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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, and conservation/restoration projects

## President's Message *By Bert Stipelcovich*



**Fellow Chapter Members:**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our daily lives and the operation of our chapter. On July 13, Fort Bend County Judge KP George signed a declaration of health disaster due to a public health emergency. The [Fort Bend County website](#) states that “the order was signed to help contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Fort Bend County.”

Fort Bend is currently at the highest risk level, “High Community Risk.” The [Fort Bend County COVID-19 Community Risk Level Summary document](#) defines the risk levels and guidance. The current risk level is defined as follows:

Risk Level	Risk Description	Activity	Guidance
High Community Risk	High potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of COVID-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid all gatherings of any size.</li> <li>Avoid non-essential business and personal travel.</li> <li>Avoid public transportation where possible.</li> <li>Practice good hygiene and social distancing.</li> <li>Cancel social visits to nursing homes, long term care facilities, and hospitals.</li> <li>Schools and after-school activities for youth close, as directed by educational authorities &amp; advised by local health authorities.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAY HOME, STAY SAFE</b></p> <p>Minimize contact with others, wherever possible, and avoid leaving home, except for essential needs.</p> <p>Practice social distancing and use face coverings.</p>

### Wave 2 Override

The Texas Master Naturalist state program previously advised that we will remain at Wave 2 until at least August 1:

- Wave 2 – Effective June 1 – August 1
  - Group meetings of 10 or fewer people only if social distancing can be practiced. Face coverings are highly recommended — or required if local authorities have enacted such a policy.

However, since Fort Bend County now requires that we “avoid gatherings of any size,” we must follow that directive. (Note that the TMN state program defines a “gathering” as “two or more people.”)

I encourage everyone to continue engaging in safe activities for Advanced Training (AT) and Volunteer Service Projects (VSP). Consult the Weekly Bulletin for opportunities. And, contact Ramona Ridge and Johanna DeYoung — AT and VSP Directors, respectively — with any questions. I will follow up with an email to all chapter members providing more details as they become available.

### On a Positive Note

Our fall training class is filling up! Of the 49 chapters that comprise the TMN program, we are one of only 13 chapters presenting a fall class.

Continued on Next Page---

**Please send chapter events and nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter to [Lynn](#) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome. Thanks.**

**Lynn Trenta,  
Courier Editor**

**President’s Message** *(Continued)*

*Planning for the virtual Annual Meeting in October continues. We will have a large and exciting role to play. Expect more information in the coming weeks.*

*Continue to stay safe. As always, contact me with any questions, concerns, and suggestions.*

*All the best, Bert Stipelcovich 713-540-2378*

**Annual Meeting Registration Begins August 5<sup>th</sup>**

<https://web.cvent.com/event/d0012216-ad2d-4ae0-9e8b-195d8ad7884d/summary>

**The Membership Minute** *By Bob Naeger, Membership Director*

*Congratulations to the following members who recently achieved certifications and milestones:*

*The recertification pin for 2020 is the American Bumble Bee!*

**Initial Certification**

*Ron Master*



**2020 Recertification (30 members recertified so far)**

- Ramona Ridge
- Gloria Scheel
- Becky Waldo
- C.J. McDaniel
- Ursula Cooper
- Rick Adams
- Blair Margot
- Mark Morgenstern



**250 Hour Milestone**

*Isabel Retiz*

**1000 Hour Milestone**

*Terri Hurley*

*All pins that have been earned this year have mailed to the recipients. We will continue to mail pins as they are earned until we are able to resume in-person meetings.*



**Terri Hurley Hits 1000 Hour Milestone!**

*Congratulations to Terri Hurley for hitting the 1000-hour milestone recently! Terri has been a wonderful chapter member. Last year she served as Volunteer Service Director and also took over the responsibility of the chapter website. She transformed it into the efficient and informative website it is now. This year she is serving as our chapter Vice President, working on the 2020 Annual Meeting virtual field trip and other aspects of the Annual Meeting, and continuing to be our webmaster. She has also been active at Seabourne and at the Seabourne Nature Fest, always willing to help and support chapter members as well as finding innovative projects.*



## Lan Shen Talks about Pocket Prairies at July Program

July 2<sup>nd</sup> we were all in for a treat as we tuned into our zoom program meeting. Lan Shen, KPC Seed Collection Manager and Great Grow Out Coordinator and active in Houston's Native Prairie Association of Texas and Native Plant Society of Texas, presented an interesting and informative program on pocket prairies. She outlined the steps to putting in a pocket prairie: selecting a site, preparing the area, and choosing plants, and also maintaining it. Although pocket prairies don't have to be maintained like a garden, some maintenance is needed. Keeping invasive plants out is one task that needs to be undertaken. Watering is necessary for the plants to become established, but not usually after that.

Lan also showed us several common prairie plants to use in pocket prairies and stated that pocket prairies can be fairly small or acres in size. Several pocket prairies have been installed in Houston, beginning with the Whistlestop Pocket Prairie, located close to the Houston Zoo.

To see her PowerPoint presentation go to the TMNCPC Website at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kcsgbq4685dfugt/Build%20a%20Pocket%20Prairie%20%20Prairie%20Garden.pptx?dl=0>

Katy Prairie Conservancy is also a great source for pocket prairie information

<https://www.katyprairie.org/buildpocketprairies>



## Chapter Program "Bats" by Deandra Ramsey August 6<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm

Bats are truly the unsung heroes of the night skies. Come learn about amazing diversity found in the bat population of the Houston area as well as in Texas. We will cover the basics of bat biology, delve into the mythology surrounding bats, and discuss how important these animals are to our ecosystems and our way of life.

**This meeting will be open to the public with advance registration. Check back here for registration details. All TMNCPC members will receive an email in advance of the meeting which will provide the information needed to access the Zoom meeting.**

Deandra Ramsey has always had a passion for saving animals. She attended Texas A&M University where she obtained her B.S in Biomedical Science. She has always had a deep love of all animals, however during her time at Texas A&M, she gained the opportunity to work extensively with a captive colony of pallid bats as a research assistant. And the rest, as they say, is history and her love affair with bats began!

Deandra has worked in the conservation community for over 15 years. She started her career at the Houston Zoo in 2010 and has been involved in many conservation initiatives ranging from pollinator conservation to habitat restoration. She was awarded the title of Conservation Champion due to her work with the Texas Bat Monitoring project she leads at the Houston Zoo along with facilitating the partnership between the Houston Zoo and Bat Conservation International. As a member of the Houston Bat Team, she is responsible for public outreach and education surrounding Houston area bats. Deandra also works with Buffalo Bayou partnership to further conservation education efforts in relation to our amazing urban wildlife we have right here in Houston.



## Volunteer Service Projects Highlights

By Johanna DeYoung, TMNCPC Volunteer Service VSP Director

Since 6/26/2020, the Texas COVID-19 situation remains a “public health disaster”. Thus, Executive Order GA-28, outlining restrictions remains in effect: Implement social distancing and good hygiene, and “Individuals are encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings...”.

The TMN Coastal Prairie Chapter (TMNCPC) continues to be under the directives issued by Mary Pearl Meuth, TMN Program Assistant State Coordinator, on 3/31/2020. Until Ms Meuth lifts these directives, please refrain from doing non-essential VSP activities at Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP).

If there is an essential activity within SCNP you feel is necessary, please contact Jerry Trenta, Seabourne Director, ([713-898-4782](tel:713-898-4782)/[jerrytrenta@txtrentas.com](mailto:jerrytrenta@txtrentas.com)) prior to going to SCNP. The SCNP Volunteer Days remain on pause.

Upon receipt of VSP ideas from the TMN Program, I shall promptly post them. Please continue to check the website calendar, Slack, and the CPCTMN Members Only Facebook page. If you have any questions about VSP opportunities, please contact me at [johanna@coastalprairie.org](mailto:johanna@coastalprairie.org).

It has come to my attention TMNCPC members may be unaware of the descriptions of existing VSP opportunities. If there is no existing VSP opportunity that fits a potential VSP opportunity, there is a process to create a new VSP opportunity. Please request and complete an VSP Proposal Form. In turn, the VSP Committee, Terri Hurley, Lynn Trenta, Amy Barta, and me, will review the proposal and determine if it qualifies to become an VSP opportunity.

### VSP Opportunities

*Preparation for the TMN Virtual Annual Meeting (October 14-17, 2020)*

*When: daily*

*Where: in the comfort of your home*

*Needed: T. Hurley is looking for someone(s) to create the TMNCPC entry for the "project" competition that will be held at the TMN Annual Meeting. The TMNCPC wants to enter a submission on our signature project – SCNP, and maybe also one on Seabourne Nature Fest. Those interested can familiarize themselves with the rules and create draft plans for the TMNCPC entries.*

*Additionally, those interested can work with T. Hurley planning a virtual field trip to SCNP and one to the Katy Prairie Conservancy for the virtual field trip selection at the TMN Annual Meeting.*

*[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category “Chapter Business: TMN Admin Report Hours”]*

*Adding Alternative Text Within WordPress to All Photos in the Media Library of the TMNCPC Website*

*This is an VSP opportunity for those who know a lot, a little bit, or are willing to learn about WordPress. Per T. Hurley, “It’s super easy.” You can work on it from home! If you are interested in taking on this project, please contact T. Hurley at [Terri@coastalprairie.org](mailto:Terri@coastalprairie.org).*

*[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category “Chapter Business: TMN Admin Report Hours”]*

## Help Needed with Camera and Film Editing for Pre-recorded Virtual Field Session at Seabourne

By Terri Hurley, TMNCPC Vice-President



The annual meeting of the Texas Master Naturalists will be held virtually this year from Oct 14 – 17. Several virtual field sessions in and around the Houston area will be offered on Tuesday, October 13. We are excited to report that we will be creating and filming a virtual field session that highlights our efforts at SCNP.

A detailed plan for the film is already worked out and the presenters are working on their scripts. We just need help with the camera and film editing to combine all the segments together. If you have experience with using a film editing software, please help us out on this project. Contact Terri at [terri@coastalprairie.org](mailto:terri@coastalprairie.org) if you are interested.

## A New Retractable Banner for Our Chapter!

By Terri Hurley, TMNCPC Vice-President

We are pleased to announce the completion of a beautiful retractable banner that highlights our chapter and our projects.

TMNCPC member Linda Bills-Shirley designed the banner and worked closely with the printer to make sure the finished product met our specifications. The five high resolution photos in the banner give credit to the photographers who are all TMNCPC members.

All the photos were taken at our signature project, Seabourne Creek Nature Park. The Eastern Screech Owl was taken by Wayne Poorman, the Blackeyed Susans by Pauline Zinn, the Turtle by Garrett Englehardt, the Monarch Butterfly by John Donaho and the White-Tailed deer by Erik Wolf.

It's a heavy duty banner that can be used indoors at our chapter meetings and all other outreach events. It can also be used outdoors under a covered patio or tent. The banner can be reserved through SignUp Genius. The banner project was a group effort by several other TMNCPC members for months and all are thanked for their help and input.





## Enter the Coastal Prairie Chapter Photo & Art Contest – Deadline August 24!

By Robbin Mallett, TMNCPC Communications Director

*Calling all CPC Photographers and Artists! Thanks to COVID-19, the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting is going virtual this year on October 14-17. One of our chapter goals is to encourage our members to enter the Photo, Art & Media Contest. This is a fun and easy way to participate.*

*We're going to get this kicked off by holding our own Coastal Prairie Chapter Photo & Art Contest. Have you taken any great nature photos in Texas or created a nature-themed drawing or painting? Enter them into our chapter-member only contest. Winners will get bragging rights and submit their entries for the statewide Annual Conference Contest.*

*We'll use the same guidelines and categories as the Annual Meeting. Some changes were required and complete list of the rules will be available August 1 (the day after our Courier newsletter is disseminated.) But, please go ahead and think about what photos or artwork you might enter. All entries must be the original work of and submitted by a Master Naturalist volunteer. Here's a link to the basic guidelines. I will share the specific rules via Facebook page as soon as they are released.*

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-photo-art-and-media-contest/>

### PHOTO CONTEST

*Photos must be taken in Texas. Color or black-and-white are acceptable. Entries must be no larger than 8MB. The Contest Committee reserves the right to place an entry in another category if deemed appropriate. Photos taken at Seabourne Creek Nature Park are encouraged!*

*Categories:*

- (1) Plant Life (w/no wildlife)*
- (2) Wildlife*
- (3) Birds*
- (4) Scenic*
- (5) Photos of Chapter at Work/Play*
- (6) Digitally Enhanced Nature Photos – **new this year***

*Continued on the next page---*



2019 Annual Meeting Photo Contest Entries



A 2019 Photo Winner

Enter the CPC Photo & Art Contest – Deadline August 24! *(Continued)*

**ART CONTEST**

*Do we have any artists in the chapter? If so, we encourage you to enter the Art Contest. Since this year's conference is Virtual, they will not have the Carving, Sculpture or Sewing/Stitchery categories. The two Art Categories are Drawings and Paintings.*

**HOW TO ENTER**

*It's super easy to enter the chapter Contest. Just e-mail your entry(ies) to [Contest@coastalprairie.org](mailto:Contest@coastalprairie.org) by August 24, 2020. Be sure to include your name, phone number and:*

**Photos**

*For each photo, include the category of photo, location taken and a title for the photo. Attach your digital photo(s) no larger than 8 MB. Photos should have an aspect ratio of 10:8 or 8:10 (i.e.. 10x8 inches if printed). Each member can enter up to five photos in any category(ies).*

**Artwork**

*Include the category (drawing or painting) and a title for the work. Attach a digital photo of the artwork no larger than 8 MB. Include any details you like describing the piece. Each member can enter up to three pieces.*

**JUDGING/WINNERS**

*Photos will be blind judged by a panel of judges who are not Coastal Prairie Chapter members. Winners will be announced on our TMNCPC Members Only Facebook page and at the September 3 chapter meeting. If you have any questions, contact Robbin Mallett, CPC Communications Director, at [Robbin@coastalprairie.org](mailto:Robbin@coastalprairie.org).*



2019 Art Contest Best of Show



## Cuckoo for Cuckoos: Birds that Parent, Bees That Don't

By Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC New Class Co-director,

Photos by Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC New Class Director (spring),



Yellow-billed Cuckoo



Black-billed Cuckoo

When a Texas naturalist hears the term 'brood parasite,' it is often associated with the brown-headed cowbird native to the coastal prairie region. Rather than go through all the trouble of rearing her own young, this cleptoparasite lays a single egg into another bird's nest to be raised unknowingly by the surrogate bird parent(s), usually at the demise of the other young (who were likely pushed out of the nest by the bigger juvenile brute). It is the ultimate design in lazy parenting.

For the rest of the world, the cuckoo family of birds are most well-known for this parasitic practice. With more than 100 avian cuckoo species worldwide, there are only two (*Coccyzus*) species – Yellow-billed (YBC, *C. americanus*) and Black-billed (BBC, *C. erythrophthalmus*) – in North America. They are certainly no exception to their taxonomical family rule although they are much more likely to incubate their own chicks than their Eurasian counterparts.

They are capable of consuming the prickly hairs of tent caterpillars which emerge each spring, shedding their stomachs occasionally to regurgitate a pellet of the undigestible hairs. The same caterpillars, reliably infesting tree canopies everywhere, are even fed to their chicks.

Every birder worth their salt is looking to tick off the elusive BBC during the short spring migration window. The dark bill and red eye ring easily give this bird away, but as they are only passing through the Upper Texas Coast with little fanfare, consider yourself lucky if you have seen one. YBC's breeding range covers most of the eastern United States and includes Fort Bend and Waller Counties in Texas where many of us get to enjoy their daily cooing and clucking sounds in riparian or wooded habitats. Both species migrate to South America, traveling hundreds of miles directly over the open Caribbean to reach their wintering grounds there.

<https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/gallery/yellow-billed-cuckoo.html>

<https://txtbba.tamu.edu/species-accounts/yellow-billed-cuckoo/>

## Cuckoo for Cuckoos: Birds that Parent, Bees That Don't (Continued)

*It is not only birds who evolved to this clever clepto-parenting style; the insect world is rife with brood parasites. When a small pocket prairie restoration brings many native Megachile (Leaf-cutter) and Melissodes (Longhorn) bees into full-on pollen-collection mode, so too will arrive Coelioxys (Cuckoo Leaf-cutter), Epeolus and Triepeolus (Cuckoo) bees to take advantage of nearby host broods to plunder. Daily, they spend most of their time skulking the same nectar forage in the prairie that their host bee female frequents ... then follow her unsuspecting as she returns with a full pollen load back to her nest, to the peril of her offspring.*

*None of the Cuckoo bee species have evolved pollen-collecting scopae. They do not need them! Instead they have evolved spade-like abdomens used for digging or spear- or forceps-shaped ovipositors used to lay eggs directly into the soil. Upon hatching, larva will first slaughter the host's next generation, then engorge themselves to adulthood on the convenient pollen stores left behind. Again, shirking parenting has its upside, and cleptoparasitism has served these bees well for millions of years.*

*Learn to recognize these local Fort Bend and Waller County species in your garden.*

- Lunate Longhorn Cuckoo Bee (*T. lunatus*)
- Concave Cuckoo Nomad Bee (*T. concavus*)
- Cellophane-cuckoo Bee (genus *Epeolus*)
- Eight-toothed Cuckoo Leaf-cutter Bee (*C. octodentatus*)
- Carpenter-mimic Cuckoo Leaf-cutter Bee (*C. dolichos*)

<https://www.wildbeestexas.com/coelioxys-bees>

<https://www.wildbeestexas.com/triepeolus>

<https://www.wildbeestexas.com/nomad-cuckoo-bees>

Concave Cuckoo Nomad Bee



Coelioxys (Cuckoo Bee)



Lunate Longhorn Cuckoo Bee

## Eskimo Curlew honored in Galveston Island State Park

Text by Paula Dittrick, TMNCPC blogmaster.

Long-billed curlew photos by Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC New Class Director (spring), Robbin Mallett, TMNCPC Communications Director, and the Official Nature Tourism Website of Galveston

A bronze Eskimo Curlew stands 6 feet tall at Galveston Island State Park. Permanently installed this spring, the sculpture is part of The Lost Bird Project by Todd McGrain.

Six memorial sculptures are each placed near the last sighting of that bird across North America. The Texas Ornithological Society's Texas Bird Records Committee lists the Eskimo Curlew as last being photographed in west Galveston in 1962.

Meanwhile, the final confirmed sighting came in 1963 when someone shot an Eskimo curlew in Barbados. An Audubon web site shows the [Eskimo curlew](#) had warm brown feathers with white speckles and cinnamon-colored underwings. Its long legs were dark green, dark brown, or dark grey-blue.

The Eskimo Curlew is considered possibly extinct although people in a boat reported seeing 23 shorebirds believed to be Eskimo Curlews (*Numenius borealis*) at about 5 p.m. CDT on May 7, 1981, on Atkinson Island in Galveston Bay, Chambers County.

Other permanent Lost Bird Project sculptures are:

- Great Auk in Newfoundland
- Passenger Pigeon in Ohio
- Labrador Duck in New York
- Carolina Parakeet in Florida
- Heath Hen in Massachusetts



McGrain built the sculptures to link art with natural history, illustrating how humans have hindered biodiversity. A documentary shows him traveling North America to find the right location and acquire permission to place each sculpture. The documentary can be rented or purchased at <http://www.lostbird.org/>

"Forgetting that these birds ever existed is another kind of extinction," McGrain said. "It takes real work to preserve habitat, raise awareness, and mitigate the factors that adversely affect bird populations."

An exhibit of the original bronzes of each sculpture are being displayed in Galveston's Bryan Museum gardens through March 2021. There is no fee to visit the exhibit, supported by the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council, Houston Audubon, and The Bryan Museum.

## Stay-at-home restrictions might mean more firefly observations

Text by Paula Dittrick, TMNCPC Blogmaster

Photos by Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC New Class Director (spring),

*Wizzie Brown, an entomologist with Texas Agrilife Extension Service in Travis County, suggests that more people might observe fireflies this year because of stay-at-home restrictions associated with coronavirus.*

*Has it been awhile since you saw a firefly or lightning bug? [FireFlyers International Network](#) (FIN) celebrated World Firefly Day 2020 during the July 4 weekend. FIN's theme was "Hope rising" for the online celebration (Youtube channel and the FIN Facebook group) given health concerns amid the pandemic. FIN is an international group of firefly scientists, conservationists, and enthusiasts.*

*If you cannot see fireflies in your own yard or neighborhood, Youtube features an excellent and calming [video](#) by Diana Lehr, which is well worth watching.*

*Fireflies belong to a family of beetles called Lampyridae. The Texas Master Naturalist textbook says fire ants are believed to have affected firefly populations, p. 428. Brown is among the authors of Unit 13, Entomology. Brown explains that fire ants nest in the ground and are capable of attacking firefly larvae that are on the ground. She said fireflies typically are most active during a rainy spring, adding they like moist areas such as wetlands.*

*Separately, Tufts University biology professor and firefly expert Sara Lewis wrote the book [Silent Sparks](#) published by Princeton University Press in 2016. Lewis reports almost 2,000 species of fireflies worldwide, saying different species have evolved in different ways. For instance, blinking lights are the mating ritual for most, but not all, fireflies. The book includes a North American firefly field guide.*

*Separately, FIN features more information on its website. As the FIN Facebook page says: "Flash on!"*





## Chapter Member Advises Girl Scouts on Butterfly Garden

By Linda Lourim

Photos by Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC New Class Director (spring)



*Linda Lourim had an on-site discussion in January 2020 with Hannah Muegge, Charitable Activities Director of JBH Long Point Ranch. It was Hannah's desire to develop some ranch areas into pollinator gardens. Both of them had done their research, with stacks of books on pollinators and the plants they love! Some of the considerations discussed included:*

- *Specific butterflies to attract (from the AgriLife Extension's "Representative Butterflies of Ft. Bend County")*
- *The best host and nectar plants to support those butterflies*
- *The importance of having at least 3 different plant species in bloom from February through November for bees and migrating butterflies and hummingbirds*
- *Planting with blocks of color rather than scattered onesies*
- *Plant placement for best viewing (tall and short)*
- *Signage considerations (plant names, pollinator processes, toxic plants)*
- *Landscaping for birds*

*The 2-hour meeting was very fruitful and got Hannah off to a very good and confident start.*

## Eagle Scout Bird Blind Rehabilitation and Splash Project at Seabourne Creek Park

*By Bill Johnson, Bird Sanctuary and Blind Director*

*Finally, after 11 months and a pandemic delay, Boy Scout Andrew Dittmar, 7 of his fellow scouts, the troops, the leadership and Mom and Dad completed his Eagle Scout Project. Thanks to them all, the work was completed in just 2 days on site with very little Master Naturalist intervention.*

*Thanks to Rick Adams for encouraging and expediting this Scout effort to improve our Seabourne birding amenities. Rick brought folding camp chairs and a tent. The Scouts brought all their materials and provided the labor. The leadership provided a little supervision to assemble, install, and complete both the new shingle roof and a floor in the bird blind that will last through a hurricane.*

*The splash in the pond was creative and the finished water feature as natural as we could devise, given Fort Bend County has no native stone or rock. So, the solution was river rocks and one piece of limestone. Our own Blair Margot provided the plumbing fix and I filled the pond on Tuesday following the work completion on the 12th.*



Seabourne Prairie Plants Available *By Lynn Trenta, SCNP Habitat Coordinator*

**VEXU** *Verbena xutha*  
**Gulf Vervain**

Family: Verbenaceae (Verbena)      Duration: Annual  
 Growth Habit: Forb/Herb      Height: 12 to 60 inches  
 Flowers: Apr - Oct      Seed Collection: May - Nov

Description: **Dicot** Gulf vervain displays its blue-violet flowers in tall, slender spikes. Individual blossoms average one-third inch across and have five flaring lobes typical of the verbenas. The square stems are densely hairy, as are the three-lobed leaves. Leaf segments are further coarsely toothed. **Seed Collection:** collect from flower heads that have dried. (alt. name: Tall Verbena; Coarse Vervain)



Seabourne Creek Park - Prairie Demo Garden - 2016



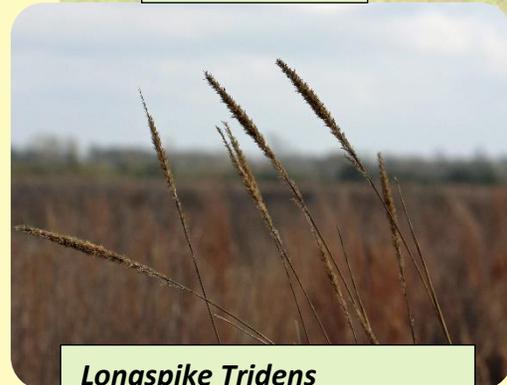
Gulf Coast Penstemon-



Gulf Muhly



Little Bluestem



Longspike Tridens

The Seabourne Prairie Nursery has the following prairie plants that chapter members can take home for their garden, landscape, or pocket prairie!

- Little Bluestem
- Longspike tridens
- Gulf Vervain
- Gulf Coast Penstemon
- Gulf Muhly

VSP hours can also be earned at the Seabourne Prairie area. As we are under Covid-19 Restrictions, members should come by themselves. Please notify Seabourne Director, [Jerry Trenta](#) or Habitat Garden and Houston Wilderness Coordinator, [Lynn Trenta](#) if you want to volunteer at the Seabourne Prairie area.

Although we can not invite members to come other than singly, Jerry or Lynn will be available, if notified, to direct the volunteer activities there, socially distancing and wearing masks.

## In Our Own Backyards and Other Places

### Eryngo *Photo and Text by Diane Eismont*

*I was mowing on the tractor in early July and was surprised to see this AMAZING looking plant I had never seen before, blooming along a spot by the outside fence line in the pasture.*

*I took a photo and believe it to be ERYNGO, in the parsley family (Apiaceae). It is prickly and the flowers look like tiny pineapples. The plant is 20-40 inches high. Flowers are a shade of purple. It is said to be used in dried flower arrangements as well as medicinally. Grasshoppers seem to like it!*

*When I sent it to Lynn, she said this plant was also in the Seabourne Houston Wilderness pollinator area -species *Eryngium hookeri* - and that the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center lists it as a native plant. She said it was good for bees and seemed to be an annual. So, get the location info from Lynn and take a look!*

*Editor's Note: This plant was also seen in the Girl Scout Butterfly garden at the James B. Harrison property at Long Acres. See the article and Shannon Westveer's photo.*



## Native Plant Society of Houston's Wildscapes Registration Open

*Reminder! We appreciate your support for Wildscapes Workshop 2019. I want to inform that registration is open for Wildscapes Workshop 2020.*

*While we won't be able to gather as in the past, we'll still have four great presentations, via Zoom, on Sep 1, 3, 8 and 10. The online plant and book sales will be Sep 12 and 13 (with registrants getting first pick), and pickup on the following weekend.*

Check it out on our website- <https://npsot.org/wp/houston/event-overview/wildscapes-workshop/>

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wildscapes-workshop-and-native-plant-sale-registration-112885431364>

*We really appreciate your support. I hope you will join us!*

Sheryl Marquez, Registrar- Wildscapes Workshop  
832-859-9252



## The Book Corner



### **Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife, Expanded 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

David Mizejewski, NWF

***Make your backyard more nature-friendly by providing habitats for the local wildlife!***

***From the National Wildlife Federation, the largest U.S. nonprofit conservation organization, with 6 million members and 51 state and territorial affiliated organizations***

***Step-by-step projects that everyone can do together make getting your family back to nature easy, educational, and fun***

***Over 200 color photos of backyard wildlife habitats and the wide variety of creatures they attract, plus step-by-step photos and illustrations for family projects***

*Photo by Lynn Trento*

***Learn wildlife-friendly practices for gardening, landscape design, supplemental feeders, birdbaths, nesting places, and more***

***Learn how to attract backyard pollinators, from bees and butterflies to beetles, bats, and hummingbirds***

***Get your garden certified by the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife(TM) program by following the included certification application checklist***

***Your backyard can come alive by creating an environment with plants and spaces that attract nature's most interesting and friendly creatures! Colorful butterflies, uplifting songbirds, and lively toads can enhance your personal garden space, giving pleasure to nature lovers of all ages.***

***Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife provides 17 inspiring wildlife-friendly projects that the whole family can enjoy, making getting back to nature easy, educational, and fun! Learn how to fill your yard and garden with the sights and sounds of nature with ideas for homemade feeders, birdbaths, ponds, native plants, protective cover, nesting places, and more.***

***Author David Mizejewski, a naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation, presents simple plans for reintroducing native plants that birds, butterflies, and a whole host of critters can't resist. He shows ways to supplement nature to further entice wildlife to your yard and garden, and even provides new information on attracting backyard pollinators—a major issue for environmentalists as bee colonies continue to face challenges.***

***Mizejewski holds a degree in Human and Natural Ecology from Emory University and has hosted television series on both Animal Planet and NatGeo WILD. He regularly appears on NBC's Today Show and makes dozens of other media appearances each year to promote wildlife conservation through natural gardening. He specializes in urban ecology, the role that native plants have on wildlife populations, and helping people restore wildlife habitat in their cities, towns, neighborhoods, backyards, and gardens.***

***Get back to nature by learning how to give back to nature, with Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife, Expanded Second Edition from the National Wildlife Federation!***

***Ben Franklin Award Winner, Publishers Marketing Association.***

# The Lighter Side

(ohhh here she comes)  
watch out bugs she'll chew you  
up  
(ohhh here she comes)  
she's an anteater



John Donaho (Facebook)



Robbin Mallett

How do you catch a unique rabbit?

Unique up on it.



Kind Humon  
(Kind Humour)

How do you catch a tame rabbit?

The tame way.

Becky Leugemors (Facebook)



If 2020 were a food truck.



Julie Gentry (Facebook)



## TMNCPC 2020 Board Members

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We are on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal>

## Native Landscape Certification Classes Online-Registration started

*Richard Louv in Last Child in the Woods points out that baby boomers are the last generation of Americans to share an intimate, familial attachment to the land and water. The importance of nature to our well-being has been demonstrated by numerous studies correlating improved learning, an increased sense of well-being, and reduced crime in neighborhoods with trees and parks.*

*The Native Plant Society of Texas created the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) to encourage a migration of Texans back to nature that will reap priceless benefits for our families, environment, and economy.*

To read more about this program go to <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/about>

Our Chapter Facebook Page is at

[TXMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#)



To post photos and information, email

[Robbin Mallett](#)

*Also, share our chapter Facebook entries with your friends on your Facebook Page*

*We also have a **Chapter-Only** Facebook Page that allows chapter members to post items. You can join by going to the website below and clicking on "Join". The administrator will allow you access. This is for chapter members only.*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1882734648662315/?ref=bookmarks>

### COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

1402 Band Rd  
 Extension Office  
 Rosenberg, TX 77471—8678  
 Phone: 281-633-7033

Check out our Chapter Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/tmncpc/>

To post photos and information, email [Ramona Ridge](#)