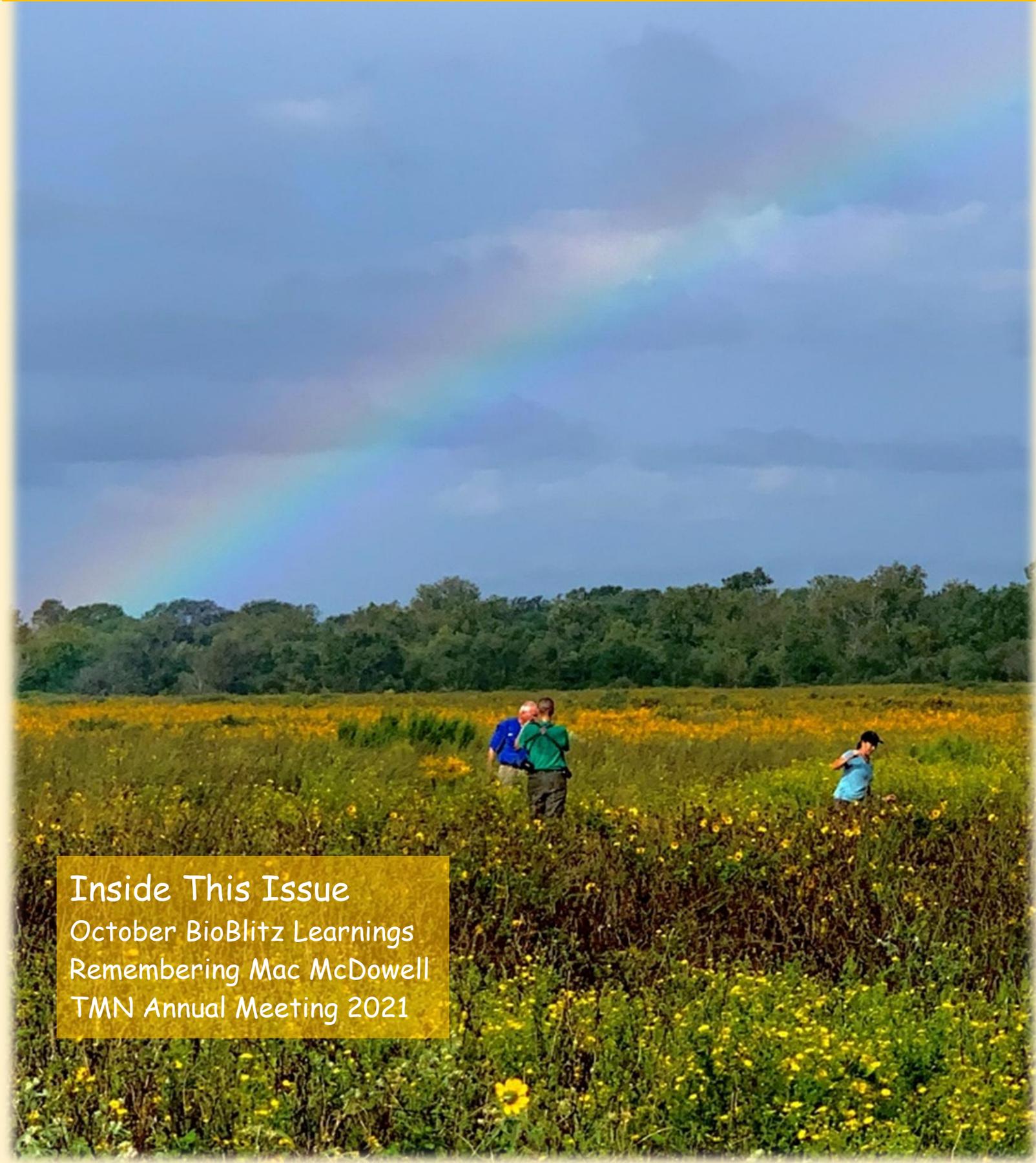


Coastal Prairie Chapter Courier

November 2021 Volume 9 Issue 11

Inside This Issue

October BioBlitz Learnings
Remembering Mac McDowell
TMN Annual Meeting 2021





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:

A time for reflection and Thanksgiving

November reminds us that nothing lasts forever... and life finds a way.

"This is the month of nuts and nutty thoughts,—that November whose name sounds so bleak and cheerless. Perhaps its harvest of thought is worth more than all the other crops of the year."

– [Henry David Thoreau](#) (American naturalist, essayist, poet, and philosopher)

"Mac"

What words can I use to faithfully describe Margo "Mac" McDowell Cowan? I have none. So, I will do the best I can with these instead.

Mac was the heart of our chapter—advisor, helper, facilitator, problem solver, diplomat, teacher, rock. As president, she was my consiglieri, confidant, board member, and friend. I would tease her about being in the New Jersey mafia, and she would tease me about everything else. Often when she was unable to attend an upcoming chapter meeting, she would explain that a grandchild had a sporting event. I always replied, "Family comes first," and she would flash her trademark smile.

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Cover

Photo by CPC member Robbin Mallett placed in this year's Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting's photocontest

Please send articles and photos by the 28th of the month to Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor



Before the pandemic hit, Mac welcomed every new class member to our chapter and made them feel at home and part of a family. After the pandemic, she helped behind the scenes answering questions and resolving issues. She was a voice for us at the state and local level, and she answered queries from those interested in our program. If something needed to be done, she was there to help and encourage.

Mac was a member of the very first TMN Coastal Prairie Chapter class, the Class of 2004. She made a big impact then and ever since. It is impossible to imagine our chapter without her warmth, guidance, hard work, smile, and humor. She lives on in each of us lucky enough to have met her. And her impact will be felt for as long as we are a chapter. We love you, Mac.

Continued on the next page--

President's Message *(Continued)*

2021 Annual Meeting

This year's meeting was held in Irving, Texas. Our chapter was well represented both in-person and virtually. The state program needed last-minute help with room hosting, and our chapter responded to help ensure a great hybrid experience despite some tricky technical challenges.

Special thanks to Michelle Haggerty, Mary Pearl Meuth, Addison Preston (Regennitter), and Cameron Kelly. Also, big thanks to Richard Heilbrun and Todd Sink for rolling up their sleeves and doing whatever needed to be done.

At the Awards Ceremony, our chapter received the first ever Exemplary Service Award for our essential work done at last year's all-virtual annual meeting. I accepted on behalf of our chapter with a brief but well-received acceptance speech of just four words: "Coastal Prairie Chapter rocks!" We are the first and only chapter ever to receive this award. I am so proud to be your president. You rock!



SCNP Nature Center

On November 4, the Executive Committee, Karl Baumgartner, and Jim "Grand Poobah" Butcher will meet with Travis Tanner (Executive Director, Rosenberg Community Development), David Juneke (Director of Parks and Recreation), And representatives from Burditt Land Place to review plans for the Nature Center at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. I will share as much information as I can after the meeting. These are exciting times!

Moving forward

The 2021 Fall Class completed its final training session on October 30 with an in-person field trip to Brazos Bend State Park. Special thanks to Shannon Westveer (New Class Director and VP) and to everyone who facilitated the training sessions. And many thanks to those members serving as mentors. Your work is critical to the future success and growth of our chapter. A warm TMNCPC welcome to our newest chapter members!

Our partnership with the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) may be expanding. I will provide more information soon!

We are close to finalizing an agreement with Fort Bend County Parks and Recreation about partnering in the development of Daily Park in Simonton. More to come!

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

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

All the best,

Bert Stipelcovich

bert@coastalprairie.org

713-540-2378

Margo "Mac" McDowell, Well-Remembered, Will be Missed

Mac has been a bright and positive influence in the Coastal Prairie Chapter. She was always helpful and supportive to me and it has been a joy to know her ever since I became a Master Gardener in 2007. Even back then, Mac was encouraging me to join the Texas Master Naturalists! She always had everyone's best interest at heart. No one who ever met her could forget her smile-- Terri Hurley



Above: Jim Butcher receives his 4000 hours pin, letter and certificate



Mac in the demonstration gardens



Mary Pearl Meuth with Mac (right) in 2018



Mac (second from right) joined our chapter at a quarterly meeting



Mac with the visiting Gideon Lindecum Master Naturalist Chapter.



Membership Minute *by Jan and Kevin Kolk, Membership Directors*

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

Initial Certification

- Scott Wagner (Spring, 2021)
- Marilyn Culpepper (Fall, 2020)

2021 Recertification (67 members recertified so far)

- Greg Hurley
- Shari Lewis
- Susan Fortenberry
- John Vindekilde
- Joyce Tipton
- Debbie Ellis
- Lucy Randel
- Lucy Moyer
- Scott Wagner



250 Hour Milestone

- Wen Sherrill

VMS Quiz *Answers on page 23*

1. T or F You have as much time as you need to enter VSP or AT activities into the VMS system.
2. T or F It's OK to group a number of activities into one entry.
3. T or F There must be a description of your activity included with each VMS entry.
4. T or F When documenting hours for attending a Board meeting, select the "AT: Chapter Meeting" opportunity.
5. T or F To properly document hours for attending a Chapter meeting, only one opportunity, "AT: Chapter Meeting" is required.
6. T or F "AT: Chapter Meeting" stands for 'attended chapter meeting.'



November 4 Chapter Program and Meeting "Benefits of Residential Solar in Houston" *by Charles Boyle*

THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING and advance registration required. Check the website two days before the meeting for the registration link. Members will receive an email with the registration link. After registering, you will receive another email with further details.

Charles Boyle will discuss the environmental impact of rooftop and ground mount solar systems for homeowners, and how it works with the grid and battery back-up systems.

Charles became invested in sustainability after reading Bill McKibben's book Earth then moved to Texas in to work in the solar industry in 2017. He is a native of Michigan and he enjoys the outdoors. His favorite pastimes are golf and bicycling when time allows. He and his wife live in Houston with their puppy, Pepper. Pepper will have a new role soon as the family expects their first child in March.

The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. [TMNCPC members in attendance should record their Advanced Training hours under 'AT: Chapter Meeting-Coastal Prairie' plus the VSP hours for the business meeting under 'Chapter Business: Chapter Meeting'.]

To see previous chapter programs, go to the member's section on the chapter website (<https://txmn.org/coastal/>)



Volunteer Service Projects Highlights *by Johanna DeYoung, Membership Director*

On October 13 Fort Bend County moved from Red to an Orange Covid-19 Alert Status which is vital progress for our chapter volunteer activities. With positive cases trending down, Fort Bend County's next move will be a Yellow Covid-19 Alert Status. Watch for announcements in Slack and the Weekly Bulletin for Covid-19 Alert Status changes.

As a chapter within the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Program, the TMN Coastal Prairie Chapter (TMNCPC) assumes and applies the highest risk level within our jurisdiction of Fort Bend, Waller and Wharton Counties and the neighboring counties we serve.

Reminder: No more than 20 hours of VSP service outside of Fort Bend, Waller and Wharton Counties will count toward certification or recertification. However, chapter administration work and attending chapter meetings regardless of where the volunteer work is done count as hours earned in VSP and certification or recertification.

CURRENT STATUS

October 13, 2021: Fort Bend County moved from Red Covid-19 Risk Level, High Community Risk, to Orange which indicates Moderate - Significant Community Risk. The orange level involves the following as it applies to 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."

May 21, 2021: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension issued the following update:

"The following considerations should direct how the Texas Master Naturalist Program will operate for the foreseeable future.

Considerations 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, please consider the following in planning gatherings:

- 1. Virtual meeting platform tools are useful and should remain an important consideration for planning meetings and events.*
- 2. For any indoor or outdoor activities that do occur in-person, masks and social distancing considerations are encouraged.*

Please note regarding vaccines: Our program and agencies currently have no legal authority to develop policy based on private health information (HIPAA laws) at this time and we don't anticipate the program drafting its own policy or allowances, etc., addressing whether individuals (members or the public) with vaccines can/cannot participate in any TMN activities and where, when and how.

Texas Master Naturalist members or members of the public should not be asked about their vaccination status. Chapters may encourage persons in program settings to continuing following CDC guidance.

There shall be no effort (including casual comments made publicly or privately) to DISCOURAGE the use of face coverings or any COVID related safety precaution. Those who wish to wear masks and practice Covid-19 protocols should be respected and their wishes supported."

March 2, 2021: Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-34 noting changes in Covid-19 restrictions. These changes, including lifting the mask mandate and opening businesses to 100%, took effect on March 10. He encouraged the continuation of wearing masks when maintaining a physical distance cannot be maintained.

VSP Opportunities

Seabourne Volunteer Days – Canceled as of September 2. Jerry Trenta, director Seabourne Creek Nature Park: requests the following: "As Covid-19 cases continuing to rise, especially in breakthrough cases, I'm canceling

Continued on the next page---

Volunteer Service Projects Highlights *(Continued)*

volunteer days at Seabourne and implementing an “essential tasks only” plan as recommended by the Covid-19 red status in Fort Bend County. These tasks would include bird feeding, new tree watering, irrigation of newly planted areas, trail maintenance and invasive control. These tasks can be done individually or with couples, and do not have to be done during regular volunteer days. This suspension will remain until we are back to yellow status.”

TMN Covid-19 precautions: For any indoor or outdoor activities that do occur in person, masks and social distancing considerations are encouraged. VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category SCNP-7 Habitat Public Access: TMN Report Hours.

Fort Bend County Covid-19 Orange Guidelines: “Avoid and cancel medium (10-250 people) and large public private gatherings (250+). Practice social distancing and use face coverings.”

TMN Covid-19 Precautions: “For any indoor or outdoor activities that do occur in-person, masks and social distancing considerations are encouraged.”

Seabourne Garden Group including Zoom meetings and field trips include the education committee meetings signage, and program meetings that offer information for members. For those interested, please contact Jan Kolk, Lynn Trenta, Joanie Havlick, or Katie Salleen. VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category SCNP-7 Habitats Public Access: TMN Report Hours.

Texas Master Naturalist Virtual Volunteer Fair 2021- August 31- September 1:

The recordings from the Virtual Volunteer Fair were recorded and uploaded to the TMN website post-event for those who could not attend the live presentations and wish to attain VSP hours. To access the recordings, go to:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/virtual-volunteer-fair-august-2021/#attendee>. VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category: TMN Virtual Volunteer Service Fair: TMN Report Hours.

Katy Prairie Conservancy’s “Putting Down Roots” 2021- Saturday, 11/13 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: *Indiangrass Preserve 31975 Hebert Rd. Debbie Ellis, TMNCPC Class Spring 2021, will share our newest Butterfly WOW of which Debbie created. VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category: Katy Prairie Conservancy: TMN Report Hours.*

Native Prairies Association of Texas at Lawther Deer Park Prairie 2021: *Opportunities on Wednesday Nov. 3, Tuesday Nov. 16, and Thursday, Nov. 18: Della Barbato, TMN, is seeking TMNs interested in being a student field trip volunteer. She has K-12 students scheduled to go to Lawther Deer Park Prairie for a valuable experience with insect sweeps, service, and other prairie activities. Field trips are scheduled during school hours. With stated interest, Della will provide further details. Call/email Della at [832-283-0383](tel:832-283-0383)/della_barbato@texasprairie.org.*

VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category: Native Prairies Association of Texas and/or Houston Chapter – Native Prairies Association of Texas (HNPAT): TMN Report Hours.

Please continue to check the <http://www.coastalprairie.org> calendar and Slack for VSP updates. If there is no existing VSP description fitting a potential VSP opportunity, please request and complete an VSP Proposal Form. In turn, the VSP Committee, Terri Hurley, Charris Powers, Lynn Trenta and Johanna DeYoung, will review the proposal and determine if it qualifies as a volunteer opportunity.

If you are aware of volunteer opportunities that qualify as VSP for our chapter, have questions about VSP opportunities, or are unsure how to record a VSP opportunity, please contact Johanna DeYoung at 832-689-4877 or johanna@coastalprairie.com.

Communicating Makes a Difference *by Paula Kolmar, Communications Director*

We are all experiencing nature in unique ways in the Coastal Prairie Chapter family. As members-in-training, almost-members missing a few volunteer hours, new members and existing members, our journeys are full of stories to tell and share.

Many engage nature through the lens of a camera, some get their hands dirty growing and planting prairie natives from seed-to-sod. Others research interesting species of flora and fauna and add to iNaturalist and some reach the community with pop-up sheds and tours at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. The point is – we find a way to make a difference in our natural space, wherever and however it's done.

Seems like experiences abound and I want to share some opportunities for your nature journey to make an even bigger difference. Communicating. Sharing.

Our great chapter is not just full of passionate, experienced and budding naturalists, but also with many channels to share that passion, journey, learnings, new ways of seeing the prairie and ecology. I encourage you to take advantage of the way we use communication technology to share.

The monthly Award-Winning Courier is one example. Editor Lynn Trenta is always looking for articles and photos from CPC people. You do not have to be a great or even good writer to submit your story. You merely need to share what you are thinking, something you have tried or achieved, new things you have or are learning. Lynn will polish it and I will help, too. Review a book or field guide you have perused. Did you plant your first group of milkweed plants? What did you observe? Naturalists are doers and also very good observers. Take photos with your camera or phone and send the text and pics for the next Courier.

Slack is our chapter's internal chat site for everything from business to class groups to Seabourne volunteer opportunities. If you don't know which tab (on the left) to put your post there is a wonderful tab called Random (my favorite) where you put observations, ask questions, write about something that you think is interesting in nature and post photos with a bit of a description.

Did you know we have a members-only TMN Facebook site? Reach out to Terri Hurley and join. There you can read about your fellow members' activities and also post news and experiences with photos and short videos for site members.

Our chapter also has external media sites including Facebook, YouTube, Flickr and the www.coastalprairie.org website. Reach out to me, Bert, Terri, Robbin Mallett and Shannon Westveer to find out how to get something posted. YouTube is our most under-used social media site because we tend to forget to take videos of what we are seeing and doing regarding nature. It's also a very powerful way to communicate. Can be 20 seconds of how you built a bird feeder or what you saw along a nature walk.

Share with us and sometimes share with everyone. Make a difference by communicating.



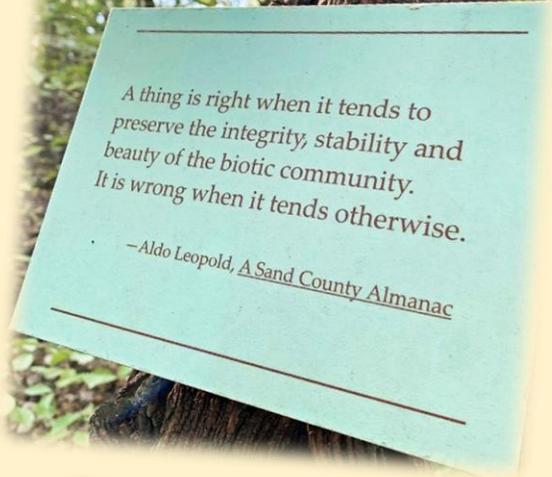
Coastal Prairie Chapter's newsletter The Courier wins 1st out of all Texas Master Naturalist chapter submissions at the October 2021 TMN Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Moments in Snapshots! *Text and Photos by Shannon Westveer*

Keynote speaker Drew Lanham is so inspirational



Wisdom on the LLELA Lewisville Lake Environmental Blackjack trail



Sam Kieschnick TPWD @sambiology Mothing fun at LLELA with Sam and a bunch of iNat



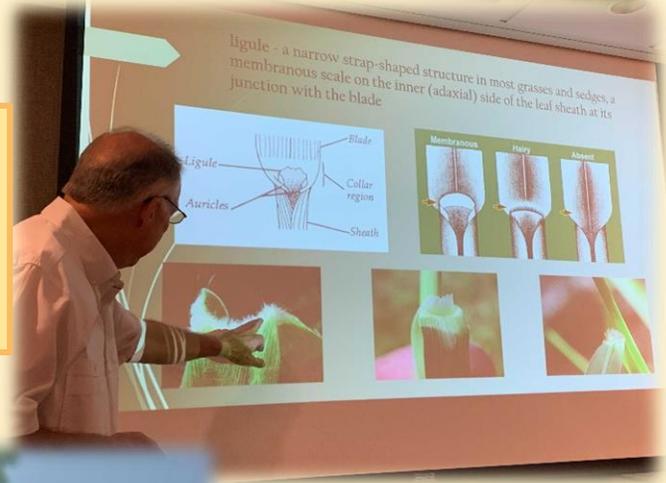
Need one of these...it isn't free but the app that comes with it is free. Thanks to Jarrell of Gulf Coast Chapter for his impromptu lesson on nighttime bat ID



Hugh @ Elm Fork with ambassador box turtle



Grasses!! Glumes, spikelets, and SPUB's. Learned to key this awesome family of plants.



Bumble bumbling



Next were capsules and achenes – equivalent to seeds and grains—the size of cinnamon power under microscope. Key theme -more fun than the grasses.

Annual Meeting Moments in Snapshots and Photos! *(Continued)*

Dale Kruse Plant ID class



Also learned the art of tree girdling from Cliff Tylick.



TMN Annual Meeting 2021 attendees (upper left to lower left) Susie Doe, Margo Johnson, Bill Johnson, Drea Morgenstern, Mark Morgenstern, Jamie Fairchild, Shannon Westveer, Susan Walther and Bert Stipelcovich, (Mary Warwick and Marilyn Culpepper not pictured)

October Outreach



The 37th Annual Texian Market Days *by Johanna DeYoung*

The Fort Bend History Association hosted the 37th Annual Texian Market Days event at the George Ranch Historical Park on Saturday October 23. This is a wonderful family event which captures 150 years of Texas history. There were hands-on activities, battle re-enactments – complete with canon booms, games, pioneer folk life, cowboys, and food. Susan Vanderford, director of Programs at the George Ranch Historical Park, was on horseback for the day. With all of the war reenactments and explosions, she chose an unflinching horse!

On behalf of the TMNCPC, I presented the Bat WOW at this event which was well received by 121 individuals in attendance. The Brazos Bend State Park staff and the TMNCPC were assigned to a beautiful location within the park. The Brazos Bend State Park staff table was on one side of the creek and the TMNCPC table was on the other side of the creek. Two alligator nurseries were within 50 – 200 feet from our locations. The TMNCPC presentation had competition from the baby alligator the Brazos Bend State Park Staff had in tow.

If you have or haven't yet gone to this Texas history and activity day, make sure to attend the 38th Annual Texian Market Days event in 2022!



Barbara Willy talks about Monarchs at the Surfside Beach's Fall Festival. Drea Morgenstern also volunteered at this fun event.



The Pollinator BioBlitz *by Ute Welk*

The 2021 Texas Pollinator BioBlitz held October 1 – 17 was quite the experience with a steep learning curve on several levels for this freshly minted Texas Master Naturalist.

Reading about it on Slack, it seemed easy enough: take pictures of pollinators, post to iNaturalist, done. And so, I got started bright and early on a Sunday morning in our yard, iPhone in hand. A moth! Another moth!! A wasp! Bees, yay! A butterfly - oh, a little blurry because it kept fluttering around, no big deal. Well, iNaturalist thought otherwise and offered IDs that seemed to have nothing in common with what I had seen. The two moths in question weren't considered pollinators, and neither were fireflies or dragonflies – why? That remains one of the unsolved mysteries of this adventure, and many of my photos simply weren't good enough. Bummer.

Not really familiar with iNaturalist - maybe 300 totally random observations posted until then, finding the site not exactly "newbie-friendly" - I didn't fully understand the rules either. Time to check those, and it turned out this BioBlitz wasn't only about insects, hummingbirds and certain bats, but also the flowering plants they visit. Why yes, of course! This is how the leading contributor was able to post hundreds of observations already, right? OK, easy, I can do that, let's go to the park! Why not the Arboretum?

Well, guess what - that's not how it works. Its WILD critters and WILD plants we're looking for, not cultivated ones. A big thanks to Susie Doe who patiently and kindly explained all of this to me and also identified many of my observations. "Ok," Susie told me, "time to weed out quite a few obviously cultivated plants and focus on the wild ones instead."

So, for the remaining time, no "weed" and no 6-legged critter went undocumented in Brazos Bend State Park, Cullinan Park, Seabourne Creek Nature Park, Willow Waterhole, Shadow Creek Ranch, Brazoria NWR, Laffitte Cove Nature Society, Oyster Creek Park, Shannon Westveer's lovely prairie and our own backyard. I discovered a whole new wide, wild world, and although I must admit that I am often still struggling with iNaturalist, it is an incredible tool that offers immediate help with, let's say, 90% of observations.

Lessons learned:

- Register and make sure you know how to navigate www.iNaturalist.org before getting involved.*
- Know the specific rules of the event you're interested in.*
- Be prepared to spend a LOT of time, much more than anticipated and probably more than what you can reasonably claim as VSP hours.*
- Earn VSP hours by participating in this BioBlitz or, for example, the City Nature Challenge. Time spent observing, then uploading and identifying on iNaturalist, as well as driving (can't be more than actual "work" time) - it adds up!*

Most of the time, I BioBlitzed with my husband and fellow Texas Master Naturalist, Hoiman, although we sometimes ended up with different observations since we went our own ways while also pointing out interesting finds to each other. Needless to say, it became quite competitive at times, and I still can't believe that we, the two novices, ended up 7th (groschat) and 8th (hoiman01) among more than 5,000 observers.

More here:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?project_id=109864&t=900&v=1635438513000&place_id=any&erifiable=any&view=observers.

Continued on the next page--

The Pollinator Bioblitz *(Continued)*

I have always loved nature, and I'm glad that I've consistently practiced organic gardening, tried to plant native ones, cupped and relocated all the cockroaches that ventured inside the house, and talked to the earthworms in our compost. But most of the time, I didn't quite comprehend what I was looking at.

This BioBlitz taught me how to notice seemingly insignificant details and acquire a new appreciation for the tiny, beautiful beings that surround us and count on us to protect them.

This inscription found on a plaque in Brazos Bend State Park on the Creekfield Nature Trail sums it up: "In the end... we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."



*Great Purple Hairstreak
(Atlides halesus)*



*Carpenter Mimic Leafcutter
(Megachile xylocopoides)*



*Clockweed
(Oenothera Lindheimeri)*



Common Eastern Firefly is not a pollinator, but one of Ute's favorites (Photinus pyralis)

Journey of a Naturalist No. 3 Advocacy *by Lucy Randel*

One of the biggest impacts we can have as naturalists is in advocacy. Creating and maintaining habitats around us in yards and parks yields the satisfaction of physically seeing the work we have accomplished, while advocacy is a behind the scenes method of expanding the physical work beyond our personal limits. By participating in my HOA landscape committee, I try to educate other board members and the community about some of the advantages of native plants and identify sustainable practice to manage our grounds, even if they currently have more conventional than native plants.

Recently our architectural committee came out in favor of allowing artificial turf in front yards maintaining that it would use less water, chemicals, and mowing. Our subdivision in Southwest Houston includes about 2300 homes and while I did not expect the trend to be popular, there certainly are people who prefer no maintenance and would choose concrete or turf if they could. Thankfully, someone became aware of this before action was taken and the matter was placed on the agenda of the next board meeting.

I was horrified and quickly consulted Google and emailed an opinion and links identifying several problems with turf, mostly based on environmental impact. One of the initial proponents then decided to do his own research and identified and sent out links on maintenance issues with the product. With this foundation, we all logged into our trusty ZOOM platform for the discussion. After a brief background regarding the architectural committee's reasoning in review of a homeowner application for one of these products, I presented a summary of my greatest concerns, especially those I thought would resonate most – heat island effects and impacts to trees. Others commented on the aesthetics and how they thought it would degrade the look of the neighborhood. Although no one particularly liked the product, some were initially thinking it might have an environmental benefit and should be allowed. After a brief discussion, however, the board voted unanimously to not allow artificial turf in front yards.

What became clear to me from this process is that people often make decisions on very limited information. Our education work is so important; people may not have time or interest to do their own research, but we can reach out and get them started. We can plant the seeds that can start them on their own journeys to becoming naturalists.



Photo from the New York Times

Journey of a Naturalist No. 3 Advocacy *(Continued)*

How bad is artificial turf?

- 1. Artificial turf is a plastic carpet in your yard. Plastics are made using fossil fuels, which contribute to the climate crisis. Even the best turf can degrade, releasing microplastics into our air, water and food webs. Turf doesn't last forever, whatever manufacturers claim, and will likely end up in a landfill some day.*
- 2. Synthetic turf gets much hotter than grass to the point of being hazardous on some playing fields. The more artificial surfaces like turf, asphalt and concrete are installed, the greater the heat island effect will be in our urban areas.*
- 3. At a time when gardens of individual homeowners make up a good portion of urban habitats for wildlife, replacing plants with manmade material exacerbates habitat loss.*
- 4. Synthetic turf is not maintenance free, particularly in a yard where trees drop leaves or birds drop seeds and more. The leaves may need to be blown or vacuumed, since they cannot be left to decay and enrich the soil. Trees in the vicinity would still need watering and more fertilization since the turf interferes with natural soil microbiology. And if herbicides are not used, weeds can still penetrate artificial turf and be even harder to remove than in grass. So you may have to choose either to continue using chemicals or to continue removing weeds.*

To learn more:

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/aug/02/turf-it-out-is-it-time-to-say-goodbye-to-artificial-grass>

<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/may/synthetic-sports-fields-and-the-heat-island-effect/>

<https://texastreesurgeons.com/blog/2020/11/19/artificial-turf-and-trees/>

<https://wateruseitwisely.com/saving-water-outdoors/grass-artificial-turf/10-reasons-why-artificial-turf-may-not-be-what-youre-looking-for/>



Photo from the Guardian

Chapter Member's Photos Place in Two Competitions *by Robbin Mallett*

Robbin Mallett's photo placed at the TMN Annual Meeting. It shows Dr. Baron Rector and Shannon at the filming of the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge field trip with a beautiful rainbow overhead. Joyce Tipton placed at the Cullinan Park Photography Contest with her heron, alligator and landscape. Garrett Engelhardt had an honorable mention for his swallowtail butterfly.



Top left to right, Robbin Mallett-chapter members at work and play, Joyce Tipton- heron, baby alligator and landscape and Garrett Engelhardt- swallowtail butterfly



Seabourne News



Signs Replaced, Invasive Plants Removed and Rain Barrel Restored

Text and Photos by Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor



Bois 'de Arc Sign



Prairie sign



Sumpweed at Seabourne Summer 2021

There has been a lot going on at Seabourne recently. New members, Don and Mary Parkhouse, have taken on the renewal and repair of the rain barrel system there at the prairie bump-up area. Many thanks for undertaking this important and educational project.

The invasive plant team has been out several times pulling sumpweed and getting rid of invasive grass. Members include Marilyn Culpepper, Paula Dittrick, Judi Harrington, Nancy Jones, Jan Kolk, Angela LeDoux, Simon Tice, Scott Wagner and Mary Warwick.

Joining the invasive plant team is a wonderful way to get VSP and help out both our prairie restoration project and the Houston Wilderness and Monarch Flyway project.

Our arboretum team has also been going great guns. They've been keeping the new trees watered and making plans for tree identification and planting of the trees next year. Terri Hurley and Jamie Fairchild are heading this project up and having Zoom meetings. Other members of this team are Julie and Wayne Barentine, Charles Borsos, Janis Hodgson, Greg Hurley, Jessica Jubin, Lucy Randel, Cynthia Scott, Jim Stepp and Jerry Trenta.

CPC's garden group has been working on signage for the park as well as meeting at Seabourne weekly, if possible, to manage the gardens. They usually have a monthly meeting to discuss the gardens, field trips and other topics of interest. Katie Sallean has been working with Amanda Hughes-Horan with Interpretive Insights on the new signs as well as getting the signs we have replaced under warranty—see signs to left.

If you are interested in participating in Seabourne activities you can always check Slack, email [Jerry Trenta](mailto:Jerry.Trenta@seabourne.org) or check out the Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4badad2fa3f94-seabourne3> for the task teams and <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4badad2fa3f94-seabourne> for the garden group.

See you at Seabourne!

Seabourne News (continued)

Plant of the Month by Jerry Trenta, TMNCPC Seabourne Project Manager

Purpletop

Tridens flavus

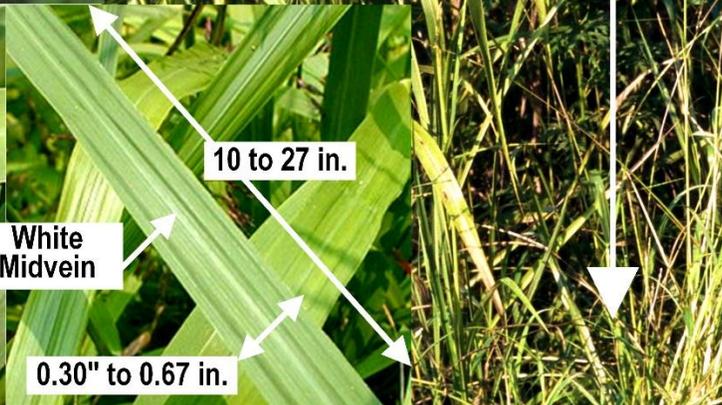
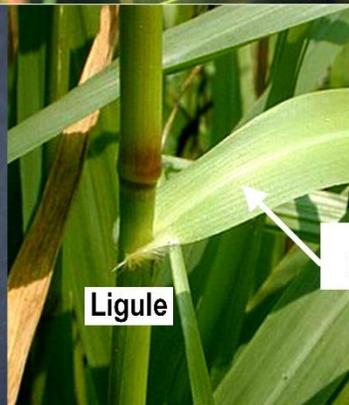
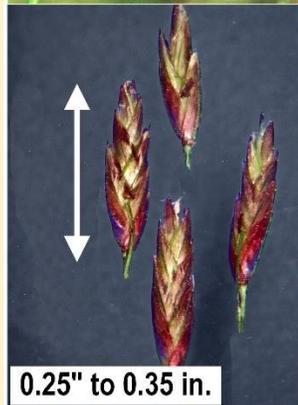
Greasegrass, Redtop Tridens

Family: Poaceae (Grass)

Perennial

Flowers: Aug - Oct

Seed collection: Oct - Dec



In Our Own Backyard

Frogs and Toads *Text and Photos by Diane Eismont*

Following up on last month's article on Frogs and Toads:

Have you checked your outside potted plants for Tree Frogs? I found one on the leaves!

The Green Tree Frog is common in our area. It is also drawn to lighted windows at night where insects are likely to be present. Check around the top and corners of your outside windows in the evenings.

I keep my dripper pans and bird baths on the ground giving easy access for frogs and toads. When I looked under the largest concrete bird bath in the morning, there were eight young Gulf Coast Toads clustered together in the mud. They quickly scooted away. Have your camera ready!



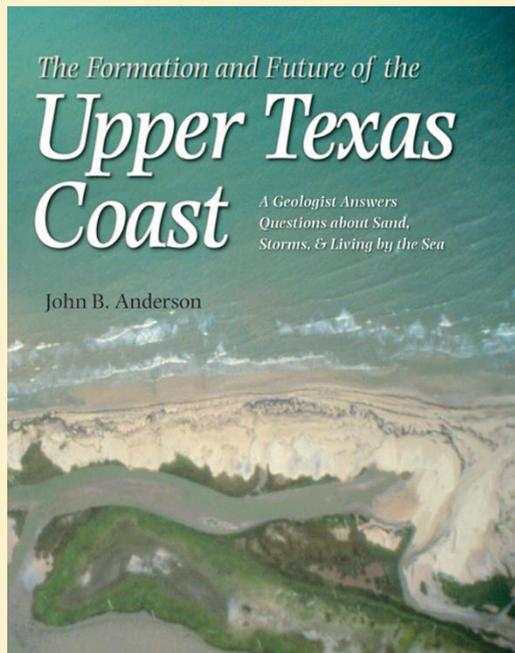
Book Corner *Review by Texas A & M University Press*

With strong personal and professional ties to the Gulf of Mexico, marine geologist John B. Anderson has spent two decades studying the Texas coastline and continental shelf. In this book, he sets out to answer fundamental questions that are frequently asked about the coast—how it evolved; how it operates; how natural processes affect it and why it is ever changing; and, finally, how human development can be managed to help preserve it.

The book provides an amply illustrated look at ocean waves and currents, beach formation and erosion, barrier island evolution, hurricanes, and sea level changes. With an abundance of visual material—including aerial photos, historical maps, simple figures, and satellite images—the author presents a lively, interesting lesson in coastal geography that readers will remember and appreciate the next time they are at the beach and want to know:

*What happens to the sand that erodes from our beaches?
Can beach erosion be stopped—and should we try?
How much sand will be needed to stabilize our beaches?
Does a hurricane have any positive impacts?
How much development can the coast withstand?*

This entertaining and instructive book provides authoritative answers to these and other questions that are essential to our understanding of coastal change.



*The Formation and Future of the
Upper Texas Coast*

John B. Anderson

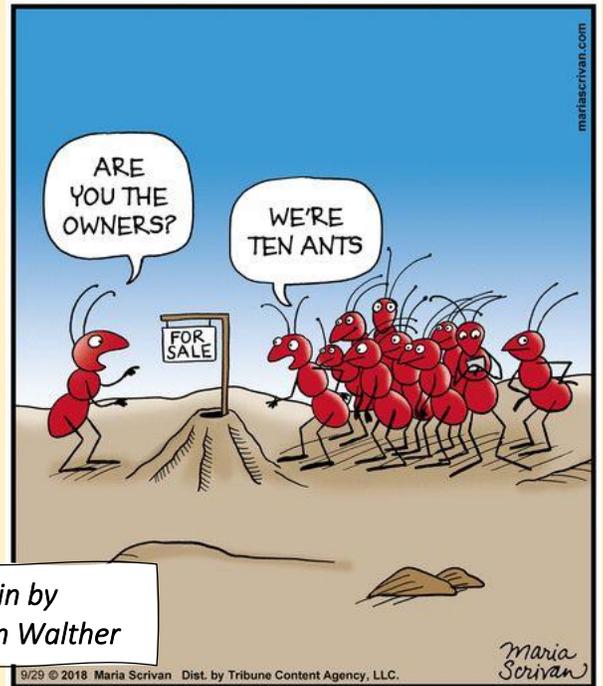
The Lighter Side

on March 10, 1876
Alexander Graham Bell
makes the first phone call ever.



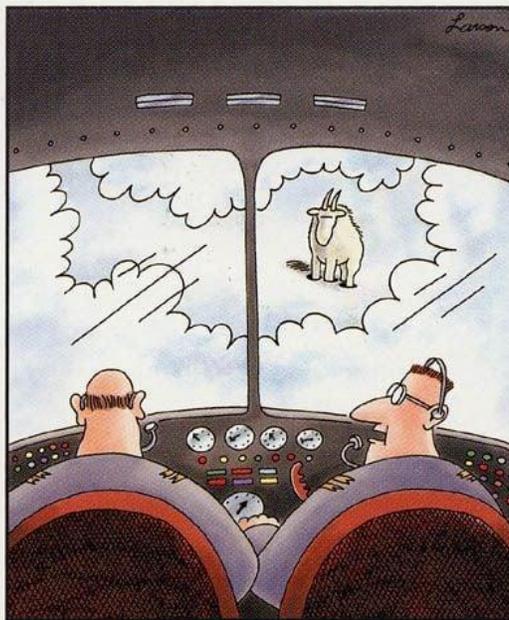
and moments later he was notified
that his car's extended warranty
had expired.

Science Humor V.I.P.



Sent in by
Susan Walther

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The Far Side

"Say ... what's a mountain goat doing
way up here in a cloud bank?"



Avegeekery.com

My friend Jack claims
that he can communicate
with vegetables.

Jack and the beans talk.

English Humour



2022 Slate of Officer Candidates *By Bert Stipelcovich, TMNCPC President*

According to our chapter bylaws (Article V, Section E, Election Process):

The President must publish the slate to the Chapter membership in writing 15 days prior to the last General Membership Meeting before the end of each calendar year.

Our last General Membership Meeting this year will be held Thursday, December 2. So, we are ahead of schedule. Thanks to Immediate Past President, Jerry Trenta, for leading the Officer Nominating Committee.

Here is the slate of officer candidates:

- *President: Terri Hurley*
- *Vice President: Shannon Westveer (returning)*
- *Treasurer: Pam Jones*
- *Secretary: Susan Walther (returning)*

And the following is also from our bylaws (Article V, Section G, Terms and Limits):

- *All members of the Board of Directors shall serve for a period of 12 months and are eligible for re-election or re-appointment.*

Note that our chapter has a long-standing tradition of a president serving for a maximum of two terms. I see the wisdom in that tradition and honor it. I will not return for third term.

I will have much to say about each officer candidate at our next Chapter Business Meeting on November 4. (Spoiler alert... It's all good.) We are lucky to have such talented and dedicated volunteers willing to step up and take on a leadership role.



TMNCPC 2021 Board Members

2021 Officers

President [Bert Stipelcovich](#)
 Vice President [Shannon Westveer](#)
 Secretary [Susan Walther](#)
 Treasurer [Katie Sallean](#)

2021 Committee Directors

Past-President [Jerry Trenta](#)
 Membership [Jan and Kevin Kolk](#)
 Programs [Gary Moore](#)
 Communication [Paula Kolmar](#)
 Volunteer Service Projects [Johanna DeYoung](#)
 Advanced Training [Ramona Ridge](#)
 New Class [Shannon Westveer](#)
 New Class Representative [Jan and Kevin Kolk](#)
 State Representative [Jean Stipelcovich](#)
 Seabourne [Jerry Trenta](#)

Advisors

TPWD Wildlife Biologist [Jon McLeod](#)
 Fort Bend County AgriLife—TBA
 Wharton County AgriLife [Corrie Bowen](#)
 Waller County AgriLife [Candace Moeller](#)

We are on the Web!

See us at:

www.coastalprairie.org

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

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

Answers to Membership Questions

Answers:

1. F - You have 45 days from the event date to post your hours.
2. F - Activities must be individually documented by date and opportunity.
3. T - Note the location of the activity (County) as well as a description of what you did.
4. F - "Chapter Business" is the opportunity used for attending board meetings.
5. F - Chapter meetings have two components, a presentation and a business meeting requiring two different entries with different opportunities, "AT: Chapter Meeting" and "Chapter Business".
6. F - AT: Chapter Meeting stands for Advanced Training: Chapter Meeting.

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 our Chapter Instagram

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

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

Check out & subscribe to our Chapter's new YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfBuSOaMAOiFuiDHaiUqTQ?view_as=subscriber