

Dear Friends,

It was a pleasure to see so many folks (with so much food!) at our chapter meeting last week!

Please find attached the introductory slides and the “slide roll” which has wonderful pictures and details on so many great upcoming volunteer and training opportunities!

Few quick reminders:

- Please look for the chapter leadership nomination survey in your email box, and please nominate yourself or someone else. Your voice matters!
- If you haven't done so already, we really appreciate your taking 5 minutes to complete our survey about monthly chapter meetings. We will use your ideas for our 2026 topics. Thank you in advance. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCMP95Q>
- October 25 is the Big Chapter Project at the Dallas College Campus in Lancaster. Sign up at [volunteersignup.org/WM7F7](http://volunteersignup.org/WM7F7) and contact Brenda Catlett for more information [btcattlett@gmail.com](mailto:btcattlett@gmail.com)
- Looking for some fun AT? Constellation of Living Memorials is offering monthly educational programs, including an opportunity for 6hr of AT on November 18. (See attachment for more details)
- Interested in visiting, or training to be a volunteer tour guide, at the Laura Bush Native Texas Park (at the Bush Institute)? There are opportunities! Contact Lois Diggs for more information. [loissdiggs@gmail.com](mailto:loissdiggs@gmail.com)
- Good luck to our 2025 chapter project team “Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center: Wetland Assessment”. Come virtually cheer on their presentation as they compete for the state chapter project award! This is part of an extended #TMNTuesday: program starts at 10AM and they will present around approximately 12:30PM. This is eligible for AT hours under “AT: #TMNTuesday”. The winners, to be announced at the Annual Meeting, get cash awards for their Chapter. Questions? Please reach out to Kent Roberts. [kentroberts4001@gmail.com](mailto:kentroberts4001@gmail.com)

Finally, coming (hopefully) soon: links to recordings of presentations. We know you want them. 😊

*Tiny request for help: If you have technical expertise (or really can just use a computer and are willing to learn a little), we'd love a volunteer to assist with uploading these videos. We are all volunteers and many hands make light work.*

Presentation:

Thank you to our presenters for sharing their incredible and inspiring stories about their chapter projects at Frankford Prairie and Dallas Colleges.

250903 Chapter Meeting Presentation Notes

**Frankford Prairie** with Julia Koch (NTMN) and Kathy Power (President, Frankford Preservation Foundation). Address: 17400 Muirfield Dr, Dallas, TX 75287

- Kathy shared her family history, including having many ancestors in the cemetery, which is how she became a leader of the cemetery board
- She wasn't, and isn't, a Master Naturalist. She learned everything she knows on her own over time

- The cemetery and prairie are named after an old town that existed from 1850-1910
- Though the old cemetery was there for year, they didn't know it was a real prairie remnant
- The land however was undisturbed – only the cemetery was cleaned annually by family members
- How did it survive disturbance? The church and cemetery leaders didn't give in to developers
- At some point they thought the perhaps they should stop mowing and see what would grow
- When they stopped mowing, it was incredible how naturally and quickly the prairie plants grew
- But, also the scabiosa started growing alongside (and almost taking over) the native plants. They decided to get rid of the scabiosa.
- After clearing the scabiosa the native plants started to come back even more... including huge stands of big bluestem. Then they realized this truly was a real remnant of the Blackland prairie
- There is even an “everlasting spring” there from which native peoples probably drank
- When they uncapped the Indian Springs, it started to flow
- They didn't plan in advance to bring back the prairie and springs, but when they did, the land came back to life
- They are in the middle of Bent Tree neighborhood. So, they thus far haven't used fire. They thus mow it all down 1x per year – late December or early January
- They started having tours very early in the project, especially in the fall (in grass season)
- Another annual event is Christmas on the Prairie, in their beautiful, restored church
- A few years into the project they stopped mowing the “East Meadow” and wild blue hyacinth came up – in early to mid-April
- They also started an oral history project to capture their history
- They also created a new restroom building to accommodate people on their tours and events. It blends in with their church

A commentary from one of our Julie

- There is such a variety of landscapes throughout our region
- Frankford Prairie is different in that it is truly a patch of native, undisturbed prairie.
- Though they've been talking about having a burn there, it isn't easy because it is within the neighborhood
- The founding families are represented in the cemetery
- It is hidden from most people and magical
- She highly recommends coming to concerts there
- They also have tours on Thursdays and one Saturday a month

#### **Dallas College Projects with John Wilt (NTMN)**

- Dallas College has 7 campuses with 1400 acres
- When he started with the colleges, they looked like golf courses
- Their lone sustainability leader wanted to restore prairies there
- John was hired part time to help rehab prairies there as well as woodland, trails and riparian areas.

Mountainview Campus

- They found a stand of old prairie in in the back that was covered with landscaping materials as well as privet.
- They expanded the perimeters with a forestry mulcher to grind the privet up
- They got native seeds from the A&M native seed program (working with Megan Peoples and put in the seeds with a no till seed drill
- Within months the seeds started to grow, including tall big bluestem
- They try to get students involved in the restoration efforts, including starting oak trees from acorns

#### Brookhaven

- There is a legacy garden here called the windmill garden – a pollinator garden
- They also tilled up an area of Bermuda grass and seeded it with native seeds. This pocket prairie is still a work in progress

#### Cedar Valley Campus

- A little gem is there: An environmental learning area at 5.5 acres with creeks, ponds, trails, prairie, woodland forest with trail signs and seating areas
- The learning area got into such disrepair that it was closed down. It was too dangerous, run down and full of privet.
- They get the prairie mulcher in there to tear down the stands of privet and brought in contractors to remove large trees and repair the bridge (a project that is almost done)
- Last spring, a NTMN workday group planted 200 native plants, grasses and shrubs – and they are doing great
- Adjacent is a prairie area. Rehab is in progress. Students are also helping with planting grasses.
- One big struggle is to get more students involved.
- **The Big Chapter Project will be at Cedar Valley Campus.**

#### Future plans are to work at...

- Mountainview Prairie
- Brookhaven
- Cedar Valley
- Outreach/Community programs

#### **All campuses are now approved for VH.**

**So, just let John know if you want to work at any of the locations. You can work in your own times**

John gives big thanks to many non-profits who have helped and donated including the

- Texas native seed program
- TX conservation alliance
- Trinity River Audubon Center
- North Texas Master Naturalists
- Many Others!

*Random Tip: how to find good Chinkapin oak acorns for replanting?  
Put them in a pot of water. Those that sink are good.*