

# Coastal Prairie Chapter Courier

Volume 13 Issue 11 – December 2025

Happiness is the  
settling of the soul into  
its most appropriate  
spot.

*Aristotle*



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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

Northern Cardinal at  
Seabourne Creek Nature Park

by Hoiman Low

## EDITOR TEAM

This issue was crafted  
by Co-Editor **Hoiman Low**.

Have a great story for the January  
issue?

Submit by **December 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/](https://txmn.org/coastal/monthly-coastal-prairie-courier/)

## President's Message

Susan Walther, TMNCPC President



## A Look Back at 2025

This is the season when we pause to reflect on all we've accomplished over the past year. Our Coastal Prairie Chapter members can take great pride in the work we've done to advance the Texas Master Naturalist mission:

*"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."*

## Developing the Corps:

In 2025 we held two highly successful training classes, welcoming new, well-informed, and enthusiastic volunteers into our chapter.

## Education and Outreach:

At Seabourne Creek Nature Park, we hosted two Seabourne Nature Day family events along with monthly nature, bird, insect, and plant hikes. At the Houston Museum of Natural Science – Sugar Land, our twice-monthly outreach events featured the *Workshops on Wheels* created by our members. From the Fort Bend County Fair Ag'Tivity Barn to the TPWD booth at the Houston Livestock Show and many events in between, our volunteers have been out in the community sharing knowledge and inspiring care for our natural resources and native species. To date, our outreach efforts have reached **29,757 members of the public**. No one can deny the impact we are making!

## Service:

So far in 2025, our chapter has contributed **32,054 volunteer hours**, valued at over **one million dollars**. Whether building infrastructure at Seabourne, planting and tending native habitats, staffing outreach events, or contributing to Citizen Science, each hour reflects our commitment to serving our community and the State of Texas.

This year was also exceptional for grant support. Through our annual agreement with the City of Rosenberg, we received **\$50,000** for improvements at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. We were awarded **\$600** from the *Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas* initiative to enhance the Pollinator Pocket Prairie with milkweed and nectar plants. Two additional grants from the *H-E-B Pollinators for Texas Project*, totaling

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## No December Program

TMNCPC Holiday Party December 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM

*Jan Peterson, TMNCPC Programs Director*



Chapter members and a significant other are invited to celebrate the holiday season with us on December 4th, at the Rosenberg Civic Center. During the event, we will celebrate and acknowledge our many accomplishments from 2025.

The "Season of Giving" organization we are honoring this year is the Coastal Prairie Conservancy. Their wish list is available below. There will be a collection cart at their table where you can drop off your items. Please donate if you are able. CPC was delighted that they were selected and appreciate anything we can do to help them.



Since we have so many talented and creative cooks in our chapter, the party will be **potluck**. The SignUpGenius includes how many and what kinds of items are needed. Please sign up to bring your favorite dish to share and remember to also bring serving utensils. Please also be sure to add your name and your plus-one to the attendee list. We only have room for 120 attendees so sign up soon.

Food will be ready to serve promptly at 6:00 PM. The doors will open at 5:00 PM for those bringing a dish.

We hope to see you there!

Susan Walther, Jan Peterson & Jan Poscovsky

*Continued from [previous page](#)*

**\$7,000**, funded the creation of Nina's Garden - 10,000 square feet of native pollinator habitat - and a series of upcoming educational signs connecting Nina's Garden to our surrounding Pollinator Pockets. We also extend our sincere appreciation to chapter members whose employers support volunteerism through "Dollars for Doers" programs; your designations help sustain our chapter's work.

As outgoing Chapter President, I am deeply proud to be part of this community of active, enthusiastic volunteers. I have also seen firsthand the essential role of our chapter leadership - our Executive Committee and Board of Directors - in keeping us strong and moving forward. These dedicated individuals train new members, maintain our website and communication tools, manage finances, keep everyone informed, and ensure we always have opportunities to learn, serve, and grow. Working closely with this amazing group of people has been a true joy, and I offer each of them my heartfelt thanks.

To our newer members, and to those who have not yet had the chance to step into leadership: I hope you will consider how you might serve in the future. Your fresh perspectives, energy, and ideas will carry our chapter forward and help us continue fulfilling the Texas Master Naturalist mission to the very best of our ability.

*See you outside!*

Susan



## Membership Minute

*Sari Garfinkle and Constance Rossiter,  
TMNCPC Membership Co-Directors*



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



### ***Initial Certification***

Jodi Berls - 2025 Fall  
Tiffany Brackin - 2025 Fall  
Sheri Husband - 2025 Spring  
Paula Lenhart - 2025 Fall  
Priya Padmanabhan - 2025 Fall  
Ruth Petter - 2025 Fall  
Jeanne Pittari - 2025 Fall  
Hui Fun Tan - 2025 Fall  
Stephanie Wheatley - 2025 Fall



### ***2025 Recertification (143 members recertified)***

Rick Adams - 2011  
Amado Aguilar - 2022 Fall  
Rebecca Aguilar - 2022 Fall  
Missy Allen - 2025 Fall  
Jodi Berls - 2025 Fall  
Nerandra Cordova - 2024 Fall  
John Cotterell - 2005  
Johanna DeYoung - 2019  
Lorie Foux - 2022 Fall  
Irene Gabler - 2020 Fall  
Raul Garcia - 2023 Spring  
Sandra Gardner - 2020 Spring  
Bill Hannah - 2023 Fall  
Joanie Havlick - 2020 Fall  
Dawn Homan - 2022 Spring  
Becky Jones - 2024 Spring  
Randy Kepner - 2024 Spring  
Masood Murtuza - 2025 Spring  
Mike Randall - 2023 Fall  
Cyndi Scott - 2020 Spring  
Cindy Starks - 2023 Spring  
Haleigh Thornley - 2025 Fall  
Kelly Vaughan - 2022 Spring  
Zhaohong Zhang - 2023 Fall  
Fangming Zhu - 2023 Fall



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

Diane Johnston - 2025 Spring  
Stacy Kmetz - 2023 Fall



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

Ana Jaramillo - 2024 Spring



### ***1,000 Hour Milestone***

Lucy Moyer - 2021 Spring  
Jan Peterson - 2021 Spring



Members in action  
at Sugar Land Museum of  
Natural Science  
Photo by Diane Johnston



Members in action  
at Cullinan Park  
Photo by Karen Donohue

## **Interesting Membership Facts**

In 2025, our 266 current members have:

- Given 32,054 hours volunteering for the community
- Spent 4,630 hours learning about nature
- Shared nature with 29,757 members of the public through our outreach events
- Trained 46 new TMNCPC members

And we still have another month to go before 2025 is in the books.



## Volunteer Service — December Highlights

*Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Volunteer Director*



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

[Teamup Website December Calendar](#)

**Signature Project Seabourne Creek Nature Park (SCNP), Rosenberg:** 8 AM - 11 AM, Wednesdays and 1st and 3rd Saturdays which fall on 12/3, 12/6, 12/10, 12/17, and 12/20

**Signature Project Monthly Bird Hike at SCNP, Rosenberg:** 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM, 1st Wednesday which falls on 12/3

**Public Outreach Monthly Mindful Nature Walk at SCNP, Rosenberg:** 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM, 1st Saturday which falls on 12/6 (alternates between SCNP and Cullinan)

**Public Outreach Monthly TMN Story Time at SCNP, Rosenberg:** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1st Saturday which falls on 12/6 (alternates between SCNP and Cullinan)

**Public Outreach 9 Natives Showcase Garden Volunteer Day at Cockrell Butterfly Center, Houston:** 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Monday 12/8

**Public Outreach Brazos Bend Holiday in the Park, Needville:** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Saturday 12/13

**Public Outreach John Paul Landing Weekly Bird Hike, Cypress:** 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM, every Thursday, which fall on 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18

**Public Outreach Houston Museum of Natural Science in Sugar Land:** 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM, 2nd Saturday which falls on 12/13; and Garden Workday: 3rd Thursday from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM which falls on 12/18

**Public Outreach SCNP Nature Walk, Rosenberg:** 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, 3rd Sunday which falls on 12/21

**JB Harrison Burr Bird Survey, Wharton:**

7:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Saturday 12/6 (SignUp required for limited slots)

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

**Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR Garden Day, Eagle Lake:** 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Fridays which fall on 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 and 12/26

**The Friends of Attwater Chickens NWR, Eagle Lake:** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM on Thursday 12/11

**Willow Fork Pollinator Garden Workday, Katy:** None for December, to resume in January

**Lawther-Deer Park Prairie, Deer Park:** 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 4th Saturday which falls on 12/27

**Entergy Natives Nursery Workday, High Island:** 9:00 - 12:00 PM, 2nd Friday which falls on 12/12

**Christmas Bird Counts, Various Locations:** 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM, dates between 12/14 until 1/5 (visit [Houston Audubon](#) for more details)

**Harris County Precinct 4 Bird Survey at Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Park, Houston:** 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM, 4th Monday which falls on 12/22

**Kolter Elementary Pollinator Garden Workday, Houston:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 2nd Saturday which falls on 12/13

**Willow Waterhole Monthly Bird Survey, Houston:** 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM, 3rd Saturday which falls on 12/20

**Seed Collecting at Rice University Prairie Plots, Houston:** 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Saturday 12/6

## 2025 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

*Susan Walther, TMNCPC President*



This year's Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting was filled with fun, education, and camaraderie as we packed 569 registrants and 170 speakers into the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center in College Station. With 130 class sessions and 25 field sessions during the day and several blacklighting ("mothing") opportunities at night, the time flew by.

Annual Meetings are always a great opportunity to meet members of other TMN chapters across the state as we learn and laugh together. If you haven't attended an Annual Meeting yet, find out what it's all about at next year's event in Waco, Texas!



Our chapter had 24 attendees this year

**Congratulations to our chapter members who did well in the photo contest!**



2026 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Location

On Awards Night, Texas Master Naturalists from across the state are recognized for the major volunteer hours milestones they have earned in the past year.



Margo Johnson 2500 VSP hrs  
Photo by Sarah Marshal



Susan Walther & Shannon Westveer 5000 VSP hrs  
Photo by Rodney Walther

Congratulations to Margo Johnson on 2500 volunteer hours and to Susan Walther and Shannon Westveer on 5000 volunteer hours!

### Photography: Chapters at Work/Play



2nd Place

Shannon's Mothstache  
By Sari Garfinkle  
Coastal Prairie

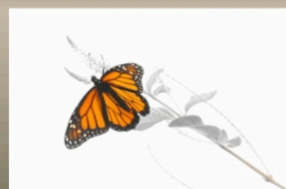
### Photography: Detail & Macro



2nd Place

Morning Sun in the Eye  
of a Gull  
By Joyce Tipton  
Coastal Prairie

### Photography: Digitally Enhanced



2nd Place

Focus on What's  
Important  
By Cee Cee Parker  
Coastal Prairie



## So You Want to Be a Duck Hunter?

*Erik Wolf, TMNCPC Class of 2017*



I woke up from a midday nap to a missed call from my buddy Trey. He was looking for a duck-hunting partner. I didn't need the details—I was in before he even asked. He told me the line at Justin Hurst Wildlife Management Area forms early, so we'd be leaving his house at 2:30 AM.

By the time Deb got home from work, the living room looked like a tornado had hit a Bass Pro Shop. I finished grabbing gear, loaded the truck, set my alarm for 1:15 AM, kissed Deb goodnight, and crawled into bed at 8:00 PM.

Justin Hurst WMA covers about 12,000 acres of coastal wetlands west of Freeport. The first 10,300 acres were purchased with waterfowl stamp funds between 1985 and 1987. In 2023, Federal Duck Stamp sales generated over \$40 million for conservation, and over 85% of those stamps are bought by hunters. The WMA is part of the Central Coast Wetlands Ecosystem Project, whose mission is to conserve wildlife resources along the Texas Central coast for everyone's benefit. Hunters with a public use permit can access a small portion of the area under strict guidelines and only on designated days.



4:30 AM Drawing

We rolled up to the gate around 3:50 AM and already counted about ten trucks ahead of us—and another dozen behind us. At 4:00 AM, the TPWD

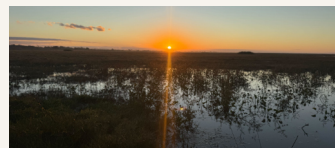
biologist unlocked the gate and handed each vehicle a numbered cattle ear tag. We were Tag #10. This wasn't first-come, first-served; this was a lottery. On opening day of teal season they handed out 140 tags for only 53 hunting spots. But today, the biologist had 41 spots for 38 hunters—everybody was getting in.

He went over the rules, limits, licenses, Federal Duck Stamp requirements, and checked for the \$48 public use permit. Then he drew the numbers and posted them on the board, and we all lined up to choose our spots. Once a blind was claimed, the biologist covered it with a magnet on the giant wall map. TPWD even has an app showing blind locations, property boundaries, and your real-time position—plus reflective signs along the levees so you can find your spot in the dark.

We drove to our assigned parking area, pulled on our waders, and started down the levee dragging a sled full of decoys and gear. After a couple hundred yards, we found the marker for our spot, stepped off the levee, and waded across a channel. Then came about 300 more yards of ankle-deep muck.

Trey—ten years younger and raised doing this—glided across the water like a princess. I, on the other hand, genuinely thought I might die out there. I questioned every life decision that led me into this “young man's sport.” By the time I finally staggered onto the little 20' x 20' island of dry ground, Trey already had my stool set up and a bottle of water waiting. While I tried to remember how to breathe, he set out a dozen decoys. Shooting light was only minutes away.

We sat on our tiny island and watched the sunrise spill across the wetlands. A Common Yellowthroat



Sunrise on the coast

chattered all around us, weaving through the tall grasses. Egrets, herons, snipes, pelicans, terns, and sandpipers were everywhere. Ducks

answered Trey's calls, and he even turned a few flocks back toward our spread. A lone snow goose flew overhead, and when Trey hit the goose call, the bird actually answered back.

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## Nina's Garden 2025

Monica Taylor, TMNCPC Class of Fall 2023



In mid-2024 HEB created the Pollinators for Texas grant initiative. HEB donated \$50,000.00 to Texas Parks & Wildlife to award to Texas Master Naturalist chapters. The Coastal Prairie chapter applied for the grant with a project called Nina's Garden.

Nina's Garden is a 4,000 square foot pollinator habitat that ranges from sun to full shade. The area was compacted from extremely frequent mowing. There were few if any pollinators that visited this area. The City of Sugar Land made an effort to plant native plants in this area, but frequent mowing



Nina's Garden - Photo by Monica Taylor

stifled this effort.

Grant winners were announced in January

2025 and Texas Parks & Wildlife awarded our chapter the full \$3,000.00 grant. We then had from February until October 2025 to fulfill our grant commitment. Project Manager Monica Taylor and Coastal Prairie Chapter President Susan Walther got to work immediately!

The first order of business was to flag the garden's perimeter to keep the mowers out. In March 2025, the initial Bioblitz took place documenting just a few pollinators and the native plants they depend on. In April, Monica mowed the area to prepare for a seed stomp. In mid-April several TMNs got together and stomped seeds. May followed with the addition of 35 starter plants to the garden. In September, the pathway and fencing around the garden were completed. We continue to care for the garden and monitor pollinators using iNaturalist. Our pollinator goal was an increase of 25%. As of October 2025, we increased pollinators in Nina's Garden by 27%!

An additional grant was submitted in 2025 for educational signage and resources. Coastal Prairie Chapter was one of four chapters to receive a second grant with full funding. This was the

beginning of the Pollinator Pathway managed by Karen Brisch.



Leafcutter Bee

Photo by Sari Garfinkle



Tropical Checkered-Skipper

Photo by Hoiman Low

We've had a great time holding pollinator monitoring events, planting plants, taking care of the garden, and holding educational events with community partners. If you're interested in joining us, contact Monica Taylor for more details about work days and upcoming events at the garden.

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A morning doesn't get much better than that.

By 10:00 AM the birds had slowed down, the sun was warming up the waders, and the memory of that incoming hike was starting to haunt me. We packed up and headed for the levee. My legs were burning, and I had to stop every few minutes to catch my breath. I don't think I've ever been so thankful to reach dry ground.



Review with biologist

Back at the check station, we met with the biologist as required. He looked over our harvest: five Gadwalls and four American Wigeons—a wonderful morning in the marsh.

Trey's the reason I am a Texas Master Naturalist. He took me on my first dove hunt and taught me the importance of conservation. He continues to share his love of the outdoors with others. Our morning together was a great reminder of that.

All photos by Erik Wolf.



Texas Nature Trackers Bat Acoustic Monitoring Program

Monica Taylor, TMNCPC Class of Fall 2023



In February 2024, Texas Nature Trackers debuted their Bat Acoustic Monitoring Program. The program goal is to determine the occurrence of bat species throughout Texas, especially those of greatest conservation need, with the help of Texas Master Naturalists over a five year period. The program also aims to close gaps in species distribution data where it’s lacking throughout the state. This data will help scientists understand the spread of White Nose Syndrome and changes in species range.

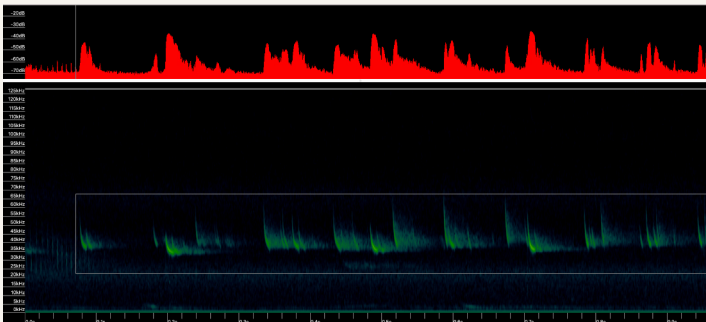
We use SM4 Bat Acoustic Monitors. Surveys are conducted at private property locations and some public property locations. Monitoring locations must be at least 5km apart so that the same bats are not being monitored repeatedly. The acoustic monitor is attached to the top of a 9 foot tall, 1.25 inch diameter PVC pole. The pole is buried 12 inches in the ground for stability with the control box sitting at



Acoustic monitor mounted on PVC pole  
Photo by Monica Taylor

the base. The acoustic unit stays in place for five nights and is then retrieved.

Three years are left in the monitoring program. Data collection takes place from the last week in April to the last week in June each year. After data is collected Hoiman Low analyzes the bat calls for species of bat present at a location. Since we use



Example of Bat Recording - Photo by Hoiman Low

acoustic monitors and aren’t physically present to observe bats, this means we can never be 100% positive that a certain bat was present. However, we use strict parameters for call frequency and pitch. These parameters lead us to be highly certain with the presence of species. Once data is analyzed Texas Nature Trackers begins giving permission to report data to landowners. This can take a few weeks to a few months.

If you’re interested in participating in the Bat Acoustic Monitoring Program, please contact Monica Taylor. We accept new monitoring locations every year.

	Bat Name	Property 1	Property2	Property3	Property4
EPTFUS	Big Brown Bat				
LASBOR	Eastern Red Bat		x		
LASCIN	Hoary Bat	x			
LASINT	Northern Yellow Bat	x	x	x	x
LASNOC	Silver-haired Bat				x
LASSEM	Seminole Bat	x			x
NYCHUM	Evening Bat	x			
PERSUB	Tricolored Bat		x		
TADBRA	Mexican Free-tailed Bat	x		x	x

2025 TMNCPC Bat Acoustic Monitoring Results

## Getting to Know Our Seabourne Creek Nature Park Prairie Plants - VII

*Susie Doe, TMNCPC Class of 2008*



### The Alliioideae

The members of the subfamily Alliioideae previously belonged to a separate family known as the Alliaceae (aka the Onion Family), however, recent studies have shown them to be more closely related to members of the Amaryllis Family warranting their inclusion in the Amaryllidaceae; they form a sister clade to subfamily Amaryllidoideae. A taxonomic nomenclature reminder: an “-aceae” ending indicates a family of plants, while the ending “-oideae” indicates a subfamily. The Amaryllidaceae are one of 24 families worldwide within the Order Asparagales (‘Lilioid Monocots’); besides Amaryllidaceae, families Orchidaceae, Hypoxidaceae, Iridaceae, Asparagaceae, Liliaceae and \*Xanthoraceae are represented in ‘Our Area’.

Asparagales are generally bulbous plants with a tight cluster of leaves at the base of the plant; these leaves are long and strap-shaped with parallel-venation. Flowers are borne terminally on a long, leafless stalk (scape); flowers are usually actinomorphic (radially symmetric) with 3 sepals and 3 petals alike (= 6 tepals) – the exception to this rule is the orchids (having bilaterally symmetric flowers with dissimilar tepals). The Amaryllidaceae are easily distinguished from the other families by their simple-umbelled inflorescences (not spikes or racemes) subtended by 1 or more bracts. The Alliioideae can be differentiated from their sister group, Amaryllidoideae, in having much smaller and less showy flowers than the likes of amaryllis, spider lilies, rain-lilies, and daffodils.

The subfamily Alliioideae is further divided into 4 tribes [names with “-eae” at the end], 3 of which are represented in ‘Our Area’. The one member of the Tulbaghieae found in the US is a garden plant, *Tulbaghia violacea*, aka Society Garlic; it does not tend to escape cultivation, thank goodness! Members of the Allieae are known as the onions and

garlics and members of the Leucocoryneae are known as the false garlics.

Leucocoryneae (false garlics) – In ‘Our Area’ we find *Nothoscordum bivalve* (native) and *Nothoscordum gracile* (non-native, native to SE Mexico into South America). Neither of these have an oniony-garlicky odor and can be further differentiated from our *Allium* species by having variable length pedicels (umbel rays), slightly larger tepals and bright yellow anthers. These plants are generally considered to be not edible; toxicity has yet to be proven or disproven.

### *Nothoscordum bivalve* (aka Crowpoison or False Garlic)

No odor -- 1-4 leaves, blades filiform or linear, 1-4 mm wide

Blooms -- Early spring and sporadically in fall, early winter

Umbels with variable length pedicels (umbel rays) -- 3-6 (-10) flowers / umbel

Tepals -- White to cream (yellowish at base), 10-15 mm long



*Nothoscordum bivalve*

Anthers – Bright yellow  
Blooming in early spring, this species is an early-season pollen & nectar plant providing sustenance for bees, butterflies and many other insects. The herbage is browsed by deer and the fruits/seeds are eaten by birds.

### \**Nothoscordum gracile* (aka Onionweed or Slender False Garlic)

Odor sweet (like cocoa), not oniony -- 2-9 Leaves, blades flattened, 4-12 mm wide

Blooms -- Early spring and sporadically in fall, early winter

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*Nothoscordum gracile*

Umbels with variable length pedicels (umbel rays) -- 10-20 flowers / umbel  
Tepals -- White (greenish at base), 9-15 mm long  
Anthers -- Bright yellow  
This species is a non-native often used in gardens being prized for its sweet fragrance, occasionally escaping, but not usually persisting in the wild (as

such it is not particularly valuable to wildlife).

Allieae (onions and garlics) – There is only 1 genus in this tribe, *Allium*, with 1,000+ species known worldwide. In ‘Our Area’ we have 3 native species (1 with 2 distinct subspecies), and 3 non-native species (mostly cultivated plants, which only occasionally fully naturalize). Our most common species is *Allium canadense* var. *canadense*. Less common are *Allium canadense* var. *mobile* and *Allium drummondii*. *Allium elmendorfii*, a rare Texas endemic, might be found on the western edge of ‘Our Area’ in Gonzales county, but is more likely to be found further west and south. All our *Allium* species are edible.

*Allium canadense* var. *canadense* (aka Common Canadian Meadow Garlic)

Oniony odor -- 2-6 leaves, blades flat, 1-7 mm wide  
Blooms -- Spring into early summer  
Equal length pedicels (umbel rays) -- 3 spathe bracts (each 3-7-veined)

Flowers replaced mostly by bulbils (rarely producing capsules & seeds)



*Allium canadense* var. *canadense*

Tepals -- Usually white, occ. pink or lavender, 4-8 mm long  
Anthers -- Pale yellow or pinkish, pollen pale yellow  
Of value to pollinator insects, bulbs eaten

by turkeys, occ. by deer & cattle. Bulbs are edible -- taste like onions; it may have some medicinal value.

*Allium canadense* var. *mobile* (aka Mobile Meadow Onion)

Oniony odor -- 2-5 Leaves, blades filiform, 1-2 mm wide  
Blooms -- Spring into early summer  
Equal length pedicels (umbel rays) -- 3 spathe bracts (each 3-7-veined)



*Allium canadense* var. *mobile*

Flowers 15-50 / umbel – does not produce bulbils  
Tepals -- Pink, rarely white, 4-7 mm long  
Pedicels - filiform  
Anthers -- Pale yellow or pinkish, pollen pale yellow  
Of value to pollinator insects, bulbs eaten by

turkeys/deer; potentially toxic to horses. Bulbs are edible -- strong flavor.

*Allium drummondii* (aka Drummond’s Onion)

Oniony odor -- 2-5 leaves, flat, channeled, 1-3 (-5) mm wide

Blooms -- Spring into early summer

Equal length pedicels (umbel rays) -- 2-3 spathe bracts (w 1 central vein)



*Allium drummondii*

Flowers 10-25 / umbel – does not produce bulbils  
Tepals -- White, pink or blue-violet, 6-9 mm long  
Pedicels - stout  
Anthers -- Pale Yellow or Pinkish, pollen pale yellow

Of value to pollinator insects, bulbs eaten by turkeys/deer; potentially toxic to horses. Bulbs are edible -- strong flavor.

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## Fall 2025 Training - And That's a Wrap!

*Vanessa Weidman, TMNCPC 2025 Fall Class Training Director*



As anyone who's sat through the closing titles of a motion picture knows, it takes a lot of people to bring a movie to life. The same is true for Texas Master Naturalist training. While I got the credit for serving as the Training Class Director, there were many, many other chapter members and partners working behind the scenes to make Fall 2025 possible, including Presenters (Cast), Curriculum and Scheduling (Set Designers and Casting), Communications (Publicity), Volunteer Recruitment (Extras Casting), Class Representative (Production Consultant), Host Teams (Stage Hands), Membership and Board support (Producers), and IT support (Sound and Lighting). The list goes on, and I am genuinely grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this show.

At the end of the day, however, what really gives a film its purpose is the audience, or in this case, the trainees.



Fall 2025 class / Photo by Nathan Heilman

I am still amazed when I reflect back to that weekend in July. A feature on our chapter website gives anyone interested in TMN training the option to submit a contact form for more information, and there were over 120 people on the current contact list. A perk of being on the contact list is early registration, and I'd sent out the registration link for fall training to the contact list people a full 24 hours in advance. Website registrations are tabulated in a spreadsheet, and by

10:00 AM that Saturday—a day before registration officially opened, mind you—we already had 16 people registered. To put that into perspective, historically, it had taken several days, even weeks, to fill a class of 24, yet we were two-thirds of the way full in just two hours of early registration! It was an unprecedented response, and we ended up closing registration an hour after the link went live to the general public on July 7.

In the following days and weeks, I was struck not only by the enthusiasm of this class but by the

diversity of interests and backgrounds they brought to the chapter. At the same time, there was a common thread of loving nature and wanting to give back. And given back they have! By the end of training, seven trainees had initially certified and three had recertified, and many more were well on the way. Fall 2025 class members can regularly be seen at chapter program meetings and

participating in workdays at Seabourne, Indiangrass, and Attwater. Their Class Representative, Missy Allen, attended her first Board meeting on November 19, and the class is already hard at work on their project, an insect WOW.

I could not be more proud of this group and am pleased to introduce to you the Class of Fall 2025.

***Congratulations!***

**Missy Allen, Uzma Asif, Jodi Berls, Tiffany Brackin, Gabrielle Butler, Vivian Dunn, Asli Dural, Mutlu Dural, MaryAnn Ferguson, Nelson Gonzalez, Malinna Harris, Kathy Hendricksen, Courtney Houston, Paula Lenhart, Hamida Mitha, Priya Padmanabhan, Ruth Petter, Jeanne Pittari, Hui Fun Tan, Haleigh Thornley, Barbara Vogt, Chris Weidman, Stephanie Wheatley**



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**Cultivated Species** -- They usually do not persist in the wild, but may be found as occasional escapees or waifs

\**Allium cepa* (Garden Onion) is easy to distinguish by its thick leaves and scapes and an almost spherical inflorescence.

\**Allium sativum* (Garlic) produces almost all bulbils in its inflorescence, which is subtended by a single bract with a long protruding point.

\**Allium vineale* (False Garlic) most often produces all bulbils but sometimes produces both flowers and



Bulbils in *Allium canadense* var. *canadense*

bulbils. It, like garlic, also has a single bract (with elongated apex) below its inflorescence. It is a fairly 'thin,' weedy plant with slender leaves and scape. It is a noxious weed in much of the eastern US and along the Pacific Coast. To date, it is not a big problem in 'Our Area'.

Bulbils are a form of vegetative reproduction. In this case, small plants begin as bulb-like growths (shaped like garlic cloves) from meristem tissue within the

inflorescence. Often they will sprout while still attached to the inflorescence.

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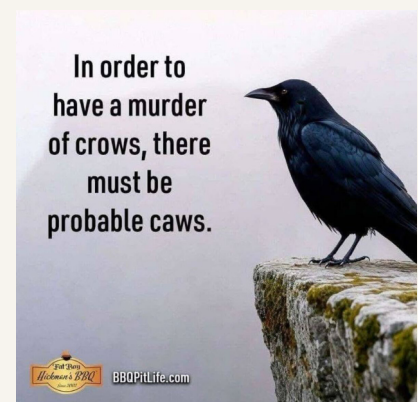
## Lighter Side ....



Contributed by Margo Johnson



Contributed by Ruth Petter



Contributed by Karen Bueker

