

# TEXAS PRAIRIE

FROM THE NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

## Blaze

May 1, 2018

## PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AWARENESS

### NPAT's PRAIRIE OF THE MONTH: MARY TALBOT PRAIRIE

**Size: 114.87 acres, Region: Pineywoods, Bowie County, owned by NPAT.**

Mary Talbot Prairie is located in the far eastern area of Texas; Bowie County is bordered by Louisiana to the east and Oklahoma to the north. NPAT is grateful for the support which enabled us to purchase Talbot Prairie in 2012. It is a vast and varied **114+-acre remnant of unplowed native prairie**. It is a rare Silveus' dropseed prairie containing several ecotypes found throughout east Texas: **Catahoula barrens** surrounded by pine, hardwood, and bottomland forest. An abundance of plant species are the protective habitat to many threatened species. [Read more on the Talbot Prairie.](#)



### NPAT NEEDS YOUR HELP with MARY TALBOT PRAIRIE

- This remote prairie is far-removed from most of NPAT's members (unlike the majority of NPAT's other prairies).
- **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please contact Phillip Quast (via cell: 512-751-9265 or email: [phillip\\_quast@texasprairie.org](mailto:phillip_quast@texasprairie.org)) if you can assist in evaluating Talbot Prairie's needs and help devise and carry out the plans.

### NPAT's BIRDS OF THE MONTH:

A number of declining bird species (the "grassland bird guild") rely on the Mary Talbot Prairie including the LeConte's sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii* and Bell's vireo *Vireo bellii*.

#### LeConte's sparrow:

"It's habitat is tall grass, weedy hayfields, marshes. Breeds in wet meadows or the edges of marshes, in areas with damp soil or very shallow water and dense growth of

grass, sedges, or rushes."

[audubon.org](http://audubon.org)



**Spot the Bell's Vireo and LeContes sparrow - hard to see in their habitats.**



**Bell's vireo:**

*"Habitat loss and cowbird parasitism are major threats. When it is glimpsed in low brushy thickets of the Midwest or Southwest, this bird looks totally nondescript. When it is heard, however, it is easy to recognize, singing a jumbled clinking song, as if it had a mouthful of marbles."*

[audubon.org](http://audubon.org)

**Access Survey Lists of birds, butterflies, and more at Mary Talbot Prairie.**



**NPAT's GRASS OF THE MONTH: Big Bluestem**

*Important species on Talbot Prairie include little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and **big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)**; the latter is more common on larger mounds with seemingly higher clayey soil content (as opposed to sandy loam). ( Excerpt from NPAT's Mary Talbot Prairie "Baseline Documentation Report", David Bezanson, Texas Nature Conservancy, March 2012.)*

**"Big Bluestem has been described as the STAR**

**COMPONENT of the Big Four native grass species** characterizing 'tallgrass prairies' of the central U.S. Big Bluestem attracts: Birds, Butterflies; is Larval Host for Delaware Skipper, Dusted Skipper" [LBJWC](#).

**MILKWEEDS are TREASURED POLLINATOR PLANTS in TEXAS!  
How many species can you name? OPEN THIS LINK for a COMPLETE LIST.**

**MAY represents the end of springtime in Texas.**

NPAT received our quarterly **Native Plant Society of Texas News Magazine: Vol 36 No 2 Spring** in last week's mail. Two articles are especially noteworthy: ***Wimberley Valley Flood Recovery*** and ***Your Remarkable Riparian***.

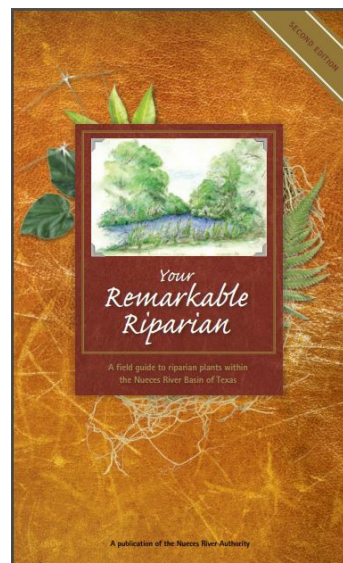
***Wimberley Valley Flood Recovery*** (by Christine Middleton, Suzanne Davis, and Dell Hood): **MAY can provoke feelings of dread and caution**, as it is historically 'THE MONTH' when Texas has received extremely heavy rainfall in short periods of time resulting in deadly floods (as in May, 2015). This article follows the area's recovery efforts after the 2015 Memorial Day Flood. Riparian plants have been installed and **represent healing** as they thrive and serve to **protect and restore the banks along the Blanco River and Cypress Creek**.

## **NPAT's BOOK OF THE MONTH:**

***Your Remarkable Riparian - A field guide to riparian plants within the Nueces River Basin of Texas***, published by the Nueces River Authority as "an educational tool that puts riparian plants at the forefront of understanding how rivers work."

**Sky Jones-Lewey**, Resource Protection and Education Director for the **Nueces River Authority**, shares her first-hand account of the 18-year progression of this unassuming book from its first edition in 2006 to 2016 when a 2-piece **book set** was published as its 3rd edition. This set includes a *riparian plant guide PLUS an owners manual*. Sky explains, "we wanted to create a plant book that not only delivered facts about all the functional aspects, but that also showed the beauty through unique treatments."

You'll want to bookmark this webpage, **Your Remarkable Riparian**, where you can review and order this book set.



*Permission granted by Native Plant Society of Texas.*

*As published in the 2018 quarterly: **Native Plant Society of Texas News magazine; Vol 36 No 2.***

## **MAY @ NPAT**

**SAVE THESE DATES. Share time with other prairie enthusiasts!**

**News & Events include details:**

**(May 1, San Antonio Chapter meets 1st Tues, 7-8:30pm - as this eNewsletter was being distributed.)**

**May 2, CenTex Chapter meets 1st Wed, 6:30-8:30pm - Georgetown**

**MAY 5, SATURDAY, 9am-noon - BURLESON PRAIRIE TOUR, Temple**

**MAY 5, SATURDAY, 1-2pm - WILDFLOWER WALK, Elisabet Ney Museum, Austin**

**May 7, Fort Worth Chapter meets 2nd Mon, 6:30pm-8pm**

**May 9, Blackland (Dallas) Chapter meets 2nd Tues, 6:30-8pm**

**MAY 19, SATURDAY - TWO EVENTS:**

**7:30am-noon - BIRD SURVEY/WORKDAY, Indiangrass Prairie Preserve, Austin**

**9am-Open - SANPAT's "3rd SATURDAY PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORKDAY", Kirchoff Family Farm**

**MAY 20, SUNDAY, 9am-noon - PRAIRIE PLANT WALK, Austin**

**May 23, Houston Chapter meets 4th Wed, 6:30-8:30pm**

**JUNE 16, SATURDAY, 7:30am-9:45pm - NORTHEAST TEXAS PRAIRIES BUS TOUR**

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