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"A PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN EVERY PLOT"

VOLUME 26, July 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Greetings once again! Well summer is definitely here and it's HOT! But of course not too hot to enjoy the wonderful prairie, especially on Saturday, 26 August 2006. Yes, it's that time once again, CPHPS meeting time. The fall meeting this year will be a one-day event on Sat., 26 August 2006. The meeting will consist of our regular schedule: tour of Eunice prairie, tour of Duralde prairie, business meeting at Jean Lafitte Center with our special guest speaker being our very own Dawn Newman speaking on "Louisiana CREP Coastal Prairies", Matilda's for lunch and finishing the day off with tours of the Acadia Power Partners Prairie, Frey remnant prairies, Vernon Fuselier's prairie and of course Malcolm Vidrine's prairie (see meeting agenda). Don't forget that this meeting is the time to elect new officers to serve for the upcoming two years. Of course the meeting will be loads of fun for all, so mark it on your calendars now and bring a friend! See you all then!

Sara Thames

UPCOMING EVENTS 2006

August 19-20 Lily/Orchid Fort Polk area, contact Charles Allen native@camtel.net. Details at http://www.cajunprairie.org/events/20060819_carolinalily/carolinalily06.doc

August 26: Cajun Prairie Society Meeting and Tours. Contact Charles Allen native@camtel.net Details at http://www.cajunprairie.org/events/20060826_cps/cps200608.doc

September 16: Butterfly Festival Haynesville, La contact Loice Lacy, llacy@magnolia-net.com, details at <http://www.claiborneone.org/haynesville/butterfly.html>

October 7: Mississippi Native Plant Society Meeting, Jackson, Ms.

October 10-13: Eastern Native Grass symposium <http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/engs.html>

October 19-22: Annual meeting of Texas Native Plant Society in San Antonio.
<http://www.npsot.org/events/FallSymposium2006.htm>

CAJUN PRAIRIE SUMMER MEETING

Saturday August 26, 2006

800 AM: Tour of Eunice Restored Prairies; meet at the corners of Martin Luther King and East Magnolia and enjoy the best restored prairie in the United States. This site is north of U.S. 190 and east of La 13. For those of you coming from the north on La 13, turn left (east) at the first paved road (East Magnolia) to the east after you cross the railroad tracks in Eunice. Go a couple of blocks and the prairie is on your left. For those coming from the east on U.S. 190 turn right (north) at the first red/green traffic light and follow Martin Luther King Drive for a couple of blocks and the prairie is on your left. For those coming from the west on U.S. 190, follow U.S. 190 through Eunice and after crossing a railroad track, go to the next red/green traffic light and turn left onto Martin Luther King Drive (See above). For those coming from the south on La 13, when you reach the stop sign, turn right onto Maple Ave. Follow Maple for about 3-4 blocks and at the 2nd four-way stop sign, turn left onto Martin Luther King Drive. Follow this street across U.S. 190 and see above.

930 AM Duralde Restoration Prairie Tour: Directions to Duralde: Take La 13 north out of Eunice and after crossing a bridge, go about 1.5 miles and turn left onto La 374. Follow La 374 west and it will take a sharp right then a sharp left. After straightening out from the sharp left, go about 0.5 miles and turn left at the first double intersection. You will be turning left onto a gravel road that is Parish Road 6-29S. Parish Road 6-29S is about 2 miles from La 13. Follow Parish Road 6-29S and it will take a sharp right and then will start a sharp left but you will not turn at the left but drive straight into the Duralde Prairie

11 AM till 12 Noon, “Louisiana CREP Coastal Prairies” by Dawn Newman at Jean Lafitte Center in downtown Eunice.

12 noon-1230 PM : Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society meeting.

1230-230 PM : Lunch on your own but a tradition is to dine at Matilda's on the east side of Eunice.

230 PM-till: Acadia Power Partners Prairie, Frey Remnant, Vernon Fuselier's Prairie, and Malcolm's Prairie. WE will meet at the newly installed Acadia Power Partners (Cleco) Prairie at 2:30 pm. Take La 13 south out of Eunice, and after crossing a bridge, go one mile and turn right into the power plant. The restored prairie will be inside the first fence you see. Then we will caravan to the Frey remnant. Get back on La 13 and turn right south and then turn right at the next double intersection onto La 370. La 370 will make several sharp curves and you will cross a bridge. After crossing the bridge, turn right at the next intersection onto La 368. Follow La 368 for about 0.5 mile and turn left onto Parish Road 7-37. Parish Road 7-37 will take a sharp left and then straighten out and run parallel to an old railroad bed. The Frey Prairie is located along this strip.

We will use the L'Acadie Inn as the headquarters for this meeting. To reserve a room, call Kelly or Lance Pitre at 337-457-5211 or 337-457-4719. Other motels in Eunice include: Best Western 337-457-2800; Howards Inn 337-457-2066; La Parisienne 337-457-4274 and the new one Day's Inn 337-457-3040.

For more information, visit the website at www.cajunprairie.org or email Charles Allen at native@camtel.net or call 337-531-7535 (day) or 337-328-2252 (home) or Sara Thames at asthames@hotmail.com or call 337-531-7535 (day) or 337-462-2543 (home).

PRAIRIE PRECIS

North American Prairie Conference: Louisiana and the Cajun Prairie Society were well represented in Kearney, Nebraska for the 20th North American Prairie Conference. Six papers and one poster had a Society connection; at one point I contacted the organizers and he told me that more than ½ of the papers at that time were from Louisiana. The participants with Society and/or Louisiana connections numbered 12 with two past presidents, Bruno Borsari and Marc Pastorek. The next meeting in 2008 could be hosted by Bruno at Winona State in Minnesota or maybe in Columbia Missouri?

Trails Grant: The elevation survey of the parking lot area is completed and we should have the design for the drainage etc and then we will get bids from contractors. Hopefully yall can park on the new parking lot soon.

Seeds 2006: David Daigle harvested about 60 lbs of seeds from the Eunice site and from Duralde in June. He will re-harvest seeds from both areas again in October. Also see next item.

Seed Duralde Grant: A grant was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation to harvest seeds from Eunice and plant them in strips at Duralde. This would greatly enhance the species diversity at Duralde. The proposal made the first cut and I submitted a full proposal. The grant calls for hiring seed harvesting commercially and also some hand collecting to catch the missed species. And, also includes monies to pay the Society for the seeds and to get the seed bed prepared at Duralde.

Duralde Tower: The tower is about 80% complete. We have the lumber stored at Kent and Sonnie Milton's house and will complete the tower in cooler weather, late September at the earliest. Ken Wilson and Kent and Sonnie Milton will contact the Society members via email when the dates and times are set.

YARD WORK - AS VIEWED FROM HEAVEN

(OVERHEARD IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN GOD AND ST. FRANCIS):

(THIS IS LIKE PREACHING TO THE CHOIR SO SHARE THIS WITH A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND OR BOTH THAT ARE NOT INTO NATIVE PLANTS)

God: Francis, you know all about gardens and nature; what in the world is going on down there in the U.S.? What happened to the blazing stars, sunflowers, black eyed susans and the stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought, and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees, and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of color by now. All I see are patches of green.

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. They are called the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with lawn grass.

God: Lawn Grass? But it is so boring, it's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want lawn grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it....sometimes two times a week.

God: They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now let me get this straight...they fertilize it to make it grow and when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this Lord, but when the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to grow it, mow it, cut it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves become compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St. Francis: You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No way! What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St Francis: After throwing the leaves away, they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: It comes from cut down trees and they grind them up to make mulch.

God: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a really stupid movie about....

God: Never mind--I think I just heard the whole story from Saint Francis!

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**

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