

# Coastal Prairie Chapter Courier

February 2022 Volume 10 Issue 2



## Inside This Issue

JT Hits 4000 Volunteer-Hour Milestone  
New Pocket Prairie Buffalo Run Ready  
More Seeds at Seabourne





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 Terri Hurley CPC President



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**Cover**

From top: Buffalo Run Project photo by Hoiman Low; Jerry Trenta at Seabourne Seed Project and prairie seeds by Naomi Brown

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

**And away we go!**

*Hello Team! Our chapter is already moving forward in leaps and bounds. Plans so far show that 2022 is looking to be a very exciting year. Here are just a few highlights...*

**Training class!** *Our Spring 2022 class is almost full. We'll soon have 24 enthusiastic trainees registered and ready for class. Shannon Westveer, TMNCPC Vice-President and New Class Director, has scheduled an impressive lineup of presenters and field sessions. Many chapter members have signed up to serve as hosts and co-hosts for each of these classes. There are still a few hosting spots left so if you haven't volunteered already, please visit the SignUp Genius posting.*

**Mentors!** *Mentoring our trainees keeps them engaged in our chapter and improves the chances of them following through to initial certification. The Spring 2022 class still needs a few more mentors from the Katy area. Contact our Membership Directors, [Jan](#) and [Kevin Kolk](#), to sign up. Mentoring 101 sessions will be scheduled soon.*

**Seabourne Creek Nature Park!** *We are in Year 13 of a 20-year agreement with the City of Rosenberg to add improvements to the park that will help to increase visitors' appreciation of the natural world. Jerry Trenta, our SCNP Director, continues to add special projects to the park each year. For 2022, the plan is to create a special Arboretum on the north side of Seabourne Lake. This area will be professionally designed with large native trees and picnic areas. Want to help on this exciting project? Contact [Jerry](#) for more information.*

**Nature Where You Are!** *Our new Communications Co-Directors, Judi Harrington and soon-to-be nominated Megan Cromeens, have come up with a new idea to create a yearly theme for the chapter. This year our theme will be "Nature Where You Are." Their publicity and social media posts will reflect the idea of enjoying nature right where you are...in your own neighborhood, city or county. Our website and many of our 2022 speakers will round out this theme too.*

**Slack!** *All chapter members are encouraged to become familiar with and use Slack for fast communication with the Board and other chapter members. It's also where you will find the most-up-to-date information about everything CPC related.*

*With luck, the COVID situation in our counties will improve and the tight restrictions we are currently working under will be eased. Once that happens, look out because our chapter members are ready to jump into action.*

*Together, we can make 2022 a fantastic year. Got ideas or suggestions? Call me at 832-462-3768 or email me at [terri@coastalprairie.org](mailto:terri@coastalprairie.org)*

*Let's log-off and get out in Texas nature where we belong!*

Terri



## Membership Minute *By Jan and Kevin Kolk, Membership Directors*

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

### Initial Certification

- Naomi Brown (Spring, 2021)
- Elaine Whiteley (Fall, 2021)

### 2021 Recertification (81 members recertified)

- Judi Harrington (Fall, 2020)
- Amy Phan (Spring, 2020)
- Mary Warwick (Fall, 2020)

### 1000 Hour Milestone

- Debbie McMullen (2017)

### 4,000 Hour Milestone

- Jerry Trenta (2017)

## Quandaries, Questions, and Queries

Frequently asked TMN and VMS questions:

### *What must I do to maintain the "Certified Master Naturalist" label?*

- Earn recertification by completing the following:
- Be up to date on the yearly dues (\$25).
- Earn 40\* VSP hours and 8 AT hours between January 1 and December 31.
- 20 of these hours must be in the counties we service - Fort Bend, Waller, Wharton

### *What if I can't do that?*

- You can maintain your status as a member in good standing by paying your early dues and posting at least an hour of VSP or AT time during the year.

## Membership Minute *(Continued)*

### *Can I carry over hours from one year to the next?*

*Hours for initial certification, recertification, and milestones are handled differently.*

- Initial certification: Trainees can accrue hours continuously for an entire year beginning the first day of class i.e. February 22, 2022 through February 22, 2023.
- Recertification: Hours accrued for recertification must be earned from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- Milestones (lifetime accumulated service hours): VSP hours accrued for milestones carry over year to year. All hours you earn (no matter what county in Texas) qualify towards milestones.

### *How can I ensure my VMS entry is approved?*

*Make sure your entry is complete by checking for the following:*

- Choose the **correct opportunity**. If you aren't sure what to use, check the description in "My Placements." If you're still unsure, email Jan or Kevin.
- Select the **correct date**. (This is easy to forget to do.)
- Report the hours in .25 increments. (15 minutes = .25 not .15)
- Include a brief description of your activity. Note the county where the activity took place, especially if you don't live in our service area. (Example: Fort Bend County, eBird Survey reporting, 16 species)

### *Why isn't my entry for attending the chapter meeting approved?*

*Chapter meetings have two parts: a training session and a business meeting session. There must be two entries.*

- For the presentation use: **AT: Chapter Meeting**
- For the business meeting use: **Chapter Business**; drop down menu - **Chapter meeting**

### *Can I submit my hours anytime during the year?*

*Unfortunately, no. The VMS system has a 45 day window for reporting hours. This begins from the date the activity occurred, not the date you enter it. If you have difficulty with the VMS system, let [Jan](#) or [Kevin](#) know immediately.*

## Jerry Trenta Hits 4000 Hour Milestone *By Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor*



*Jerry Trenta accrued 4000 hours after attending the chapter meeting which followed the monthly program. Jan and Kevin Kolk provided some great photos of his volunteer service at the meeting. Kudos to Jerry for reaching this milestone!*

*His contributions to our chapter are invaluable. He served as president in 2019, past-president for 2020 and 2021 and since 2018 serving as Seabourne Director. Jerry has been and is an unstoppable force and director at Seabourne, including before he became a chapter member. Our prairie project has prospered under his guidance and the amount of work he has put into Seabourne cannot be measured as it is an astronomical amount. If you have ever volunteered at Seabourne Creek Nature Park you are under the generous, gentle direction of Jerry's engineering organization and drive to make prairies thrive in our signature project.*

*Kudos to you, Jerry Trenta! Some of Jerry's accomplishments are:*

- *The hog fence at the Seabourne native plant garden, with other chapter members*
- *The pergola at the native plant garden, with other chapter members*
- *The picnic tables at the native plant garden*
- *Repair of the irrigation at the native plant garden*
- *Establishment of the two container buildings to keep our tools safe*
- *Prairie restoration projects for several years,*
- *Infrastructure repair and maintenance for many years*
- *Creating pathways in the prairie (with the help of Sal Cardenas on the tractor)*
- *Signage throughout the park, including*
  - *The native plant garden*
  - *The bird sanctuary*
  - *The prairie area*
  - *The butterfly garden*
- *Overall management of the park*
- *Ordering and maintaining equipment as needed*

*I probably have forgotten some things as it is an overwhelming list!*

*We know it won't be long before Jerry will be getting his milestone pin for his 5000 hours. Congratulations, Seabourne Director Jerry Trenta!*



## Jerry Trenta Hits 4000 Hour Milestone *(Continued)*



*Jerry on the new feral hog fence*



*Headed up the building of the new dock for the wetlands*

*Working on the pergola at the native plant garden (formerly the prairie demo garden)*



*Receiving the 8 passenger touring cart*

## Chapter Member Lois Ponder Passes *By Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President*

*It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of TMNCPC member Lois Ponder. She passed away on Saturday, January 22, 2022. Lois was a valued member of our chapter and was an absolute treasure to work with. Lois graduated from the Fall 2018 training class. She regularly volunteered at the Seabourne bird sanctuary, was on the Welcome Team at the 2019 Seabourne Nature Fest and helped on many other projects. Lois was also a Fort Bend County Master Gardener.*

*Lois is survived by her husband and three children. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. Once funeral arrangements are finalized, they will be posted and emailed to all members.*

*Lois always had a beautiful smile and a positive approach to all of her volunteer efforts. She will be missed.*



Lois and others (Lois is at the far left)



Lois at the AgriLife Extension (Courtesy of Master Gardeners)

## February Chapter Program: Co-existing with Wildlife

By Amber Leung, Education Manager for TWRC Wildlife Center



Amber Leung is the Education Manager for TWRC Wildlife Center, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization in Houston. She oversees the care, housing, and training of a group of animal ambassadors and directs education and outreach activities around the region. She joined the Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie chapter in 2015 and volunteers her spare time to give wildlife advice and venomous snake relocations for her neighbors.

The February program will focus on how to coexist with wildlife in our neighborhoods and cities. Urban wildlife is amazingly adaptable, but animals often run into trouble with our traffic, high-rises, domesticated animals, and even our own homes and yards. Trained and permitted wildlife rehabilitators have the skills and equipment to give a second chance to some of these animals. Amber will introduce the TWRC education animals, share tips on making the urban habitat a little safer for everyone, and explain how the public can help when native wildlife is orphaned or injured. This program will be on Zoom, visit our website for more information! <https://txmn.org/coastal/>

To see previous chapter programs go to the Members' Section on the chapter website.

## Volunteer Service Projects Highlights 1/29/22

By Johanna DeYoung, Membership Director



January has been an active VSP month with progress made in Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP) and the creation of a pollinator garden, Buffalo Run Park in Missouri City, planned and planted by the TMN CPC.

As a chapter within the State TMN Program, the TMNCPC assumes and applies the highest risk level within our jurisdiction (Fort Bend, Waller and Wharton Counties), as well as within other neighboring counties we serve. Reminder: No more than 20 hours of VSP service outside of Fort Bend, Waller, and Wharton Counties may be counted toward certification or recertification.

**CURRENT COVID STATUS-Orange Precautions apply for all VSP activities—avoid and cancel medium (10-250) and large private gathers. Social distancing and face coverings are recommended.**

### VSP OPPORTUNITIES

#### Seabourne Volunteer Opportunities

Wednesday mornings 9:00 – 11:00 AM; and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Jerry Trenta, Director Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP) asks that volunteering at SCNP be converted to "individual tasks only." No gathering and physical distancing will apply. Masks are always recommended when others are nearby. Tasks can be completed individually/couples. Tasks do not need to be completed on regular volunteer days.

**Bird feeder refilling** – Check with Bill Johnson (281-734-3349 [rxrelo@aol.com](mailto:rxrelo@aol.com)).

**Bump ups and separations:** Bump ups can be done at SCNP and separations can be done at SCNP or can be taken home to be done at your home. You need to keep seedlings watered until returned to SCNP.

**Invasive tree removal:** brush mower clearing; branch trimming, chipper feeder, chainsaw work, log haul-off duty.

**Native Plant and Butterfly Gardens:** Lynn Trenta [ltrenta50@gmail.com](mailto:ltrenta50@gmail.com), or Katie Sallean [katie@coastalprairie.org](mailto:katie@coastalprairie.org).

For additional information, check with Jerry Trenta (713-898-4769 [jerrytrenta@txtrentas.com](mailto:jerrytrenta@txtrentas.com)).

TMN COVID-19 Precautions of masks and distancing are to be taken for Seabourne activities.

[VSP hours recorded in VMS under category "SCNP-7 Habitats Public Access: TMN Report Hours."]

Continued on the next page---

## Volunteer Service Projects Highlights (Continued)

### **Katy Prairie Conservancy – Stewardship Saturdays**

Assist KPC in removing invasive species; clearing fences of vegetation; and planting Texas native plants at the Indiangrass Preserve 31975 Hebert Road Waller TX 77484, on Saturday, 1/8/2022, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. All other tools are provided. Register in advance if planning to attend. Contact: 713-523-6135 ext. 4032 [info@katyprairie.org](mailto:info@katyprairie.org) link <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?c=&ch=&oeidk=a07eiqu39254daa80&oseq=>  
[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: “Katy Prairie Conservancy: TMN Report Hours.”]

### **Seabourne Garden Group**

This group offers fun Zoom meetings and field trips with information and VSP opportunities for members. Zoom meetings will be put on the chapter calendar. For those interested, please contact Jan Kolk, [Lynn Trenta](#), Joanie Havlick, or [Katie Sallean](#). [VSP hours recorded under “SCNP-7Habitats Public Access: TMN Report hours.”]

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

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/#attende>.  
[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category: “TMN Virtual Volunteer Service Fair: TMN Report Hours.”]

### **Texas Master Naturalists Spring 2022 Training Class**

There remain VSP opportunities with facilitation of the classes. Check the SignUp Genius for available opportunities: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084dabaa22a4f85-spring4>.  
[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: “Chapter Business: TMN Report Hours.” Under “Chapter Administration,” note “Training Classes”]

### **20<sup>th</sup> Annual FISH-tastics**

The City of Rosenberg sponsor this Family Fun Event. This event will take place on Saturday, 2/26/2022, from 8:00 -11:00 AM. The TMN CPC will provide a welcome table complete with the Bat Workshop on Wheels (WOW) and will measure fish for this event. The TMN CPC has plenty of volunteers and more for this fun filled event. TMN and Fort Bend County COVID-19 Precautions need to be followed.  
[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: “Rosenberg, City of: TMN Report Hours”]

### **James B. Harrison Late Winter Bird Hikes**

Check the website calendar for the hike at the Long Point Ranch on 2/5/2022, and the hike at the Burr Property on 2/19/2022. Registration is required for each event.  
TMN COVID-19 and Fort Bend County Precautions to be taken  
[VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under: “James B Harrison Foundation Properties: TMN Report Hours”]

### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: Volunteers Needed for Maintenance on Fishing Gear**

Mr. Greg Akins, TPWD Aquatic Education Training Specialist, is looking for volunteers to do fishing gear maintenance, on Saturday, 2/19/2022, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, at the 7777 South Dairy Ashford Houston TX 77072, location. If interested, contact Mr. Akins at 713-201-8110. See website for further information. Covid restrictions apply. [VSP hours to be recorded in VMS under the category: “TMN Virtual Volunteer Service Fair: TMN Report Hrs”]

Please continue to check the website 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 VSP opportunity.

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

## Finding a Theme for 2022?

By Judi Harrington and Megan Cromeens, Co-communication Directors



*As part of our new role as co-directors for communications and publicity, Megan and I wanted to be intentional in all our correspondence to the public. We decided that having a theme would help us focus and connect our communications, especially through our social media platforms representing the chapter! We want this theme to reflect our chapter's service, our ideas, and to bridge the gap between our community members and nature.*

*After discussing the importance of making time for nature in our own lives, we decided that our theme should focus on increasing public awareness of the incredible natural world that surrounds us in the Houston region. So, we are challenging ourselves to focus our social media and communications on **#NatureWhereWeAre!** We hope to use our posts to introduce the public to local species that do incredible things (like our resident squirrels, busy accidentally planting forests) and to the amazing ways they can connect to nature in their own lives. From green spaces like Seabourne Creek Nature Park to activities like celebrating International Mud Day – we want everyone to realize that it doesn't matter where you live (the country or an apartment), you can find a way to connect to nature.*

*If you take any great photos of local plants, animals, or natural spaces and are okay with us using them in our posts, feel free to share them with myself or Megan on slack (Judi Harrington or Megan Cromeens). You can also email them to us: [judith@coastalprairie.org](mailto:judith@coastalprairie.org) or [megan@coastalprairie.org](mailto:megan@coastalprairie.org)*

*We hope you also take some time to enjoy nature wherever you are this year – you are never too old for nature play, and it's that curiosity and passion that makes us great Texas Master Naturalists!*



Judi demonstrating Nature Play while on a hike



Megan admiring a baby alligator!

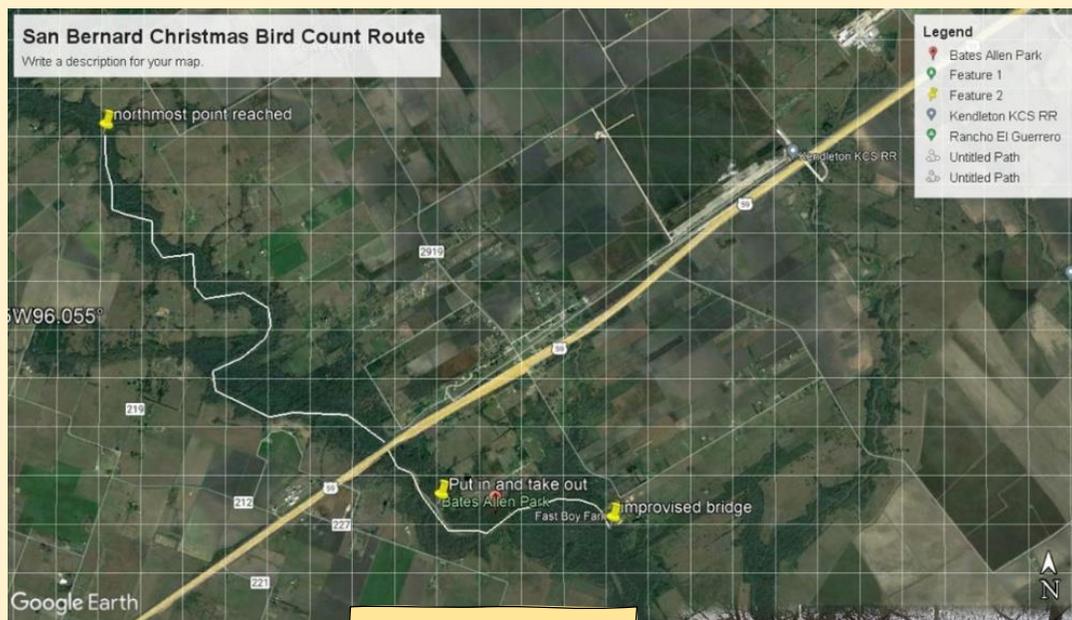


## Christmas Bird Count San Bernard River December 2021

By Bob Naeger Photos by Natalie Wiest

I participated in an on the water Christmas Bird Count on the San Bernard River on 21 December 2021 along with six other paddlers from the Houston Canoe Club. Our leader for the day was Bruce Bodson who is known to many chapter members from other bird counts and as the presenter at our December 2021 Chapter Meeting. The count was part of the Wharton Peach Creek count organized by The James B Harrison Foundation. The overall species count for the Wharton Peach Creek count was 101 species. Our on-the-water group spotted forty-five species including three that were only on our section.

We put in and took out at Bates Allen Park just outside Kendleton. This is a popular local paddling destination. Much of the time travel distance is about one mile south of the put in and about one mile north of US 59 before log jams or cypress knees block further progress. On the day of the bird count, high river levels enabled us to travel downstream about two miles from the put in until we reached an improvised bridge blocking the river. Upstream we reach about four miles north of US 59. The channel was clear at that point and we could have gone further if time allowed. For reference, level on the US Geological service gauge at Boling was 8.2 feet



Route Map

Besides allowing us to go further up and downstream than usual, the high levels let us paddle out of the river channel into the woods on both sides of the river in the areas close to the park. The river channel is home to a healthy cypress forest. Slightly higher elevations have black willow and sycamore trees, many small woody plants, and dense patches of palmetto.



Put in at Bates Allen Park

Christmas Bird Count – San Barnard River - December 2021 *(continued)*



*Through the woods*



*Improved bridge downstream of park*



*Thanks to Natalie Wiest for permission to use her photographs!*

*River channel upstream of US 59*



## Maximize Your Impact

By Hoiman Low , TMNCPC State Representative

*Texas Master Naturalists is a non-profit organization. Our chapter receives an annual grant from City of Rosenberg to maintain and further develop Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Our chapter members donate their time for volunteer services. All these resources are used to “share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education and conservation/restoration projects.”*

*Over the lifetime of our chapter, our members have performed over 110,000 hours of volunteer service. In 2021 alone, we have performed over 16,000 hours of volunteer service.*

*Wouldn't it be nice to further increase the impact of our volunteer service?*

*Did you know that many companies match their employees' and/or retirees' volunteer hours with monetary donations to nonprofit organization such as our chapter? For example, I am a retiree of Texas Instruments which provides a matching donation of up to \$1000 for 80 VSP hours per year. Similarly, I heard that Exxon, Chevron, BP etc. also provide matching donations for their current employees and maybe retirees.*

*These extra donations are very helpful to support our outreach/education projects and field trip activities.*

*So here is a call to action: check with your current or former employers and find out if they provide matching donations for volunteer service hours. If they don't, no worries. However, if they do, request your matching donations once their VSP hours' threshold is met. It would be nice to see your volunteering effort turn into extra resources to benefit our nature and environment.*

$$1 + 1 = 2$$

**Your  
VSP Hours**

**Matching  
Donations**

**Double the  
Impact**

## Missouri City Pocket Prairie “Buffalo Run” Established!

By JudiAnn Carlsson, Project Leader

Photos by Hoiman Low



*Buffalo Run Park in Missouri City now has a new pocket prairie in a redesigned garden! Over 130 native plants restored the space on January 12, 2022. The irregularly shaped raised bed is approximately 1,100 square feet located next to the children’s play equipment, the tail of alligator shape. Read about its humble beginnings in last month’s Courier article [“Buffalo Run Takes Off.”](#)*

*Missouri City Parks & Recreation provided the space and the funding, Texas Master Naturalists the guidance and labor for initial planting. Two local TMN chapters –Coastal Prairie and Gulf Coast – collaborated to create the site plan and soil preparation advisement; they also oversaw plant selection. Oversight will continue through next year to ensure plants become well-established.*

*With no on-site irrigation or nearby water, perennial grasses and flowers were chosen specifically for their root systems which hold water deep within the soil, slowly releasing it to the surrounding plant community. That’s the beauty of the prairie pocket! Mary Spolyar (TMN Gulf Coast) designed the garden with help from Susie Doe and Shannon Westveer (TMN Coastal Prairie) to get Mary’s vision on paper. In the design, plant groupings (grasses with flowers) are set on the outer edge leaving the center space for the public to view beauty and wildlife from the inside-out.*

*Locating native plants for restoration projects can be a challenge in winter. Thankfully, Mary Spolyar, who volunteers at the [Houston Audubon Society](#) native nursery, was able to select from a variety of plants, with a few more selections to round out diversity from [Morningstar Prairie Plants](#); in all, 17 different species were chosen for their wildlife value. Mark Morgenstern delivered his plants to the site personally and Shannon Westveer loaded up her minivan at the HAS, headed straight to the garden for off-loading.*

*Continued on the next page--*



*The Coastal Prairie Chapter Crew plus Mary Spolyar (GCMN) and Jose Carillo, assistant to the city forester*

## Missouri City Pocket Prairie “Buffalo Run” Established! *(Continued)*

TMN Coastal Prairie members who dug, planted, and watered included JudiAnn Carlsson, Shannon Westveer, Susie Doe, Marilyn Malone, Hoiman Low, Pauline Zinn, Pradip Sethi, Jim Butcher, and Johanna DeYoung. Mary Spolyar, TMN Gulf Coast Chapter, along with Scott Westveer who was volunteered by his spouse, and Reba Wiles, member of the Native Plant Society of Texas, rounded out the restoration team.

As per tradition, the Dubious Achievement Award was given by the Grand Poobah himself, Jim Butcher. Mary Spolyar, not familiar with our chapter’s custom, accepted the coveted blue donut and ate it with relish!

While digging, a pimento jar was uncovered which contained a note in Spanish stating that a particular friend was released from their friendship for certain reasons.

We extend a big thanks Missouri City Parks & Recreation, T.W. Dieckmann, Assistant Parks Director, and Paul Wierzbicki, City Forester, for the opportunity to build this pollinator prairie pocket. Further, the day would not have been possible without Paul’s assistant, Jose Castillo who not only arrived with the water truck but also jumped in head long to help with much of the physical work. We look forward to furthering this new partnership for natural resources conservation!

Come summer, take the time to sit in the interior of the garden and observe all the insects that will have arrived. The best way to differentiate between coastal prairie native plants and those from other hemispheres is by their abundance of pollinator visitors; plants from other parts of the world are not recognized as food by many of our local insects.

Regular watering will not necessary except during a prolonged drought. These plants are evolved for Nature; rainfall will suffice! Growth progress will be documented with weekly photos and shared on Slack and eventually on social media. Life in this pocket prairie will be tracked through [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org).



Mary Spolyar gets Blue Doughnut from Jim Butcher



Pimento Jar with Note

## Missouri City Pocket Prairie "Buffalo Run" Established! *(Continued)*

*A native plant garden will help the city enjoy an uptick in visitation to one of its premier parks. Afternoons and weekends, the park fills with teenagers, kids with their parents and other Missouri City residents out for a nice walk in the park. We look forward to providing regular outreach, education and service opportunities with scouts, school groups, and with anyone who enjoys nature.*

*Plans for public engagement are underway; residents will even get a chance to plant their own native plants with a seed ball event. Dedication by City of Missouri City of the Buffalo Run Pollinator Prairie Pocket is scheduled for Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2022, at 10:00 AM. See you there!*



*Shannon Westveer, JudiAnn, Johanna DeYoung, Pauline Zinn*



*JudiAnn Carlsson, Project Leader*



*Marilyne Malone w/wheelbarrow*



*JudiAnn, Pauline, Marilyne, Johanna, and Susie Doe*



# Seabourne News

## Seabourne Prairie Gets New Seeds

By Lynn Trenta, Seabourne Native Plant Coordinator

*This last Saturday, January 29, several chapter members came out to Seabourne to disperse seeds in our prairie restoration area. Helping with this fun task were Peyton Belunek, Naomi Brown, Jan Kolk, Kevin Kolk, Neil Lisco, Hoiman Low, John Rouane, Katie Sallean, Lynn Trenta, Phillip Ward, Ute Welk, Shannon Westveer and Elaine Whiteley.*

*Chapter Seabourne Director Jerry Trenta did a great job of organizing this event and we all soon had our buckets of seeds and a plot of prairie to throw them into. The prairie landscape proved to be a bit bumpy, due to the continued disturbance by the feral hogs that frequent our prairie, but we prevailed and strengthened a few muscles in the process.*

*After we finished our seed dispersal, Jerry offered us a tour of the area where he and other invasive plant team members have been working to remove Huisache trees and Baccharis from the prairie. He revealed his plans for the prairie to take place over the next few years.*

*The city has plans, although not in the near future, to install a retention pond in the eastern part of our prairie. He outlined his plan for this outcome, negotiating with the city to let us choose the plants to install following the implementation of the retention pond. He also wants to have our chapter create pathways around the pond.*

*It was a beautiful day to be outside and a great time was had by all!*

*Shannon posted in Slack, "Great day for 3 hours VSP + driving time. Thank you, Jerry, for the most awesome organizing a volunteer could ever ask for. Great modeling for the rest of us!"*



Photos by Naomi Brown



Jerry Trenta guides us



Lynn Trenta, John Rouane, Neil Lisco, Hoiman Low, Peyton Belunek, Ute Welk, Elaine Whiteley, Phil Ward, Jan Kolk, Kevin Kolk, Jerry Trenta, Shannon Westveer, and Katie Sallean (upper left to lower right)



Peyton Belunek scatters seeds.

# Seabourne News (Continued)

## Seabourne Prairie Gets New Seeds (Continued)



Phil Ward, John Rouane (in distance) Ute Welk, Katie Sallean, Neil Lisco, Naomi Brown, Peyton Belunek, Kevin Kolk, and Lynn Trenta with Jerry as guide.

Photos by Hoiman Low

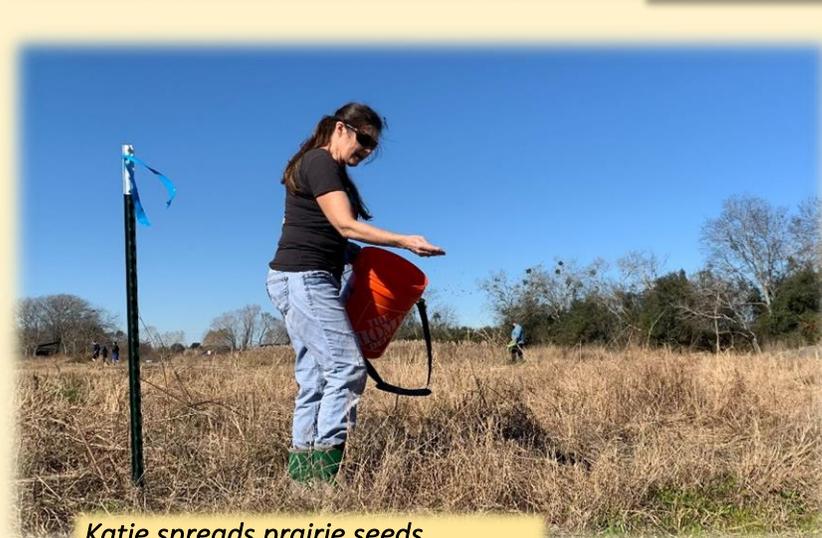


John Rouane



Diagram below by Jerry Trenta

- 1** 0.8 acre – Grass Seed Mix:  
90% Little Bluestem  
8% Longspike Tridens  
1% Big Bluestem  
1% Forbs
- 2** 1.3 acre – Coastal Prairie Mix:  
Mix of 32 native grasses and forbs;
- 3** 0.5 acre – Grass and Forb Mix:  
A mix of the native grass and forb seeds collected this past year at Seabourne plus some added Little Bluestem.
- 4** Pathway Borders; Mix of forbs for seeding the pathway borders (up to 6' wide):  
Indian Blanket  
Illinois Bundleflower  
Lanceleaf Coreopsis  
Blackeyed Susan  
Asclepias tuberosa (milkweed)  
Golden-Wave Coreopsis  
Bergamot



Katie spreads prairie seeds.



Jerry talks about future plans for the prairie

Photos by Shannon Westveer

# Seabourne News (Continued)

## Seabourne: Visit from the Galveston Bay Area Naturalists

By Terri Hurley, TMNCPC President



SCNP team leaders and I hosted five members from the Galveston Bay Area Chapter past Wednesday. They have a 1/2 acre county park to which they are planning to add a pollinator garden, a native plant demo garden and a small prairie restoration area.

They had seen our virtual field session to Seabourne back at the 2020 TMN annual meeting, were very much impressed with what we have done and wanted to visit us personally and get some ideas for their projects

I want to thank Katie Sallean for showing them the butterfly garden, Lynn Trenta for showing them our native plant demo garden, Jerry Trenta for showing our prairie restoration projects and John Rouane for showing them the bird sanctuary and bird blind. A great time was had by all!



Katie Sallean at the Butterfly



Lynn Trenta at the Native Plant Garden



Jerry Trenta talks about Prairies



John Rouane at the Bird Sanctuary

## Seabourne Garden Group

By Lynn Trenta, TMNCPC Courier Editor and Native Plant Garden Coordinator



We are starting our second year of the Seabourne Garden Group (SSG) and have a few activities lined up for the year!

- February 24 we will have a Zoom program about soil biology by our own Shannon Westveer and will also discuss VSP opportunities and field trips. The link to the Zoom program is <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcOiupzwtHtBVWbh1L6iEc4hKM1JcHtCO>
- In March we are planning to go to the Houston Botanic Gardens. This field trip is scheduled for March 24 and a SignUp Genius will be coming out to SSG members in early February.
- April is a great month for another field trip and we will talk about this at our February meeting. A trip to the Houston Arboretum would be a fun one. We visited there last year, but it was in June and a bit too hot to fully explore this wonderful wild landscape.
- In May we have scheduled a field trip to Lauren Simpson's garden, St. Julian's Crossing and she promised some fun activities and a seed swap. So get your seeds ready!

See photos of our field trips and programs below and on the next page. Although we had to cancel the plant propagation workshop for January, Mark Morgenstern will be giving a wonderful propagation and native plant workshop in March out at Brazos Bend which should appear on the chapter Bulletin.

*So, stay tuned and if you are interested in joining the SSG contact [Lynn](#) or [Katie](#).*

Also, kudos to the SSG signage committee, headed up by Katie Sallean, for developing our wonderful new Seabourne signs, which will be out at Seabourne in the near future. See the signs for the butterfly garden and the native plant garden on the following page.



Houston Arboretum Tour-June 2021



Propagation Workshop December 2021

**Seabourne News (continued)**

**Seabourne Garden Group (continued)**



*Tour of Mark and Drea Morgenstern's property in 2021*



*Cockrell Butterfly tour-July 2021*

**LOOK!**



**How can YOU help butterflies?**

Butterflies are drastically declining worldwide due to habitat loss and pesticides. Here's how YOU can help:

**Plant Host and Nectar Plants**  
Native plants are best! Host plants feed hungry caterpillars and nectar plants feed adult butterflies. Butterflies are more attracted to groupings of plants than individual plants. Avoid modern hybrid plants.

**Create a Monarch Butterfly Waystation**  
Plant at least 20 monarch-friendly nectar plants and at least two different kinds of milkweed host plants for caterpillars.

**Avoid Pesticides**  
Planting native plants will aid in keeping pest problems to a minimum. Avoid using herbicides and instead, pull weeds after a rain.

**Spread the Word!**  
Tell others about the importance of butterflies and support conservation efforts.

Scan the QR code for a listing of native plants that attract butterflies.




**LOOK!**



**Why Are Native Plants Important?**

Did you know? Native plants have evolved over many eons to support local wildlife. Walk through the garden today and see if you can discover new plants for your own garden.

**Native plants don't need fertilizers or pesticides**  
Pesticides contribute to air, water, and soil pollution—and insecticides are toxic to bees which we depend on as pollinators. If you reduce the amount of pesticide you use, you'll help the earth!

**Native plants support wildlife**  
Native plants support a complete web of life. All kinds of insects eat them—and those insects are in turn eaten by birds and mammals further up the food chain all the way to hawks, owls, and coyotes.

**Native plants are well adapted to our soils and climate**  
Native plants have evolved here over thousands of years, and they're well adapted to handle subzero temperatures, summer heat, drought, and poor soils.

Scan this QR code for a list of native plants and where to find them.





*Video Tours of Jamie Fairchild's and Jim Butcher's Gardens 2021 by Greg Hurley*

*New signs for Seabourne ecosystems to appeal to children*

## In Our Own Backyard

### Raccoons *Text and Photos by Diane Eismont*

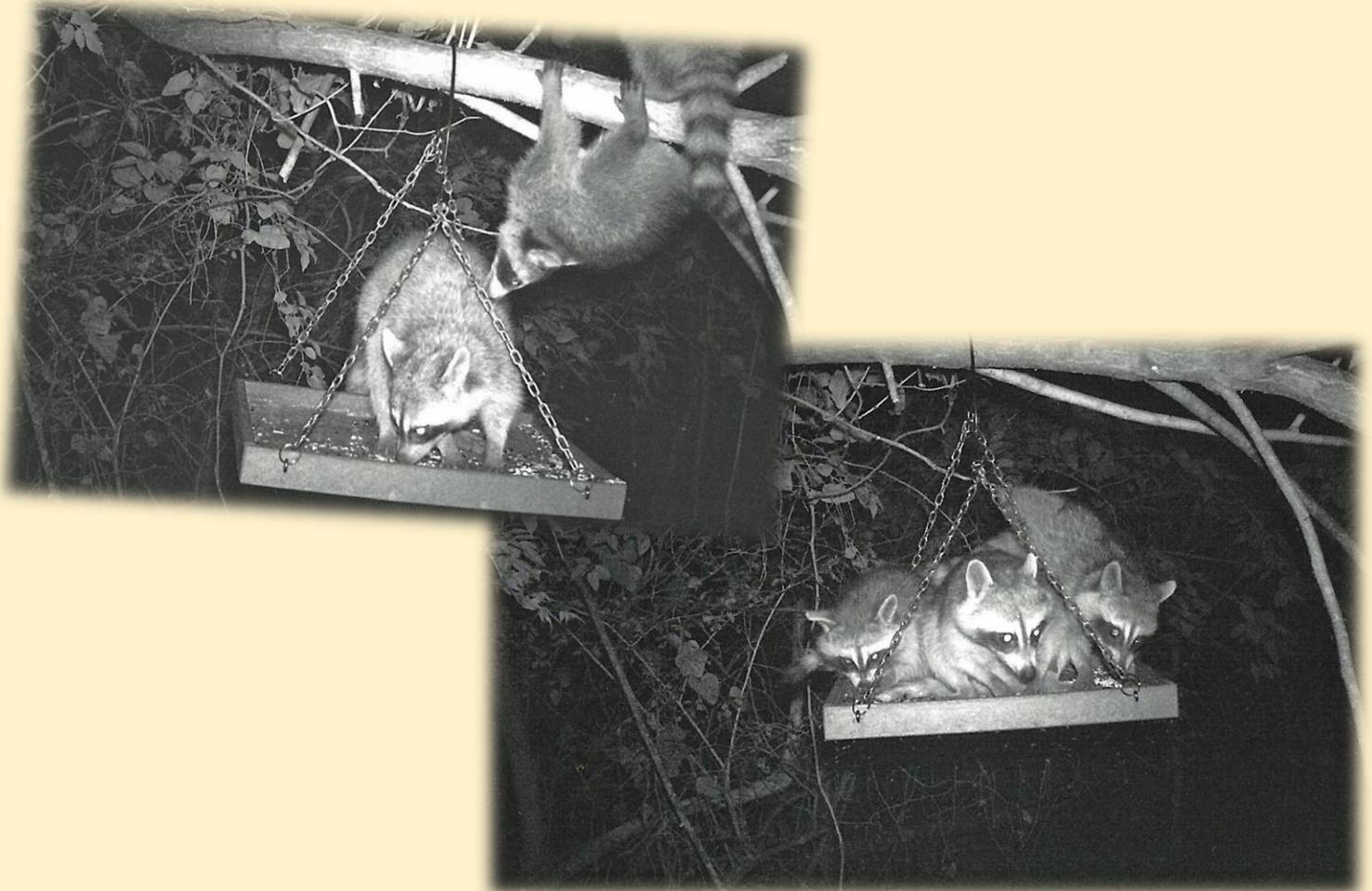
*Raccoons are a medium sized mammal native to North America, with a life span of 2-3 years.*

*The photos show a mother raccoon and her young that visited one of our bird feeders regularly for left over seeds. Raccoon Mothers raise the young, generally 3 or 4, and they go everywhere with her! Of course, raccoons can't fly to a bird feeder, but they are good climbers!*

*Raccoons are usually active at night (nocturnal) rather than diurnal (active in the daytime). They sleep in the daylight hours and usually nest in holes in hollow tree trunks or logs. Distinctive black facial masks, outlined with white, and rings of black and buff on their bushy tail make raccoons easily recognizable.*

*Though raccoons are classified as carnivorous (meat eaters) they have flat crowns on their molars for crushing seeds - not cutting teeth like cats and dogs. They eat a wide range of food. Some favorites are acorns, grapes, crayfish, insects, wasp larvae and rodents. Their dexterous paws allow for ease of movement and grabbing food, usually foraging near water.*

*Raccoons have often been featured in children's literature (including the Ranger Rick magazine). Check online for more sources and photos.*



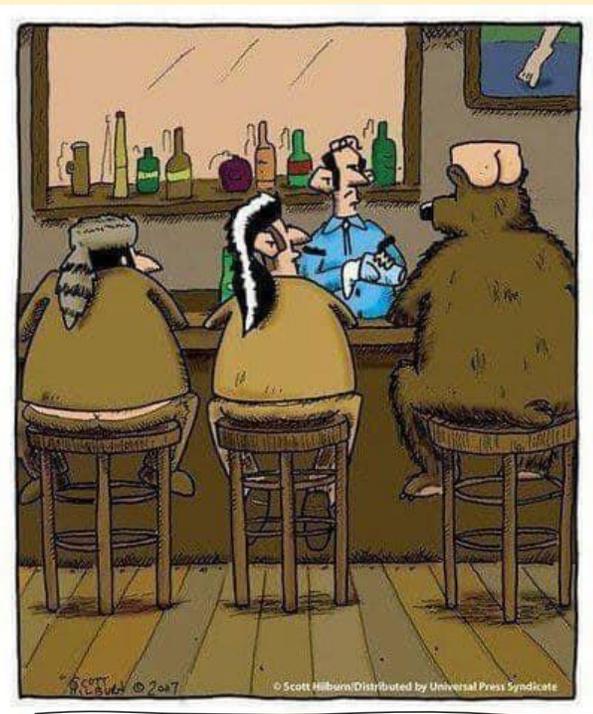
# The Lighter Side



Blazek



Becky Leugemors (Facebook)



Scott Hilburn-Universal Press Syndicate



The Far Side

## TMNCPC 2022 Board Members

## Members' Photos

### 2022 Officers

President [Terri Hurley](#)  
 Vice President [Shannon Westveer](#)  
 Secretary [Susan Walther](#)  
 Treasurer [Pam Jones](#)

### 2022 Committee Directors

Immediate Past-President [Bert Stipelcovich](#)  
 Membership [Jan and Kevin Kolk](#)  
 Programs [Gary Moore](#)  
 Communication [Judi Harrington](#) and  
[Megan Cromeens](#)  
 Volunteer Service Projects [Johanna DeYoung](#)  
 Advanced Training [Ramona Ridge](#) and  
[Katie Sallean](#)  
 New Class Director [Shannon Westveer](#)  
 New Class Representative [Peyton Belunek](#)  
 State Representative [Hoiman Low](#)  
 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](http://www.coastalprairie.org)

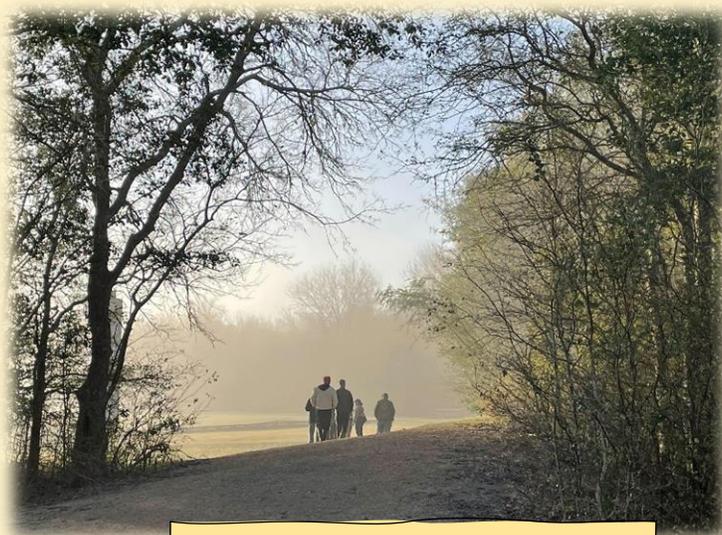
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*Buff-bellied hummingbird—Jamie Fairchild*



*Seabourne Morning—Jan Kolk*

**Our Chapter Facebook Page is at**  
[TXMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#)

***Spread the word! Please share our chapter Facebook entries 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 YouTube Channel:*  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfBuS0aMAOiFuiDHaiuNqTQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfBuS0aMAOiFuiDHaiuNqTQ?view_as=subscriber)