

TEXAS PRAIRIE

FROM THE NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Blaze

September, 2017 eNewsletter

We are all saddened by the vast destruction and loss of life in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. We are thankful to have contacted members of our NPAT family and confirmed their safety. It is our hope that every individual affected by this storm has notified family and loved ones, is safe, sheltered, receiving food & meeting your daily needs, and will be able to heal from the terrors such experiences bring. NPAT encourages all who are able to lend a hand in some way - donate to a charity of your choice or drop-off facilities (identified on many media sites.)

HIGHLIGHTS from NPAT

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



Paul Mathews Prairie (pictured above)

Thank you in advance for [supporting our efforts to save the Paul Mathews Prairie](#). NPAT is dedicated to conservation, restoration, and appreciation of native prairies, savannas, and other grasslands in Texas.

"REMNANT" PRAIRIE AND "RESTORED" PRAIRIE....

two words describing the status of a prairie, creating immediate "mental images" as noted below.

NPAT's current prairies include both.

Surveying individual prairies will enable you to recognize and appreciate their unique values!

A **remnant prairie** is an **original, native, natural, grassland community** that has **survived** on a site to the **present day**; it has **never been plowed**, but it was **once part of a larger, original landscape!**

In contrast, a **restored prairie** is a native ecosystem that has been taken over to some degree by another plant community and **is being managed to restore the land to its state "pre-settlement vegetation state"** (that is, pre-1850's). **Restoration** of a prairie can involve supplementation with seeds from plants that may have grown on the site in the past and usually involves removing invasive plant species.

**The Paul Mathews Prairie - a "REMNANT" prairie
in the Blackland Prairie Region**

It has been described as is one of the **best representatives of a gammagrass/switchgrass/indiangrass vertisolic prairie in Texas** ("**vertisolic**" refers to a clayey soil with little organic matter that occurs in regions having distinct wet and dry seasons). **"It has remained unchanged for thousands of years and still erupts each year in a riot of colorful wildflowers as it has for centuries. Tall grasses once covered much of the Great Plains and hosted dozens of bird species that have declined dramatically following the destruction of the prairie after the Civil War. Today the tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world."** (Matt White, author of *Birds of Northeast Texas* and *Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait*, both from Texas A&M University Press)

'The chance of a lifetime!'

NPAT's Executive Director, Pat Merkord, recently wrote a letter introducing people to the 100-acre Paul Mathews Prairie, a Blackland prairie located near Greenville in North Texas (close to *Clymer Meadow*, an NPAT conservation easement). NPAT has the opportunity to purchase and save this vibrant and pristine prairie! We have launched an energetic fundraising campaign to raise the funds, purchase it, and create an endowment fund for stewardship and protection! (Its future cannot be guaranteed if we lose this opportunity.) A true sense of its beauty can be seen in photos posted on our Home page where you can make an **online donation**. We are so grateful to the generous, like-minded individuals sustaining NPAT's mission to "*conserve, restore, and appreciate*" who have contributed to or soon will contribute to the **Paul Mathews Prairie Fund!**

**The Kirchoff Family Farm - a "RESTORED" prairie
in the Blackland Prairie and South Texas Brush Country Region**

A PRIME example of a '**restored prairie**' is the 200-acre **Kirchoff Family Farm**. View the family's extensive '**Updates**' (their own photos and personal descriptions of the planning and get a glimpse of the tiring work they have undertaken together. The Kirchoff Family is comprised of siblings whose parents purchased the land in the mid-1950s. They recognized its potential and made a family commitment to '**restore**' their family farm ("their prairie")! They continue tasks of clearing invasive plants, gathering seeds of beneficial native grasses and wildflowers within a close proximity, and sowing those native seeds. You will be in awe of their hard work and persistence, which, to most of us, would be overwhelming. It is challenging to grasp the magnitude of effort they've invested to reach this point over a six year period while dealing with ever-changing weather conditions and determining how to proceed to reach their goals.

ENJOY WILDFLOWERS NEXT SPRING! HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN SEED BALLS

Researching this subject, the consensus is "Fall is the best time to plant many native species" throughout Texas, (the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Staff](#)). When you plant, we recommend following the "**SEED BALL**" method!



Plans for September, 2017

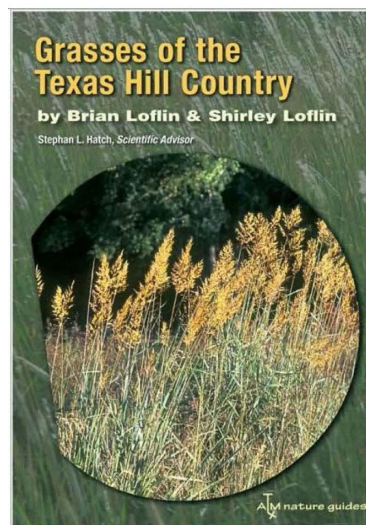
We recommend monitoring our [News & Events Page](#), [HNPAT's webpage](#), and others throughout the next few months and confirm events planned in the Houston Area.

**San Antonio NPAT Chapter Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2017
7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Presentation by authors, Brian Loflin and Shirley Loflin

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

*Our Chapter meetings are in Downtown San Antonio,
2809 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209
at the San Antonio Parks & Recreation,
Lions Field Adult & Senior Center's Community Room.*



September Events:

— CenTex NPAT Chapter will NOT meet in Georgetown in September.

9/5/17, San Antonio NPAT Chapter Meeting, San Antonio, TX (See details above)

9/9/17, Wildscaping in Houston, [NPSOT's Houston Chapter](#), Houston, TX

9/11/17, Prairie Seed Swap Mixer & ID Workshop, [Fort Worth NPAT Chapter Monthly Meet-Up](#), Fort Worth, TX

9/12/17, Progress and Setbacks at White Rock Lake, [Blackland NPAT Chapter Monthly Meeting](#), Dallas, TX

9/18/17 - 9/21/17, Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Class, [Texas A&M AgriLife](#), Dallas, TX

9/23/17, DPP Workday & Prairie Open to Public [HNPAT](#), Deer Park, TX

9/23/17 - 10/8/17, Texas Pollinator Bioblitz, throughout TX

9/30/17, Fall Prairie Day at Deer Park Prairie, [HNPAT](#), Deer Park, TX

October Events:

10/3/17, San Antonio NPAT Chapter Meeting, San Antonio, TX

10/4/17, CenTex NPAT Chapter Monthly Meeting, Georgetown, TX

10/5/17, 2017 Prairie Restoration Roundup (HNPAT, KPC, CPP) at KPC's Indiangrass Preserve, Waller, TX
(**Monitor [KPC's website](#) for schedule changes and registration opportunities.**)

HOSTED BY



IN COOPERATION WITH



Prairie with Monarch Butterfly
Photo by Chuck Duplant

2017 PRAIRIE RESTORATION ROUNDUP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

WORKSHOP RATING



RESTORE YOUR LAND!

Prairie restoration is attracting a great deal of interest. Prairie plants are drought resistant, don't need large inputs of fertilizer, and can be a boon to both cattle and wildlife. Join the best of the best conservationists in southeast Texas for a day of hands-on demonstrations and insightful discussions about restoring prairie on farms, ranches, private residences, parks, and more!

ABOUT THE KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY

As a nonprofit land trust, the Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) works to protect greenspace for its conservation and recreational benefits.

KPC enhances wildlife habitat, restores tallgrass prairie and wetlands, sponsors scientific research, and introduces the general and school-aged public to the sights and sounds of the prairie through programming and activities.

LOCATION KPC Indiangrass Preserve - Waller, TX

WHAT TO BRING All participants should wear long pants, close-toed shoes or boots, and a hat.

EVENT CONTACT (281) 660-6683

COST \$35/general public and \$25/students and Texas Master Naturalists

RATING Novice and Intermediate Levels

REGISTRATION REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Register at katyprairie.org

REGISTER TODAY!

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE WEST ENDOWMENT

CONTACT NPAT: Support Us, Join or Renew

Connect with us

