

# Coastal Prairie Chapter Courier

Volume 13 Issue 10 – November 2025

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, place to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike."

*John Muir (1838-1914)*



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Drought and the Watershed

*PRAIRIE: A Natural History of the Heart of North America*, a Book Review



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.

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## COVER PHOTO

Roseate spoonbill and white ibis at Seabourne Nature Park

by Hoiman Low

## EDITOR TEAM

This issue was crafted by Co-Editor **Masood Murtuza**.

Have a great story for the December issue? Submit by **November 25** to:

#submissions-courier on Slack or [Submissions@coastalprairie.org](mailto:Submissions@coastalprairie.org) to reach everyone on the Editor Team.

<https://txmn.org/coastal/monthly-coastal-prairie-courier/>

## President's Message

Susan Walther, TMNCPC President



Think back—what or who was the spark that made you decide to become a Texas Master Naturalist? Maybe you joined a Master Naturalist-led hike and were inspired by the guide's enthusiasm and knowledge. Perhaps you met volunteers at an outreach event teaching families about nature in fun and creative ways. Or maybe you admired a thriving native plant garden at a park and learned that Texas Master Naturalists had designed and maintained it.

Wherever your spark came from, it awakened something in you—a deeper curiosity about the natural world and a desire to be part of the good work these folks were doing.

When I read the key words of the Texas Master Naturalist mission statement: *to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the*

*beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas*, I picture a wide archery target representing the range of volunteer opportunities that qualify for TMN service hours. And at the center of that target, in the bull's-eye, are the kinds of projects that most clearly reflect our mission.

Examples of “bull's-eye” service include leading or



assisting with nature education programs, interacting with the public at outreach events, participating in citizen science projects like a BioBlitz, or helping create and maintain native plant gardens. When we do this kind of work, we *know* we're hitting the TMN Service Bull's-eye. We feel energized and proud because we're contributing directly to the mission that first inspired us to join.

I encourage all of our chapter members to reflect on the volunteer hours you've been logging. Are you still hitting your TMN Service Bull's-eye? If you've lost some of that original spark or sense of purpose, this is a great time to get

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## November Chapter Program: Thursday, November 6 @ 7 PM “Bridging the Gap with Native Plants” Presented by Josh Kelly

*Jan Peterson, TMNCPC Programs Director*



approach can make a big impact on biodiversity and water conservation.

Josh is currently serving as the Vice President of the Houston Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. When he's not managing large-scale projects at Shooter and Lindsey, LLC, Josh can be found botanizing in prairies or volunteering his time on native restoration and landscaping efforts. His passion for Texas natives extends beyond plants—to the longhorns, raptors, and even the bees (native and non-native alike) that share their habitats. Join us to learn how passion, practicality, and persistence can transform the way our communities grow and thrive.

Our programs are always **FREE** and **open to the public**, held at the Rosenberg Civic Center, 3825 TX-36, Rosenberg, TX 77471.

**FREE CHAPTER PROGRAM**

**BRIDGING THE GAP WITH NATIVE PLANTS**  
**Thursday, November 6, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

**“Bridging the Gap: Native Landscapes in a Commercial World” with Josh Kelly**  
Commercial Landscape Construction Project Manager, NPSOT Houston Chapter Vice President

Join us for an insightful look at how the landscaping industry can evolve to support the survival of native plants and prairie ecosystems. He will provide a unique insider's perspective on integrating sustainable, ecologically sound practices into both residential and commercial design.

**T E X A S**

**Master Naturalist™**  
Coastal Prairie Chapter

Photo Credit: Josh Kelly

Rosenberg Civic Center, 3825 TX-36, Rosenberg, TX 77471  
A virtual option is available. For more information, visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/39jrjppp>

**Hosted by: Texas Master Naturalist™ • Coastal Prairie Chapter**  
[www.coastalprairie.org](http://www.coastalprairie.org) • [info@coastalprairie.org](mailto:info@coastalprairie.org) • 832-225-6936

Join us on Thursday, November 6th, at 7:00 PM at the Rosenberg Civic Center for an insightful look at how the landscaping industry can evolve to support the survival of native plants and prairie ecosystems. Our presenter, Josh Kelly, a commercial landscape construction project manager, brings a unique insider's perspective on integrating sustainable, ecologically sound practices into both residential and commercial design. He'll explore practical ways to balance aesthetic expectations with environmental responsibility, highlighting how small shifts in

[Continued from previous page](#)

back on track. Seek out opportunities that align with your passions, skills, and interests. When your service feels meaningful and on-mission, you'll rediscover the joy that drew you to become a Texas Master Naturalist in the first place.

See you outside!

Thanks to the TMNCPC information technology team, programs are also **streamed LIVE** remotely via Zoom. The 1-hour program begins at **7:00 PM**.

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.”]



## Membership Minute

Sari Garfinkle and Constance Rossiter,  
TMNCPC Membership Co-Directors



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



### ***Initial Certification***

Stacy Grunke - 2025 Spring  
Tammy Hlavinka - 2025 Spring  
Haleigh Thornley - 2025 Fall  
Missy Gaido Allen - 2025 Fall  
Nelson Gonzalez - 2025 Fall  
Chris Weidman - 2025 Fall



### ***2025 Recertification***

Don Parkhouse - 2021 Fall  
Becky Richards - 2023 Spring  
John Rouane - 2020 Spring  
Katie Sallean - 2013  
Pam Trimble - 2018  
Chris Weidman - 2025 Fall  
Nelson Gonzalez - 2025 Fall



### ***250 Hour Milestone***

Karen Brisch - 2024 Fall



### ***500 Hour Milestone***

Karen Bueker - 2024 Fall  
Vanessa Weidman - 2024 Fall

### **PRAIRIE: A Natural History of the Heart of North America by Candace Savage, a Book Review by Jim Butcher, Class of 2008**



Hello, nature lovers. I am sure that when most people think of me, bad jokes, bump-ups, and baked goods come to mind. Please add books to the list, as I have just finished one, and I am sure you will enjoy it.

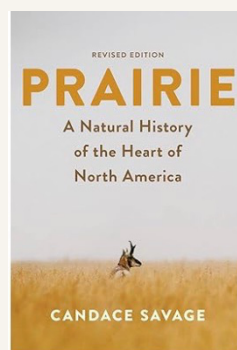
True to its subtitle, you will be exposed to the region around the "Old Man on His Back Prairie" and "Conservation Area" (in Saskatchewan) more than to the coastal prairie, but don't worry; as you know, it is all connected. This book covers all the information you might expect about prairies, including flora, fauna, history, soil, multiple maps, and some amusing anecdotes.

In discussing the bison, Savage writes, "More recently, during the ferocious winter of 1876, several million bison starved to death along the Brazos River in southern Texas. So many that their humped carcasses reminded one visitor of a field of pumpkins."

She writes of the pronghorn, "With its pre-contact population of 35 million, it evolved to outrun the American lions and dire wolves, and as the fastest animal in North America, it can hit speeds of 60 miles an hour," and further, "This species has prairie in its blood."

For anyone who walks around with the word "Prairie" on their name tag, I assure you that reading this book will expand your appreciation of the subject. *Enjoy!*

*PRAIRIE: A Natural History of the Heart of North America* is available at the George Library or in online stores.





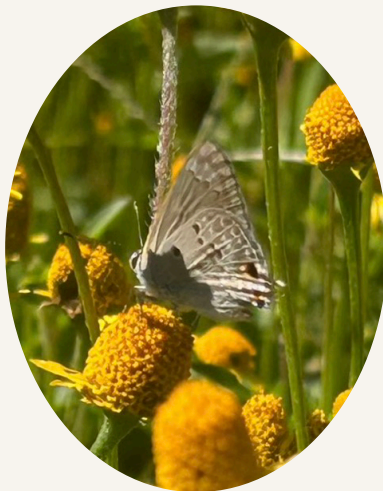
## 29th Annual NABA Brazos Bend (BBSP) Butterfly Count

*Shannon Westveer, Class of 2019*



In early October, TMNCPC and BBSP volunteer Shannon Westveer coordinated with 27 other volunteers who spent 24.5 team-hours and covered 14.5 miles logging 45 different species on nine trail assignments. The team counted over 1,000 individual adult butterflies, a very good year considering the dry conditions that precipitated a burn ban in the county just a couple of weeks later. Most in the group were TMNs from the Coastal Prairie Chapter (TMNCPC), but some BBSP volunteers and a couple of folks from the public also attended. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the count.

Highlights of the beautiful Sunday were an atypical abundance of turk's-cap white-skipper – absent previous counts – and a mallow scrub-hairstreak, which made the count list for the first time ever, seen and photographed by TMNCPC member Cindi Tanner. This species is currently listed on iNaturalist as “vulnerable.”



Mallow scrub-hairstreak | Photo by Cindi Tanner

The morning after the count, while hiking the Red Buckeye Trail, Shannon netted, photographed, and released another first timer for the park just a bit east of its typical range: *Staphylus hayhurstii*, Hayhurst's scalloping. The species did not make the official count the day before, but it has been uploaded as an observation, confirmed to Research Grade on [iNaturalist](#), only one of a handful of local observations.



Hayhurst's scalloping | Photo by Shannon Westveer

Members can follow channel [#partner-bbsp](#) on Slack for details as they develop nearer the date. If you are a butterfly enthusiast and would like to attend in the future, please reach out to [Shannon](#) directly via email or on Slack directly.

To see all of the participants' photo uploads, visit [iNaturalist Butterflies at Brazos Bend October 5, 2025](#) (filtered for the day and by butterflies only).

Next year's 30th annual count is set for **Sunday, October 4, 2026**. See you then!



29th Annual NABA Brazos Bend (BBSP) Butterfly Count  
| Photo by Shannon Westveer



<https://naba.org>



## Volunteer Service — November Highlights

*By Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Volunteer Director*



Before departing to serve, check our website calendar for last minute changes, cancelations, or other information.

### [TeamUp Website November Calendar](#)

**Signature Project Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP), Rosenberg:** 8:00 - 11:00 AM, Wednesdays and 1st and 3rd Saturdays, which fall on 11/5, 11/12, 11/15, 11/19, and 11/26

**Public Outreach NATURE DAY at SCNP, Rosenberg:** Saturday, 11/1 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Public Outreach Monthly Mindful Nature Walk (rotating between parks). This month at Cullinan, Sugar Land:** 9:00 - 10:30 AM, 1st Sunday, 11/2

**Public Outreach Monthly TMN Story Time for Children (rotating between parks). This month at Cullinan, Sugar Land:** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1st Sunday, 11/2

**Public Outreach Monthly Plant Walk at SCNP, Rosenberg:** 9:00 - 11:00 AM, 2nd Saturday, 11/8

**Public Outreach Monthly Nature Walk at SCNP, Rosenberg:** 8:00 - 10:00 AM, 3rd Sunday, 11/16

**Public Outreach Houston Museum of Natural Science in Sugar Land:** 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM, 2nd Saturday, 11/8, and Garden Workday, 3rd Thursday from 8:00 - 10:00 AM, 11/20

**Board Meeting, via Zoom:** 7:00 - 9:00 PM, 3rd Wednesday, 11/19

**Coastal Prairie Conservancy Indiangrass Preserve, Katy:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Tuesdays, Fridays, and 2nd Saturdays of each month which fall on 11/4, 11/7, 11/8, 11/11, 11/14, 11/18, 11/21, 11/25, and 11/28

**Harris County Precinct 4 Bird Survey at Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Park, Houston:** 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM, 4th Monday, 11/24

### **John Paul Landing Weekly Bird Hike:**

7:30 - 10:30 AM, every Thursday, which falls on 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20

**Willow Fork Pollinator Garden Workday:** 8:00 - 10:00 AM, every Saturday of each month, which falls on 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, and 11/22

**Willow Waterhole Monthly Bird Survey:** 7:00 - 9:00 AM every 3rd Saturday, 11/15

**Kolter Elementary Pollinator Garden Workday:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 2nd Saturday, 11/8

**Bolivar Flats Beach Ramble:** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 1st Saturday, 11/1

**Lawther-Deer Park Prairie, Deer Park:** 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM 4th Saturday, 11/22

**Roadside Trash Pickup or Vegetable Garden Planting, Irene Stern Community Center, 6920 Katy Fulshear Rd:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Saturday, 11/1

**WOW Presentations at Long Acres Ranch:** 8:45 AM - 2:30 PM on Tuesday - Thursday, 11/4, 11/5, and 11/6

**Putting Down Roots Coastal Prairie Conservancy Indiangrass Prairie, 31975 Herbert Rd, Waller, TX:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Saturday, 11/8

**Pollinator Party at Cullinan Park, Cullinan Park Conservancy:** 2:00 - 4:00 PM Saturday, 11/8

**Nine Natives Showcase Garden at Cockrell Butterfly Center HMNS Houston:** 9:00 - 11:30 AM Monday, 11/10

**Oyster Reef Monitoring at Galveston Bay:** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Thursday, 11/13

**Whistlestop Prairie Restoration, Whistlestop Prairie at Hermann Park, 6005 Herman Park Dr, Houston, TX:** 8:30 - 11:30 AM Friday, 11/14

**Frontier Days at George Ranch, 10215 FM 762 Rd, Richmond, TX:** 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday, 11/14 and 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday, 11/15.

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## Volunteer Service — November Highlights

By Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Volunteer Director



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### splasH Recycling and Clean Up at H-E-B 23500 Circle

**Oak:** 9:00 - 11:00 AM Saturday, 11/15

### WIDE School Outreach in Missouri City: 1:00 - 2:00

PM Friday, 11/21

### Pecan Harvest Festival Richmond: 9:00 AM - 4:30

PM on Saturday, 11/22

### Join Us at Seabourne Creek!



The public is always invited to participate in our fun and educational monthly hikes and walks. We invite you to get out and meet TMNCPC members as we commune with nature. Check our calendar to find the dates and times for our Bird Hikes, Plant Walks, Nature Walks, and Insect Hikes. [TMNCPC Event Calendar](#)

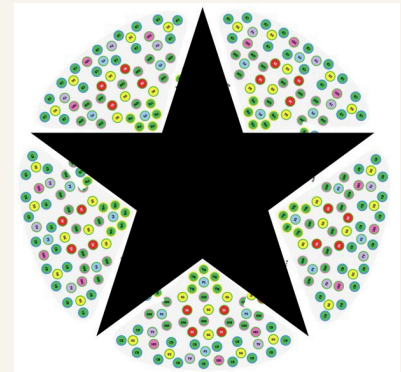


### NEW! Lone Star Roundabout Pocket Prairie Installed October 3, 2025

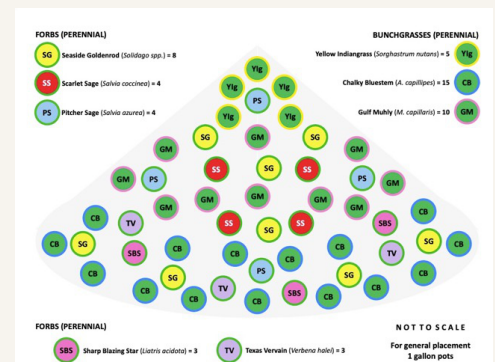
Shannon Westveer, Class of 2019

Through the months of autumn and winter, the prairie sleeps, putting down long roots to ready it for its first hot summer ... and continual, seasonal bloom cycles.

Thank you, City of Sugar Land and Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter volunteers, for all the great work done in just a few hours! <https://txmn.org/coastal/volunteer-projects/sugar-land-lone-star-roundabout-prairie-patch/>



TMCCPC volunteers worked with City of Sugar Land staff to install many native prairie plants | Photo: Shannon Westveer



## Getting to Know Your Seabourne Creek Prairie Plants — VI Is that Woolly Croton or Woolly Croton??

Susie Doe, Class of 2008



Woolly Crotons are members of the genus *Croton*, which are members of the subfamily Crotonoideae within the family Euphorbiaceae (commonly known as the Spurge Family).

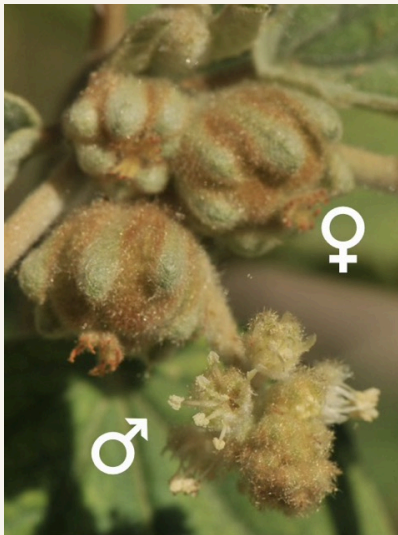


Figure 1 *Croton lindheimeri*

Members of the Euphorbiaceae or Spurge Family are characterized by having phytotoxins (defensive chemical compounds of varying types), mostly simple leaves (with stipules) arranged either alternately or oppositely, unisexual flowers on either monoecious

or dioecious plants, and a superior ovary which produces a dehiscent capsule with three chambers (one seed per chamber). The family is divided into three subfamilies. The Acalyphoideae do not produce a resinous sap and have spicate or racemose (often drooping) inflorescences. Members of the Euphorbioideae produce a white latex sap containing caustic, poisonous compounds; the male and female flowers are grouped together into a special cup-like structure known as a cyanthium, often subtended by colorful bracts. These two groups will have to wait to be discussed in a future article.

The Crotonoideae also produce a clear or white sap generally considered to be non-caustic. These plants are usually covered with stellate hairs. They are mostly monoecious plants, producing spicate or racemose, terminal inflorescences. Pistillate flowers have no



Figure 2 *Croton heptalon*

petals and are usually borne below the staminate flowers, which have small, inconspicuous, white or translucent petals. Needless to say, these flowers are not very showy at all.

There are nine species of *Croton* that may be found within 'Our Area.' Two of these are

considered to be woolly—*C. lindheimeri* and *C. heptalon*. The former was classified as *Croton capitatus* var. *lindheimeri*, but it has now been raised to species level. These two species are distinguished from other crotons by the densely packed tomentose hairs within the inflorescences. They can be distinguished from woolly *C. capitatus* (which occurs in Northeast TX) by the sepals that are somewhat longer than and cupped over the capsule; in *C. capitatus* the sepals flare away from the fruit.



Figure 3 Male flower – Both sepals & petals covered in hairs

While all three of the above-mentioned species are casually called 'Woolly Croton,' iNaturalist uses the following common names: *C. lindheimeri* is Lindheimer's Doveweed, *C. heptalon* is South Texas Woolly Croton, and *C. capitatus* is Hogwort. Remember: if you learn the scientific names, you will never be confused!

The two species can be differentiated based on several

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## Getting to Know Your Seabourne Creek Prairie Plants — VI Is that Woolly Croton or Woolly Croton?? (Cont'd)

Susie Doe, Class of 2008



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Figure 4 *Croton lindheimeri* plant in bloom | Photo by Susan Doe



Figure 5 *Croton heptalon* plant in bloom  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/62962602>,  
Photo by Matthias, © Matthias Buck, [CC-BY-NC](#)

traits, with the easiest being the color of the ‘wool.’ In *C. lindheimeri* the hairs are distinctly yellow to golden, while in *C. heptalon* they are white to silvery (see Figures 1, 2, 4, 5). Occasionally it is difficult to decide the color of the hairs, in which case one has to dig a bit deeper, literally, into the wool of the female flowers to determine the forking pattern of the stigmatic ends of the styles. A loupe (magnifier) or good close-up photo is very helpful here.

Each flower has three styles (one corresponding to each carpel in the ovary), which are split into four (for a total of 12) stigmas. In *C. lindheimeri* the forking pattern is 2-fid x 2-fid, meaning it splits into two branches and then subsequently each branch splits again into 2 segments (see Figure 6). In *C. heptalon* the pattern is 4-fid, which means each style splits directly into four segments (see Figure 7). *C. lindheimeri* is by far the most common of the two species within our area. Both species are annuals often found in disturbed ground; *C. heptalon* seems to be less tolerant of clay soils, preferring sandier



Figure 6 2-fid x 2-fid stigma branching in *C. Lindheimeri* | Photo by Susan Doe



Figure 7 4-fid branching in *C. Heptalon* | Photo by Susan Doe

areas. These species tend to be toxic to mammals, so it's not a favorite of livestock farmers (overgrazing is best avoided as this disturbance may cause these species to increase on a property). Neither herbage nor seeds are suitable for human consumption.

Both species, however, are important providers of shelter and food for wildlife on the prairie. They provide nectar and pollen to many pollinators and are the larval hosts for several butterflies, especially the Goatweed Leafwing. The 3.5-4 mm seeds are packed with protein, are high in energy content and rich in minerals. They are a favorite of dove, quail, and turkey. The seeds are explosively expelled from the capsule when it splits open: listen carefully as you walk through a ripe field of doveweed and you may hear a soft popping noise and feel some seeds coming your way. Collecting seeds from crotons requires assessing the ripeness of the capsules and placing a net or bag over them to catch the ripe seeds when the capsule splits open.

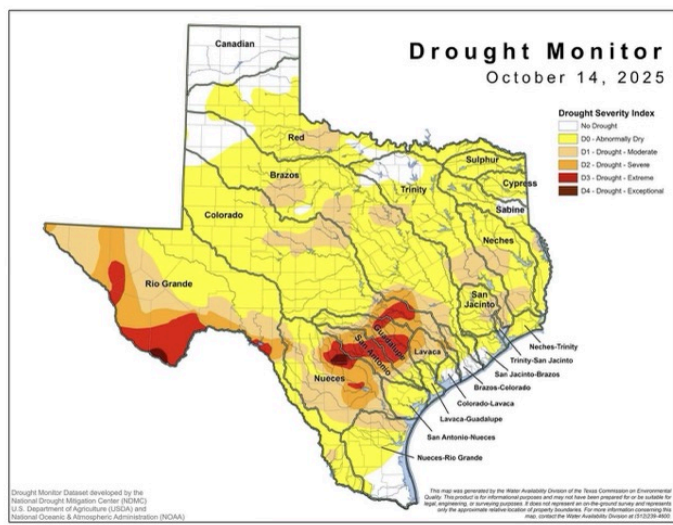
## Drought and the Watershed

*Angela Montoya, Class of 2022*



Texas is no stranger to extreme weather. It was only four months ago that our state experienced one of the most deadly and catastrophic floods in our documented history along the Guadalupe River. Now, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), we are right back into drought territory for most of the state. This juxtaposition can make understanding the current state of our water resources perplexing. Drought will have significant, negative consequences on the watershed and our local ecosystem including wildlife habitat along the coastal prairie. Let us explore the current drought status in Texas, as of mid-October 2025.

### First About the Drought...



<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/response/images/drought-map.jpg>

The Texas Drought Monitor is a collaborative effort involving the National Drought Mitigation Center, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It offers weekly updates that classify areas in Texas according to five categories of drought intensity: Abnormally Dry (D0), Moderate Drought (D1), Severe Drought (D2), Extreme Drought

(D3), and Exceptional Drought (D4). We can use these classifications to understand drought trends. Most of the state is now listed as abnormally dry (D0), according to the latest map issued at the time of article submittal.

Another site to ponder drought conditions, takes us down to the county level.

[https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?fips\\_48481](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?fips_48481).

Both Fort Bend County and Waller County are listed as D0 or abnormally dry. Focus in on Wharton County and the situation becomes a bit more disconcerting. Wharton County is currently in Severe Drought (D2) status. This past September, Wharton County was included in the renewed disaster proclamation issued by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, extended from July 2022, which claims the drought disaster “poses imminent threat.” This declaration will allow for local officials to have access to resources that may be necessary to “cope with this disaster.” (See <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-amends-renews-drought-disaster-proclamation-in-september-2025>)

### Is There Any Good News?

Even though meteorologists predict that drought conditions could persist in much of Texas throughout the remainder of 2025, not all is hopeless. According to [waterdatafortexas.org](http://waterdatafortexas.org), our reservoirs are currently at 74% capacity (as October 19, 2025) due to a somewhat soggy second half of the summer. This means we are in a sustainable position regarding our water reserves where we are up from last year’s 71%, but down from this summer peak of 81% capacity. (Side note: Who remembers the drought of 2011? Our reservoirs dropped to a low 58% capacity, according to the website.) While this elevated level is benefit for Texans,

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## Drought and the Watershed (Cont'd)

Angela Montoya, Class of 2022



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state agencies and local governments continue

to promote water conservation in some areas throughout the Hill Country and West Texas.

### Now About the Watershed...

A watershed is an area of land that drains water, sediment and dissolved materials to a common receiving body or outlet, which includes surface runoff and subsurface water. This definition was plucked straight from the Texas Waters Specialists manual (more on that in just a moment). Drought reduces water flow and overall volume, which can have a negative impact to our local watersheds by increasing pollution concentration and degrading aquatic habitat. The state of our water situation in Texas is in constant flux, as changes in regulations, the growth of industrial businesses, and new state residents put a strain on our current water affairs. Drought is only one piece of the puzzle when it comes to managing a healthy watershed. It is of the upmost importance that we, as Master Naturalists, stay attuned to the water topics of drought, water quality, management and regulations, etc., with a focus especially on our coastal prairie region.

### A case for becoming a Texas Waters Specialist...

Let me encourage each of you to become stewards “who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats within their communities for the state of Texas.” You can do this by becoming certified through training and volunteering with the Texas Waters Specialist program. You can check out the program and its requirements by heading to: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist> where all the details are laid out, including online access to the textbook. Yes, there’s a textbook—the program is that detailed!

### Conclusion

Drought conditions are largely uncontrolled. However, understanding how our water systems work with the persistence of climate change and human interruptions is imperative to the beneficial management of our local ecosystem. As Master Naturalists, we have a free resource to further our knowledge on water and watershed topics throughout Texas—please join the [#team-texas-waters-specialists](#) Slack channel for more details. Do continue to monitor the drought situation by using the links I have provided above. There will be more to come in future articles with regards to water quality monitoring with the Texas Stream Team!

### Lighter Side...



NOAA Climate.gov cartoon by Emily Greenhalgh

## ELECTED OFFICERS

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Secretary ..... [Kerry Padilla](#)  
Treasurer ..... [Carrie Dolezal](#)

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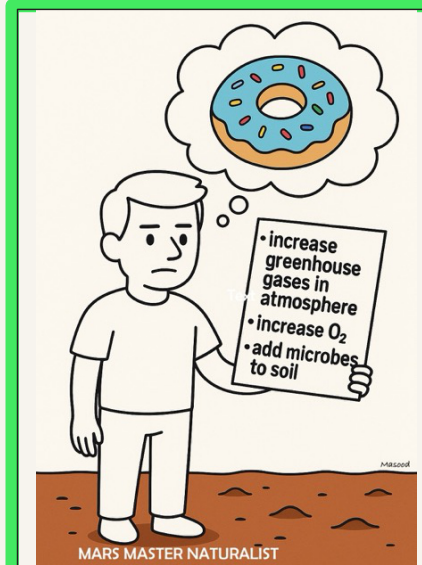
TPWD / AGRILIFE  
CHAPTER ADVISORS

Prgm. Coordinator .....Brandy Rader  
Fort Bend Ag. Agent .....TBD



**Jim Butcher and the Blue Donut award recipients:**

Courtney Houston (Left) and Paula Lenhart (Right), from class of Fall 2025 received the Blue Donut award. While humorously termed as the “Dubious Achievement Award” – all recipients are known for the great energy they bring to the group. Photos by Randolph Watson



### Editors's note:

While the cartoon character is eagerly going about his list to make Mars habitable, NASA states that fully terraforming Mars to make it habitable for humans without life support is not possible with current technology. For more information see Nasa reports: [Nasa.gov](https://www.nasa.gov) and [Habitable Mars](#)



T E X A S



**TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST™  
COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER**

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