

TEXAS PRAIRIE

FROM THE NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Blaze

July 1, 2018

PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AWARENESS



**BE A PART OF SOMETHING
LARGER THAN YOURSELF!
SUPPORT NPAT & SUPPORT POLLINATORS!**

MAINTAIN Prairies for Pollinators,
MONITOR Pollinator Diversity on NPAT Prairies,
EDUCATE about Pollinators on NPAT Prairies,
ACQUIRE NPAT Prairies for Pollinators,
RESTORE Pollinator Diversity on NPAT Prairies,
PRESERVE Historic Texas Pollinator Habitats;
GET MOVING 'health programs' on NPAT Prairies!

Thank you. NPAT Board & Staff

2018 NE Texas Prairies and More Tour!

EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS (*jpg please*), *identify site & content; we'll post on News & Events!*

(LEFT photo: Photographer, Ellen Guling)

Rattlesnake Master *Eryngium yuccifolium*, Cartwright-Roberts Prairie. Perennial herb in the carrot family. This plant is an indicator of a **healthy prairie!** Bearing thistle-like **flower** heads made up of small greenish-white **florets** mingled with pointed bracts. "Special value to Native Bees, recognized by pollination ecologists as attracting large numbers of native bees", **LBJWC**.

(RIGHT photo)

Antelope horns milkweed, *Asclepias asperula*, Cartwright-Roberts Prairie. Perennial herb. "As the green seed follicles grow in length and begin to curve, they are said to resemble antelope horns", **LBJWC**.

Photographer, Ellen Guling exceptional photo of this milkweed plant. The seed pods were about to burst, about to 'leave caution to the wind'. This healthy specimen will distribute its seeds and produce more plants which will feed migratory Monarch butterfly caterpillars, bees, and birds!



ILLUSTRATION (LEFT) displays 3 stages of maturity of Antelope Horns Milkweed follicles: **immature** (left), **beginning of dehiscence** (center) and reaching **full dehiscence**. The plant disperses seeds via tufts of hairs (right). **TPW.D.** (dehiscence = **splitting along a built-in line of weakness**.)

2018 NE Texas Prairies and More Tour!

- Thank you, **NPAT Blackland (Dallas) Chapter**, for your meticulous planning. Your selections of tour stops was outstanding. Each property was unique! Our senses were heightened, and we definitely felt the richness of Blackland Prairie lands! The **hay-rides** at Cartwright-Roberts Prairie and Daphne Prairie were unexpected **treats!**
- Thank you, **Landowners**, for allowing NPAT to tour your prairie (and forest) and 'experience' your land first-hand:
 - **Susan Roberts**, the Matthew Cartwright-Roberts Prairie near Terrell,
 - **Kelli and Karl Ebel**, Ebel Grassland Ranch, Sulphur Bluff, and
 - **The Nature Conservancy**, Lennox Woods Preserve near Clarksville;
 - **B. F. Hicks**, Daphne Prairie near Mt. Vernon,
- Our thanks to the Lennox House** in Clarksville for providing delicious home-made lunches (with banana pudding)!
- To Mr. B. F. Hicks and the Franklin County Historical Association**, we were honored by your hospitality! You were gracious hosts! We are grateful for the opportunity to meet you and celebrate the day with the banquet of delicious dishes you prepared for us. **We will remember you high regard and hope to see you again.**

PRAIRIE of the MONTH: LEHMANN PRAIRIE

An 11-acre tall grass remnant of the Blackland Prairie Ecoregion.

(Falls County, near Marlin, east of Waco)

Another of NPAT's 'first prairies'! Ms. Correne Lehmann Dragoo owns this prairie and permanently protected it in 1997 when she designated it as a conservation easement with NPAT. The prairie is within the area known as the **ENDANGERED TALLGRASS PRAIRIES** of North America. Her family conserved its hay meadow for many generations

where it supports Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* and Indiangrass *Sorghastrum nutans*.



"Gilgai"

an Australian aboriginal term meaning *small water hole*, natural depressions in the prairie harboring **different native plant species** and increased biodiversity.

Take a quick glance. Do you see a 'heart shaped' Gilgai?? Observe the distinct difference between the vegetation growing **within** the gilgai as opposed to the vegetation **surrounding** this small spot!

Read more about [Lehmann Prairie!](#)



FLOWER OF THE MONTH:

Englemann Daisy (*Engelmannia peristenia*)

Photographed on Lehmann Prairie by Pat Merkord.

BIRD OF THE MONTH:

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)



BOOK OF THE MONTH: Wildflowers of Texas by Michael Eason (Timber Press). This book is consistently described in reviews as: a sturdy, soft cover book you can take anywhere; plant photos and printed descriptions are good quality and easy to read. Plants appear in sections according to the colors of blooms (using 5 color categories arranged alphabetically by family, genus and species: white, yellow-orange, red-brown, pink-purple & purple-blue). Each color category is marked by color-tips on the edges of pages reflecting bloom colors. Somehow, in spite of being a convenient size to carry around, it **includes more plants than most other field guides**.

NPAT's local chapters offer opportunities for individuals throughout Texas, with common interests, to meet and expand their knowledge! Dedicated and highly-qualified 'subject matter experts' serving communities in fields of water conservation, native vegetation, habitat restoration, ecological practices, and more, **share valuable knowledge and training!**
ALL ARE WELCOME, MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED & ADMISSION IS FREE!!

NPAT JULY EVENTS:

SATURDAY, JULY 7, (9am-Noon) "**BAYOU SAVANNAH WORKDAY**", at Project Blazing Star Bayou Savannah Pocket Prairie. **RSVP HERE** (Location: 6532-6538 Almeda Rd, Houston, Tx 77021)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, (9am-Noon) "**DEER PARK PRAIRIE WORKDAY**", Deer Park.

THURSDAY, JULY 19, (9am-Noon) "**ARTIST BOAT COASTAL HERITAGE PRESERVE WORKDAY**", Galveston. Call **Mary Warwick** at **409-770-0722** and let her know you will be there.

SATURDAY, JULY 21, (7:30am-Noon) "**INDIANGRASS PRAIRIE PRESERVE WORKDAY**", Austin.

SATURDAY, JULY 21, (7am-leave whenever you want) "**3rd SATURDAY PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORKDAY**", Floresville. donkirchoff@earthlink.net. Cell: 713-562-7681