

Coastal Prairie Chapter **Courier**

April 2024 — Volume 12 Issue 4



“We do not own the planet
Earth, we belong to it.
And we must share it
with our wildlife.”

Steve Irwin

Inside This Issue

Bert Stipelcovich Reaches 5,000 Hours Milestone
Slippery Snake Rescue
Sea Turtle Release
Arthropod Archives: Native Bees

The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message .. [2](#)
 April Program .. [3](#)
 Membership Minute .. [4](#)
 Volunteer Service April .. [5](#)
 Bert Stipelcovich 5,000 Hours:
 Right Man, Right Time .. [6](#)
 Watersnake Rescue .. [7](#)
 Sea Turtle Release .. [8](#)
 Arthropod Archives:
 Native Bees .. [10](#)
 Book Review: *Old Yeller* .. [12](#)
 Lighter Side .. [13](#)
 Contact Us .. [14](#)

ON THE COVER

Eastern carpenter bee, *Xylocopa virginica*, hovers for a candid shot by Hoiman Low, an observant naturalist and photographer who readily shares his skill with other members willing to "go manual" with their camera settings.

EDITOR TEAM

April's issue was crafted by Co-Editor, **Shannon Westveer**

Have a great story for the May issue? Submit by **April 25** to:

Raji Mahesh
Raji@CoastalPrairie.org
Shannon Westveer
Shannon@CoastalPrairie.org



President's Message

by Susan Walther, TMNCPC President



April is National Volunteer Recognition Month! On behalf of our chapter and the Texas Master Naturalist program, thanks to every one of our chapter members for your service to improve our local natural areas and provide nature-related outreach and education to our community.

We are on pace to surpass the incredible 25,000 volunteer hours our chapter gave to our communities in 2023, and the 25,000 people reached through outreach. You only need to skim our [Facebook page](#), Slack, the *Courier*, or attend one of our monthly chapter meetings by Zoom to see the wide variety of ways that we – that each of YOU – are making a positive difference in the world as Texas Master Naturalists.

Our [chapter calendar for April](#) is overflowing with opportunities.

Saturday **April 6** is [Nature Day at Seabourne Creek Nature Park](#), and we are hoping for a big turnout of families to enjoy free and fun bird-related activities and speakers. It's also a major month for Citizen Science: the long weekend of

April 26-29 is the ever-popular [City Nature Challenge](#), a friendly competition in which we use iNaturalist to document wild species in the Houston-Galveston area and try to collect more observations and species than other cities. We are holding a [training session](#) on how to do this, **April 16**. The Great Texas Birding Classic [Big Sit](#) event is on Friday, **April 26** at Seabourne Creek Nature Park.

As you volunteer and learn alongside each other this month, remember to turn to the person next to you and *thank them* for their service to the Texas Master Naturalist mission.

See you outside!

Our chapter members ROCK at volunteering!

You are all awesome Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, and many of you do even more to help our local families, flora, and fauna. At the **April 17** membership meeting, I'd love to list some of the **other volunteer organizations** that you work with in addition to the Texas Master Naturalists. Please let me know about these via this simple and anonymous [form](#), and I'll present the list in our meeting.



April Program: Thursday, April 4, 7 PM Discovering the Wild Side of Houston by Suzanne Simpson

by Jan Peterson, TMNCPC Programs Director



Suzanne Simpson is a Houston-based ecologist, conservationist, and author working to conserve Texas' iconic landscapes. She is co-author of the newly released book *Wild Houston* which explores the biodiversity of the nation's fourth largest city. Suzanne has presented her conservation work at local, state, and national conferences, and is designated as a National Stewardship Leader by the Land Trust Alliance.

Suzanne holds a BS in Biology from Texas A&M University, an MS in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida and is a certified professional

ecologist with the Ecological Society of America. Suzanne's passion for conservation was sparked by a lifelong enthusiasm for nature's less glamorous critters, like reptiles and amphibians. Her favorite moments are spent outside searching for salamanders with her partner Nicki and her beagle mix Hyla.

As with all Coastal Prairie Chapter programs, [April's program](#) is **FREE and open to the public**. It will be held at the Rosenberg Civic Center, 3825 TX-36, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Thanks to the TMNCPC Information Technology Team, it will also be streamed **LIVE** remotely via Zoom.

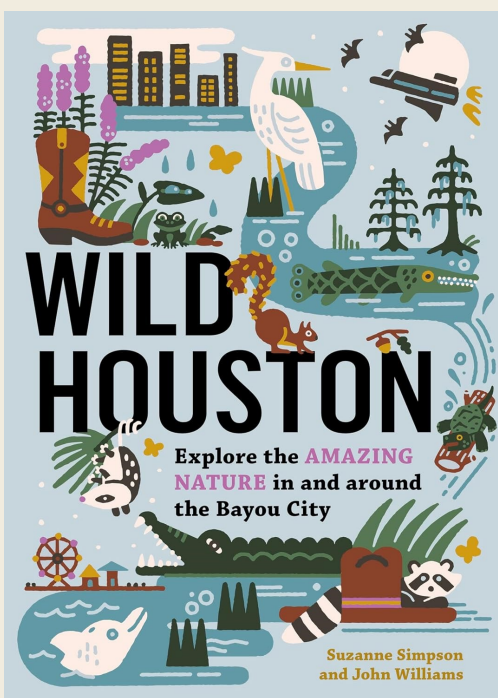


Suzanne Simpson is holding a spotted salamander. Photo courtesy of [Houston Botanic Garden](#)

The 1-hour program begins at 7:00 PM, but we welcome everyone to arrive early at **6:00 PM** for social time and refreshments with our Board, fellow chapter members, and our presenter, Suzanne Simpson.

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 (AT) hours under "AT: Chapter Meeting-Coastal Prairie" and the VSP hours for the following business meeting under "Chapter Business: Chapter Meeting."]



TMNCPC member Rebecca Aguilar interviewed Suzanne Simpson on the making of her book, *Wild Houston*. The article can be found in the [December 2023](#) issue *Courier*, pages 10 and 11.

Membership Minute

By Jan and Kevin Kolk, TMNCPC Membership Co-Directors



Congratulations! to our numerous certification and milestone achievers. *Way to go!*



2024 Recertification

(29 members recertified)

Ute Welk – 2021 Spring
 Dominic Dottavio – 2022 Spring
 Sarah Marshall – 2018
 Jan Peterson – 2021 Spring
 Linda Rude – 2012
 Wanda Roof – 2023 Fall
 Monica Taylor – 2023 Fall
 Jean Watson – 2023 Spring
 Jerry Trenta – 2017
 Terri Hurley – 2017
 Mary Saville – 2020 Fall
 Dennis West – 2022 Fall
 Stan Poscovsky – 2023 Fall
 Caroline Kane – 2023 Fall



250 Hour Milestone

Lora Jorgensen – 2014
 Lynne Woods – 2022 Fall



4,000 Hour Milestone

Terri Hurley – 2017



Welcome Our Newest Members ... Class of Spring 2024

Anam Afaq	Ana Jaramillo
Ericka Braun	Rebecca Jones
Susan Brodmerkel	Howard Kanelakos
Ellen Bynum	Randal Kepner
Patricia Cabrera	Starla Lawhon
Harold Carlson	William Parker
Brian Doffing	Rodrigo Pereira Gomes
Amy Elliott Miller	Ashley Pierson
Lindsay Gkolomeev	Constance Rossiter
Lesley Hagen	Lisabeth Ruzicka
Monte Hambleton	Cynthia Tanner
Marna Ibeabuchi	Sabrina Vera
Pam Jackson	

Website

Events

Calendar

Navigation



Coastal
Prairie
Chapter

Our VSP and AT Directors keep it current with many pre-approved Volunteer Service Projects and activities as well as Advanced Training opportunities. These can be sorted and searched by keyword or location or categorized with the click of a button.

Give it a try! —> [April 2024 Public Outreach](#)

Enter Hours Within 45 Days

MEMBERS: For a nice visual graphic on the daily deadlines in entering hours volunteered, visit <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/tmn-vms-users/>

Volunteer Service — April Highlights

By Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Volunteer Director



Before departing to serve, always check our website calendar for last minute changes, cancelations, or other information for each event. Spring weather can change unexpectedly!

<https://txmn.org/coastal/events/month/2024-04/>

Public Outreach Plant Walk with Susie Doe at SCNP, Rosenberg: 9:00 — 11:00 AM Thursday 4/4

Public Outreach FISH-tastic Children's Fishing Tournament at SCNP, Rosenberg: 8:00 — 11:00 AM Saturday 4/6

Major Public Outreach Nature Day at SCNP Rosenberg: 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM Saturday 4/6

Signature Project Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP), Rosenberg: 9:00 – 11:00 AM Wednesdays and 1st and 3rd Saturdays which fall on 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/20, and 4/24 (NOTE: 4/6 has been canceled due to Nature Day event)

Signature Project Monthly Bird Hike at SCNP, Rosenberg: 8:00 – 10:30 AM 1st Wednesday 4/3

Coastal Prairie Conservancy Indiangrass Preserve, Katy: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Tuesdays, Fridays, and 2nd Saturdays of each month which fall on 4/2, 4/5, 4/9, 4/12, 4/13, 4/16, 4/19, 4/23, 4/26, and 4/30

Cullinan Bird Viewing Area Work Day, Sugar Land: 8:00 — 10:00 AM Monday 4/1

Missouri City Green's "Trash-Off" at Buffalo Run Park, Missouri City: 9:00 — 11:30 AM Saturday 4/13

Chapter Membership / Board Meeting, via Zoom: 7:00 — 9:00 PM 3rd Wednesday 4/17

Texas Birding Classic "Big Sit" at SCNP, Rosenberg: 7:00 AM until dusk Friday 4/26

City Nature Challenge, Houston-Galveston: Friday through Monday 4/26 to 4/29 (identifying species to Research Grade also qualifies through 5/6)

Lawther-Deer Park Prairie, Deer Park: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM 4th Saturday 4/27

Nothing at Lawther-Deer Park Prairie, Deer Park: 8:00 PM — 11:00 PM Saturday 4/27 (special for City Nature Challenge)

Guided Birding Walk at CPC Barn Owl Woods, Cypress: 8:00 — 10:00 AM Monday 4/29

Nature Day
Join Us for a FREE Event!
Saturday, April 6 • 10am-2pm

Embark on a Journey of Avian Wonder!

- Face painting
- Bird themed arts & crafts projects
- Eclipse booth (free glasses to the 1st 50 visitors)
- Avian educational talks
- Guided bird sanctuary tours

Hosted by: Texas Master Naturalist™ • Coastal Prairie Chapter
www.coastalprairie.org • info@coastalprairie.org • 832-225-6936

Read the full story on Nature Day, "A Day of Avian Wonder," in the [March 2024](#) issue of the *Courier*, page 11. See you there!

Public Outreach Nature Walk Seabourne Creek Nature Park, Rosenberg: 8:00 — 9:00 AM Sunday 4/21

Public Outreach Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land: 10:30 AM — 3:30 PM 2nd and 4th Saturdays 4/13 and 4/27

The Right Man, The Right Time: Bert Stipelcovich Reaches 5,000 Hours Milestone

by Jim Butcher, aka The Grand Poobah, TMNCPC Class of 2008



I first met Bert as he and his wife Bonny Jean were attending the initial training class of 2018. The next thing I knew he was being elected Membership Director of our chapter. I liked the cut of his jib, so I asked him to come aboard and help me turn our long-standing Seabourne Nature Festival into some big wonderful thing. In a short time, our largest annual outreach event was drawing thousands of visitors to Seabourne Creek Nature Park. If any of the other 48 chapters has ever matched that, I certainly have not heard of it.

Bert then went on to become President ... just in time for a worldwide pandemic. Bert saw many other chapters suspending training classes altogether, languishing and losing membership; he was not going to allow that to happen to us. With his professional experience in information technology, he embraced the remote meeting and was the literal “tip of the spear,” facilitating the first ever all-virtual Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting. For this great task, he was bestowed an Exemplary Service Award in 2020. (See [November 2020](#) issue of the *Courier*, page 1-3.)

Bert was a strong advocate for conducting two training classes per year. (His mentee and New Class Training Director, Shannon Westveer, wrote about him for his



Bert Stipelcovich at the 2024 Board Retreat. Always with a smile!
Photo credit: Tom Zaal

4,000 hours milestone in the [December 2022](#) issue of the *Courier*, page 4.) Bert continues to serve our chapter as Information Technology Director, even while he lives in Colorado County. Whether you need assistance with Slack or advice on how to properly store a hose offshore rig style, feel free to call Bert.

Bert, you may not have been the first in the Chapter to attain 5,000 hours of volunteer service, but, by gum, you got there the *fastest*.

TMNCPC Member Shari Lewis (Class of Fall 2020) created a **Wetlands Workshop on Wheels (WOW)** to help the chapter better engage others at outreach events. Members Janis Leavitt, Randall Schmidt, Dorothy Tran, Chevy Tang, and Patricia Cabrera inaugurate the WOW with curious patrons at the Houston Museum of Natural Science Sugar Land on March 16.



Photo credit: Shari Lewis

Slippery Watersnake Rescue

By Jan Peterson, TMNCPC Class of Spring 2021



The evening of March 15, a friend of mine posted a plea for help on Facebook. She found a snake in her yard, stuck tightly inside a hole in a plastic disc. It was trying in vain to free itself, but it just kept getting more and more stuck. Its efforts were futile and the site wound had started to draw blood.

Thanks to TMNCPC member Ute Welk, we found Jerica Markle, an advocate for the live relocation of unwanted snakes. As soon as she saw the photo (below) of the trapped snake, she was in her car and off to the rescue.

By the time she arrived, the snake was so exhausted, it didn't even attempt to bite her.

This was a plain-bellied water snake — non-venomous like so many other wild species. We learned from Jerica that they mostly eat amphibians and fish.

All it took was a little bit of cooking oil ... along with Jerica's skills, of course. She said that for this particular situation, biodegradable cooking oil gets the snake slippery enough for removing the snake in reverse, *backward* — meaning you need to pull the snake back through rather than try to push the remaining body forward through the hole. The front half of the body that was able to get into the hole is smaller than the girth of the lower half. Trying to push the snake forward through the hole will simply not work.

One important note while doing a removal this way is to be careful with the scales on the belly. They are horizontal and will get snagged when pushing the snake backwards. Paying close attention to the



Plain-bellied watersnake, harmless to people but in imminent danger of death by entrapment without assistance.

belly scales while removing the snake is very important so that the snake doesn't get further injured. Be gentle, never use too much force, slow and steady. The snake naturally wants to push forward so it's important to hold the lower half in place so that the snake doesn't continue to push forward resulting in getting more stuck.

The snake was freed and released in nearby woods at the back of the property.

Always try to understand how terrified the snake is. We are massive predators in their eyes, so defensive behavior is natural. When a non-

venomous snake bites you, it is no more deep or painful than a paper cut. They do have a toxin in their saliva that thins the blood which is why a small bite can cause a bit of bleeding. A simple wash with soap and water is all that is needed to prevent any kind of infection.



Sea Turtle Release

By Debby Wendt, TMNCPC Class of 2014



On March 6, I got to cross off a bucket list item and participate in one of my most exciting experiences to date – Sea Turtle Release at Pocket Park 1 in Galveston. These twelve of the 80 green sea turtles picked up mid-January in the Gulf of Mexico after the freeze. Cold-stunned, they would have died from varying degrees of muscle damage and pneumonia if not rescued, rehabbed, and released.



Debby Wendt checking into the public sea turtle release. [Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research](#). Photo credit: Debby Wendt

They had been found floating on the surface of the water for hours after the water temperature dropped to below 46 degrees in a condition called moribund. This means they are unable to use their muscles normally, becoming incapacitated and are often “blown” ashore where they may freeze or be preyed upon by birds or mammals if they are not rescued.

They were all treated with antibiotics, fluids, vitamins, and pain medications. There are still other turtles who were rescued but are not ready to be released until April at the earliest.

After six weeks of rehab, some of the turtles were ready to be released into the wild. The largest turtle released was estimated at

twelve to fourteen years old. The others were juveniles around four years old. Three of the turtles have satellite tags which enable the Gulf Coast Center researchers to monitor their movement in the wild. In a typical year, the Houston Zoo and the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research will release as many as one hundred sea turtles back into the wild.

These green sea turtles (photo, right) are the only primarily herbivore sea turtle species, eating macro algae, sea grasses and other terrestrial vegetation that floats into the ocean. Their life expectancy is seventy or more years, and they

mature slowly. When female turtles reach maturity at age 25-35, they return to the same beach where they hatched to lay over one hundred eggs. They are the most predominant species of turtles in the Gulf of Mexico.

We were directed to stay behind the plastic ribbon markers as the turtles were carried to the water by their rehab team. It was such a beautiful day with the sun shining in 70-degree temps. Adults and children were happily

anticipating the turtles’ release and sharing their love for turtles with each other. I met Master Naturalists from the Cradle of Texas and Galveston Bay Chapters

Continued [next page](#)



Photo credit: Debby Wendt

Sea Turtle Release (Cont'd)

By Debby Wendt, TMNCPC Class of 2014



Continued from [previous page](#) with whom I discussed our Seabourne Creek Nature Park and upcoming Nature Day event. A couple of the Naturalists were doing the turtle nest patrol and we talked about how that worked.

They brought out the largest Green Sea Turtle first and the crowd was cheering as they walked down the sandy path to the water. There were drones, cameras and live video cameras capturing the thrilling experience.

Next, they carried eleven juvenile Green Sea Turtles one at a time close enough to the groups so they could observe them close up and take a massive number of pictures. It made my heart swell to be with people who shared my love of Sea Turtles. As they walked down the beach to the water with each turtle, the pride of the rehab team was evident in the smiles and sharing of the turtles. I am looking forward to the next turtle release sometime in April.



Photo credit: Debby Wendt



LOOK!

Why should you help pollinators?



Thousands of crops require pollination.

- Much of our food supply is dependent on pollinators

Many native plants that need pollinators are also important to local wildlife.

- Many animals use native plants for food or shelter
- Without pollinators, these plants and animals populations would be at risk

Invasive species and pesticides are big threats to pollinators


- Invasive species overtake natives, leading to decreased host plants for pollinators
- Pesticides are very harmful to pollinators



Climate change is also harmful to pollinators


- Rising temperatures shift bloom seasons and migration time

T E X A S



Master Naturalist
Coastal Prairie Chapter

To learn more, check out



pollinator.org

← Girl Scout Allison Sobrinho working on her Gold Award made three signs for the Houston Wilderness Area at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. She also created a trifold pamphlet that can be taken home by visitors. Visit the park and see if you can locate them all! QR sends to [Pollinator Partnership](#).



Join Master Naturalists and others in the Houston-Galveston area for a friendly competition **April 26 through April 29** to upload as many wild species of plants, animals, fungi — *LIFE* — as you can into the [iNaturalist](#) app. You don't have to join the project to participate. It's great fun outside!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2024-houston-galveston>



Arthropod Archives: Native Bees

By Sari Garfinkle, TMNCPC Class of Fall 2023

A few years ago, a friend opened my eyes to the world of native bees. I was enchanted, but at the same time I was dismayed at how little I knew about them. For instance, did you know that stingers are modified ovipositors?

Bee species are grouped into seven families. Together, these form Epifamily Anthophila, a part of the larger Order Hymenoptera, to which wasps, ants, and sawflies also belong.

Scientists believe that bees descend from Crabronid wasps. Whereas wasp larvae are almost always parasitic on some other organism, most bees subsist on floral products at every stage of their life cycle.

Bees provide reproductive assistance to plants by inadvertently spreading pollen as they move from flower to flower, females collecting it to provision their nests (and young). Their ecological and agricultural contributions as pollinators *cannot* be overstated.

Male bees have simply two jobs: eat and mate. They have longer antennae than females (right).

Over time, the females of most bee species have developed physical and behavioral adaptations that benefit both bee and plant. Most common are pollen-collecting hairs known as scopae, which are usually concentrated on their hind legs. Less common are corbiculae, pollen baskets that also appear on the hind legs. A very few ingest pollen and store it in a special crop.

Apis mellifera (Apidae), the iconic Western Honeybee, is *not* a native to the Americas. Early European colonists introduced this domesticated bee to North America, and here it remains. They are eusocial, with sterile females cooperating to care for the offspring of a single reproductive female. Workers build a nest, guard it, raise the young, and collect the pollen necessary to make honey. As for most homeowners, home invasion is

serious business. Threaten the nest, risk being stung by *many*.

Native bees, however, run the gamut from eusocial to entirely solitary. The females of most native species build individual rooms for each egg and provision them with pollen. Depending on the species, this egg chamber might be

underground, buried in leaf litter or in tree cavities, hollow stems, and other locations.

Once she seals the chamber, the mother is gone. With neither real estate nor offspring to protect, most native bees won't waste precious energy stinging you.

When the larvae emerge from their eggs, they feed on pollen stockpiled by their mother. They

develop and pupate within their chamber, eventually emerging as adult bees.

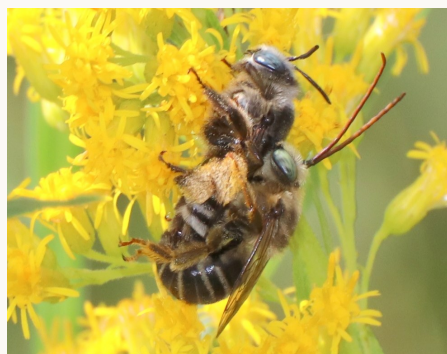
There are a lot of bees out there to see. (See table above.) On the following page are just a few of the more interesting bees you might encounter at Seabourne. *Continued on [next page](#)*



Tiny sweat bee on spring fleabane.

Photo: S. Garfinkle

Estimated number of bee species in:	
The world	20,000
The United States	4,000
Texas	1,100
Seabourne Creek Nature Park	25



Long-horned bees mating (male has longer antennae). Photo: S. Garfinkle

Arthropod Archives: Native Bees (Cont'd)

By Sari Garfinkle, TMNCPC Class of Fall 2023



Continued from [previous page](#)

American bumblebees (*Bombus pensylvanicus*, Apidae). A boon to tomato growers, these are large, social honey producers. They're also buzz pollinators, meaning that they rapidly vibrate their flight muscles to dislodge tightly held pollen.



Photo:
S. Garfinkle

Large carpenter bees (*Xylocopa*, Apidae). Carpenter bees are so named because they excavate nest tunnels in wood. We can find the eastern (*X. virginica*) and southern (*X. micans*) carpenter bee species locally. Usually solitary, these bees are often seen covered in pollen.

On October 7, 2023, TMNCPC member Margo Johnson observed an unusual bee at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. It was identified as a Long-horned mining bee (Subgenus *Tetraloniella*, Apidae), a solitary ground-nester rarely reported in Texas. I found a second individual three days later. These two bees were the first of their subgenus to be seen in Texas east of Austin.

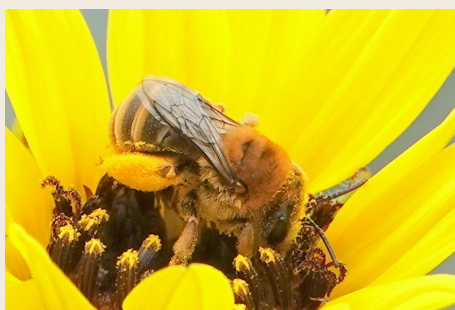


Photo: M.
Johnson

Who knows? The next person to make a discovery could be YOU!

Margined turret bees (*Melitoma*, Apidae). These solitary ground nesters build little turrets around their nest entrances. They are morning glory specialists.

Sweat bees (*Halictidae*). A huge family of bees, these are excellent, agriculturally important pollinators. They range in size from tiny to large, with varying degrees of sociality, and many are beautifully colored.

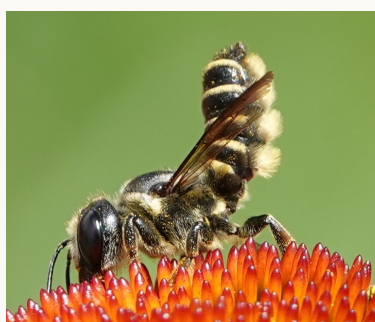


Photo: S. Garfinkle

Leafcutter bees (*Megachile*, Megachilidae). My favorites!

Megachile are boxy and stout, with wide faces, big eyes, and huge jaws. Females have rows of scopae on

their bellies (above); males often have distinctive forelegs. Solitary nesters, many leafcutter bee species cut little rounds from leaves and use them to line and seal larval chambers.

Nomad Bees (*Nomada*, Apidae). These are kleptoparasites and total freeloaders; they have little in common with typical bees. They collect no pollen and build no nest. Instead, like other cuckoo bees, *Nomada* lay their eggs in other bees' nests. The newly hatched larva kills the nest's original occupant, eats through the pollen stash, and pupates. Cuckoo bees emerge right around the time that their hosts come out. Adults nectar at flowers but are poor pollinators. Many resemble wasps.



Photo: S. Garfinkle

As mentioned before, these are by no means the only bees you could encounter. You might even find something new, like Margo Johnson did (story left).

Book Review: *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson

by Jim Butcher, aka The Grand Poobah, TMNCPC Class of 2008

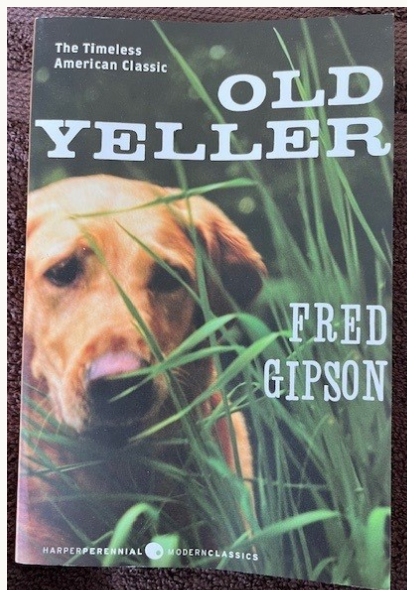


Old Yeller is truly a timeless

American classic. It tells the story of love and loss in the Texas frontier following the Civil War.

My mother took me to see the Walt Disney production at the Delman Theatre in Houston, and I still remember crying like a little baby during the showing. This was way back in 1956. (NOTE: The dog star of the movie was purchased from the pound for four dollars.)

The setting is on a farm in the Hill Country of Texas. The father goes on a cattle drive and leaves behind his wife and two boys. This old “yeller” dog



gets traded for a Texas horned lizard and then the fun begins. It is a lively fast-paced book with lots of action. It is also chock-full of information on how the early settlers used the land to sustain themselves.

After reading the book for the first time recently, it gave me a new slant and a deeper appreciation of Mr. Gipson’s work. The paperback version is not very expensive and would make a wonderful gift for the children or grandchildren in your life. Read it to them a little bit at a time for a real treat. *Enjoy!*

April is National Poetry Month! Lisa Sanders — Class of Spring 2023 — wrote a bit of prose (right) for the **#proj-scnp-archway-grasses** team at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Not just an Advanced Training Director and restoration project manager, she has other hidden talents as well! Here she is with Barry Thompson, Kevin Peters, Amy Phan, and Raji Mahesh at the first planting day March 20.



Photo credit: Randolph Watson

The 12 Days of Archway Sheet-Mulching



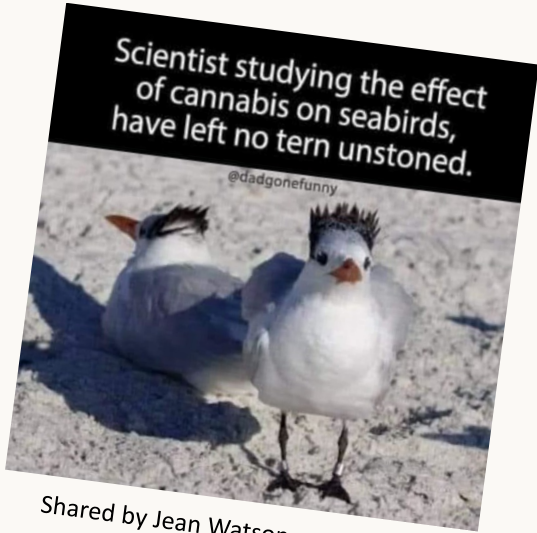
*On the first day of #Archway
The Grasses Team did see*

*12 bags of mulching
11 cardboards laying
10 shovels spreading
9 hammers staking
8 ropers roping
7 watchers gawking
6 rakers raking*

FIVE .. TRIPS TO ... LOWE'S!

*4 hours of sprinkling
3 pickup trucks
2 project signs*

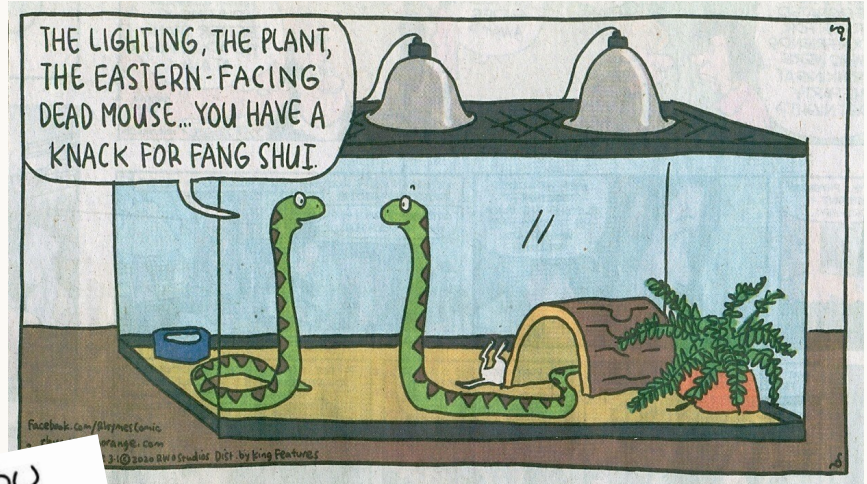
And the soil microbes munch until Spring!!



Shared by Jean Watson

The Lighter Side

By TMNCPC Various Members



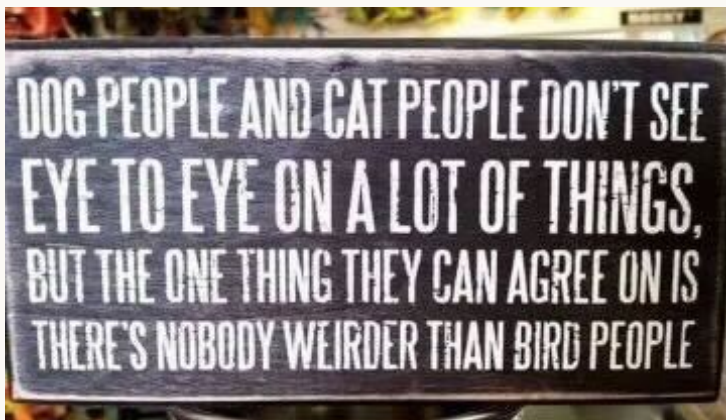
Shared by Ute Welk



Shared by Jan Poscovsky



Shared by Debby Wendt



Shared by Susan Walther

Elected Officers

President [Susan Walther](#)
 Vice President [Joyce Tipton](#)
 Secretary [Kerry Padilla](#)
 Treasurer [Carrie Dolezal](#)

Board of Directors

Past-President [Terri Hurley](#)
 Membership [Jan](#) and [Kevin Kolk](#)
 Programs [Jan Peterson](#)
 Communications [Tom Zaal](#)
 Volunteers [Jan Poscovsky](#)
 Adv. Training [Lisa Sanders](#)
 New Class Spring [Lauren DeShazo](#)
 New Class Rep. Wanda Roof
 Info. Tech. [Bert Stipelcovich](#)
 State Rep. [Hoiman Low](#)
 Seabourne Creek Jerry Trenta and
 Randolph Watson

TPWD / AgriLife Chapter Advisors

Prgm. Coordinator [Brandy Rader](#)
 Fort Bend Ag Agent [John Few](#)

Join the *Courier* Team

Co-editors Shannon and Raji are looking for a 3rd co-editor to spread the monthly load. Let us or the Board know if you're interested. *Thank you!*

Engage with our Sugar Land Partners

MEMBERS ONLY. We have so many amazing partner organizations that help us to fulfill the TMN Mission. Listed below are some channels for partners in Sugar Land — in which and *near* which many of our members reside. Join one or join them all for timely updates or sharing of volunteer happenings. We're better together!

#partner-cullinan-park
 #partner-cosl
 #partner-hmns-sl



5,000+ Followers!



Thank you, **Jan Poscovsky**, for posting fabulous content on our Chapter's behalf, bringing more and more people to the TMN Mission. Follow [TMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#) for timely and seasonally engaging content. Learn about Coastal Prairie and plug into your volunteer organization!

MEMBERS ONLY To join the [private Facebook](#)



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST™ COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER

1402 Band Road
 Fort Bend AgriLife Extension Office
 Rosenberg, TX 77471-8678

Phone: (832) 225-6936

Visit Us **On-line:** www.CoastalPrairie.org
 Email: Info@CoastalPrairie.org