

April 2010

Story & Photos by Kurt Bundy, CPC Texas Master Naturalist (Class of '07)



CPC Members Identifying Birds at Seabourne Creek Park

It's hard to keep those Coastal Prairie Master Naturalists down! On the morning of April 21, 2010 it was all eyes to the skies, bushes and trees and wherever birds might be found at Seabourne Creek Park—only 5 minutes from downtown Rosenberg. A group of about 15 member naturalists struck out behind expert Birder and fellow naturalist, Bill Godley and Chapter President Karl Baumgartner and quietly looked for whatever birds might be there. As it turned out, there was quite a lot!



Some of the observations included Red-shouldered Hawk, Crested Caracara and Northern Harrier. Other sightings were Great Egret, Green Heron and, amidst much debate, the Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper. At least he was supposed to have been “solitary” but on this occasion he was not, and that threw everybody off, but not for long. We saw Loggerhead Shrike, American Crows and several that I thought were particularly great, the Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. This is not the official list, but members of the group are maintaining such a list and I am told it will be available through the website.

These sightings are important because they continue to represent a part of the ‘before’ and ‘after’ picture as we proceed with plans to improve our designated portions of

Seabourne Creek Park. This is currently our biggest Chapter project. So, this is the 'before' part...no telling what will be coming when we rehabilitate the environment out there, but I am sure some of us will be out there trying to figure that out as our plans progress.

If you haven't been out there yet, check our website calendar and see when the next group is going for one of many activities planned for this shared improvement. Its great fun, good fellowship, always something to learn and we are doing something really great for our community and the wildlife that lives within it. We are really just playing in our back yard and it's kind of neat seeing what is out there. I had no idea!

July 17, 2009



Texas Master Naturalists inspecting wetlands area at Seabourne Creek nature park. Pictured are Peg d'Hemecourt, Than Colvin, Linda Rippert, Jeff McMullan, Karl Baumgartner and Susie Doe.

July 17, 2009 marked the day the Coastal Prairie Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists, initiated the Prairie Restoration Project at Seabourne Creek Park. Chapter members met at the Park and selected the site to be designated as the twenty-acre Prairie Restoration area, and returned to the office to commence planning.

Members participating in the inaugural event were Karl Baumgartner, Jim Brannon, Bill Brookshire, Jim Butcher, Than Colvin, Peg dHemecourt, Diane Eismont, Margo McDowell and Gloria Scheel.

Chapter members were joined by our advisors, David Lobpries of Texas Parks and Wildlife, Cody Dennison and Joe Mask of Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, as well as Fort Bend County Director Vince Mannino, Shari Koch of Texas AgriLIFE Service, and Jon Wiedenfeld of USDA.
