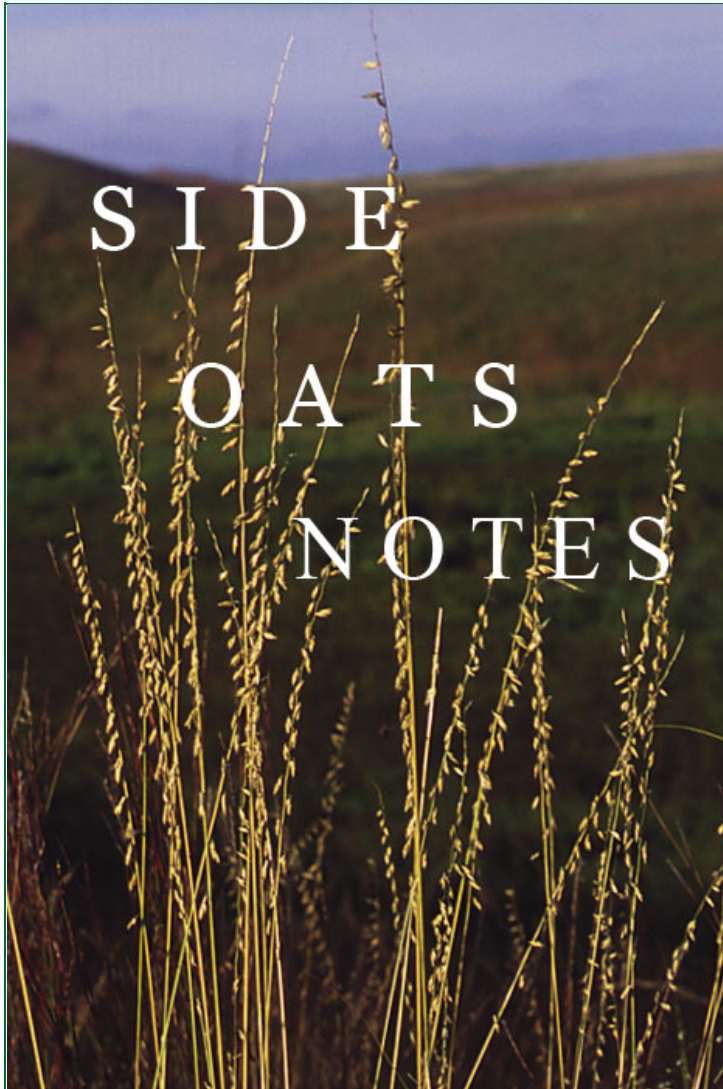


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**A newsletter by the  
Prairie Oaks  
Chapter of  
the Texas Master  
Naturalist program**

Volume 6 Issue 2  
Spring 2024

Providing education,  
outreach, and service  
dedicated to the  
beneficial management  
of natural resources and  
natural areas within our  
communities and the  
State of Texas

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

 **Welcome to our 2024 Leadership Team! Thank you for your service to the Prairie Oaks Chapter.**

- President— Bill Hopkins
- Vice President— Jason Moden
- Secretary— Gordon Lee
- Treasurer— Katie Moses
- Training Class Director & Tarleton Instructor— Karen Aho
- Immediate Past President— Katie Moses
- New Training Class Representative—Will Johnson

- Membership Director/VMS Administrator— Barbara Lever-Salter
  - Advanced Training Director—Kathy Weston
  - Volunteer Service Director— Stephanie Keith
  - Communication Director— Layne Cassidy
  - Advisor—Dr. Adam Mitchell (Tarleton State University)
  - Advisor—Devin Erxeleben (Texas Parks & Wildlife)
  - Advisor—Dr. Sonja Swiger (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)
  - Outreach—Dr. Linda Wood
  - Education— Jan Rogers
  - Hospitality— Pam Chamberlain
  - Nature Center— Peggy Tolboom
  - Historian— Gail Bradshaw
- 

### **Find a public property nearby**

Marsha Stephens, Prairie Oaks Chapter Member, compiled a list of public properties within the chapter's area. Check out the list below.

[Public Properties Nearby](#)

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### **Speaker announcements coming soon**

Follow the events on Facebook or check our [Events Calendar](#) for updates.

- [April 18 Chapter Meeting & Speaker](#)
- [May 16 Chapter Meeting & Speaker](#)
- [June 20 Chapter Meeting & Speaker](#)

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[Full Calendar of Events and Speakers](#)

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, United States, and Canada. A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the... [Read More →](#)

### [2024 Training Class](#)

Our Spring 2024 Training Class kicked off in January and will conclude in April. The training class has learned from speakers about geology, insects, famous master naturalists, law and ethics,... [Read More →](#)

### [Member Spotlight: Kathy Weston](#)

By: Kathy Weston Born and raised a Texan! It all started in Breckenridge, TX in Stephens County. My childhood was a typical Baby Boomer experience with my parents buying their... [Read More →](#)

### [Kudos! 2023](#)

2023 Certifications and Milestones (Updated list as of Feb. 12, 2024) Year to Date Initial Certifications: Year-to-Date Recertifications: Milestones: 2023 Texas Waters Specialist:

### [Christmas Party 2023](#)

Each year, the chapter gathers in early December for our annual Christmas Party. In nature, we find solace, and in Christmas, we find joy. Together, they create a symphony of... [Read More →](#)

### [The 124th Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#)

By: Dayna Inbody December 16, 2023 The Prairie Oaks Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program completed its sixth year contributing to the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This is... [Read More →](#)



## A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

**Knowledge generates interest, and interest generates compassion.**

*Douglas W. Tallamy*

*Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*



Follow us for more nature news



Visit the Prairie Oaks Chapter Website

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### **Our Mission**

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.

### **2024 Officers of the Prairie Oaks Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program**

President— Bill Hopkins

Vice President— Jason Moden

Secretary— Gordon Lee

Treasurer— Katie Moses

### **2024 Leadership Team of the Prairie Oaks Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program**

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Nature Center— Peggy Tolboom

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### **Statewide Sponsors of the Texas Master Naturalist program**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email Layne Cassidy, at [emilylaynecassidy@gmail.com](mailto:emilylaynecassidy@gmail.com).

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