

TEXAS PRAIRIE

FROM THE NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Blaze

November, 2017 eNewsletter

Less than 1% of Blackland Prairie remains!! MEET Prairie Experts and LEARN what you can do!

(Details follow on NPAT's 2 'young' Chapters: Cen-Tex, Wed., Nov. 1 & Victoria-area, Wed., Nov. 8.)

Cen-Tex NPAT Chapter Monthly Meeting
Kirsti Harms, Past NPAT President Presiding
Wednesday, 11-01-17, 6:30-8:45pm

Georgetown Public Library Classroom, 2nd Floor, 402 W. 8th St., Georgetown, TX 78626



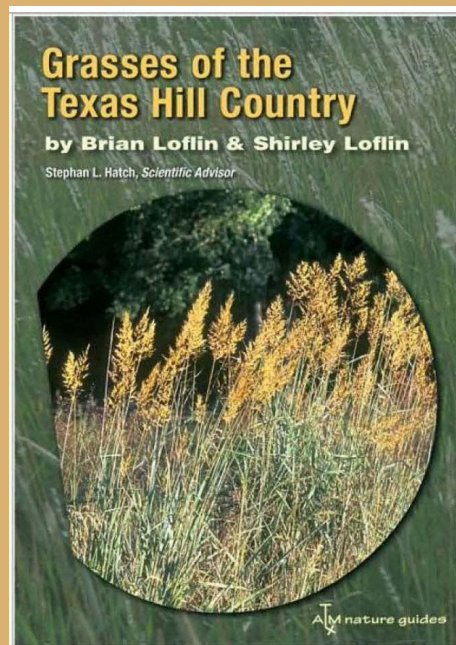
"Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary"

This Sanctuary is part of a 5000-acre park surrounding Lake Walter E. Long on east side of Austin, TX.

Presenters: Robert Reeves and Rene Barrera

The CenTex Chapter met our Presenters in May, 2017: Robert Reeves, a retired Biologist in Austin, and Rene Barrera, of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Their photos and descriptions gave us the history of **Indiangrass Preserve**, and encouraged continuing preservation efforts, ensuring it **remains a blackland prairie!**



Grasses of the Texas Hill Country

Brian Loflin & Shirley Loflin

PLUS - Prairie Grasses on display!

Bring your own copy for the authors to sign!
More will be available for purchase.

AGENDA:

6:30-7:15: Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary Preserve Update: Robert Reeves and Rene Barrera

7:15-7:30: Break

7:30-8:15: Presentation/Discussion with authors, *Brian Loflin & Shirley Loflin*

8:15-8:45: Meet all the Presenters! See Prairie Grass Displays!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017

PAUL MATHEWS PRAIRIE PAUL MATHEWS PRAIRIE! WHO WAS PAUL MATHEWS?

Paul Mathews played in this prairie as a boy in the early 1900s, and he wanted to preserve it. When he was able to buy the land he put it under "conservation easement" with TNC in the 1980s, and managed it by haying.

Mr. Mathews received the Texas Parks and Wildlife's 1998 Lone Star Land Steward Award for "Paul's Prairie". He died at age 101 in 2005. The current owner says. "*the old guys who know how to hay these prairies are dying off.*"



Why should the Paul Mathews Prairie be saved?

- *Eastern Hunt County, TX is being rapidly developed; it is vitally important to preserve this parcel!*
- *This Prairie is a rare 100-acre Blackland prairie remnant not far from DFW.*
- *It is an important source of food for bees and other pollinators; Migrating monarchs depend on it for nectar and larvae hosting.*
- *It has some rare species, including a crawfish (once thought to be rare, but now is considered more common.*
- *It is our natural history and heritage.*
- *It is a vital part of Blackland Prairie propagule and pollen network with Clymer Meadow and Parkhill Prairie.*
- *Rare concentrations of very deep gilgai formations found only in vertisolic Blackland Prairie. (The term "gilgai" refers to the overall micro-relief in such areas, consisting of mounds & depressions, not just the lakes themselves.)*

Below: Painted Lady Butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*), Mathews Prairie.



Birding at Paul Mathews Prairie

Below:

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

"The plant community is incredibly diverse and abundant with indicator species like:
-Topeka purple coneflower (*Echinacea atrorubens*) [see center photo above],
-Compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) [see photo below], and
-Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) thought to only grow in a virgin prairie."

Brandon Belcher, North Texas Preserves Manager, [The Nature Conservancy](#)



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The current owner is a history professor in Commerce, TX. He is happy to sell it to us. He says the Mathews Prairie is one of the best representatives of a gamagrass/switchgrass/indiangrass vertisolic (gumbo clay) prairie in Texas.



"The future of this prairie can not be guaranteed if we lose this valuable opportunity. This scarce slice of the Blackland Prairie is vital to the ecosystem's preservation. It must be held as treasure for future generations."

Pat Merkord, Executive Director, NPAT

NPAT is very grateful for the support you continue to provide for Texas prairies! We encourage you to help us once again as we strive to reach our \$50,000 Goal by the end of November, 2017:

EXPENSES

\$35,000 = Sale price offered NPAT.
\$20,000 = Minimum for "Conservation Endowment" (to rehabilitate and maintain the prairie).

DONATIONS

"\$20,000 Dollar-for-dollar Match"
Total Donations including Match = \$36,894.
A 2nd "dollar-for-dollar Match has been offered for the next \$5,000 raised following the first match.

Donate online at TexasPrairie.org or [CLICK HERE - MAKE YOUR DONATION](#). You may prefer to send us your donation check. Please make it "Payable to: NPAT", designate "For Paul Mathews Prairie Fund", and mail it to NPAT, 415 N. Guadalupe St. PMB 385, San Marcos, TX 78666. THANK YOU!!

Victoria-area NPAT Chapter Organizational Meeting Wednesday, 11-08-17, 6:30-8:30pm

Meet in the Community Room of the Anti-Crime Unit in Victoria Mall,
7800 N. Navarro St, Victoria, TX 77904

Photo: USFWS Atwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge



JOIN us for "Seed Mixer Social" (Free Seeds will be given away)! We'll discuss how to form an NPAT Chapter, review NPAT's Mission, and talk about the importance of forming partnerships. We'll learn about NPAT's latest Prairie Acquisitions; current & upcoming events!

NPAT SELECTED FOR TPWD's CLP FUNDS!



Perhaps you currently have (or have had) a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Conservation License Plate (CLP) on your vehicle!



NPAT was selected for funding by Texas Wildlife Diversity Program – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.



TPWD's October, 2017 Conservation License Plate Award Letter was sent to Native Prairie Association of Texas granting our CLP proposal to *"Map and Document the Current Ecological Condition of Silveus' Dropseed Prairies (Globally Rare)"*.

WATCH FOR IT --- We'll convey TPWD'S official date (mid-December) when NPAT WILL BENEFIT when you purchase any of these 3 CLPs!!

BE READY TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT YOU CONTRIBUTED TO CONSERVATION!



Visit our website