



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:**

*We continue to roll forward!*

*Moving into March, we continue to build momentum with new members, renewed energy, strengthened partnerships, and loosening pandemic restrictions.*

*The new Spring Class, which began February 16, is well underway! The Seabourne field trip on Saturday, February 27, was a great success! Thanks to our members helping the new class by acting as class hosts, co-hosts, guides, and mentors.*

*Our chapter is the focus of a [new article by Marquita Griffin](#) of the Fort Bend Herald. Titled "IN THE SPOTLIGHT | Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists combined nature and technology in a year of crushing setbacks," it provides very positive exposure for our chapter and mission. Thanks to Robbin Mallett for initiating the article, and for Paula Kolmar, Communication Director, for making it happen. I encourage everyone to read the article.*

*We were asked to present at the February 10 board meeting of the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC). Chapter leadership developed a presentation that highlighted the Texas Master Naturalist™ program, our chapter, work done at Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP) in 2020, and our plans for SCNP in 2021. Our presentation was well received, and our chapter received acknowledgment from board members for our hard work at the park over the years.*

*Effective February 23, Fort Bend County lowered the [COVID-19 risk level from red to orange](#). Click [here](#) for an explanation of the color code system. While this is great news indicating a significant reduction in cases, we continue to follow all hygiene and social-distancing protocols.*

*In addition, a third vaccine has been approved and general availability is increasing. As a first responder, I received my second Moderna vaccination on February 22. Other chapter members have begun vaccinations as well. Help is on the way!*

*"And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about." — Haruki Murakami, Kafka on the Shore*

*I think this challenge has fundamentally changed us — for the better — forever. We are stronger, more dedicated, innovative, and focused. And we are also more grateful for what we have: our friendships, our work, our chapter, and our program. Imagine how we will feel when we can reconnect in person and restart our outreach programs!*

*We continue to grow, adapt, and most importantly — have fun!*

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**Please send chapter events and nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter to [Lynn Trenta](#) by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month. Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome. Thanks.**

**Lynn Trenta,  
Courier Editor**

President's Message *Continued*

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

*All the best, Bert Stipelcovich, [bert@coastalprairie.org](mailto:bert@coastalprairie.org), 713-540-2378*

The Membership Minute *By Jan and Kevin Kolk, TMN Membership Directors*

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

*Initial Certification*

*2021 Recertification (5 members recertified so far)*

- *Izzy Retiz, Feb. 4*
- *Jan Kolk, Feb. 4*
- *Susan Walther, Feb. 5*
- *Sarah Marshall, Feb. 9*
- *Kevin Kolk, Feb. 9*
- *Lynn Trenta, Feb. 25*



*250 Hour Milestone*

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*500 Hour Milestone*

•

*1000 Hour Milestone*

•

*Recertification pins (Sideoats grama) are on order and should be delivered in March. We will continue to mail pins as they are earned until we are able to resume in-person meetings.*

Chapter Program March 4, at 6pm "Forest Ecology and Urban Forest Ecosystem Services " *Presented by Michael Merritt, Texas A&M Forest Service*

*Our March 4, 2021 monthly program will be presented by Michael Merritt, a regional community forester with the Texas A & M Forest Service. His topic will be "Forest Ecology and Urban Forest Ecosystem Services."*

*Forests have an important part in Texas' economic health. According to the Texas A & M website, the Texas forest sector has a total economic impact of \$36.7 billion in industry output, supporting more than 168,000 jobs. Forests are also vital for their non-timber benefits, which are known as "ecosystem services." In urban areas, ecosystem services include storage of carbon, avoiding soil erosion, and supporting the livelihoods of many different species of flora and fauna.*

*In his role as regional community forester, Michael works with communities and organizations in the Bayou region to develop long-term sustainable forestry and tree care programs. He has a BA in Forestry from Louisiana Tech University.*



## Deandra Ramsey Talks About Bats at February Program

By Lynn Trenta, TMNCPC Courier Editor



February 4, Deandra Ramsey gave a wonderful presentation about bats to our Texas Master Naturalist chapter. She just recently became the executive director of the Nature Discovery Center which is located within the Russ Pittman Park in Bellaire, TX. She is also a member of the Houston Bat Team which according to their Facebook Page “promotes awareness of bat conservation through public education and monitoring bat populations at select sites. Waugh Bridge is the second largest urban bat colony in the U.S. providing an impressive urban wildlife display in spring and summer at sunset with 300 thousand bats departing for their night-time feeding. They provide talks about bats the first, third, and last Friday May through October.” For more information about bat viewing go to [http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/bats.html?fbclid=IwAR2l8oJ4J7-kwujiGWbGY070\\_n8PwF1F4I5mYKQ5HLbb8kWHOiMfo0xFl](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/bats.html?fbclid=IwAR2l8oJ4J7-kwujiGWbGY070_n8PwF1F4I5mYKQ5HLbb8kWHOiMfo0xFl)

Ms. Ramsey talked to us about bat basics, stating that bats have live births of around one pup weighing about ¼ of the maternal weight. They appear on every continent except Antarctica. Bats belong to the Order Chiroptera, meaning “hand wing”. They are closely related to primates and are divided into general categories of “old world bats” who eat fruit and “new world bats” who eat insects. Bats fly from their wrists, unlike birds who fly from their shoulders. The fruit bats have small ears and rely on smell for their food and the insectivore bats have large ears that help with echo location and smaller eyes. Bats live long lives relative to their body size, from 4 to 6 years to their 30’s. Some bats are migratory such as the Mexican freetail bat who go south to Mexico and some hibernate. They have a lot of diversity in their reproductive methods, with some females housing sperm and inseminating themselves.

There are many bat myths stated Ms. Ramsey. Bats have been thought to take people to “the other side.” In China they are thought to bring wealth and prosperity. Of course, they are linked to the vampire story. Bats are often thought to be “blind”, which is not true. Bats don’t attack people but may skim the surface of water to drink. Bats are not dirty and have a high disease resistance.

There are 11 species of bats in the Houston area and 32 in Texas. The Houston Zoo has seven species: the tricolored, Mexican free-tailed, evening, hoary, northern yellow, eastern red, and silver-haired

Bats are beneficial to people as they provide pest control and pollination, being good seed dispersers. They increase the area of forests. They also provide valuable fertilizer.

Ms. Ramsey discussed the white-nose syndrome, first discovered in New York State in 2007. It is spreading quickly west and south. The fungus grows in the winter when the bats can’t fly. Bats that don’t hibernate have less of this disease.

Habitat preservation protects bats. Some other ways we can help bats are providing bat houses, educating friends and families about bats and supporting organizations that provide research and education. You can also join the Houston Bat Team ([https://www.facebook.com/houstonbatteam/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/houstonbatteam/about/?ref=page_internal).) Acoustic monitors were also discussed, some that plug into your phone.



Photos by The Houston Bat Team





**Volunteer Service Projects Highlights** *By Johanna DeYoung,*  
*TMNCPC VSP Director*

*At last - Good News!!!! Check out the following Fort Bend County update! We also have an update from the State TMN.*

**CURRENT STATUS**

*New 2/23/2021: Fort Bend County Judge K. P. George announced Fort Bend County has moved from a COVID-19 Red Status, "High Community Risk" to an COVID-19 Orange Status, "Moderate - Significant Community Risk." This level involves the following as it applies to the TMNCPC:*

*"Avoid and cancel medium (10-250 people) and large public private gatherings (250+).*

*Avoid non-essential business and personal travel.*

*Minimize contact with others, but begin leaving the home for non-essential needs, except medium and large gatherings.*

*Practice social distancing and use face coverings."*

*Per County Judge George: "Due to the public's diligence, we are now moving down from the red "High Risk" category to the orange "moderate/significant" risk category. Let us continue getting Texas Tough and fight COVID-19 by wearing our masks, getting tested, avoiding gatherings, and getting vaccinated so we can protect ourselves and our loved ones."*

*New 1/21/2021: Texas A & M AgriLife Extension issued the following update:*

*"Guidelines for all TMN Activities:*

*It is very important to know and follow all federal, state, county and local COVID guidelines/restrictions before conducting TMN Activities. Beyond these the TMN program will have the following guidelines:*

- Virtual meeting platform tools should be used whenever possible.*
- For any indoor activity that does occur in-person, both volunteers and public participants must wear masks. The occupancy limit shall not exceed one person per 100 square feet of indoor public space to allow for 10 feet of social distance.*
- For outdoor activities, both volunteers and public participants must wear masks and social distance by at least six feet.*
- All multi-county TMN Chapters must consider each of their county's health ordinances when scheduling in person (face-to-face) events or meetings, the ability/inability for chapter membership to attend, and the equity of scheduling events in certain counties to the exclusion/inclusion of certain segments of the chapter."*

*10/7/2020: Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order No. GA-32 noting "Except as provided below by paragraph No. 5, there is no occupancy limit for outdoor areas, events,..." Paragraph number five reads: "For any outdoor gathering in excess of 10 people, including rafting, tubing, and related services, other than those set forth above in paragraph Nos. 1, 3, or 4, the gathering is prohibited unless the mayor of the city in which the gathering is held, or the county judge in the case of a gathering in an unincorporated area, approves of the gathering, and such approval can be made subject to certain conditions or restrictions not inconsistent with this executive order."*

*7/2/2020: Governor's Resolution GA-29: "Every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household."*

Volunteer Service Projects Highlights (Continued)

VSP Opportunities

1. *Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP): Although the scheduled SCNP Volunteer Days remain on pause, assistance is still needed within SCNP.*
  - For bump ups, prairie planting, nursery maintenance, and/or trail maintenance, please contact Jerry Trenta, Seabourne Director (713-898-4782/[jerrytrenta@txtrentas.com](mailto:jerrytrenta@txtrentas.com)), to make arrangements prior to going to SCNP.
  - For demo garden work please contact Lynn Trenta, (832-646-4769/[ltrenta50@gmail.com](mailto:ltrenta50@gmail.com)), to make arrangements prior to going to SCNP.
  - For bird sanctuary work, please contact Bill Johnson, (281-734-3349/[rxrelo@aol.com](mailto:rxrelo@aol.com)), to make arrangements prior to going to SCNP.
  - For butterfly garden work, please contact Katie Sallean, (713-502-5701/[katie@coastalprairie.org](mailto:katie@coastalprairie.org)), to make arrangements prior to going to SCNP.

[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category "SCNP-7 Habitats Public Access: TMN Report Hours"]
2. *Texas Master Naturalist's 2021 Virtual Volunteer Fair: This fair provided overview and ideas for VSP projects. If you did not attend the two-day sessions conducted earlier this month, (2/3/2021, and 2/4/2021), you can still view these sessions. The recording of the Virtual Volunteer Event is posted to the TMN website: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/virtual-volunteer-fair-february-2021/>.*

Please continue to check the website calendar, Slack, and the TMNCPC Members Only Facebook page for VSP updates. If there is no existing VSP description fitting a potential VSP opportunity, please request and complete a VSP Proposal Form. In turn, the VSP Committee, Terri Hurley, Lynn Trenta, and Johanna DeYoung, will review the proposal and determine if it qualifies as an VSP opportunity.

If you are aware of VSP opportunities or have questions about VSP opportunities, please contact Johanna DeYoung (832-689-4877/[johanna@coastalprairie.org](mailto:johanna@coastalprairie.org)).

Photos by Terri Hurley



Pam Jones in her pocket prairie plot



Janis Hodgson and Linda Lourim in Demo Garden



Bill Johnson visiting the Demo Garden



Amy's children bumping up

## University of North Texas Researcher Notes Kestrel Plumage Varies

Text by Paula Dittrick, TMNCPC blogmaster, based upon Jan. 19 Facebook post by Kelsey Biles on UNT Raptor Research Facebook. Photos by Kelsey Biles..



*American Kestrel caught in Denton during January. Researchers noted lack of red in the tail, the barring, and the pointed ends. Photo by Kelsey Biles, UNT Raptor Research.*



*Spots throughout the tail are unusual. Photo by Kelsey Biles, UNT Raptor Research.*

American Kestrel populations are in decline, prompting researchers to study if the decline can be primarily attributed to their wintering ground or during migration.

Kelsey Biles, a University of North Texas Ph.D. student, is working with the UNT Raptor Research program to track Kestrels in Denton and Gillespie counties.

She has trapped Kestrels over the past three winters. Recently, she reports that Kestrels show "amazing variation" in their plumage, particularly on their tails. Plumage variation also has been reported by researchers in other states.

In a Facebook post by UNT Raptor Research on Jan. 19, Biles shared several photographs. She agreed the photos could be used for this Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie blog.

"Plumage polymorphism, where multiple forms of a trait are maintained within a species, is widespread among many families of birds, but is especially common in birds of prey," Biles said. "The factors that influence kestrel tails are complex, but researchers believe that the variation seen isn't directly due to sexual or natural selection."

[The American Kestrel Partnership](#), a project of [The Peregrine Fund](#), supports Biles' research by providing tracking devices to provide data on overwinter survival, annual survival, and migratory paths for kestrels that spend the winter in Texas.

A portion of UNT's research was featured in a [National Audubon Society article](#).



*Here is another distinctive plumage pattern. Photo by Kelsey Biles, UNT Raptor Research.*



## Helping the Birds Survive "Snowvid" *By Robbin Mallett*



*As Texans hunkered down and tried to find ways to stay warm during the unprecedented winter freeze that began around Valentine's Day, many Texas Master Naturalists had an added concern – how to help wildlife survive the storm.*

*For many birders, feeding the birds became a mission that demanded a lot of time and effort, but also provided a lot of joy during a stressful week. I normally feed birds in my Commonwealth neighborhood in Sugar Land and fortunately had recently purchased a 45-lb bag of seed. During the height of the storm, I was putting out black oil sunflower seed and bark butter several times a day. Each morning I was thrilled to see the birds return, amazed that such tiny creatures could survive such prolonged frigid temps.*

*My yard was inundated with birds. American Goldfinch, Pine Siskins and House Finches were the most numerous. It was fascinating to watch the frenzied feeding and jockeying for food. The Blue Jays would swoop in and flush the little birds, but they would return within minutes. In total, about 25 species visited my yard, including a couple of rare species:*

<i>Rufous Hummingbird</i>	<i>Wilson's Warbler</i>	<i>House Sparrow</i>
<i>Black-Headed Grosbeak</i>	<i>Yellow-rumped Warbler</i>	<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>
<i>Bullock's Oriole</i>	<i>Carolina Chickadee</i>	<i>Blue Jay</i>
<i>Purple Finch</i>	<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>	<i>Northern Cardinal</i>
<i>Eastern Phoebe</i>	<i>Carolina Wren</i>	<i>Red-Winged Blackbird</i>
<i>Scaly-Breasted Munia</i>	<i>Downy Woodpecker</i>	<i>Brown-Headed Cowbird</i>
<i>Orange-Crowned Warbler</i>	<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	<i>White-Winged Dove</i>
		<i>Mourning Dove</i>



*The greatest challenge was helping my overwintering rufous hummingbirds survive. I was rotating out two hummingbird feeders. The nectar would freeze in about 2-3 hours. My house only lost power for about 24 hours, but we had a pipe burst and had to turn our water off. With plumbing companies overwhelmed, it took until Feb. 25 -- 8 days – to get our water restored.*

*I find the birds are still coming to my yard in greater numbers than normal – likely due to the dearth of natural foods. Many native plants and insects have been decimated, so I plan to continue to feed my backyard birds and hope that spring brings rapid renewal and regrowth. This AP article from February 24 details some of the terrible impact the winter storm had on bats, birds and wildlife across the South:*

<https://apnews.com/article/bats-birds-wildlife-southern-freeze-9070466a70d54ee6c84d060c9ea05005>



## Native and Prairie Plant Information *By Lynn Trenta, Seabourne Gardens*

*Interested in starting your native plant garden or pocket prairie? Do you want to know where can you get information and plants?*

*The following websites have good information about native and prairie plants and where to buy both seeds and plants.*

### *Native Plant and Pocket Prairie Information*

#### **Katy Prairie Conservancy**

<https://www.katyprairie.org/9-natives> This is a great site to begin with. The nine native plants are easy to grow and fairly easy to find. Within this website you will see a list of where to buy native plants also. It also lists landscape companies who work with native plants, offers information about the nine natives and more.

<https://www.katyprairie.org/buildpocketprairies> This website gives you specific information about putting in a pocket prairie. Great step by step information.

#### **The Native Plant Society Houston**

<https://npsot.org/wp/houston/> This website contains information about native plants and about this wonderful organization. They have monthly meetings and a yearly workshop "Wildscapes", which was held virtually last year.

#### **Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflower Center**

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/> This website will give you information about native plants. You need to enter the common or scientific name to find the plant you are researching.

<https://www.seedsources.com/> Lots of good information about plants in this seed catalog. It is highly recommended by Jim Butcher, a.k.a. the Grand Poobah. You can also order seeds from this company. It is a good idea to order your seeds all at the same time as the postage on these seeds is usually \$9.00.

### *Where to get Native Plants and seed in our area*

[Houston Audubon Native Nursery](#)

[Native American Seed](#)

[Morning Star Prairie Plants](#) (Mark Morgenstern's Company)

Native Plant Society of Texas, Houston Chapter - [Annual Wildscapes Workshop](#) (September)

[Houston Arboretum Spring Plant Sale March 2021](#) This plant sale is March 26 and March 27 9am-4pm

[Buchanan's Native Plants](#) (May be limited)

[Joshua's Native Plants](#) (May be limited)



## Invasive Alert--Emerald Ash Borer Watch Sent in by Carol Schwartz

Status of emerald ash borer (EAB, *Agrilus planipennis*) is classified as infestation in the following Texas Counties: Bowie, Cass, Denton, Harrison, Marion, and Tarrant. The EAB was first detected in 2016 in Harrison County, TX, and was found through trapping efforts in Cass and Marion Counties the following year, with all three counties upgraded to infested level by 2018. By 2020, Bowie County was also added to the list of infested Northeastern Texas counties. While EAB was spreading in northeast Texas, it jumped to Tarrant County with the first confirmed report in 2018 posted by a young student through iNaturalist. Since its initial sighting in Tarrant County, the beetles were subsequently found in Denton County, May 2020. The infestation has caused millions of dollars of damage to ash trees annually.

The Dallas Environment and Sustainability Committee met early February to discuss potential action plans that could slow the spread of EAB before it reaches the Dallas County area. The beetle could cause significant damage to the Great Trinity Forest in Dallas, where nearly 40% of forest canopy is ash trees. The Environmental and Sustainability Committee aims to develop a task force by April 2021, which will create a management plan to be implemented by December 2021. More about [Dallas Plan](#).

The emerald ash borer is a metallic emerald-green beetle with iridescence that creates an almost brassy to coppery or reddish reflection. The adult beetle is bullet shaped (10-13 mm) and has a characteristically bright red to purple coloration on its abdominal surface under their wings (elytra). One external sign of EAB infestation is the distinctive D-shaped hole adult EABs leave in the trees upon emergence. The larvae are white, and slightly flattened, with a pair of brown pincher-like appendages on the last abdominal segment. The larvae (1.5 in) feed on the phloem and outer sapwood of ash trees, leaving S-shaped galleries that cut off the circulation of phloem to the tree, resulting in tree death.

If you believe you have seen an emerald ash borer, please take a picture and [REPORT IT!](#)



Photo by [jhahn umn.edu](#)



## Seabourne Sightings and Projects

### Seabourne Lake Stocked with Rainbow Trout

Text by Paula Dittrick, TMNCPC blogmaster, with photos by TMNCPC member Garrett Engelhardt.

Some 1,300 Rainbow Trout, each measuring about 8 to 13 inches long, were added to the 4-acre Seabourne Lake at Seabourne Creek Nature Park on Feb. 9, said Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter member Garrett Engelhardt.

The trout stocking is done annually even though the Fish-tastic event, typically held every February, was called off for 2021 because of COVID precautions.

A group of homeschool youngsters happened to be at the park and got to watch, Engelhardt said.

In November 2020, the lake was restocked with 500 large-mouth bass measuring 3 to 4 inches long at that time. The lake also was stocked with 62 pounds of minnows and shiners to help feed the bass. The lake also contains perch and catfish.



Trout restocking at Seabourne Lake. Photos by Garrett Engelhardt



Some youngsters happened to be in Seabourne Creek Nature Park to watch the lake being stocked with trout. Photo by Garrett Engelhardt



These Rainbow Trout were among 1,300 added to Seabourne Lake. Photo by Garrett Engelhardt



## New Class Visits Seabourne

Text By Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor and Photos by Garrett Engelhardt

This last Saturday, February 27, the new class visited Seabourne. Shannon Westveer, new class director, did an amazing job of organizing this fun day! Clipboards with a storage area were distributed, with name tags on lanyards, and paper and pen for taking notes included. All 24 members of the new class were in attendance and sectioned into 4 groups. Each group visited one of four areas in the park at a time to learn about the relevant topics. Susie Doe led the “newbies” on an informative plant walk, Bill Johnson spoke about birding and the Seabourne sanctuary and bird blind, Jerry Trenta talked about the Seabourne prairie project as well as training the new members in “bumping up” our homegrown seedlings into gallon pots and Lynn Trenta took the class through the Seabourne prairie and native plant garden and talked about the Seabourne gardens and native plants. Jim Butcher, Charris Powers, and Janis Hodgson were facilitators and helped to make everything run smoothly.

Chapter Members Susie Doe, left, Jerry Trenta, below right, Bill Johnson, below left and Lynn Trenta lower right lead groups



New Class Visits Seabourne - More Photos

Photos by Shannon Westveer



A bee attached itself to Lucy R.'s hat



Hoiman in the prairie nursery



The 4 Amigos Amanda, Lucy M., Jan, and Joyce



Pat, Ute, Ginny, and Hoiman "bump up" plants



Joyce eating her blue doughnut



# Seabourne Arboretum annual Tree Planting Project

By Jerry Trenta, Seabourne Volunteer Project Director



1-5 River Birch	42-45 Red Maple	71-75 Shumard Oak
6-11 Bald Cypress	46-50 Red Mulberry	76-80 Yellow Poplar
12-21 Am. Beautyberry	51-55 Cherrybark Oak	81-85 Sweetgum
22-31 Buttonbush	56-65 Live Oak	86-90 Blackgum Tupelo
32-41 Flowering Dogwood	66-70 Overcup Oak	91-100 Wax Myrtle
		101-110 Black Willow

The Coastal Prairie Chapter applied for and was awarded a 2021 Apache Corporation Grant of 100 trees. This has been something of an annual tree planting event for the Chapter at Seabourne Park. However, this year will be different than past years' due to COVID-19. Instead of a single day event with many volunteers, we will be holding multiple small planting events with groups of 10 or less volunteers. To accomplish this, we will be setting up Signup-Genius with several dates in March, mostly Wednesdays and Saturdays. Each date will have several tasks you can sign-up for, they are –

- Planter- digs the hole, sets the tree and fills in the hole. Planters can be paired, but must do the work one at a time, taking turns digging, etc. and avoid close contact.
- Water Cart – Drives our touring cart with attached 35-gallon water container to most tree planting sites to put water in the tree hole when needed. It will also be used to transport volunteers and trees to various sites in the park as needed.
- T-Post Installer- Installs protective T-Posts around the trees exposed to being run over by the mowers. They can be paired, but must do the work one at a time, taking turns pounding in the posts and avoid close contact as much as possible.
- Photographer - Optional

Some dates may be cancelled on short notice due to the ground being too hard to dig efficiently or for insufficient number of volunteers or because we planted all the trees.

**This is an excellent project for VSP under SCNP-7 Habitats Public Access: TMN Report Hours.**



SignUpGenius Link  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45AAAE2AA3FB6-apache>

For March 6, March 10 and March 13

## Rosenberg Selects David Junek as New Parks and Recreation Director

The City of Rosenberg is pleased to announce that David Junek has been selected as the City's new Parks and Recreation Director. He began his employment with the City on February 22.

Junek's arrival in Rosenberg is just in time to lead the implementation of the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update which was formally adopted by Rosenberg City Council in December 2019. The citizen-driven plan serves as a long-range planning document that captures the community's desires and needs for parks and facilities, as well as a capital improvements plan for the parks system over the next five to ten years. The plan is intended to help meet the needs of both current and future residents by providing a guide for City staff, the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council's efforts to provide high-quality parks and recreation services - all of which is part of the reason Junek was motivated to apply for the position.

"I really liked what I read in the Parks Master Plan Update. Rosenberg has a great foundation to start expanding and improving its parks system," said Junek. "My hope for the future of Rosenberg Parks is to provide more park land, amenities, recreational events and programs to enhance the quality of life in Rosenberg." Part of Junek's duties will also include management of the daily maintenance and operations of City Parks, oversight of the City's special events, recreational programs and facility



Junek, a native of the Lake Somerville area, has 10 years of municipal parks and recreation experience. He previously worked at the City of Caldwell, City of Brenham and most recently the City of Bastrop. Junek graduated from Texas A&M University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Systems Management.

"What drew me to Rosenberg was that it's a growing city - that means a lot of opportunity and potential to expand its open space and recreational activities. I believe that I can help see those things through and am excited for the opportunity," said Junek.

The City of Rosenberg owns and maintains nine City Parks with almost 470 acres and 6.5 miles of trails. While visiting Rosenberg's parks, visitors can enjoy a variety of outdoor passive and active recreational activities including fishing, kayaking, volleyball, basketball, baseball, soccer, football, tennis, disc golf, mountain biking, hiking, birdwatching, ample green space, butterfly gardens, demonstration gardens and more.

For more information on Rosenberg Parks and Recreation visit [rosenbergtx.gov/parks](http://rosenbergtx.gov/parks) or call the Parks Department at 832-595-3520.

## In Our Own Backyards and Other Places

A Possum's Last Resting Place *Photos and Text by Diane Eismont*

*The other morning, as I walked from the house to the barn, I was surprised to see a very old, very large possum lying in a patch of grass along our dirt road. It was a beautiful, warm sunny morning and I thought the possum had decided to nap outside or was "playing possum." He was clearly breathing - his sides rising and falling, his ears twitching and once he moved from one side to the other - looking content - as in a peaceful sleep.*

*Although possums are normally nocturnal, I had seen this one in our barn before - waddling along mid-morning to get a drink from the water bowl. I figured he was keeping the mouse/insect/snake population under control.*

*A few days earlier, he had walked between my husband's legs while Jack did his weight training with a barbell - looking straight ahead - which is the proper form - and did not see the possum.*

*Later that day, the possum was still in the patch of grass. The following morning, I expected to see an empty spot - but he was still there - only no longer breathing. I will miss him!*

*However, the saga continues... Amazingly, after about a week, I have seen a very young, small white-faced possum briefly in the barn at night!*



In Our Own Backyards and Other Places (Continued)

Homegrown National Park -Doug Tallamy Presentation at TMN Tuesday



Douglas Tallamy talked at the TMN Tuesday this February! And I snapped a few photos of his slides, seen here.

His Homegrown National Park program encourages planting native plants that can sustain wildlife. We have our 1500 square foot demo garden on the map!!

To view Doug Tallamy's TMN Tuesday presentation go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMiTui2UGpl&feature>

Benefits of building a park at home

- 1) You can develop a personal relationship with nature on your own time and at your own pace
- 2) Avoid crowds
- 3) It's free
- 4) Avoid travel hassles
- 5) Experience the natural world alone
- 6) Hunt lizards!

Keystone Species

"Native Plant Finder"  
National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/>

Quercus	Native oaks	Solidago	Goldenrods
Prunus	Native cherries	Aster genera	
Salix	Native willows	Helianthus	Sunflowers
Carya	Hickories	Solanum	Nightshade
Ulmus	Native Elms	Fragaria	Wild strawberry
Acer	Native maples	Nicotiana	Wild tobacco
Populus	Poplars	Lactuca	Wild lettuce

We now need to find ways for nature to thrive in human-dominated landscapes!



This slide below shows how land has been fragmented, but we can connect habitats by planting our native plants



**A Blast From the Past** by Susie Doe



*In 2011, the chapter conducted its first prescribed burn on 2 acres (Sections C & B) at the Seabourne Nature Park Prairie. Jon Hayes (TPWD) and David Lobpries (our TPWD advisor) oversaw the planning and execution of the burn, while many chapter members participated in igniting the fires and manhandling shovels and flappers to keep things in check.*



Bill Brookshire & Jim Brannon get things started - backfire on south portion of Section C



Jim Butcher lights up eastern edge of Section C



Vicki Poorman lights up the head fire for Section C



A Blast From the Past (Continued)



Mouse makes a run for it!

Section C Burn just about complete.



Susie Doe lights edge of Sec. B



Than Colvin on flapper duty, David Lobpries on water duty

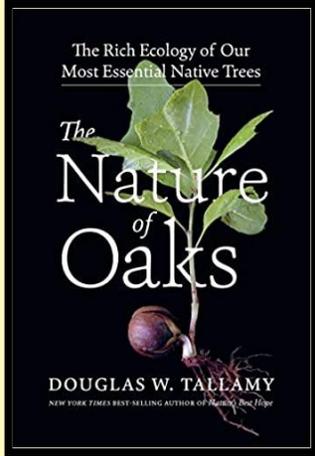


Karl Baumgartner lights Section B headfire



Fire going, going.....gone ... Smoke up & away!

## The Book Corner



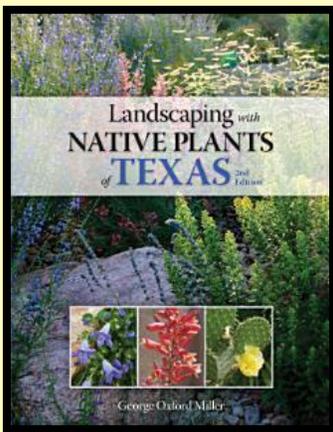
### **The Nature of Oaks**

By Doug Tallamy

*With Bringing Nature Home, Doug Tallamy changed the conversation about gardening in America. His second book, the New York Times bestseller Nature's Best Hope, urged homeowners to take conservation into their own hands. Now, he is turning his advocacy to one of the most important species of the plant kingdom—the mighty oak tree.*

*Oaks sustain a complex and fascinating web of wildlife. The Nature of Oaks reveals what is going on in oak trees month by month, highlighting the seasonal cycles of life, death, and renewal. From woodpeckers who collect and store hundreds of acorns for sustenance to the beauty of jewel caterpillars, Tallamy illuminates and celebrates the wonders that occur right in our own backyards. He also shares practical advice about how to plant and care for an oak, along with information about the best oak species for your area.*

*The Nature of Oaks will inspire you to treasure these trees and to act to nurture and protect them. This Book will be coming out in March 2021.*



### **Landscaping with Native Plants in Texas**

By George Oxford Miller

**In this comprehensive, richly illustrated guide, author George Oxford Miller provides the "how-to," "when-to," and "what-to" for gardeners, landscapers, and homeowners throughout Texas. Have you ever planted a beautiful—and expensive—shrub in your yard and watched it slowly die because it was in the wrong location? Insufficient sunlight, too much water, improper soil, or too hot an exposure can turn the nursery-perfect specimen into an eyesore. This all-in-one DIY guide helps you beautify your yard using low-maintenance native plants specifically adapted to your local growing conditions. Whether as foundation hedges, mass plantings, or accent shrubs, Texas' vast offering of native species can bring year-round beauty to any lawn space. Covering wildflowers, shrubs, trees, vines, cacti, and groundcovers, this book selects the species that combine ornamental qualities, growth habit, adaptability, and year-round beauty for the highest landscape value. Chapters include photos, maps, charts, and design samples to provide guidelines for species selection and planting, ongoing maintenance, landscape design, and water and energy conservation. Plant descriptions provide detailed habitat requirements for hundreds of native plants, and photos illustrate how each plant looks in the landscape. In Landscaping with Native Plants of Texas, new and experienced gardeners alike will find the facts and advice needed to choose the plants best adapted for their particular landscape. The ornamental beauty of Texas' native species and the economic advantages of using plants adapted to the local climate demonstrate that the best for our landscapes often comes from our own backyards. And perhaps most importantly, using native plants encourages the repair and preservation of natural plant communities and the wildlife they shelter.**

# The Lighter Side

Lawyer: my client is trapped inside a penny  
 Judge: what?  
 Lawyer: he's in a cent  
 Judge: you're going to jail with him



John Donaho-Facebook

All I'm saying is,  
 at any point during  
 that ride through the  
 desert, he could have  
 given the horse a name



## Coronacoaster

(n.) The ups and downs of  
 the pandemic.

One day you're loving your  
 bubble, doing workouts and baking  
 sourdough, the next you're crying,  
 drinking wine for breakfast, and  
 missing people you don't even  
 like.

Julie Gentry-Facebook

TMNCPC 2021 Board Members

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 Vice President [Shannon Westveer](#)  
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Advisors  
[Clint Faas](#) Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
[Stacie Villarreal](#) Waller County AgriLife  
[Margo “Mac” McDowell](#) (Chapter Coordinator)

We are on the Web!

See us at:

[www.coastalprairie.org](http://www.coastalprairie.org)

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE  
 TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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

Ruby Throated Hummingbirds are Coming!

Ruby Throated Hummingbird Migration



Please:  
 1 c water,  
 1/4c pure sugar,  
 Nectar is best!  
 Fresh nectar everyother day

- March 1-15
- March 15-30
- April 1-15
- April 15-30
- May 1-15



HummingbirdPots.com

Our Chapter Facebook Page is at



[TXMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#)

To post photos and information, email  
[Paula Kolmar](#) or [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>

Check out & subscribe to our Chapter’s new YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfBuSOaMAOiFuiDHaiUNqTQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfBuSOaMAOiFuiDHaiUNqTQ?view_as=subscriber)



Check out our Chapter Instagram

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

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