

The Prairie Dog

Newsletter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas

Winter 2005 Vol. 18, No. 1



UPCOMING EVENTS: February 24-26, 2005 Statewide Land Trust Conference –
Common Ground: *CONSERVING TEXAS FOREVER*
June 17-19, 2005 NPAT Third Biennial Prairies and Savannahs Conference
Native Grasslands and Water: *A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP*

Plant Rescue

PRAIRIE PLANTS FOR PRAIRIE CHICKENS

By *Diana Foss, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*

Comments added by Ron Jones, Caroline Fannon and Linda Knowles

How did you spend the last shopping Saturday before Christmas? Well, on that crisp, clear Saturday, December 18, forty-four people gathered together to help the endangered Attwater's Prairie-Chicken. The group's goal was to find specific native grasses and forbs to use in prairie chicken rearing pens. The ultimate goal is to transplant 1,200 native prairie plants into those pens to benefit young prairie chickens.

Spear-headed by Ron Jones, biologist with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the volunteers worked half a day to dig up eastern gamagrass, little bluestem, bushy bluestem, gulf coast muhly, longspike tridens, sugarcane plume grass, tall yellow coneflower, ironweed, sunflower species, and a few others. The two digging sites were fields with remnant prairie species that are slated for concrete development soon. The property owners graciously agreed to allow collection of plant species before development, thus rescuing and preserving the precious plant genetics. Loaded into large buckets and transported via flatbed trailers, the grasses and forbs were hauled to a storage site at Challenger VII Park, a Harris County Precinct One facility. The prized clumps will be cared for there until twelve prairie chicken rearing pens are completed on NASA Johnson Space Center property. The pens serve as an important step in the learning curve for the young chickens. The grasses and forbs will be planted inside each pen to provide cover and food. The flowering forbs will attract insects, which are a large part of the young chickens' diet. The collected plant species were selected because they will provide shelter or produce seeds and vegetation as food sources for the young birds.

Volunteers who worked on this "prairie grasses for prairie chickens" project came from: the Houston Zoo, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Clear Lake office), Texas Master Naturalists (Gulf Coast, Galveston, and Ft. Bend Chapters), Native Plant Society of Texas (Houston Chapter), Harris County (Precinct One), and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Transportation containers, trailers, and vans came from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Harris County Precinct One, Houston Zoo, Galveston Bay Foundation, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Armand Bayou Nature Center, Texas Genco, and Bradshaw's Nursery. Chick-Fil-A in Kemah generously provided lunch for the exhausted volunteers. Mulch to cover the grass roots while in storage was donated by Novus Wood Group. On the future planting day, a variety of nursery-grown grass species will be donated to the project by the Native Plant Society of Texas, Houston chapter.

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken is a rare resident of Texas coastal prairies. At the turn of the century, there were approximately 1 million Attwater's Prairie-Chickens in Texas. However, loss of coastal prairie habitat over the years devastated the population. Less than 50 remain in the wild today, making the bird one of the most endangered in North America. They remain at two sites along the Texas coast. Because natural wildfires don't occur like they once did, Chinese tallow trees now infest the last prairie remnants around Houston and along the coast. Flat prairie land is desirable for urban development and a major reason for the decline of our tallgrass coastal prairie. The Houston Zoo and the Attwater's Prairie-Chicken Task Force are working together to raise young prairie chickens and prepare them for release onto natural habitat sites. The young prairie chickens raised on the NASA site will be released on Texas prairie sites managed as refuges for the prairie chicken. **THANK YOU** to volunteers, partners, and donors who joined together to help this endangered species, a true keystone of the coastal prairie!

**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
831 Olney Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77079
281-558-3710 DknowlesPE@aol.com

NPAT 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. *Note:* Issues of *The Prairie Dog* Vol. 17, Summer and Fall were consolidated into Vol. 17, Number 3.

Newsletter Deadlines

Deadlines for submission of all material for inclusion in *The Prairie Dog* as follows:

- Winter Issue: January 15
- Spring Issue: April 15
- Summer Issue: August 1
- Fall Issue: October 1

Photos, field trip and work project reports and prairie status reports welcomed. *Send them in!*

Board of Directors 2005-2006

John Pickett, **President**
1157 C.R. 2001, Glen Rose, TX 76043
254-897-3646
jdpick@charter.net

Jim Varnum, **Vice President**
14524 Tamerisk Ln, Farmers Branch, TX 75234
972-243-4098; 214-543-0748 (m)
jvarnum@aol.com

Jason Spangler, **Treasurer**
8521 Foxhound Trail, Austin, TX 78729
512-736-4199
jasons@wumple.com

Pat Merkord, **Secretary**
202 Pine Shadows
Conroe, Texas 77301
936-788-2919 (h)
936-827-7973 (m)
pat@merkord.com

Georgia Prakash, **Membership**
1905 William Brewster, Irving, TX 75061
972-259-2020
prakash2@airmail.net

Randall Schoen
1607 Lost Crossing, Arlington, TX
817-417-4492- h 214-392-0025 - c
rdschoen@hex.net

Jeff Quayle
829 Gustav, Fort Worth, TX 76114
817-738-1322 (h); 817-729-0283 (m)
s-quaylei@ev1.net

Lee Stone
494 S.H. 71 W STE 140-318, Bastrop, TX
78602 512-853-9838 (h) 512-762-3059 (o).
leeprairie@austin.rr.com

**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

Past Presidents

- David Diamond, Ph.D.
- Arnold Davis (deceased)
- Lee Stone
- Lynn Pace
- Dr. Geoffrey Stanford (deceased)
- Paul Mezynski, Ph.D.
- James Alderson
- Eugene Heinemann

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- Jeannine Tinsley**
- Suzanne & Stephen Tuttle
- James H. Vance
- Michael Williams
- Rusty Yates

2004 CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

Paul & Suzanne Baldon
Coby Dinges
Marcia Hermann
Dagmar Higgins
John Hirschi
IBM International Foundation
B.Jaramillo
Clint Josey
Hannah & James Larson

John Lingenfelder
Jeff Quayle
Randy Rosiere
Randall Schoen
Lowell Smith
Lee Stone
James & Stephanie Varnum
Steve Wood

RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

DEDICATED TO THE COASTAL NATIVE GRASS SEED INCREASE PROGRAM

Carolyn Fannon
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
David & Linda Knowles

Evelyn Merz
Brian Rowe
Jeannine Tinsley

DEDICATED TO THE MADDIN RANCH PRESERVE RESTORATION

J. David Bamberger
Robbin Brodsky
Robert Burleson
Ann & Don Connell
Carolyn Fannon
Julia Garrett
Dagmar K. Higgins
John Hirschi
Walter Isle & Pamela Jo Walker
Tim & Carol Kiphart
Alfred E. Maddin
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Susan Schinke
Winifred F. Simon
Charles Snakard
Jason Spangler
Suzanne & Stephen Tuttle
James & Stephanie Varnum
Joe Williams
Mike Williams

2004 CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS, (RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS),

continued from page 3

DEDICATED TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Catherine Ross Bolton Brown
Christine Rawlinson
Brian Rowe

Jason Spangler
Jeannine Tinsley
Larry Wisdom

DEDICATED TO PRAIRIE REMNANT SURVEYS

Magnolia Charitable Trust
Mary Thorpe Parker

DEDICATED TO PROPERTY ACQUISITION & MANAGEMENT

James & Stephanie Varnum

DEDICATED TO EDUCATION

Marcia Hermann
Lee Stone
James & Stephanie Varnum

Thank you to our 2004 Contributors!

LAMPASAS CUT PLAINS PRAIRIE TOUR - IN PLANNING STAGE

May 14th

9 am – 1 pm or later

Jeff Quayle is organizing a tour of Chuck Snakard's property in Somervell County west of Glen Rose. Chuck owns 340 acre of Lampasas Cut Plains prairie with seasonal creeks and canyons. He is actively managing it, including prescribed fires and management of habitat typical for Golden Cheeked Warblers and Black Capped Vireos. He is a NPAT life member and NAPA holds a conservation easement on his property. It is about 9 west of Glen Rose off Highway 377 near Chalk Mountain. For more information, directions and to confirm timing, contact Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@ev1.net

New and Renewed Members

This list includes members that were omitted in the last issue of *The Prairie Dog*.

THANK YOU!

Larry Allain—Lafayette, LA
Charles & Susan Allen—Pitkin, LA
Lisa Bellows—Gainesville, TX
William Bennett—Crescent, OK
Richard Benoit—League City, TX
George Bishop—Chappell Hill, TX
David & Marianne Blackwell—Dallas, TX
Robin Brodsky—Granbury, TX
William R. Carr—Austin, TX
Don & Ann Connell—Driftwood, TX
B. F. Hicks—Mt. Vernon, TX
Dennis & Sue Jistel—Georgetown, TX
Jane Johnson—Honey Grove, TX
Diana Liga—Houston, TX
Mark & Andrea Morgenstern—Damon, TX
Loueen Peters—Farmersville, TX
John Pickett—Glen Rose, TX
Christine Rawlinson—Cleveland Hts., OH
Charlotte von Rosenberg—Austin, TX
Danny Sansone—Dallas, TX
Charles & Mary Ellen Simms—Austin, TX
Pauline Singleton—Baytown, TX
Dr. Elizabeth H. Smith—Woodsboro, TX
Nancy C. Smith—Weatherford, TX
Doyle & Pat Spitzer—Brenham, TX
Jim & Priscilla Stanley—Kerrville, TX
Marianna Stubbs—Arlington, TX
Jessie Floyd Wood—Tucson, AZ
Joseph Woznicki—Chicopee, MA



Rattlesnake Master: *Eryngium yuccifolium*, aka button snakeroot, rattlesnake weed, yucca leaf eryngo, water eryngo, corn snakeroot & rattlesnake flag. Used medicinally by Native Americans. *Family Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)* Two to five foot high perennial with leaves similar to the yucca (hence the name *yuccifolium*). As a Prairie native, it is well adapted to drought and sun shine.

Do you have a favorite prairie plant or animal? Let us know, and we'll highlight it in *The Prairie Dog*!

NPAT WEBSITE

WWW.TEXASPRAIRIE.ORG

If you have any comments or suggestions for the webmaster, or have difficulty opening the web site, contact Scott Lenharth, webmaster, at slenhart@texas.net

Prairie Work Projects

Maddin Prairie - 1,114 acres, 15 minutes southeast of Colorado City, one hour north of San Angelo, in Mitchell County.

Riesel Prairie - 5 beautiful tallgrass prairie acres near Riesel, Texas southeast of Waco in Falls County.

Peters Prairie - 4 beautiful tallgrass prairie acres in Collin County (North of Dallas), about 9 miles north of Farmersville.

Want to adopt a Prairie? Call John Pickett at 254-897-3646, jdpick@charter.net for more information.

Ask to be notified of future prairie restoration projects. *What kind of activities restore prairies?* Restoration activities may include invasives removal (carefully timed mowing, burning, selective poisoning, grubbing, hand weeding), increasing biodiversity (collecting seeds & plants, planting), watering freshly planted prairie plants, collecting data, and more. ***Your presence is needed!***

NPAT 2005 Committees

As NPAT is a statewide organization without a Executive Director, most NPAT work is accomplished through committees. Listed below are the committees and responsibilities. The Board of Directors would like to see **MORE MEMBER PARTICIPATION**. If you would like to do so or are just interested in committee activities, please contact the chair. Later newsletters will detail individual committee goals and activities.

Education Committee - 2005 Activities (workshops, field trips, table top display, www.texasprairie.com) Chair: Jeff Quayle -817-738-1322, s-quaylei@ev1.net, members Scott Lenharth (www.texasprairie.com), Pat Merkord, Randy Schoen (Board liaison for website), Jim Varnum

Property Acquisition & Management Committee - contracts for County Surveys, talks with interested easement grantors, make recommendations on acquisitions, proposes management plans for properties other than Maddin, monitors easements, takes authorized steps to enforce violations and signs. Co- Chairs: Marcia Hermann (S. TX)-512-247-4269, maradan@isp.com and Jim Varnum (N. TX) -972-243--4098, jvarnum@aol.com, members Jeff Quayle, Randy Schoen, Mike Williams and Pat Merkord

Subcommittee on Riesel Prairie – Chair: Paul Mezyski, member Jim Varnum

Subcommittee on Peters Prairie – Co-Chairs: Jeff Quayle and Jim Varnum

Maddin Prairie Committee - Chair: Vacant, members Billy Kniffen, Dalton Maddox, Evelyn Merz, Steve Nelle, Jim Varnum-- Board Contact--972-243-4098, jvarnum@aol.com management of land leases, federal grants, etc.

Membership Committee- Chair: Georgia Prakash, -972-259-2020, prakash2@airmail.net, members Jeff Quayle, Randy Schoen, John Pickett - retention and growth, annual fundraising letter

Granger Lake Seed Bank Committee- Chair: Scott Lenharth -512-219-6784, slenhart@texas.net, members: Coby Dinges, Gene Heineman, Jason Spangler

Upper Coastal Seed Increase (ad hoc committee) Chair: Evelyn Merz,-713-644-8228, elmerz@hal-pc.org

Financial Review Committee - John Pickett, Chair--254-897-3646, jdpick@charter.net, member Jason Spangler - arranges for CPA review, general oversight.

Editorial Committee – Chair: Lee Stone--512-853-9838, leeprairie@austin.rr.com Linda Knowles, Newsletter Editor, Randy Schoen, Mary Thorpe Parker, Ph.D. - review newsletters for continuity, accuracy; edit list of complimentary mailings.

2005 Conference Committee - Chair: John Pickett,-254-897-3646, jdpick@charter.net Vice-Chair, Jim Varnum, Logistics - Marcia Hermann, Registration - Georgia Prakash planning, logistics, brochure, announcements, sponsors, program, speakers

Fundraising Committee - The NPAT Board as a whole takes responsibility. Annual pledge and fundraising letter, grant approval, proceeds from conference, workshops and field trips.

New Board Members – Pat Merkord, Secretary, and Jason Spangler, Treasurer. WELCOME to the NPAT Board! Also, CONGRATULATIONS to Randy Schoen, a mid-term appointee who is beginning his first term as an elected Board member.

Ag Conservation Update, February 10, 2005

NRCS Budget Announced NRCS Releases Another \$22 Million in EQIP Funds NRCS Announces State-Level CIG Grant Programs

This report on Agricultural Conservation was prepared by Suzy Friedman, Staff Scientist/ Ag Policy Analyst, Center for Conservation Incentives at Environmental Defense. Website <http://www.privatelandstewardship.org>. To receive a chart comparing the Administration budget request for NRCS programs to past funding levels and funding levels called for in the 2002 Farm Bill, please email Suzy Friedman at sfriedman@environmentaldefense.org

Administration Budget for USDA/NRCS

The Bush Administration's fiscal year 2006 budget includes increases in several programs that support cooperative conservation, including a 4.1 percent increase for the Conservation Reserve Program, the federal government's largest conservation program on private lands. The \$2.02 billion for the Conservation Reserve Program supports USDA's goal of partnering with landowners to protect land, water and wildlife by planting grass and trees on retired agricultural land. Other commitments in Agriculture's conservation budget include:

\$657 million for the Conservation Technical Assistance Program that provides technical capability, including direct conservation planning and implementation assistance, to help people plan and apply conservation on the land. The president's budget reflects an increase of \$37 million for assisting owners and operators of animal feeding operations and an increase of \$11 million for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative specifically targeted at invasive species. \$274 million for the Conservation Security Program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on tribal and private working lands.

\$1 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program that helps farmers and ranchers improve soil, air and water quality and related resources on private working lands.

\$321 million for the Wetlands Reserve Program that helps landowners restore, enhance and protect wetlands. The program works to maximize wildlife habitat and wetland functions and values.

\$60 million for the Ground and Surface Water Conservation program. This \$9 million increase provides for cost-share and incentive payments to carry out water conservation activities, including irrigation improvements, conversion to less water intensive crops, and dryland farming.

\$60 million for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program to protect and restore essential plant and animal habitat using cost-share agreements with private land owners.

Additional EQIP Dollars Released - \$22 Million to 17 States

Agriculture Secretary Johanns announced this week that \$22.2 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds would be provided to 17 states for their "high levels of performance in implementing the program during 2004."

The states receiving the performance award are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural (to p 6)

Additional EQIP Dollars Released - \$22 Million to 17 States continued from page 5

production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

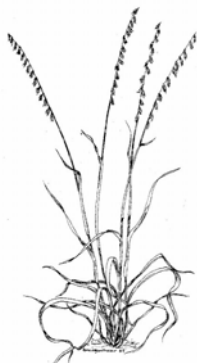
NRCS stated that the agency based the performance allocation on a state's efficiency in providing technical assistance for conservation system applications, strategic planning and program implementation, degree of emphasis on funding comprehensive nutrient management plans with livestock producers, use of technical service providers, and contracts with limited resource farmers and ranchers. To see the list of funds per state, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/index.html#equip205>.

NRCS Announces State-Based CIG Grant Programs

This week, NRCS Chief Bruce Knight announced that 12 states and the Pacific Basin will pilot state-level Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) in fiscal year 2005. State-level competitions will be available in California, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas and the Pacific Basin.

CIG, a component of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, provides farmers and ranchers with the opportunity, through innovation, to address some of the country's most pressing natural resource conservation needs.

The CIG final rule, published in the Federal Register on Jan. 11, 2005, provides for both a national and a state component. The state component is designed to complement the national grant competition announced by USDA on Jan. 11, 2005. Funding availability and detailed application and submission information for the distinct state-level competitions will be announced through public notices, separate from the national program.



Sideoats Grama

In general, the CIG state component will use the same requirements and procedures established for the national competition. In the pilot states, members of the State Technical Committee will evaluate proposals based on the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in the national request for proposals issued Jan. 11, 2005. Final award decisions will be determined by the NRCS state conservationist. Applicants may apply for both the state and nationwide grants, but must submit separate applications. Proposals will be funded by only one competition.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which up to 50 percent may be from in-kind contributions. The federal CIG contribution for any individual grant may not exceed \$75,000 at the state level. Information on CIG is on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig>.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

Please consider volunteering as Newsletter Editor of the Prairie Dog. Contact Temporary Editor Linda Knowles 281-558-3710, DknowlesPE@aol.com if you have questions about this position.

Contact John Pickett jdpick@charter.net to nominate yourself or someone else as Newsletter Editor. Thank you!

February 24-26, 2005 Statewide Land Trust Conference Common Ground: Conserving Texas Forever

Registration form at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/conserves/ltrc/bulletinboard/media/conference.pdf> For more information, contact the Texas Land Trust Council at (512) 389-4779.

Highlights:

Thursday, February 24, 2005

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 PM Strategic Planning that Works for You: Integrating your strategic plan with your fundraising plan. An all day pre-conference workshop by Mark Smiley, nationally renowned land trust and non-profit organizational development expert.

Friday, February 25, 2005

8:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m.: Exhibits/Vendors, Continental Breakfast, Plenary Sessions and Concurrent Sessions. Welcome by Valarie Bristol, Nature Conservancy of Texas and Texas Land Trust Council Chair. Plenary Session: Fulfilling the Promise of Perpetuity; notable experts include attorneys, land trust experts, nature advocacy organizations. Lunch Speaker: Robert L. Cook, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Concurrent Sessions I include a Conservation Easement Workshop I: Implementing Standards & Practices into Your Conservation Easement Program. Concurrent Sessions II include a Conservation Easement Workshop II along with a Continuation of Workshop I and subjects include Organizational Structure & Effective Committees, Public Funding Strategies for Land Acquisition and Conservation and GPS Skills Training. At 5 p.m. Youth Leader's Gathering begins, and at 6 p.m. Dinner and Jawin' Time begins.

Saturday, February 26, 2005

Saturday begins at 7:30 a.m. with Texas Land Trust Excellence Program Focus Groups – Further Evaluation of the Needs and Challenges of Texas' Land Trusts. Registration and Exhibits/Vendors begin at 8:30 a.m. and the conference ends at 4:00 pm. The Plenary Session subject is Conservation Success Stories and Concurrent Sessions subjects include Conservation Easement Workshop III: Drafting Agricultural, Conservation Easements, Native Grasslands are Wild! (with our own NPAT Lee Stone!) and Financial Management and Investment Policy Considerations. The 12 p.m. Lunch includes the Texas Land Trust Council Land Trust Excellence Award and Preview of Next Year by Mary Anne Piacentini, Katy Prairie Conservancy and Past-Chair Texas Land Trust Council Afternoon Concurrent Sessions subjects include Using Land Trusts for Strategic Mitigation Projects with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Running the Numbers I: Basic tax and financial Considerations Involved with Conservation Gifts, Conservation Development: Working with Developers and Municipalities, Protecting Water Using Conservation Easements, and Building Relationships (Role Playing for Donor & Board Development).

PUBLICATIONS

The Noble Foundation Publication ***Grasses of Southern Oklahoma and North Texas: A Pictorial Guide*** has more than 100 full-color pages.

Order online at www.noble.org/Storefront/AgStore/home.asp

To order by mail, send a check or money order for \$25.00 + \$4.00 shipping to:

Noble Foundation

Attn: Ag Publications Distribution

2510 Sam Noble Pky. Ardmore, OK 73401

Include your shipping information and a daytime phone number with mail-in orders. Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

Available online at <http://tcebookstore.org>: ***KNOW YOUR GRASSES***, Item No. B-182 and Publication L-5456, "***Restoring Native Grasslands***"

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

**Native Prairies Association of Texas Third Biennial Prairies and Savannahs Conference
“Native Grasslands and Water Resources - A Natural Partnership”**

June 17-19, 2005

Baylor University Science Building, Baylor University, Waco Texas
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2005)

Concurrent Workshops: Select One Morning and One Afternoon Workshop

Friday, June 17, 2005

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon Concurrent Workshops I (Select one)

A. How to Recognize Tallgrass Prairie Remnants - Mike Williams, prairie owner and conservation easement grantor. Valley Mills, TX

B. Prairie & Mesic/Wetland Plant ID (non-woodies) Workshop - TBA

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch- On your own.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops II (Select one)

C. Restoration of Healthy Grasslands and Riparian Areas - Steve Nelle - NRCS Wildlife Specialist

D. Prescription Burning – Dr. Butch Taylor – Sonora Experiment Station Director

Saturday, June 18, 2005

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration

John Pickett/Jim Varnum will welcome attendees to Saturday events, and they will introduce NPAT. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Fred Smeins, professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Texas A&M University. Other speakers include Nikki Dictson, Ag Extension Specialist with Texas A&M, who will discuss **Healthy Watersheds - Healthy Grasslands** and Dr. Ron Sosebee, Professor at Texas Tech, who will discuss **How Grasses Grow and their Response to Defoliation. Economic and Intrinsic Values of Well-Managed Native Grasslands** will be discussed, and the lunch topic is **Baylor University Research Projects** by Truell Hyde, Vice Provost for Research. **Reconstructing Prairie Swales/Potholes** will be presented in the afternoon. Afternoon speakers include Jennifer Ellis, NWF Outreach Coordinator for Texas Living Waters Project, **Water Resource Management and Wildlife**; Jason Hardin, Program Coordinator of Audubon Texas, **Texas Quail Conservation Initiative**; Dr. Bill Eikenhorst (Brenham), **Landowner's Prairie Restoration Project** and Dr. Lee Luckeydoo, Herbarium Assistant at BRIT, **Constructed Wetlands and Reduction of Agricultural Chemicals**. At 6 p.m., there will be a tour of a Baylor wetlands facility, led by Nora Schell, and Dinner at 7 p.m. will be catered by Rusty Star BBQ of Waco.

Sunday, June 19, 2005

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Concurrent Field Trips (pick up maps on Saturday)

Field Trip 1: Bob and Mickey Burleson's restored prairie in Temple

Field Trip 2: Prairie Plants of Mother Neff State Park with Darrell Vodopich, Baylor

Field Trip 3: NPAT Conservation Easements near Riesel

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES: Contact Native Prairies Association at 972-243-4098 or jevvarnum@aol.com. Visit the NPAT web site at www.texasprairie.org.

Member News and Reports:

Prairie Restoration: Have you restored (or preserved) or are you hoping to restore a prairie on your property? Tell us about it.

Native Prairies List: NPAT is building an inventory of native prairies; NPAT or other preservation organizations' holdings or easements in Texas. Jim Varnum, jevvarnum@aol.com, has started a list of Native Prairies in the DFW Metroplex. Efforts are ongoing to list prairies, and to establish listing criteria.

Native Prairies Association of Texas: Third Annual Prairies and Savannahs Conference
Native Grasslands and Water: a Natural Partnership

June 17-19, 2005

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration includes conference materials. Registration for Saturday includes breaks, lunch and the Saturday Evening banquet. Early Registration through June 10, 2005.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 for each Friday workshop	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Saturday conference (includes lunch, breaks, Banquet) –	\$ _____ NPAT members
<input type="checkbox"/> \$80 Saturday conference (includes lunch, breaks, Banquet) – Others. Includes NPAT membership	\$ _____ non members
<input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Late Registration- NPAT members	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Late Registration – other	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 for Sunday field trip	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name _____

Title/Role _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Checks: make payable to NPAT or Native Prairies Association of Texas. Mail registration form with payment to **Native Prairies Association of Texas, P.O. Box 210, Georgetown, TX 78627-0210**, Registration confirmation will be sent.

TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS & NPAT

Peters Prairie. In 2002 the Native Prairies Association of Texas bought a 4-acre native prairie remnant in eastern Collin County (called the Peters Prairie from Loueen Peters, the property's seller) for the purpose of preserving it from cultivation and development forever. As we (Master Naturalists) learned in the Prairies section of our training classes, prairies do not take care of themselves and, if not properly maintained, will (a) revert back to a woodland and/or (b) be overtaken by invasive plant species. Accordingly, NPAT is undertaking a maintenance effort on the Peters Prairie (as well as other prairies in Texas). NPAT is a statewide organization, but does not have local chapters. Accordingly, NPAT desires to involve local NPAT members, members of sister organizations like Texas Master Naturalist program, and the Public in its efforts. In 2002 the North Texas Chapter of the Master Naturalists created a chapter project to assist NPAT in the following ways:

- a. Assistance in the planning and oversight of the project.
- b. Conduct plant ID surveys at the beginning and after maintenance steps (burning, grazing, etc.) to ascertain the recovery and resilience of plants due to the maintenance.
- c. Hands-on assistance to NPAT for invasive plant control, removing woody species, prescribed burns, fence maintenance, etc.
- d. Document the project in words and graphics (photos) to prepare news articles, slide or Power Point programs, etc. *Article by James Alderson*

NPAT Board Report 2004

The last General Meeting was held at during our conference at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, July 12, 2003. Since then Directors have continued working for your Prairie Association to advance our major goals; taking care of our prairie properties and easements while working to preserve more prairie remnants and promote education about prairies.

I. TAKING CARE OF OUR PRAIRIE PROPERTY AND EASEMENTS (Property that we own and manage) As you may know NPAT owns **Riesel Prairie**, a tallgrass blackland prairie remnant in Falls County donated by Paul and Virginia Mezynski. Loueen Peter's Prairie in Collin County, another tallgrass blackland prairie remnant, and **Maddin** Prairie in Mitchell County. Maddin Prairie was given to the Prairie Association by Alfred Maddin in 1996. It is 1100 acres of land in the rolling plains of Texas near Colorado City in Mitchell County. Some of the land has been cropland, some has been pasture, and some has been in the Conservation Reserve Program. NPAT is restoring the land to native prairie. In 2001 (thanks to the work of Lee Stone) a \$25,000 grant was received from TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) to help continue restoration at Maddin Prairie. This grant is being used to plant more areas with native grasses and forbs, for collecting seeds for restoration, and a creating a gene bank. Fencing of the perimeter, a necessary major repair, was completed spring, 2003 at a cost of \$6700 from general Maddin funds. This year we are getting additional funds for brush control from the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation District along with member donations. This work has started. More member donations are needed! **Peters Prairie**. This newest acquisition has been the site of several work days led by Vim Varnum and Jeff Quayle and the local Master Naturalist group. **Riesel Prairie** continues to be a site for educational workshops. Holistic Resource Management held a field trip there Sept. 30.

Conservation Easements We hold conservation easements on 5 prairie remnants totaling 112 acres owned by people who want to preserve and manage their prairie remnants: These people are: Ray and Nancy **Drews**, 4 acres in Falls County, Corrine **Dragoo**, 10 acres in Falls County, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson **Wieting**, 17 acres in Falls county, and Mike Williams, who owns "**Simpson Prairie**," 50 acres in McLennan County. **Tanglewood Prairie** is 30 acres in Lee County near Giddings. In April of 2003 the Natural Area Preservation Association transferred a conservation easement to NPAT. It is a fine example of a sand prairie. We will work with the Natural Area Preservation Assoc. (NAPA) to manage Tanglewood Prairie.

Prairie Surveys NPAT continues to search for prairie remnants so owners can be encouraged to preserve them. Three counties are being surveyed with funds from Magnolia Trust: Washington County was completed by Tim Kiphart who found many high quality prairie remnants that were previously unrecorded. Madison County Survey by Jeannine Tinsley is in progress. Bastrop County Survey by Dan Ricks is complete. Some native grass areas have been found, but high-quality, never-plowed prairie remnants have not been found.

Granger Lake Gene Bank NPAT is helping to maintain a Gene Bank, or collection of a genetic diversity of grasses and forbs in Texas. This collection is located at Granger Lake.

Coastal Local Ecotype Seed Project NPAT continues to be involved with a coalition of groups in the Houston area working to produce local ecotype seeds of the coastal prairie.

II. EDUCATION Our interim newsletter editor, Linda Knowles, is doing a great job editing our newsletter, the Prairie Dog. Scott Lenharth is keeping up the Website:<http://www.texasprairie.org>.

A Prairie Restoration Manual has been developed by Charles Griffith, Clint Josey, Jay Kane, and Jim Schutt. It is available on our website. <http://www.texasprairie.org>

Workshops and Field trips. Jim Varnum and Jeff Quayle have organized several field trips, work days, and workshops throughout the year.

Upcoming events: A calendar of events and sign up sheets are at the registration desk.

NPAT Board Report, 2004 Continued from Page 10

Board Members:

John Pickett, President
Jim Varnum, Vice president
Evelyn Merz, Treasurer (outgoing)
Marcia Hermann, Secretary
Georgia Prakash, Membership

Clint Josey (outgoing)
Steve Wood (outgoing)
Jeff Quayle
Randy Schoen

Interim Newsletter Editor, Linda Knowles

THANK YOU to our outgoing Board Members; we appreciate your service! To NPAT members: There are five vacancies; Please consider serving on the NPAT board!

NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS ELECTION REPORT

(by Marcia Hermann)

Thanks to everyone for participating in the election of board members. All the nominees were elected. At the board retreat on January 15-16 these newly elected board members planned the coming year's events. The officers of the board were also elected.

President: John Pickett. John is using his organizational skills he gained as Emergency Coordinator for the City of Dallas. He is now retired and directs that talent toward furthering the mission of NPAT. He is cracking the whip as chairman of the conference committee this year. More information on the conference is in this issue. **Vice President: Jim Varnum.** Jim is soon to serve on the board of the Texas Land Trust Alliance. Jim is active with the Dallas Master naturalist program and owns land he and his wife are restoring to prairie near the Nature Conservancy's Clymer Meadow. Jim will also serve as co-chair of the properties acquisition and management committee, and serve on the education committee, conference committee and Maddin committee. **Secretary: Pat Merkord.** Pat is a former high school science teacher who now is consulting in land management and habitat restoration. She will also serve on the education committee and the property acquisition and management committee. **Treasurer: Jason Spangler.** Jason was convinced to fill the very large shoes of former treasurer, Evelyn Merz. He is supremely organized. He must be organized because he must also handle his obligations as treasurer of the Williamson County Native Plant Society and his career as a computer programmer.

The other Board members who are not officers agreed to serve on various committees. **Georgia Prakash.** Georgia is chairman of the membership committee. She has many contacts in the environmental community from her service as president of the Native Plant Society of Texas. **Jeff Quayle** is chairman of the education committee. Jeff has studied prairies and prairie plants for many years and enjoys leading field trips and workshops to help people learn about prairies. He will also help Georgia on the membership committee. **Randy Schoen** is interested in developing more audiovisual materials for NPAT. His career has been dedicated to education as a teacher and administrator and he now serves as the Regional Education Coordinator, North Texas Area, for Audubon Texas. He will serve on the education, the property acquisition and management, and membership committees. **Lee Stone** has been a tireless prairie advocate and supporter of NPAT for many years has held almost every office: president, secretary, treasurer, and newsletter editor. After taking some time off the board she is back on now to dedicate her expertise and energy to fund raising, the property acquisition and management, and the conference committees. **Marcia Hermann** will serve as conference logistics coordinator and co-chair of the property acquisition and management committee. Please give your support to your board members who are dedicated to moving NPAT forward this year!

Native Prairies Association of Texas

2005 Calendar of Events

As of February 10, 2005

Notes: For additional information please see the web sites or e-mail Jim Varnum at jevvarnum@aol.com. Please send notices of events of interest to prairie enthusiasts.

Date	Event	Location	Remarks
2005			
January 15-16	2005 NPAT board meeting #1 and retreat.	McKinney Roughs	
Jan 31 – Feb 4	Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center "Texas Prescription Bird School"	LBJ-WC – Austin, TX	www.wildflower.org \$600.00
February 5-11	SRM 58th Annual Meeting: Rangeland Trails under the lone Star	Fort Worth, TX.	See details below.
February 24-26	Texas Land Trust Council – Statewide Conference: Common Ground: Conserving Texas Forever	Marriott Austin S. 4416 IH-35, Austin, TX	See details below.
March 5	Trout Lily Walk	Tandy Hills Park, Ft. Worth	See details below.
March 17	The Coming Prairie Renaissance a lecture by Richard Manning, the author of Grassland	Austin College Sherman	See details below.
April 9	NPAT Fieldtrip to Jeanne Erickson's (Fossil Hill) 150-acre site in Montague County	Montague County	See details below.
April 13	NPAT board meeting #2	TPWD Headquarters, Austin	
April 13	NPAT Land Trust Assessment Meeting with Texas Land Trust Council	TPWD Headquarters, Austin	Meeting for the NPAT board.
April 16	NPAT Fieldtrip to Grayson County remnant prairies	Grayson County	See details below.
April 17	Breckinridge Prairie Tour	Breckinridge Park, Richardson, Collin Co.	See details below.
April 23	NPAT Fieldtrip: Prairies sites in the LBJ Grasslands.	Wise County	See details below.
April 23	White Rock Lake Prairie Fest	White Rock Lake, Dallas	See details below.
April 24-25	NPAT visit to Maddin Ranch Preserve: Plant survey and other chores	Colorado City, Mitchell County	See details below.
April 30	NPAT fieldtrip to two prairie sites in Ft. Worth.	Fort Worth	See details below.
May 7	NPAT spring visit to Falls Co. conservation easements	Falls County	Marcia Hermann, Jim Varnum
May 19-21	Southwest Land Trust Conference (10th Annual)	Ft. Lewis College, The Center of Southwest Studies. Durango, CO	Pam Nichols 970-245-5811 southwest@lta.org
May 21	Clymer Meadow Wildflower Tour (9:30 – 4:00)	TNC Clymer Meadow Prsrv, Hunt Co.	See details below.
May 21	Transect Monitoring & WKSHP on Evaluating Range Health	Judith Sear Prprty, Cleburne, Johnson Co.	See details below.
May 22	Wild flowers Galore – wildflower walk	Breckinridge Park, Richardson, Collin Co.	See details below.
June 17-19	NPAT Biennial Conference "Native Grasslands and Water: a Natural Partnership"	Baylor University, Waco.	Jim Varnum, 972 / 243-4098, jevvarnum@aol.com
June 17	2005 NPAT board meeting #3	during the Biennial conference, Waco	See details below.
September 24	2005 NPAT workday at Maddin Ranch Preserve	near Colorado City, Mitchell County.	Jim Varnum, 972 / 243-4098
September 25	2005 NPAT board meeting #4	Colorado City, Mitchell County	
October 8	NPAT fall visit to Falls County conservation easements	Falls Co.	Marcia Hermann, Jim Varnum
Oct 14-17	Land Trust Alliance Rally	Madison, WI	
October 15	Fall Prairie Tour led by Jim & Stephanie Varnum	Clymer Meadow and other locations	See details below.
2006			
Jan. 21-22, 06	2006 NPAT board meeting #1 and retreat.	Cedar Ridge Preserve, Dallas	

NPAT 2005 Calendar Details

February 5-11. Society for Rangeland Management (SRM) 58th Annual Meeting: Rangeland Trails under the lone Star. Fort Worth, TX. <http://www.rangelands.org/texas2005/>. NPAT's James Alderson and Jim Varnum are speakers.

February 24-26. Texas Land Trust Council – Statewide Conference: Common Ground: Conserving Texas Forever. Marriott Austin S. 4416 IH-35, Austin, TX. 512-389-4779 or carolyn.vogel@tpwd.state.tx.us. NPAT's Lee Stone is a speaker.

March 5. Saturday Trout Lily Walk through prairie remnants. Spons. & led by Jeff Quayle. At Tandy Hills Park, Ft. Worth. The trout lily, a harbinger of Spring, blooms only from mid-Feb to mid-Mar. **10 am-noon**. Limited to 20 people. RSVP to Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817 / 738-1322. For info about Dallas area trout lily walks, contact Jim Varnum at jevvarnum@aol.com or 972 / 243-4098.

March 17. The Coming Prairie Renaissance, a lecture by Richard Manning, author of Grassland. This lecture is part of the North Texas Land Stewardship Lecture Series. Location: **Austin College in Sherman, TX**. Hoxie Thompson Auditorium, Sherman Hall. Lecture at 11:00, (free) lunch at 12:00, Q&A at 1:00. Free and open to the public. For more info, please contact Jim Varnum or Jan Beckert 903 / 813-2034. Or visit <http://austincollege.edu/Category.asp?1450>

April 9. Fieldtrip to Jeanne Erickson's (Fossil Hill) 150-acre site in **Montague County** on Lake Amon Carter south of Bowie. Sponsored and led by Jeff Quayle. The site sits on a hilltop and gradually descends to the lake. Most of her geology is the Pennsylvanian period, very similar to the geology at Lake Mineral Wells and at Fort Wolters along the Rock Creek drainage. 9:00 am to 5:00. Bring water and lunch. Limited to 25 people. For information, directions and to RSVP, contact Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817 / 738-1322.

April 16. Fieldtrip to Grayson County remnant prairies. Sponsored and led by Jeff Quayle. Tour includes several prairies owned by Austin College, and prairies around Randall Lake, Denison. Linear gilgais. 8:30 a.n. to 4:00 p.m. Limited to 20 people. For information, directions and to RSVP, contact Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817 / 738-1322.

April 17. Breckinridge Prairie Tour. Breckinridge Park, Richardson, Collin Co. A prairie is a wonderful microcosm of grasses and wildflowers and the animals, birds and insects that live there. Bring your wildflower books, binoculars and cameras. Led by Jim Varnum of NPAT. For information, directions and to RSVP, contact the Jim at 972 / 243-4098 or jevvarnum@aol.com.

April 23. Fieldtrip to LBJ National Grasslands. Sponsored and led by Jeff Quayle. Near Decatur, Wise Co. Spring wildflower walk. Over 1200 plant species have been ID's in the grasslands, including shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*). 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Bring water and lunch. Limited to 20 people. For info, dir. and to RSVP, contact Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817 / 738-1322.

April 23. White Rock Lake Prairie Fest. White Rock Lake prairie remnant talks, wildflower walks, etc. Nat. Audubon Society's 100th Anniversary Celebration in Dallas. Starts 9 am. For info, directions & to RSVP contact Jim Varnum, 972 / 243-4098, jevvarnum@aol.com

April 24-25. NPAT visit to Maddin Ranch Preserve near Colorado City. Tasks include plant survey, check seed increase plot, take annual photos at photo-points, etc. For information, dir., etc. contact Jim Varnum at jevvarnum@aol.com or 972 / 243-4098.

April 30. Fieldtrip to two prairie sites in Fort Worth. Sponsored by and led by Jeff Quayle. Includes visits to Oakmont Park and Ridglea Hills Park. Limestone bluffs, locoweed, etc. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring water and lunch. Limited to 20 people. For information, directions and to RSVP, contact Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817 / 738-1322.

May 21. Clymer Meadow Wildflower Tour. Clymer Meadow Preserve, Hunt Co. Sponsored by the Texas Nature Conservancy. Led by Jim Eidson of TNC. Tour also visits Parkhill Prairie and Paul Matthews Prairie in Hunt and Collin Co. 9:30 - 4:00. Meet at Clymer Meadow Preserve. Bring water and lunch. Free. For information, directions and to register, contact Jim Eidson at 903 / 568-4139 or jeidson@tnc.org. Also visit web site <http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas/>.

May 21. Transect Monitoring and Workshop on Evaluating Range Health. Near Cleburne, Johnson Co. Sponsored by NPAT. This is a workshop to teach and use the NRCS monitoring techniques for prairie evaluation. Instructor is NPAT Board member Jeff Quayle. Limited to 15 people. RSVP to Jeff Quayle at s-quaylei@ev1.net or 817 / 738-1322.

May 22. Wild Flowers Galore. Breckinridge Park, Richardson, Collin Co. By late May, Summer & Spring Wildflowers! Led by Jim Varnum of NPAT and Nancy Lee. For info, dir & to RSVP, contact Jim at 972 / 243-4098 or jevvarnum@aol.com.

June 17-19. NPAT Biennial Conference "Native Grasslands and Water: a Natural Partnership". At Baylor University, Waco. Friday: workshops, Saturday, presentations, Sunday: field trips. More information forthcoming. Meanwhile, contact Jim Varnum at 972 / 243-4098 or jevvarnum@aol.com.

October 15. Fall Prairie Tour. 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 Varnums at 972 / 243-4098, 214-543-0748 or jevvarnum@aol.com.

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>

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