

# TEXAS PRAIRIE

FROM THE NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

## Blaze

October, 2017 eNewsletter



### A PRAIRIE WORTH SAVING, Paul Mathews Prairie!

(Photo of Goldenrod and Snow at Paul Mathews Prairie by Pat Merkord, 09/2017)

**Front-and-center – Leading NPAT's communications during the last few months has been our commitment to raise awareness of the immediate need to protect the Paul Mathews Prairie from the looming 'rapid encroachment'.** This 100-acre remnant prairie ('one that has never been plowed') is part of the **Texas Blackland Prairie** (an ecoregion that runs 300 miles from the Red River to San Antonio), named after its rich black soil. The Paul Mathews Prairie is located northeast of Dallas, near Floyd, TX and has been under a "conservation easement" with **The Nature Conservancy, TNC**. NPAT's goal is to save this pristine prairie **by purchasing it and co-managing with TNC.**)

**SPREADING THE WORD! NPAT has made concerted efforts to deliver our appeal:** We've employed our web medium to educate readers, validate our goal, and generate support. Our executive director, Pat Merkord, composed and mailed a 'fundraising letter' inviting members to lend their support. Each NPAT chapter is doing its part to convey our goals and objectives via their own websites and face-to-face meetings. Generosity of members and non-members has truly been amazing; it's been uplifting to learn so many share our ambitions.

**Fellow-conservation organizations have been very generous as well. The Nature Conservancy, TNC, and the North Central Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas, NPSOT, continue to provide managerial and financial support; fortifying NPAT's convictions! Our special thanks to Suzanne Tuttle of the Fort Worth NPSOT Chapter. She delivered a presentation to her chapter members highlighting NPAT's efforts, and the organization voted to make a very generous contribution to NPAT's Paul Mathews Prairie Fund. They didn't stop there; they created a prominent posting on their homepage, "**Help Save Paul Mathews Prairie**", a direct link to NPAT's homepage where donations can be made to Paul Mathews Prairie Fund. **Thank you, Suzanne and the Fort Worth NPSOT Chapter for your inspiration!****

The next couple of months will be exciting as we monitor our progress! We are very encouraged by the support

**FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO ENJOY  
THE TEXAS PRAIRIES AND SAVANNAHS!**

**"Save the Paul Mathews Prairie" Blackland NPAT and Fort Worth NPAT Chapters  
have scheduled activities which promise to strengthen our campaign:  
[News and Events Pages](#) provide all the details for these activities!**

**FREE - 'PRAIRIE TOURS DAY' to the Paul Mathews Prairie & Clymer Meadows!**

**October 14, 2017 (Saturday, 8:30am - 5:00pm)**

**Blackland NPAT and The Nature Conservancy** - Prairie enthusiasts will learn from our guide, *Brandon Belcher, the North Texas Preserves Manager for TNC*. He'll share his expertise and describe the two prairies' characteristics! Click **Blackland Chapter's Site** for schedule and meet-up information.

**"Grasslands Tour & Wine Tour Fundraiser"**

**October 21, 2017 (Saturday, 1pm - 6pm)**

The **Fort Worth NPAT Chapter** has organized this fundraiser; proceeds will benefit NPAT's efforts to raise funds to purchase the Paul Mathews Prairie! The day promises to be exciting and enjoyable: exploring a portion of the vast **Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands** then touring **Marker Cellars Winery**. **REGISTER NOW!**

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**October 5, 2017 - Waller, TX**

**Katy Prairie Conservancy's 2017 Restoration Round-up: Partners are: Harris County Flood Control District, Houston Parks & Recreation Department, Native Prairies Association of Texas, Texas Master Naturalist, and Wildlife Habitat Federation. Pre-Registration Required. JOIN IN SUPPORTING KPC!**

**November 14-16, 2017, Fort Worth, TX**

**The Fourth Biennial America's Grasslands Conference - "United for Conservation: Connecting producers, researchers, educators, and other stakeholders in the protection of our natural heritage."** Conference Co-hosts are: National Wildlife Federation, Coastal Prairie Partnership, Native Prairies Association of Texas, and Texas A&M University. Our conference brings together researchers, natural resource professionals, farmers and ranchers, policy experts, and conservationists to discuss relevant issues related to the conservation of N.A.'s grasslands! We are proud to announce a **new partnership with the Southern Plains and Prairies Conference**; we'll maintain a national scope, and include regionally focused sessions.

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**"WILDLIFE & GRASSLAND RESTORATION" WORKSHOP  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017**

**Wilson County Wildlife Management Association** and NPAT invite you to  
**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND; REGISTER NOW**

**Details @ News and Events, October 28, 2017**





## Wildlife and Grasslands Restoration Workshop

Hosted by the Native Prairies Association & Wilson County Wildlife Management Association

Saturday, October 28 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Kirchoff Farm, 1444 County Rd 210, Floresville, TX

**8:30 – 9:00 AM**

Introduction & History of Farm, Restoration & Wildlife

**9:00 – 10:00 AM**

Wildlife Diversity Walk

*Habitat Types, Wildlife Diversity, Pollinator Support*

**10:00 – 11:00 AM**

Tour of USFWS PWF Projects

*50' Wide Green Tree Firebreak, Three Wildlife Guzzlers  
Three Burrowing Owl Roosts, Diversity Plots*

**11:00 – 12:30 AM**

Tour & Demonstrations of NRCS WHIP Grassland Restoration Fields

*Compare first, last restored fields, Compare fields planted in wet vs dry yrs, See grass species planted & results, woody invasive species control demo; invasive control windrow & management practices*

**Lunch 12:30 – 1:30 at Three Oaks Community Center, 158 County Rd 210, Floresville, TX**

**Presentations 1:30 to 3:00 PM (Three Oaks)**

*Seed Availability & Planting for Grassland Restoration  
King Seed Company/South Texas Natives  
Northern Bobwhite Quail & Grassland Recovery - GRIP  
1-d-1 Wildlife Management Activities - TPWD  
Monarch/Pollinator Recovery Program - USFWS  
Restoration for Quality Habitat for Wildlife - NPAT*

ONE LAST THING BEFORE WE GO .....REMEMBER???  
NOW'S THE TIME TO WATCH THE SKYS FOR MIGRATIONS

*(our Blog)*

**PLANT YOUR LOCAL NATIVE WILDFLOWER SEEDS THIS FALL  
SO THEY WILL HAVE FOOD WHEN THEY RETURN TO US NEXT SPRING!!!**



**Monarch Butterflies** (*Danaus plexippus*) (top left); **Mexican Free-tailed Bats** (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) (top right); **Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) (bottom left), and the tiny **Calliope Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus calliope*) [the smallest migratory bird (bottom right)]! Then there are the bees, swallows, flycatchers, grosbeaks, warblers, and the whooping crane (the tallest North American bird)! Some are preparing to depart, and some have begun their migrations from Texas. **We are sad they're leaving and will welcome them when they return in Spring, 2018.**

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