

TEXAS PRAIRIE

FROM THE NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Blaze

August, 2017 eNewsletter

HIGHLIGHTS from NPAT

Latest "NEWS & EVENTS" on our [website](#). [Local Chapters](#) meet each month!

What is a PRAIRIE? What is a REMNANT PRAIRIE? HOW can a person restore a PRAIRIE?

NPAT was founded in 1986 by a group of Texans concerned greatly about our disappearing prairie heritage, especially our endangered tallgrass prairies.

PLEASE HELP NPAT "SAVE" Paul Mathews Prairie!

The Paul Mathews Prairie is a rare and pristine 100-acre remnant of the Blackland Prairie near Floyd, TX in Hunt County. At one time, the Blackland Prairie ecosystem covered millions of acres in Texas and much of the central United States. Today, very little of this habitat remains. Conserving this type of imperiled habitat is at the core of NPAT's [mission](#) as a land trust. **HELP NPAT SAVE** this diverse prairie by donating specifically for the purchase of this prairie today! (NPAT photo of Paul Mathews Prairie)



PRAIRIES RESEARCH & EDUCATION IN TEXAS: NPAT recently submitted a letter to our State Legislators emphasizing the importance of our Coastal Prairies, and in support of Texas HB 2285: "designates the University of Houston Coastal Center as the "Texas Institute for Coastal Prairie Research and Education"". The bill was passed by both houses and signed by Governor Abbot on June 15, 2017, and is **effective immediately**.

WATCH THE SKIES!!

(Open this link to [Our Blog!](#))

MASS DEPARTURES WILL BEGIN SOON!

Many of our **BENEFICIAL POLLINATORS**; i.e., our feathered friends, will soon fly south to their "winter homes" in Central and South America.



Migrations begin in August and extend into October for **Purple Martins, Hummingbirds, Monarch Butterflies, and Mexican Free-tailed Bats, PLUS Cranes, Swallows, and more!** OBSERVE the Monarch Butterfly "*Migration & Report Summer Sightings*" on: [Migration Map](#) and [Butterfly Sightings!](#) (Photo of blue sky FULL of Monarch Butterflies: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

BAT WATCH! LIVE! Texas Parks & Wildlife Department collaborated with Bat Conservation International and recently introduced the site: [Bat-Watching Sites of Texas!](#) Also see [TPWD's Publications](#). (Photo below: Eckert James River Bat Cave by [The Nature Conservancy](#))



HOW DOES A PERSON TO "RESTORE" A PRAIRIE??

RESTORING Kirchoff Family Farm: You will get a pretty realistic 'picture' of what can be involved in the very rewarding task of restoring a prairie, on NPAT's website. The Kirchoff Family provides regular updates (written and photo accounts) on the restoration of their 200-acre prairie which they began in 2011. They have learned valuable lessons, including the fact that managing the restoration of a prairie involves many responsibilities: controlling invasive species to enable native prairie plants to thrive, implementing prescribed grazing, producing hay and conducting controlled burns. The work is strenuous but very fulfilling. **Take a look at the diversity**, see fields where hay is harvested and the odd, "wetland areas" too!

Below,: Brenda Kirchoff fighting Huisache *Acacia farnesiana* and Scott Kirchoff moving round bales of just-harvested hay.





AUGUST CALENDAR - NPAT & PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

- 08/01/17 - San Antonio NPAT Chapter Monthly Meeting, ["From Developer Dirt to Prairie"](#), Beth Clark
- 08/02/17 - CenTex NPAT Chapter Monthly Meeting (Georgetown), ["9-Natives Landscape Plans"](#), [Lan Shen](#)
- 08/04/17 - [Greater Houston Environmental Summit and Environmental Education Expo](#)
- 08/14/17 - [Fort Worth NPAT Chapter Monthly Meeting](#) (check chapter link for details)
- 08/16/17 - [Statewide Quail Symposium](#), Abilene, TX
- 08/23/17 - Houston NPAT Chapter Meeting, [Wild About Houston Short Film Screening](#)
- 08/25/17 - [Conservation Easement Workshop](#), Boerne, TX

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