

Seabourne Creek Special Edition

Autumn 2025 — Volume 2 Issue 4

Dewdrops outline a spider web on
Yellow Indiangrass
(Photo by Lynn Trenta)



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Nature Day Highlights Seabourne Creek's Prairie

by Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Volunteer Director and Constance Rossiter, Membership Co-director



Our chapter's fifth Nature Day, Prairie Promenade, was held on November 1st at Seabourne Creek Nature Park, shining a spotlight on both the Prairie Restoration Area and the Native Plant Garden.

Adults and children alike enjoyed exploring our education stations and tackling the scavenger hunt, where they learned about the rich diversity of native plants found in our garden and prairie. One of the highlights was our popular native bees education booth.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Coastal Prairie Conservancy and the Native Prairie Association of



Enjoying the insect antennae-making craft during Nature Day festivities at Seabourne. Photo by Dora Maurer

Texas for bringing their expertise and enthusiasm to the event.

Visitors also had plenty of opportunities to get creative. Craft stations offered personalized nature journals and bookmarks, bee-antennae headbands, prairie pocket keepsakes, and "stained glass" window sun catchers. Our face-painting booth stayed busy

as participants left with colorful stenciled designs on cheeks and arms.

A big thank-you to all of our dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to set up, tear down, and share their knowledge with the public. Your efforts made this event both

meaningful and memorable.

Looking ahead, our next Nature Day—Wild for Wetlands—is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This spring event will highlight the Wetlands Lake and



The Welcome crew takes a well-deserved break between set-up and arrival of our guests. Photo by Dora Maurer

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Nature Day Highlights Seabourne Creek's Prairie (Cont'd)

by Jan Poscovsky, TMNCPC Volunteer Director and Constance Rossiter, Membership Co-director



Above: Gabrielle Butler paints Jan Poscovsky's face at November's Nature Day. Photo by Cee Cee Parker. Below, MaryAnn Ferguson could be seen speeding around on a one-wheeler to assist with parking needs. Photo by Nelson Gonzalez

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help us continue the tradition of connecting our community with the wonders of nature.

[\(See more photos from Nature Day on Page 4.\)](#)



Green Heron
by Deb McMullen

Wildlife



Nuptial Scorpionfly
by Jan Kolk

Eastern Phoebe by
Hoiman Low



at the park



Hermit Thrush
by Jan Poscovsky

Nature Day Highlights Seabourne Creek's Prairie (Cont'd)

Photos by various members



Left, the Seed Giveaway did a brisk business for seeds and milkweed plants. Photo by Nelson Gonzalez. Right, a suncatcher at one of the crafts booths did double duty as sunglasses. Photo by Barbara Vogt.



Left, Ruth Petter is ready at the selfie station. Photo by Nelson Gonzalez. Above, Ana Jaramillo enjoying her work in the crafts station. Photo by Nelson Gonzalez. Right, visitors were interested in learning about the value of prairie grasses in the scavenger hunt. Photo by Barbara Vogt.

Seabourne Outreach Scrapbook

Photos by various members



Photo by Hoiman Low



Photo by Hoiman Low

Outreach at Seabourne this fall included well-attended bird hikes and a fantastic walking tour highlighting edible and medicinal plants.

David Goff, upper right, helped attendees search for views of an elusive green heron, at lower right. In the end, the sneaky heron did get spotted and photographed. Other birds on the tour included least sandpipers, upper left.



Photo by Dennis Wayne West



Photo by Hoiman Low



Photo by Deb McMullen



Photo by Jan Poscovsky



Photo by Deb McMullen

Above, fellow TMNs and members of the public learned about yaupon and other edible and medicinal plants growing at SCN. At center, plant expert extraordinaire Susie Doe contributed her vast knowledge to the subject. Above right, Erik Wolf led the hike, which covered other plants and their parts useful for people, including Osage orange, oak acorns, and turk's cap.



Photo by Jan Poscovsky

Ana's Children's Garden and the Beautiful Posts *by Ana Jaramillo*



The children's garden idea began after I began going to the Seabourne Native Plant Garden last year. The garden coordinator, Lynn Trenta, supported my idea of a children's garden and I began to put together ideas to make the garden fun for children.

Last year in August, we made stepping stones. Our stepping stone team included Susan Brodmerkel, Constance Rossiter, Ellen Bynum, Lynn Trenta and me. We had a great time doing them, and as soon as they were dried, they were placed in the garden.

We needed something else to add more interest to the area, so I did some online searches and came up with the idea of the garden posts. Jerry Trenta had the posts at Seabourne and was kind enough to cut them for me. They were then sanded and primed, and I then proceeded to mark the designs.

It was originally going to be a team effort, as I love to work in teams, but, as soon as I started painting, I realized the idea of painting the posts with a team

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Vanessa Weidman, Irene Gabler, Jo Ann Cosbey, Ana Jaramillo, and Lynn Trenta with the posts. Photo by Angela Montoya Hilton.



The new posts. Photo by Angela Montoya Hilton.

Ana's Children's Garden and the Beautiful Posts by Ana Jaramillo



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would be very difficult, since we all would be working at different paces.

This project was challenging but rewarding. Matching the design on all four sides was at times very difficult, but time and patience take care of everything. Lynn was kind enough to help me finish one of the posts.

Jerry Trenta, Sal Cardenas and Tom Zaal installed the posts in the garden. They later brought us some granite that Vanessa Weidman and I spread around the area around the posts. Thanks so much to everyone who helped with the Children's Garden projects.

With the completion of the posts, I feel very proud that we created a beautiful and colorful area for the kids and young at heart to enjoy. Please stop by to see the beautiful posts and stepping stones.

More artsy projects are coming up next Spring for the Children's area. As soon as Lynn is ready, we will post it in slack, so you can volunteer and bring your creativity to work. Hope to see you soon!



Top: Susan Brodmerkel, Lynn Trenta, Constance Rossiter, Ellen Bynum, Ana Jaramillo with the stepping stones in 2024. Above: Tom Zaal, Sal Cardenas, and Jerry Trenta installing the posts. Photos by Angela Montoya Hilton.

Workdays at the Park

Photos by Randolph Watson

Fine fall weather aided work crews in making a lot of progress in the Butterfly Garden and Native Plant Garden. The Archway Grasses group learned about root systems, competitive plants, and land management.

Clockwise from top: Virginia Camerlo in the Native Plant Garden; Jo Cosbey, Lynn Trenta, Irene Gabler, and Vanessa Weidman in the NPG; Jim Butcher awards the coveted blue doughnut to Diane Johnston of the Archway group; Raul Orlando Garcia, Diane Johnston, Lisa Sanders, and Barbara Vogt take a break from work on the Archway grasses; Bill Johnson and Barbara Vogt tended to the bird viewing area; Hui Fun Tan, Aida Pita Baston, Richard Guajardo, and Courtney Houston repaired some minor damage in the NPG; Kathy Henricksen helped remove unwanted plants in the Native Plant Garden.

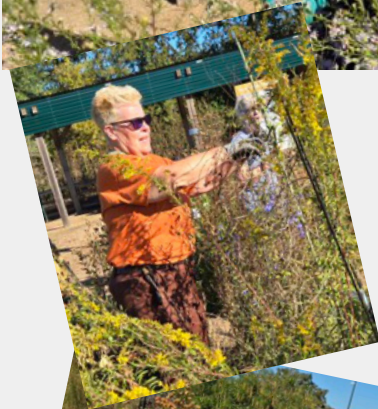




Photo by Randolph Watson

Workdays at the Park

Photos by various members

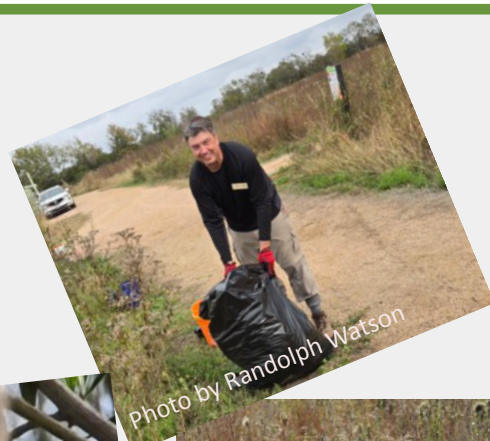


Photo by Randolph Watson



Photo by Lynn Trenta



Photo by Kathy Hendricksen



Photo by Lynn Trenta



Photo by Randolph Watson



Photo by Randolph Watson



Photo by Susan Walther

Prairie areas at the park drew a lot of attention this fall, especially in preparation for Nature Day. Also, work was started on a Wetlands Bridge Project.

Clockwise from top: Janis Hodgson and Mary Saville remove invasive plants in the Pollinator Pocket Prairie; Chris Weidman cleaned up the cedar elm area of the PPP; Gulf muhly sparkling with dew drops and a slithery visitor to the prairie; Shree Nath and Fran Wilcox oversee work in the PPP; Garrett Engelhardt, Jerry Trenta, John Cooper, and Don Parkhouse putting in some hard labor on the bridge project; Jan Kolk and Stacy Kmetz overseeding Sections C and D of the prairie; Ryan Pham, Shree Nath, and Haleigh Thornley installed native plants in the PPP.

Frog vs. Snake in the Native Plant Garden

by Randolph Watson



One of the many benefits of volunteering at SCNP is that we often have front row seats to battles for survival in nature, some epic and others less than epic.

Late in October, I had just finished working outside the Native Plant Garden when I

came upon a snake trying to feast on a frog.

The scene struck me as comical: the frog was at least 6 times larger than the snake's head, and the snake had only the frog's left hind foot in her mouth. I was curious if she would be able to swallow such

large prey, and I decided to see how the situation turned out.

The frog did not fight or resist, he just hunkered down on the ground. The snake tried swallowing more of the leg, and then she tried dragging the frog into the brush. She

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Gulf Coast Ribbon Snake trying to eat a Southern Leopard Frog. Photo by Randolph Watson.

Frog vs. Snake in the Native Plant Garden

by Randolph Watson



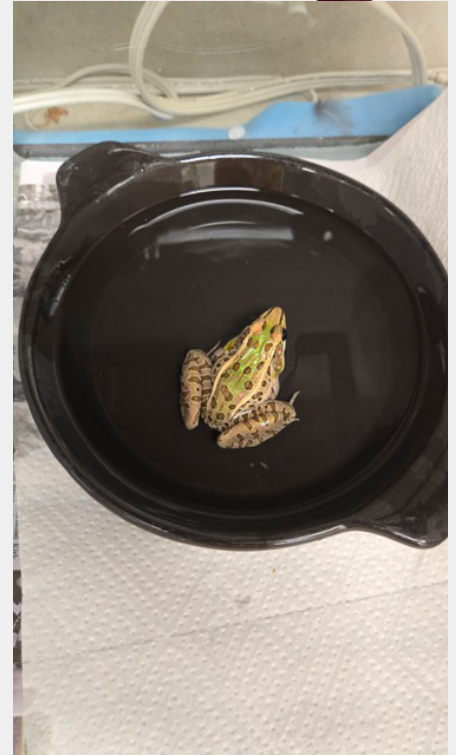
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writhed and thrashed around, but she made no progress. She finally gave up after 5 minutes and slithered into the grass out of sight.

I quickly grabbed the frog before he recovered from his shock. I found that his leg was bleeding quite a bit where the snake's teeth had held him. Deciding that medical attention was warranted, I put him into a large paper cup, covered it with a paper towel, and took him to the Houston

SPCA's Wildlife Center of Texas.

The frog spent the next week at the Wildlife Center. He stayed in a large, heated aquarium filled with non-chlorinated water and plenty of hiding spots. We fed him Dubia roaches, crickets, and mealworms. Daily, we cleaned his wounds and gave him shots of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Note: It is not easy to hold onto a wet, slippery frog who doesn't want a shot.



Injured frog in triage at the Wildlife Center. Photo by Randolph Watson.



Frog release in the Native Plant Garden. Photo by Randolph Watson.

After his wounds were healed, I boxed up the frog and returned him to Seabourne Creek Nature Park. I released him into the Native Plant Garden about 20 feet from where I originally found him.

The snake was a gulf coast ribbon snake (*Thamnophis proximus orarius*), a western ribbon snake subspecies.

These are small- to medium-sized snakes (16-42 inches long) listed as non-venomous. They are

found in many parts of Texas, usually around ditches, streams, marshes, and edges of ponds and lakes.

The frog was a southern leopard frog (*Lithobates sphenoccephalus*). Found throughout the eastern U.S., they are comfortable in many habitats, needing just cover and moisture.

They feed on insects, crayfish, and other aquatic invertebrates. In turn, they are preyed upon by fish, raccoons, skunks, and aquatic snakes.

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST™
COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER
SEABOURNE CREEK NATURE PARK

Project Directors

Jerry Trenta
Randolph Watson

Team Leads

Butterfly Garden
Aida Pita-Baston

Native Plants Garden

Lynn Trenta

Pollinator Pocket Prairie

Shree Nath
Fran Wilcox

Arboretum

Cindy Burns
Jo Cosbey

Bird Sanctuary

Bill Johnson

Archway Grasses

Lisa Sanders

Greenhouse and Propagation

Jo Cain

Outreach Coordinator

Jan Poscovsky

City of Rosenberg
Parks and Recreation Director
Cary Lamensky



Nature Day
Wild for Wetlands

FREE EVENT!
Saturday, April 18 • 10am-2pm

Explore the wonders of our wetlands ecosystem.
Scavenger Hunt • Education Stations • Crafts & Projects

Seabourne Creek Nature Park • 3831 TX-36 • Rosenberg, Texas 77471

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

TEXAS Master Naturalist™ Coastal Prairie Chapter

Rosenberg TEXAS

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Winter Outreach Events
... JOIN US!

Monthly Guided Bird Walk
1st Wednesdays 8:00 AM — 10:30 AM

Monthly Guided Nature Walk
3rd Sundays 8:00 AM — 9:30 AM

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

<https://txmn.org/coastal/public-outreach-calendar/>



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