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Web Master: Doug Miller
Newsletter Editor: Charles Allen
Past President: Sara Thames
Education Coordinator:
Margaret Frey

"A PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN EVERY PLOT"

VOLUME 30, December 2007

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Prez Sez:

Dear big sky, butterfly and tall grass enthusiasts,

Boy has this been a fast fall. I promise I was not bored though, ever. Fast and fun describes it well, and this holiday season has been among the best.

So where am I going with all of this, well I have not been very attentive to all of the seed collecting and so on that we had scheduled. I did however tell myself that I would help Charles and gang with the November 3 (Charles please verify and correct this date) seed collection. As my life would have it, Charles could not make it and I had two tree consultations that day, luckily both on the way to the Eunice Prairie. I shuffled them so I would arrive shortly after the 9 am start up. When I did arrive, Jack, Charles' brother-in-law and his daughter Justine were hard at it with perhaps 50 scouts, high school students and adults harvesting away. I know this sounds crowded, but the prairie swallowed them up. It was a grand sight to see so many working and enjoying the day.

My second activity was just as rewarding and exciting. An activity scheduled for December 8 was moved to December 7 to accommodate Charles so that he could celebrate Ms. Susan's birthday on the 8th. Ya'll do know that Charles does have a life outside of prairies and woodlands and Susan and their family is at the center of it all. Susan, on behalf of the Cajun Prairie folks, happy birthday. Anyway, the farmer had prepared a strip of land on the Duralde Prairie for us to plant that looked like a crop duster runway, wide and long. Our group planted the many bags of seed collected by various means over the season on that Friday morning. I am thankful that Jackie Duncan my favorite lady forester, next to Caroline Dorman, was there with her 4-wheeler to pull a trailer full of seed to the far ends of the site. This made our day even better and we were able to finish much quicker than we imagined we would.

I love this group and I love working with you guys under the big sky, amongst the butterflies and tall grass. Here is wishing you a great 2008.

Peace and love,
Jim Foret

Minutes of Aug 25, 2007 meeting

Jim Foret, President and Chair opened the meeting of the members of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society at 12:00 noon on August 25, 2007 at the Jean LaFitte Center in Eunice, Louisiana.

Georgie McGee Manuel, local historian and Director of the Eunice Museum, presented "Early Eunice: A History." Her weekly contribution to the local newspaper (Eunice News) is titled 'Remember When.'

Jim Foret then called the meeting to order.

Charles Allen motioned and David Lewis seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Lewis, Treasurer, provided the treasurer's report (financial report attached). The checking account contains \$751.77, and the savings account contains \$4,178.31, and the total financial assets are \$4930.08. David Lewis motioned to accept the report, and Peter Loos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously supported.

Charles Allen noted that a second grant from the DOTD has been prepared and submitted in order to continue the development of trails in Eunice. He also provided a seed report. Charles Allen also presented a summary of the plans for the northwest plot as to drainage and further development. No city officials attended to comment as he had hoped.

Doug Miller and Allison Vaughan updated the website and are requesting pictures.

After some discussion, the general consensus of the group was to continue to advise the City of Eunice to mow the perimeter of the restoration sites in Eunice as has been done during the past 3 years.

Peter Loos announced the Lone Star Conference at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, May 30th, 2008 weekend.

Charles Allen announced that the North American Prairie Conference in August 2008 in Winona, Minnesota, is to be hosted by our past-president Dr. Bruno Borsari.

Jim Foret read and presented Larry Allain's (another of our past-presidents) latest work on coastal prairie. The CD is titled 'Coastal Prairie Restoration information system.' Larry provided a generous gift of copies of the CD to the attending members of the society. The information is available online or Larry can be contacted at larry_allain@usgs.gov.

The next meeting of the society is tentatively scheduled for May 3rd, 2008.

Margaret Frey motioned to adjourn, and Peter Loos seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted

Malcolm F. Vidrine, PhD.
Secretary

SO YOU WANT TO JOIN US OR RE-JOIN?

Dues are \$20 per person, \$25 per family, and \$10 for students.

**Make checks payable to Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society and mail to:
CPHPS/CO Patricia Lewis**

RR2, BOX 194L

Newton, TX 75966

PRAIRIE PRECIS

Trails Grant: If you have not heard, we did receive \$25,000.00 to install more trails on the Eunice site. We got word of the grant acceptance in late Sept 2007 but have not received word to begin work. As soon as we get word, we can proceed and hopefully complete the trail. When completed, the ten acre site will have a trail all around the edge.

Seed Collecting Duralde Grant: This grant was wrapped up on Dec 7 when more than 300 lbs of seeds were planted in a recently disked strip at Duralde. This should greatly increase the diversity at Duralde as these seeds were collected from our ten acre site in Eunice. This was a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Seed Sales Eunice: We have an order for 200 lbs of seeds from Eunice with the sale scheduled to be finalized in January 2008. This will bring \$8000 into our bank.

Seed Sale Duralde: David Daigle collected seeds at Duralde last year and had them stored at his house. He recently sold those with a net of about \$2600. That money has to be used at Duralde. I am looking into getting the road into Duralde improved with that money.

PRAIRIE WORK DAYS: at the Duralde and Eunice sites. Meet at Duralde Prairie at 8 am or anytime after that on Saturday Feb 16. Just bring yourself or you can bring gloves, clippers, loppers, saws, even a chainsaw would be great. We will do some tallow whacking at both sites plus other non-prairie plants like ligustrum, pines, hackberry etc. Would also like to lay out some trails at Duralde. Should be migrating to Eunice after lunch.

SPRING MEETING May 2008 CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES?

Date: Note in the minutes above that the meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 3rd, 2008. A new proposed date is a week later on May 10, 2008 which is the Saturday before Mother's Day. Now is the time for you to speak up: Which do you prefer, May 3 or May 10? Email your preference to Jim Foret (possumforet@hotmail.com) or me Charles Allen (native@camtel.net) or both. Or you can call 337-328-2252 or even the old fashioned way, write and mail to Charles Allen, 5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, LA 70656. Or, you can come to the work day on Feb 16, 2008 and speak your mind. We need to know by Feb 17, 2008. We will then proceed with finalizing the date and schedule. Also See below.

Schedule for Spring Meeting: We have traditionally met inside with a speaker but a new proposal for the Spring meeting 2008 is to have it outside at Duralde with no speaker. The proposal is to begin early (8 am or so) for the birders and then a plant tour at 930 and have our meeting at 11 am. And then have a picnic type lunch on site. All would need to bring their lunch and a folding chair or sit on the ground. Then after lunch, we would migrate to the Eunice sites and then onto Frey, Malcolms etc. As is the case for the date, enquiring minds want to know? Email your choice of meeting outside with no speaker or meeting inside with speaker or call or mail as above by Feb 17, 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8, 2008 Louisiana State Horticulture Society Annual Conference, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnston Street, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503. Past President of LNPS and current President of Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society Jim Foret will speak.

January 26, 2008 Current President of LNPS, Rick Webb, will speak at Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge sponsored by Hilltop Arboretum as part of the "For the Love of Trees" Symposium.

February 8-10, 2008 Annual LNPS Meeting at Camp Hardtner.

February 16, 2008, 8 AM Cajun Prairie Society work day at Duralde. Bring chainsaw, loppers, clippers, gloves, or just yourself. Will move to Eunice around noon. E-mail Charles Allen for details or call 337-328-2252.

February 19, 2008 "Butterflies from Scratch" by Charles Allen. New Orleans Audubon Society event at the Audubon Zoo (Magazine Street in New Orleans) at 7:15 pm.

March 6-8, 2008 Annual Caddo Conference in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

March 22, 2008 Friends of Louisiana State Arboretum spring meeting.

March 29-30, 2008 SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GARDEN FEST 2008. Location is the Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70607! For booth space and information go to: www.gardenfest.org or call Pat @ 337-475-8812.

April 10-13, 2008 BBBB (Bogs Butterflies, Baygalls, etc.) in the Fort Polk area. Rick Webb will speak on Thursday April 10 at 1130 am as part of Fort Polk's Brown Bag. He is scheduled for a repeat performance at Allen Acres on Friday night April 11 at 7 pm. Charles Allen will present his Edible Plant talk at Allen Acres on Sat April 12 at 530 pm.

May 3 or 10, 2008 Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society meeting in Eunice.

May 28 - June 1, 2008 Lone Star Native Plant Conference in Nacogdoches, Texas.

June 20 - 22, 2008 Summer Solstice Safari aka Columbia Catahoula Copenhagen Caravan.

August 4 - 8, 2008 North American Prairie Conf in Winona, Minn. on Aug 4-8, 2008.

August 15 - 16, 2008 Lily Orchid Days in the Fort Polk, Louisiana area

September 26 - 27, 2008 Butterfly Blast at Allen Acres, Pitkin, Louisiana.

October 7 - 10, 2008 Eastern Native Grass Symposium, Columbia, South Carolina.