

# Seabourne Creek **Special Edition**

Summer 2024 — Volume 1 Issue 2



Known lovingly as “Rosie” by TMNCPC members, Roseate spoonbills can be seen summer and beyond at Seabourne Creek wetlands or along the shallow waterways that flank the park.  
(Photo: Hoiman Low)



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## Seabourne Native Plant Garden

By Lynn Trenta, *TMNCPC Class of 2011*



### The Native Plant Garden (NPG)

is abuzz with blooms, butterflies, and bees. We have had several recent changes to the garden. In the back plot, we have installed a propagation bed that houses big bluestem and native paspalum for future Seabourne projects. We are developing a children's sensory garden, and Constance Rossiter and Susan Brodmerkel have revamped both the pocket prairie and grass plots. The latest addition to the NPG is what I am calling "The Flower Garden," which is housing Indian blanket, black-eyed Susans, and aquatic milkweed.

Terri Hurley was the lead for the NPG sign project and graphic artist Caroline Kane created beautifully designed signs for the garden plots. Chapter members Susan Brodmerkel, Terri Hurley, Nancy Jones, Caroline Kane, Kerry Padilla, Amy Phan, Constance Rossiter, and Lynn Trenta provided the information and photos for the signs. Many thanks to Caroline, Terri Hurley and all the chapter garden members for creating these great informational signs, which hopefully will be installed before the end of the year.



Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) blooming in the NPG  
(Photo: Lynn Trenta)



Clockwise top: Lynn Trenta, Ellen Bynum, Ana Jaramillo, Constance Rossiter, and Susan Brodmerkel after making the steppingstones  
(Photo: Brandy Rader)



The new children's sensory garden was developed with considerable imagination and ingenuity by Ana Jaramillo. She produced the plan for the garden and involved the native plant garden group in the process. With Ana's plan, we created steppingstones (photo, left) that will soon be installed. These not only add to the charm of the

children's garden, but making them proved to be a fun project!

Our other habitat and pocket prairie plots are overflowing with healthy plants and transitioning from summer to fall plumage. This can be a time when there are few blooms

and the plants that seem a bit weedy prevail, but these are the ones that will soon be showing their colors. Now our almost-forever bloomers like white-mouth dayflower and lantana (photo below) as well as late-bloomer saltmarsh mallow (photo next page) are providing color in the garden.

Plans for the fall include collecting grass and other seeds, leaving some stems for overwintering insects, and sowing wildflower seeds for spring. An upcoming project in the garden is documenting our plants as to bloom and seed collection time, as well as

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## Seabourne Native Plant Garden (Cont'd)

By Lynn Trenta, TMNCPC Class of 2011



Continued from [previous page](#) other information. As one of our main NPG goals is to support wildlife in the garden, we are always happy to see various wildlife there. We recently arrived in the garden to see a hummingbird buzzing around the coral honeysuckle and Turk's cap. When chapter member Barry Thompson was checking out the bee boxes, he found some tree frogs living there. We often find insects that we document with iNaturalist. This anole was posing very nicely on a garden sign.

The native plant garden is a great place to volunteer your time, as it offers opportunities for learning, contributing to wildlife, providing education for the public and of course, the camaraderie of fellow



Green anole on garden sign  
Photo: Lynn Trenta

chapter members as you earn volunteer service project (VSP) hours. We hope that you will consider volunteering in our NPG. You can adopt an individual plot where you can put your own stamp on it, or you can volunteer when you can to help the adopters.

Right now, we have four plots up for adoption:



ABOVE: Saltmarsh mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*); Photo: Susan Brodmerkel

BELOW: Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*); Photo: Lynn Trenta. For information on identifying goldenrods and goldentops, see the article on Page 6 of the [October 2024 issue Courier](#).



### Easy Native Plant Garden

### Water-Loving Plant Garden

### Hummingbird Garden

### Grass Garden

Contact Lynn Trenta or [Terri Hurley](#) for more information about adopting a plot. Volunteers do not have to come every week, even if you adopt a plot.

So, come check us out, either to just browse the garden or volunteer to keep the garden looking good, supporting wildlife, and having fun!

## Time to Restore

A few TMNCPC members recently attended a Zoom workshop, Time to Restore, put on by the USA National Phenology Network. This organization is asking for help in gathering information about common native plants. This has encouraged us to begin our own documentation of the plants in our garden and we are planning to take part in the Time to Restore project also. The Texas contact for [Time to Restore](#) is David Gwin. This is a project that exists outside of the garden as well and will result in information about specific native plants.



## Bouncing Back from Beryl

By *Randolph Watson, SCNP Co-Director*



RIGHT: Storm damage — uprooted willow tree along Seabourne Lake shore  
(Photo: Randolph Watson)

BELOW: Storm damage — wetland pond boardwalk  
(Photo: Randolph Watson)



**Hurricane Beryl** tore through the coastal plains of southeast Texas shortly after Independence Day in July. The fast-moving storm brought damaging winds and torrential rains to the area over a 10-hour period. Seabourne Creek Nature Park was not spared by the storm, but it did fare better than many other parks in the region. The storm beat up the Arboretum, the Bird Viewing Area, and the Nursery pretty badly. Otherwise, most of the chapter-maintained habitats and structures suffered little or no damage.

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ABOVE: Storm damage — nursery greenhouse  
(Photo: Randolph Watson)

RIGHT: Preparing to replant oak tree in the arboretum; TMNCPC Members (L-R) Bob Nager, Johanna DeYoung, Randolph Watson, and Jerry Trenta  
(Photo: Tom Zaal)



## Bouncing Back from Beryl (Cont'd)

By Randolph Watson, SCNP Co-Director



LEFT: Re-staking American sycamore in the arboretum; TMNCPC members (L-R) Elaine Whitely, Philip Ward, and Napoleon Bonilla (Photo: Tom Zaal)

BELOW: Standing Mexican sycamore back up in the arboretum; TMNCPC Members (L-R) Randolph Watson, John Cooper, and Jerry Trenta (Photo: Rodney Walther)



Continued from [previous page](#) Our terrific chapter members turned out in force in the days after Beryl to help with clean-up and repair efforts. In the week following the storm, 28 volunteers contributed 164 hours to remove debris; clear broken limbs from pathways; fix damaged trellises and nursery plants; stand up and re-stake uprooted trees; and clean up around the Nursery.

The SCNP leadership team is grateful to all the volunteers who were able to help with our speedy recovery. We are fortunate to have such dedicated members in our chapter.



ABOVE: Clearing the pathway behind the bird viewing area; TMNCPC members (L-R) Rodney Walther and Randolph Watson (Photo: Tom Zaal)



LEFT: Taking a break while clearing pathways; TMNCPC members (L-R) Shree Nath, Elaine Whitely, Philip Ward, and Rodney Walther (Photo: Susan Walther)

## Butterfly Garden Activities

By Katie Sallean, TMNCPC Class of 2013



**As Master Naturalists**, we love our pollinators. We understand the essential role butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, and birds play in healthy ecosystems. We maintain our SCNP Butterfly Garden specifically for the purpose of highlighting these important creatures. The Butterfly Garden serves as a living education station where park visitors learn what makes a pollinator-friendly habitat.

Chapter members work in the Butterfly Garden on Wednesdays and on two Saturdays each month. Volunteers perform typical gardening tasks that vary by season: collecting seeds;

trimming; editing (removing unwanted plants), planting and transplanting; clearing pathways; and mulching. They maintain a small library with books and children's activity packets. Members often function as ambassadors for the park, greeting visitors, answering questions, giving mini-tours, and touting the important role pollinators have in an ecosystem.

Our volunteers have been busy this summer with a few special projects in the garden:



Gray hairstreak butterfly in the garden (Photo: Pauline Zinn)



June Monthly Insect Hike in the Butterfly Garden; Sometimes, TMN Gulf Coast Chapter member Rich Sommer joins TMN Coastal Prairie members for public outreach (Photo: Lynn Trenta)

- **Removal of tropical milkweeds.** They were replaced with a couple dozen *Asclepias perennis* (aquatic milkweed) and *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed). These native milkweeds provide special value to native bees, attract beneficial insects that prey upon other insects, and serve as hosts for monarch and queen butterfly life cycles — egg to adult.
- **Designing new signs.** These will educate visitors about the problems with tropical milkweed and OE, a protozoan that infects and kills monarch and queen butterflies ([learn more here](#)). This new signage will provide guidance on how to reduce the threat of OE in home gardens.
- **Updating and redesigning existing garden signage.** The new signage will be more weather tolerant and last longer.
- **Monitoring and maintaining mason bee houses.** Mason bees are more effective pollinators than honeybees, pollinating close to 95% of the flowers they visit.
- **Seeding for next year's growing season.** We have been deadheading flowers to promote longer flowering times. Collected seedheads are then sown in other areas for next year's growing season.

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# Butterfly Garden Activities

By Katie Sallean, TMNCPC Class of 2013



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- **Putting together children's activity packets.** Designed for our younger visitors, these themed packets contain different activities that are fun and educational, conveniently kept in the Linda Rippert Education Station library box.



Fall 2024 Class member Saundra Salter collecting coneflower seeds (Photo: Randolph Watson)

The list of chapter members who have contributed to the Butterfly Garden this year, twenty-eight in all, is too long for the available space. Still we would like to recognize the following volunteers who have given significant amounts of time, energy, and expertise to the Butterfly Garden!

- Katie Sallean (SCNP Team Co-Lead)**
- Aida Pita-Baston (Team Co-Lead)**
- Sandra Brown**
- Virginia Camerlo**



Volunteers tending to one of the beds in the Butterfly Garden (Photo: Randolph Watson)



Barry Thompson checking on one of the mason bee houses (Photo: Lynn Trenta)

- Hal Carlson**
- Marna Ibeabuchi**
- Marilyne Malone**
- Aki Nomi**
- Monique Smith**
- Cyndi Tanner**
- Barry Thompson**

Our Butterfly Garden volunteers always welcome chapter members to come out and serve, whether it be on a regular basis or as schedules permit.

Any members interested in learning more can contact Katie Sallean ([katie@coastalprairie.org](mailto:katie@coastalprairie.org)) or look for a Workday SignUp Genius event email.

**Texas Master Naturalist™  
Coastal Prairie Chapter  
Seabourne Creek Nature Park**

**Project Directors**

Jerry Trenta  
Randolph Watson

**Team Leads**

**Team Butterfly Garden**

Katie Sallean

**Team Native Plants Demo Garden**

Terri Hurley  
Lynn Trenta

**Team Pollinator Pocket Prairie**

Shree Nath  
Fran Wilcox

**Team Arboretum**

Kevin Peters

**Team Bird Sanctuary**

Bill Johnson

**Team Archway Grasses**

Lisa Sanders

**Greenhouse and Propagation**

Jo Cain

**City of Rosenberg**

**Parks and Recreation Director**

Cary Lamensky

**Autumn Outreach Events ... JOIN US!**

**Monthly Bird Walk**

1st Wednesday 8:00 AM — 10:30 AM

**Monthly Guided Nature Walk**

4th Sunday 8:00 AM — 9:00 AM

**Monthly Guided Insect Hike**

4th Thursday 9:00 AM — 11:00 AM

**Monthly Guided Plant Walk**

2nd Saturday 9:00 AM — 11:00 AM

Be sure to check the events calendar for updates to times or meeting locations.

<https://txmn.org/coastal/events/month/>



<https://txmn.org/coastal/seabourne-creek-park/>

Coastal Prairie Chapter's  
Signature Project



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