark>.

E-bird

Mark Scheuerman has also posted our results to eBird. To accept his checklist into your own eBird account, click on <http://ebird.org/ebird/shared?subID=UzE4MjcxMzMz&s=t> You can view, edit, or delete it. You can learn more about eBird's checklist sharing process at <http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/1010555-understanding-the-ebird-checklist-sharing-process>

Happy Birding!

Vicki and Wayne Poorman, CPTMN Bird Hike Coordinators

DEMO DEMONS STRIKE AGAIN!



The Prairie Demo Garden Team at Seabourne Creek Park have been at it again! They bumped up over 290 plants last week.

Our count from May 10th was as follows:

Into 4 inch pots, 139

Into 1 gallon pots, 158

Workers were: Lynn Trenta, Jim Butcher, Mark Morgenstern, Georgia Messemer, Sharon Showalter and Than Colvin. Karl Baumgartner was there working on other items.

Than Colvin, CPTMN Prairie Team

EPA RELEASES ENVIROATLAS ECOSYSTEM MAPPING TOOL

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released EnviroAtlas, a web-based interactive tool that integrates over 300 separate data layers, helps decision makers understand the implications of planning and policy decisions on our fragile ecosystems and the communities who depend on goods and services from these ecosystems. EnviroAtlas is designed for people from all levels of government, professionals, researchers, educators, non-governmental organizations, and anyone interested in considering the benefits or impacts of a decision, such as siting a new road or city park.

EnviroAtlas is available to anybody with access to a computer and an internet connection. No special software is needed. It is currently not optimized for smartphone or tablet use, but a mobile-friendly version is planned for the future.

Using tools like EnviroAtlas to make informed decisions will help ensure that people can continue to enjoy economic, social, and environmental benefits of ecosystems now and in the future. <http://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/>

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Butterfly and Earth Day Education Outreach



Diane R., Pat M., and Carrie S.



Jim Butcher Teaches about Water Quality

April and May found the chapter Education Outreach Team, headed up by Pat Mollere, providing education about butterflies and water quality/conservation at schools and community centers. The Earth Day celebrations brought out hundreds of children and their parents.



Donna Pisani, caterpillar and girl



Fulshear Butterfly Ladies Lynn, Donna and Diane at Earth Day

Many thanks to Pat Mollere, Diane Russell, Carrie Sample, Donna Pisani, Reene Spahr, Jim Butcher, Ramona Ridge, Lynn Trenta, and other MNs who volunteered for these great opportunities to educate our communities.

A special "Thank You" also goes to Tejana Surlan Mesic, newly-elected Fulshear City Councilwoman, for organizing the Earth Day Outreach Events.

Look for articles further detailing these activities in the next edition of the Courier.

SCNP WETLANDS



Wayne Poorman took some great photos of the amazing Seabourne Creek Wetlands. The wetlands are surrounded with wildflowers and native wetland plants and are attracting new species of water birds and providing a beautiful area for visitors to enjoy. See Wayne's photos

at: [SCNP Wetlands 5-2014](#) and [SCNP Wetlands2 5-2014](#)

BRAZOS RIVER RECREATION MASTER PLAN CELEBRATION



The Brazos River Recreation Master Plan is complete and Fort Bend Green is unveiling the plan on May 28, 2014!

It will be held at:

The Gordon Ranch
7714 FM 359
Richmond TX, 77406

4:00pm to 6 pm

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. To attend please RSVP Kim Icenhower at:
kim@icenhower.com or call 713-504-4378

Enjoy the Memorial Day Holiday!