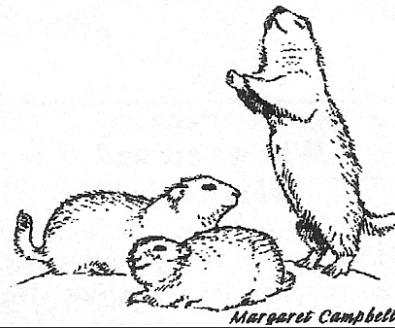


# The Prairie Dog

Newsletter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas  
Spring 2004 Vol. 17, No. 2



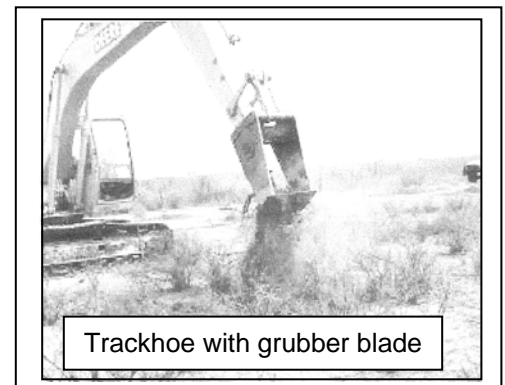
## MADDIN RANCH PRESERVE *Habitat Restoration*

NPAT has an unexpected opportunity to achieve major progress in our restoration of the Maddin Ranch Preserve by participating in a program of the Champion Creek Reservoir Brush Control Project, a project that will remove mesquite from the entire ranch property. The project is managed by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board through its Mitchell County District office. Under the 70% State Share/ 30% Landowner Share cost formula, the state will \$44,947 and NPAT will pay \$19,263 for mechanical mesquite removal. Donations from NPAT members are needed to cover NPAT's share of the cost. *Article by Evelyn Merz*

The Maddin Ranch Preserve is in the Champion Creek watershed. Invasive mesquite trees, which are numerous in the watershed, absorb huge quantities of water instead of allowing it to replenish the reservoir. The reservoir level has been dropping. The state Soil & Water Conservation District (TSSWCD) program aims to improve water infiltration by participating in a cost-sharing removal of mesquite from the watershed. The state's share of expense is 70% and NPAT's share is 30%.

Until now, the NPAT has been unable to proceed as aggressively as we would like to remove the invasive mesquite at the Maddin Ranch Preserve. The restoration of 1,114 acres is a lofty goal. NPAT has made progress in certain fields. The prickly pear population is reduced. The percentage of bare ground is down and the percentage of native grass coverage is up. Most recently, we used chemical treatment of individual mesquite trees in some fields and had a kill rate of about 60% to 75%. These efforts were funded through a grant from the Texas Natural Resource Trustees, a joint program of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. However, even the Trustees' program was not aimed at the whole Maddin Ranch Preserve.

This new opportunity will cover 1,011 acres of the total 1,114-acre Maddin Ranch Preserve. Another major feature of the TSSWCD program is that it does not utilize chemical treatment. Instead, it relies upon mechanical removal of the mesquite. The mesquite trees are literally removed by the roots by a trackhoe with a grubber blade. (See the picture accompanying the article.) The trackhoe has already begun working at Maddin. NPAT's contract with the TSSWCS calculates the total cost of mesquite removal at \$64,210 for 1,011 acres. TSSWCS classifies 683 acres at a heavy level (>20%) of mesquite coverage and 328 acres at a moderate level ((9 – 19%) of mesquite coverage. The cost for mechanical removal is \$70/acre for heavy coverage and \$50/acre for moderate coverage. Using the 70% State Share/ 30% Landowner Share cost formula under the contract, the bottom line is that the state pays for \$44,947 of the cost and NPAT will cover \$19,263.



This is both a major opportunity and a major commitment for NPAT. We will be drawing upon our restricted funds dedicated to the Maddin Ranch Preserve and also some of our general purpose Maddin funds. And finally we are asking you – our members—to step in and assist in this important project. We are asking our members to come forward with a special donation to join in this major push to restore the Maddin Ranch Preserve. Our goal is to raise at least \$5,000 from our supporters. Any donation you send for Maddin will be applied directly to the TSSWCB brush removal project. We hope that you will recognize this unexpected opportunity to be worthy of your support. If you have any questions about this effort, please contact our president, John Pickett, or the treasurer, Evelyn Merz. Contact information is listed on the second page of the newsletter.

Please mail your donation to NPAT: P.O. Box 210; Georgetown, TX 78627-0210 and mark it for the Maddin Ranch Preserve. Many thanks!

**WHO WE ARE AND  
WHAT WE DO**

NPAT's purpose is to promote conservation of Texas prairies. We are interested laypeople and professionals. Our members join:

- to learn how to recognize prairies
- to encourage conservation of prairies
- to restore and manage prairies
- to study and visit prairies
- to meet other people who love prairies!

The Prairie Dog is published quarterly. Submit articles to  
Temporary Editor Linda Knowles  
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281-558-3710  
[DknowlesPE@aol.com](mailto:DknowlesPE@aol.com)

The Native Prairies Association of Texas is supported entirely by volunteers. Material appearing in the The Prairie Dog may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission of the editor or the Board of Directors.

**About this Newsletter**

NPAT is in need of a permanent newsletter editor. Contact Evelyn Merz [elmerz@hal-pc.org](mailto:elmerz@hal-pc.org) to volunteer for the position.

Please submit articles and reports of activities, along with photos, to [DknowlesPE@aol.com](mailto:DknowlesPE@aol.com). Send articles for the Summer issue by August 1.

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Rusty Yates

***Prairie Work Projects***

NPAT Prairies are: Maddin Prairie - 1,114 acres one hour north of San Angelo, 15 minutes southeast of Colorado City, Riesel Prairie - 5 beautiful tallgrass prairie acres near Riesel, Texas southeast of Waco in Falls County, and Peters Prairie - 4 beautiful tallgrass prairie acres west of Greenville (east of Dallas) in Hunt County. Want to adopt a Prairie? Call John Pickett at 254-897-3646, [jdpick@charter.net](mailto:jdpick@charter.net) for more information.

## Prairie Preserve Highlight: Nature Conservancy's Texas City Preserve



Photo by Carolyn Fannon

The Texas City Preserve, a Nature Conservancy Preserve just south of Houston, features rare coastal prairie habitat and is one of the last remaining sites that supports wild Attwater's prairie chickens. At the turn of the century, there were approximately 1 million Attwater's prairie chickens along the Texas coast. However, loss of coastal prairie habitat over the years devastated the population, and less than 50 remain in the wild today, making the bird one of the most endangered in North America. The Nature Conservancy maintains the prairie habitat for the prairie chicken, and other prairie inhabitants. Volunteers are critical in the maintenance and restoration of the prairie. Volunteer opportunities are

available and potential volunteers are encouraged to contact the preserve.

The preserve has stands of big and little bluestem, indiagrass, switchgrass, eastern gammagrass, cordgrass and the rare coastal gayfeather.

Public access to the preserve is available through education programs and volunteer opportunities. For more information, please contact the Texas City Preserve, 4702 Highway 146 North, Texas City, Texas, 77590, phone: (409) 945-4677, fax: (409) 943-5056.

Prairie chicken can also be found at the Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Refuge near Eagle Lake. The North American Grouse Partnership is working to protect the grasslands and habitat of North American Grouse (prairie chickens are grouse). Their web site is [www.grousepartners.org](http://www.grousepartners.org).

The North American Grouse Partnership envisions a world in which humans demonstrate the wisdom to manage landscapes so that grouse and other wildlife can flourish forever. Their mission is to rebuild and nurture flourishing populations of North American grouse through preservation and restoration of the landscapes and habitats necessary for their continued existence.

### **GET CONNECTED - SEND EMAIL ADDRESSES TO GEORGIA PRAKASH**

*NOTE* from Georgia Prakash: We will send NPAT event updates by e-mail to members. If you did not write your e-mail address on the membership application, and wish to receive updates, or if your e-mail address has changed, please send it to Georgia Prakash, membership chair, at [prakash2@airmail.net](mailto:prakash2@airmail.net)

# How to ID a Remnant Prairie

The Fort Worth Nature Center was the host of a workshop entitled "**How to ID a Remnant Prairie**", sponsored by the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT). It was held on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The workshop instructors were Jeff Quayle and Jim Varnum, who are Master Naturalists, and board members with NPAT.

Topics of discussion:

1. How to read aerial maps.  
Determine whether properties are remnant prairies or cultivated land.
2. Understanding basic prairie communities when looking for remnant prairies.
3. Identifying certain plants as "prairie indicators", and the basic plants for the Blackland Prairie and the Grand Prairie.
4. Learning the history of the land by talking to the land owner(s).

For more information, contact Jeff Quayle at 817-738-1322, [s-quaylei@ev1.net](mailto:s-quaylei@ev1.net)

## TEXAS NATURE CONSERVANCY

### ***NEEDS CONSERVATION BUYERS FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED NEAR THE CLYMER MEADOW PRESERVE***

Clymer Meadow remains one of the largest and most diverse remnants of the Blackland Prairie and one of the most scenic areas in North Central Texas. The Blackland Prairie is the Texas version of the tallgrass prairie that once stretched from near the Texas Coast to southern Manitoba. Because of the prairie's rich agricultural soils, more than 99 percent has been cultivated, making the tallgrass the most-endangered large ecosystem in North America. Clymer Meadows is located in Northwestern Hunt County, near Greenville, in North Central Texas.

Conservation buyers are needed for:

1. **Kirkland-Berry tract** - about 117 acres, south of hwy 1562, not contiguous to C.M. by a few hundred feet, with a +/- 40 acre prairie remnant.
2. **Franklin tract** - about 130 acres adjoining Clymer Meadow. It is the link between Clymer Meadow and Austin Moseley's Cacheagua Ranch.

**For more information, contact Jim Eidson, Clymer Meadow Preserve, P.O. Box 26, Celeste, TX 75423, Phone/Fax: (903) 568-4139, E-mail: [jeidson@tnc.org](mailto:jeidson@tnc.org).**

The Clymer Meadow website can be found at

<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas/preserves/art6387.html>

Other Nature Conservancy properties that need conservation buyers are listed at

<http://nature.org/conservationbuyer/>

# USDA RELEASES GRP INTERIM FINAL RULE

On May 11, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the release of an interim final rule to implement the **Grassland Reserve Program** (GRP), authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. The GRP helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands.

By issuing an interim final rule with request for public comments, USDA can conduct a program sign-up and implementation this fiscal year, according to the rule. USDA will consider all comments received during a 60-day public comment period in developing a final GRP rule. USDA announced earlier this year that nearly \$70 million in fiscal year 2004 funding is available for the program (\$54.2 million financial assistance and \$15.3 million technical assistance).

The interim final rule will be published in the Federal Register soon, and the public will have 60 days to comment on the rule. It states that GRP rental agreements and easements are designed for working agricultural lands and describes multiple enrollment duration options. Applications for GRP enrollment can be filed at any time throughout the year.

Applications will be rated based on ranking and selection criteria developed in the states following broad national guidelines. USDA proposes that land eligibility criteria should focus on preserving the nation's most critical grassland resources, the native and natural grasslands and shrublands.

Last year, USDA conducted the first nationwide sign-up for GRP based on the "Notice of Availability of Program Funds for the Grassland Reserve Program," published in the Federal Register on June 13, 2003. The notice applied only to fiscal year 2003 funds and the initial sign-up.

**Grassland Reserve Program** The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. Section 2401 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize this program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Forest Service are coordinating implementation of GRP, which helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands. The program will conserve vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses and conserve valuable grasslands by helping maintain viable ranching operations.

"Grasslands provide critical ecological benefits and play a key role in environmental quality, as well as contributing to the economies of many rural areas," said Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. "This voluntary program helps protect valuable grasslands from conversion to other land uses, thus helping to ensure this national resource is available to future generations."

Grasslands make up the largest land cover on America's private lands. Privately-owned grasslands and shrublands cover more than 525 million acres in the United States. For the first time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will direct financial resources and technical expertise to help landowners protect and restore these lands.

For more information on GRP and other conservation programs, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp>.

# ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LAUNCHES "BACK FROM THE BRINK" CAMPAIGN

**Back from the Brink** is a new Environmental Defense campaign aimed at shining a spotlight on 15 endangered species that ordinary Americans could help bring back from the brink of extinction within the next 10 years. The project builds on our past successes in this area.

Thirty years after the Endangered Species Act (ESA) made protecting America's wildlife a national concern, we can take heart in some dramatic recoveries. The bald eagle and peregrine falcon, once threatened by DDT (the focus of Environmental Defense's "founding" effort), are soaring through today's skies, and the gray wolf has returned to areas like Yellowstone National Park. But despite this progress, many other species have yet to find the road to recovery.

The vast majority of endangered wildlife in the U.S. is found on privately owned lands, where the landmark ESA prevents direct harm to species and ensures their habitats are protected but does little to encourage--and sometimes inadvertently discourages--the actions needed to recover them. In short, the law's defensive strategy has proved insufficient to bring species back from the brink. Thus, survival for most at-risk plants and animals rests in the hands of private landowners.

A toolbox of good conservation programs is an excellent beginning, but more is needed to secure the future of America's natural heritage. Many landowners are unaware they are eligible for conservation funding or technical assistance, and too many others are turned away when landowner applications outstrip the available funding. More landowner outreach is needed so that farmers, ranchers and others can learn which tools best fit their needs and then use those to maximum benefit. And more funding must become available so that those who step to the plate to do their part can receive the necessary assistance. Only when conservation incentive programs reach all interested parties will we be meeting the challenge and opportunity of conservation on private land. For more information, visit [www.backfromthebrink.org](http://www.backfromthebrink.org)

Suzy Friedman, Center for Conservation Incentives at Environmental Defense, Staff Scientist/Ag Policy Analyst [sfriedman@environmentaldefense.org](mailto:sfriedman@environmentaldefense.org), <http://www.privatelandstewardship.org>

## *Horned Lizard*

(*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

<http://www.hornedlizards.org>

**Horned Lizard Conservation Society**

P.O. Box 122  
Austin, TX 78767



# Popham Elementary School Prairie Project

Ruth Sterling, a school counselor at Popham Elementary School, believes that by restoring the land the school can help reweave a torn social fabric. This is one of the stated goals of the Blackland Prairie Restoration Project in Del Valle Texas. The other lofty goals are:

- to develop a living laboratory that reflects the Blackland Prairie ecosystem, with students being active partners in the creation of the permanent Blackland Prairie Restoration site
- to study the natural world, specifically the Blackland Prairie, to meet the urgent social needs of our student population.

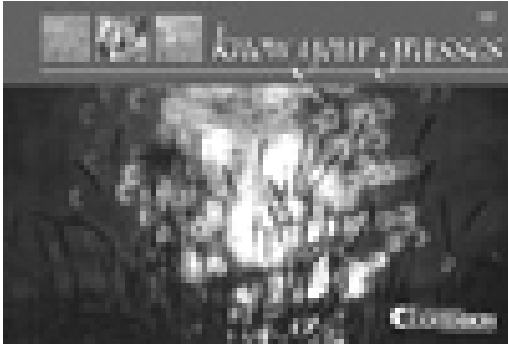


Ruth Sterling is a tireless advocate for this model project and has gotten support and recognition from many sources. She believes that the work of restoring the land is a key to restoring people to health, mentally, socially and physically. The Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) is one of many partners helping with this project in Del Valle, Texas. NPAT has given a small grant to the project for tools and curriculum materials and donated prairie plants. Scott Lenharth donated some prairie grasses including Indiangrass and Purpletop, that he grew from seeds in special deep root pots. Lee Stone, and Marcia Hermann have given technical advice.

With the help of all the partners, Ruth and the teachers, students and parents at Popham Elementary have created a prairie and a process for healing the land along with lives.

# KNOW YOUR GRASSES

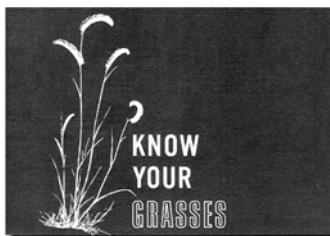
The Texas Cooperative Extension has revised and republished **KNOW YOUR GRASSES**.



Purchase this book, B-182, online at <http://tcebookstore.org>. Author Barron Rector has updated much of the material. Grasses are one of Texas' most valuable natural resources. Plants are arranged alphabetically by common name, with scientific names given for clarity and reference. Each grass is beautifully illustrated and carefully described, with information about the areas of the state in which it can be found. (100 pages, 100 illustrations, 1 map)



The Texas Cooperative Extension also offers Publication L-5456, "**Restoring Native Grasslands**" Much of Texas' native grasslands have been converted to improved pastures and cropland, neither of which is suitable for wildlife habitat. Now, many landowners are interested in restoring native grasses because they are cheaper to produce for forage than improved pastures and they also encourage wildlife. This publication explains how to carry out such restoration and the results one can expect. (4 pp., 5 color photos, 1 map, 3 graphs) By: K. Brian Hays , Matthew Wagner , Fred Smeins and Neal Wilkins, Published May 24, 2004, and available for a price of \$2.25.



The original "**Know Your Grasses**" by GO Hoffman, J. Daniel Rogers, RJ Ragsdale, Roy V. Miller can be found online at <http://texnat.tamu.edu/cmplants/B-182/grass-01.htm>

A website with color photos of grasses can be found at <http://www.noble.org/Ag/Forage/KnowYourGrasses.pdf>

# ANNUAL NPAT MEETING

## Saturday, October 2, 2004

### Tentative Schedule

The annual NPAT meeting will be at McKinney Roughs Nature Park which is located on Highway 71 between Bastrop and Austin. The cost will be around \$25. per person which will cover the rental of the meeting space and the dinner. On Sunday, Oct. 3, we will visit properties being converted from Bermudagrass to native grasses with help from Texas Parks and Wildlife's quail habitat restoration program.

- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** Board Meeting. Bring a sack lunch.  
**1:30 pm - 2:00 pm** General Meeting  
**2:00 pm - 2:20 pm** Randy Schoen: **NPAT Activities**  
**2:20 pm - 2:30 pm** Break  
**2:30 pm - 3:00 pm** Ruth Sterling: **Popham Elementary School Prairie Project**  
**3:00 pm - 4:30 pm** Richard Teague: **The True Value of Prairies**  
**4:30 pm - 5:30 pm** Trail walk  
**5:30 pm - 7:00 pm** Dinner and Entertainment

*Dinner catered by Thumper's Roadhouse Grill Home of Bison Provision Co*

REGISTRATION FORM: Mail completed form with **\$25.00 per person to Box 210, Georgetown, TX 78627**. Please make checks payable to NPAT. Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline is September 1. No refunds will be given after September 15.

NAME (s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAY PHONE NUMBER (     )

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WANT A VEGETARIAN MEAL? \_\_\_\_\_ # vegetarian meals

For more information, please call Marcia Hermann at 512-292-4200 x 103, or send her an e-mail at [maradan@webtv.net](mailto:maradan@webtv.net).

# San Jacinto Battlefield

## Prairie Restoration

The San Jacinto Battlefield and Monument commemorate the victory of General Sam Houston's army over General Santa Anna's larger army. Preservation of the battlefield through the years preserved small areas of native prairie. Current restoration projects are seeking to restore a broader section of the battlefield to the native prairie habitat that existed during the time of the battle of San Jacinto. The following information can be found at the Texas Parks and Wildlife website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/sanjac/marsh.htm>

**Interpretive Trail Guide: Habitats of the Upper Texas Coast** The native prairie, tidal marsh and bottomland forests of San Jacinto Battleground are some of the last remaining examples of these habitats in the area. Two hundred years ago, the coastal plain was dominated by these habitats, but the alteration of natural forces, such as fire, introduction of exotic species, such as Chinese tallow, and manipulation of the land for communities, businesses and industries, has drastically altered the landscape.

At the 1200-acre State Historic Site, it is our goal to restore the landscape to a condition much like it was at the time of the 1836 battle. In so doing, we are preserving an example of the vanishing coastal ecosystem for wildlife and for visitors of this and future generations. San Jacinto is one of the few places within an hour's drive of Houston where visitors can see such a diversity of native habitats and wildlife.

**Coastal Prairie:** Native coastal tall grass prairie, dominated as it historically was by little bluestem, big bluestem, Indian grass and switch grass, has become quite rare. Less than 1% of the original coastal prairie remains. Many species of wildlife which depend on the grasslands have been extirpated from the area, including the Attwater prairie chicken, black-tailed jackrabbit, Texas horned lizard, American bison, and numerous songbirds. Factors which have destroyed the native prairie include suppression of natural fire, invasion of exotic species, especially Chinese tallow, and conversion for agriculture and development.

At the time of the 1836 battle, most of the battlefield was open prairie. Bands of trees lined the bluffs overlooking the marsh and the creeks and gullies that emptied into the marsh, and a few small "islands" of trees dotted the landscape. Otherwise the battle was fought in grass "as tall as a horse's belly." The trail will take you through a grass land closely resembling that prairie. In the absence of periodic fire, this prairie is maintained by mowing, which discourages Chinese tallow and other woody plants, and helps return nutrients to the soil. Individual prairie areas are mowed each spring and/or each winter. This gives native grasses all summer and fall to mature, flower and produce seed.

Native American Seed, [www.seedsources.com](http://www.seedsources.com), is supporting the restoration of native prairie habitat at the San Jacinto Battlefield. To make a contribution of prairie seed to this project, you may purchase Coastal Prairie Mix (order number 2802) and Native American Seed will ship it directly to the project in your name. For more information, contact [sanjacintoprairieproject@seedsources.com](mailto:sanjacintoprairieproject@seedsources.com). NPAT has supported this effort by donating seed that was collected by volunteers to the San Jacinto Battlefield Prairie Restoration project.

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS** *Join and support your local native plant society.* Find your local chapter at <http://www.npsot.org/>. If you don't find a local chapter, find out how to start one in your area. Invasive plants are decimating our native habitats. A plant that is newly introduced today could be the most invasive plant to date; only time will tell. Planting only natives with known non-invasive tendencies is an excellent way to make sure that you are not adding fuel to the invasive fire. Contact local stores, government agencies and new developments to request planting of natives, or, if they must plant exotics, request that they plant exotics that can not reproduce vegetatively or by seed.

### CAJUN PRAIRIE HABITAT PRESERVATION SOCIETY:

The Cajun Prairie Preservation Society is an organization which is dedicated to the study, preservation, restoration and education in regard to the Cajun Prairie Habitat, associated habitats & projects. Check their website at <http://www.cajunprairie.org/prairies.html>

## EVENTS

**6/19 NPAT How to ID a Remnant Prairie workshop.** FWNC&R, Tarrant County Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, Tarrant Co. Sponsored by NPAT. Led by Jeff Quayle and Jim Varnum. Time: 9:00 – 3:00. Meets in Auditorium of Hardwicke Interpretive Center. For information, directions and to register, contact Jeff Quayle at 817 / 738-1322 or [s-quaylei@ev1.net](mailto:s-quaylei@ev1.net).

**7/8-10 Soil Food Web Workshop,** Austin, TX Sponsored by the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. Workshop is presented by Dr. Elaine Ingham. For more information please visit <http://www.texasorganicgrowers.org/>

**8/8-12 North American Prairies Conference,** Madison, WI, [www.prairies.org](http://www.prairies.org) & <http://www.napc2004.org/>

**10/2-3 NPAT Annual Members Meeting and Board Meeting #4,** McKinney Roughs, outside Austin, McKinney Roughs, near Bastrop, Bastrop Co. Featured events include members meeting, dinner, speaker: Richard Teague of The Waggoner Ranch Research Project. Also, a field trip on Sunday. For information, contact Marcia Hermann at 512 / 292-4200 ext. 103 or [hermann@wildflower.org](mailto:hermann@wildflower.org).

**10/13 Texas SER 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference,** Kerrville

**10/16 Fall Prairie Tour** led by Jim & Stephanie Varnum, Clymer Meadow and other locations, Clymer Meadow Preserve and nearby locations in Hunt and Collin Co. Sponsored and led by Jim and Stephanie Varnum. Time 10:00 – 2:00. Meets at Clymer Meadow Preserve, Hunt Co. For information, directions and to RSVP, contact the Varnum's at 972 / 243-4098 or [jevvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jevvarnum@aol.com).

**10/28-31 Land Trust Alliance Rally,** Providence RI <http://www.lta>

**2004 Events to be scheduled:** Visit to Riesel Prairie; Survey of Williams Prairie conservation easement; Workshop (restoration techniques) Local HRM visit to Riesel Prairie in October

**PETERS PRAIRIE:** Mission Accomplished! The brush control crew from Peter's Prairie Workday, Saturday, March 20, 2004, poses at the prairie.



June 14, Texas Master Naturalists worked with Jim Varnum and Jeff Quayle to improve habitat at Peters Prairie. Volunteers planned to update the plant survey ID, mark the northern and eastern boundaries of the preserve, mark woody plants (small trees) for removal, begin cutting down and removing the woody plants, and document the work via digital camera.

To join in the fun at a future work date, Master Naturalists and other volunteers should contact Jim Varnum at 972 / 243-4098 214 / 543-0748 cell [jevvarnum@aol.com](mailto:jevvarnum@aol.com) and Jeff Quayle at 817 / 738-1322 817 / 729-0283 cell [s-quaylei@ev1.net](mailto:s-quaylei@ev1.net).

**Maddin Ranch Gene Bank Irrigation & Maddin Work Days:** At the May work day, an irrigation system was installed at the Gene Bank at Maddin ranch, a 1,100 NPAT Prairie and Wildlife Preserve in Mitchell County. Workers also tore down an old structure, prepared the earth and planted prairie grasses. A gene bank is a collection of native species where the plants' genetic material can be preserved for future environmental and educational uses. A gene bank is not only a sanctuary for native plants, it also preserves genetic material variation that may occur within a single species.

**Work Days:** Gene Lindeman and James Alderson, Plant Material Specialist with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS, an agency of the U.S.D.A.) have been working on the drip irrigation system in the gene bank. Volunteers are needed to help check the drip system and do the photo points. Contact James for more information: [james765131@att.net](mailto:james765131@att.net)

# BECOME A MEMBER

## Native Prairies Association of Texas

### MEMBERSHIP AND INFORMATION FORM

Use this form to request information or to join NPAT. If you are joining, please mail a check to:

**The Native Prairies Association of Texas**  
**P.O. Box 210**  
**Georgetown TX 78627-0210**

Membership categories are: \$350 Life, \$35 Group, \$30 Family, \$20 Individual, \$10 Student.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm particularly interested in prairies because: \_\_\_\_\_

Life Memberships are put into the NPAT Endowment Fund. Please consider adding an extra \$5 or \$10 to your membership dues. It really helps us out! <http://www.texasprairie.org>

### Native Prairies Association of Texas

P.O. Box 210  
Georgetown, Texas 78627  
<http://www.texasprairie.org>

Change Service Requested

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Remember the prairies in your will.  
Please give a bequest in your will to the Native Prairies Association of Texas and help our Texas prairie conservation programs.

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