

TEXAS PRAIRIE

FROM THE NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Blaze

Prairie time in Texas continues, and thanks to cooler temperatures and record-breaking rains, our prairies are flourishing!

JUST IN TIME FOR OUR MIGRATORY FRIENDS!

Much of Texas is within the FLYWAYS of **hummingbirds** (family Trochilidae), **Baltimore orioles** (*Icterus galbula*), butterflies (including our endangered **Monarchs** (*Danaus plexippus*), and **Mexican free-tailed bats** (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), a.k.a. our State Flying Mammal, and many more creatures.

We can enjoy providing nourishment for our backyard birds and butterflies. Try this, slice a fresh orange in half and stake it on a tree limb; Baltimore orioles and butterflies, among others, will be grateful! (Honey Bees, too!) Another offering you can make is to purchase a bag of UNSALTED peanuts, fill a bird feeder, hang it near other feeders, and enjoy the activity. Both year-round and winter birds will benefit from the peanuts' protein.

Get out and celebrate our vast Texas prairies and savannas; they offer opportunities to observe birds, beautiful prairie grasses that change colors as the seasons progress. Sit still and look for **Texas Horned Lizard** (*Phrynosoma cornutum*), **Black-tailed Prairie Dog** (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), or **Burrowing Owls** (*Athene cunicularia*).

"THE STARS AT NIGHT, ARE BIG AND BRIGHT, DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!"

(by *Nickel Creek*) **Cooler temperatures and clear weather offer amazing opportunities to CELEBRATE THE NIGHT SKY!** Mexican Freetail bats can be spotted flying around on a moonlit night. The darker sky opens the heavens to view **constellations** including Cassiopeia, Orion, Ursa Major & Minor, and sometimes even the Milky Way!

NPAT invites everyone to join our CELEBRATION of the Paul Mathews Prairie!

We will gather and express our gratitude and share some of the Paul Mathews Prairie's rich history. This is our most recent acquisition, and we are planning a celebration, **Saturday, December 1**, at the **Landmark on Lee Street** in Greenville, TX (within walking distance of Paul Mathews Prairie). The afternoon and evening promise to be very enjoyable: a catered dinner, a table of homemade desserts (please bring one of your favorites to share), a silent auction, and we will honor some special individuals.

SAVE THE DATE, REGISTER HERE (by Wednesday, November 21).



BEFORE YOU READ THROUGH OCTOBER'S EVENTS, we want to thank each of you who contributed to NPAT in September via the City of Fort Worth's North Texas Giving Day, on September 20, and to those who participated in Houston NPAT's September Fundraising Drive for Deer Park Prairie and other prairie activities.

We encourage you to support NPAT by making an online donation in OCTOBER.

OCTOBER, 2018

You will notice a marked increase in the number of activities this month!
So, open your calendar and schedule time for some PRAIRIE ENJOYMENT!

NPAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 2, 2018, SANPAT CHAPTER MEETING, San Antonio, 7pm. Dr. Rebeca Quinonez-Best of the **National Wildlife Federation**, spoke on NWF's work in North America on the monarch butterfly's situation and the collaborative efforts with landowners, conservationists, and other interested parties. City of San Antonio's Lions Field Adult and Senior Center.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018, CenTex CHAPTER MEETING, Georgetown, 6:30-8:30pm, in Classroom (2nd floor), Georgetown Public Library

Meet **Della Barbato**, NPAT's Director of Education, will share her experiences in teaching the prairie and other programs at Deer Park Prairie and in the Houston area.

Come meet our latest staff member!



Monday, October 8, 2018, FWNPAT CHAPTER MEETING, Fort Worth, 6:30-8:00pm at **TCC's NW Campus**, Room WACB1123.

WELCOME, Glenn Merkord! The Fort Worth Chapter is proud



to offer this opportunity to meet and learn from Glenn. He is one of the very dedicated NPAT volunteers. Glenn is Vice President and Senior Biologist of Bluestem Environmental Consultants.

He will present **Native Grass Identification**. We will learn how we can easily IDENTIFY native grasses. Learn HOW they fit into the prairie system, WHY we should value grasses as much as wildflowers, and recognize they are the BACKBONE of a prairie.

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, BNPAT CHAPTER MEETING, Dallas, 6:30pm at the CC Young, Flag Pole Room, in the Pavilion. **Brett Johnson**, Dallas Parks and Recreation will present *updates of White Rock Lake Prairie Remnants Management*, and if time permits briefings on Harry Moss Park and other City of Dallas prairie sites.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018, HNPAT CHAPTER PROGRAM MEETING, 6:30-8:30pm, American Red Cross, 2700 SW Fwy, Houston, TX 77098, [map](#). Event details on these links to the **HNPAT Calendar**: <https://houstonprairie.org/calendar/> and the **DPP Calendar**: <https://houstonprairie.org/dpp-calendar/>.

SPECIAL CHAPTER-SPONSORED EVENTS

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 (through Saturday, November 10, 2018) Greater Houston-Galveston area, **2018 PRAIRIES & POLLINATORS Regional Celebration**. NPAT joins [Coastal Prairie Partners](#) at this annual fall event; Greater Houston-Galveston groups showcase prairies and pollinators. (A complete listing of events and registration information are available via this link to [CPP's webpage](#).)

Saturday, October 6, 2018, Austin, **LANDSCAPE LEARNING DAY**, Elisabet Ney Museum, from 10am-noon, **304 E 44th St, 78751**. NPAT is collaborating with this City of Austin art museum to work on their historic landscape restoration. Join us for a morning of learning and native-prairie-seed planting. Bring gloves and dress for gardening. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#).

Sunday, October 7, 2018, Austin, **PLANT WALK**, Commons Ford Prairie, from 9 a.m. to noon. The restored prairie at **Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park** has a different look in the fall. In addition to the fall bloomers, it is a good time for grasses. Please join Diane Sherrill and Kirsti Harms to learn about these wonderful plants! Registration is required. For more information, [click here](#).

Wednesday, October 17, 2018, Houston, **WILD ABOUT HOUSTON FILM FESTIVAL**, Rice University ([map](#)). Monarch butterflies captivate us with their beauty and incredible endurance, but despite their popularity, monarch populations are in serious decline. Hosting partners: **Citizens' Environmental Coalition, Houston GREEN Film Series, Coastal Prairie Partnership, HNPAT, Rice Environmental Club; CAM Fort Bend**.

Saturday, October 20, 2018, near Floresville, **3rd SATURDAY PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORKDAY** at **Kirchoff Family Farm** starting at 8am; leave when you want. **PLEASE REGISTER HERE** as the Kirchoffs will have lunches prepared. Sponsored by SANPAT.

Saturday-Sunday, November 10-11, 2018, near Colorado City, **MADDIN PRAIRIE PRESERVE WORK WEEKEND**. The preserve will be open from Saturday morning until midday Sunday. Volunteers are needed to help with brush control and grass seeding at the prairie dog town. The blue grama and sideoats grama grasses are in full bloom right now; we'll collect seed and plant in areas where it's needed. There are trail work opportunities as well: we'll plan routes and connect existing trails. **And, dinner is on us!**

INTERESTED? To RSVP & get more info please email [Kirsti Harms](#). PLEASE type, "MADDIN WORKDAY" in the **Subject** of your email (especially if you plan to stay overnight on the property). Monitor our website; this event may be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 - DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE
Monday, October 22, 2018 - EARLY VOTING BEGINS
Sunday, November 4, 2018 - **RETURN to Standard Time (Fall back 1 hour)**.
Tuesday, November 6, 2018 - UNITED STATES MIDTERM ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 - **GIVING TUESDAY** (Tuesday after Thanksgiving) Monitor [texasprairie.org](#) for details **coming soon**.

Sunday-Wednesday, June 2-5, 2019, Clear Lake, TX, **2019 NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE**. **American's oldest and most celebrated native grassland conference** will be held in the Houston area. **Co-presenters:** [Coastal Prairie Partnership](#), [Katy Prairie Conservancy](#), [The Nature Conservancy of Texas](#) and [Native Prairies Association of Texas](#). **Co-hosts:** [University of Houston Clear Lake](#) and [Environmental Institute of Houston](#).

Details of each event can be found on our [News & Events page](#) (please scroll through chronological listings).

ETC.

VIDEO of Prairie Regrowth, Kenneth Saintonge provided this for us to share with you. He is with VISTA, AmeriCorps, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department at Ray Roberts Lake, Johnson Branch.

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK to info@texasprairie.org.

We want to know your interests, any specific areas of Texas you are interested in, prairie information you want, and suggestions for content in our eNewsletters.