

Natural Area Preservation Association, Inc.
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HELP NEEDED FOR MARYSEE PRAIRIE

Truth is spoken when people tell of the difficulty in maintaining a prairie. Marysee Prairie has certainly had its share of hard times, but Maxine Johnston and her committee refuse to give up the fight to reclaim this last remnant of Big Thicket prairie.

An attempt was made this spring to bush-hog the prairie, but the vegetation is too large and too thick. Members of the Big Thicket Task Force and the Sierra Big Thicket Committee decided that they should begin by clearing a ten foot corridor around the property to serve as a fire lane so that Texas Forest Service could burn it.

On April 24 eleven people with two chain saws and various other tools began cutting trees and brush and stacking the cut material inside the cut-line for later burning. After three hours labor they had cleared approximately 100 feet along the north boundary and 200 feet along the south boundary. Very evidently, this is going to take more people and more tools.

In order to complete the cut around three sides of the perimeter, the Marysee Prairie Stewardship Committee is appealing to groups or individuals for manpower. We have missed the first work session which was held on May 29, but with luck this newsletter will reach you in time to participate in the second work days on June 18-19. To take advantage of cooler hours, they will work late Friday evening and early Saturday morning: Friday 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Overnighters are welcome at the Johnston - Roberts houses. Refreshments, dinner and breakfast will be provided. Lunch will be at the Burger Hut in Hull on Saturday. Call

Maxine Johnston (409-262-8522) to confirm your participation.

In the 1979 edition of Geraldine Watson's Big Thicket Plant Ecology there is a picture of Marysee Prairie as it was then. There is a sea of grass with Black-eyed Susans, and it is an image of the condition that we would like to restore.

CO-OWNER OFFERS TRACT ADJOINING WINTERS BAYOU

With the help of NAPA member, Leo Reitan, NAPA has obtained a realistic offer from one of the three owners of Winters Bayou Scenic Addition. We hope to receive offers from the other two owners shortly.

NAPA purchased the first 26.6 acre tract from Eddie Lee and James E. Davidson in 1991. The remaining 52 acres contain virtually all species of the hardwood bottomlands of Southeast Texas plus some mature pineland, all attracting a comprehensive roll-call of migratory birds. The tract is snuggled as an alcove into Winters Bayou Scenic Area, which has the newly nominated state champion Louisiana palmetto.

The 52 acres also has a house where our caretaker of the 27 acre tract resides. If you want to see these tracts, call James Jackson, (713) 592-7664.

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.

John Muir

NAPA ANNUAL MEETING

The NAPA annual meeting was held on January 13, 1993 at the home of Pat Randolph at 9898 Hollow Way, Dallas, Texas. President, Dr. Harold Laughlin presided. Michaux Nash, Jr. presented the report of the investment committee and the treasurer's report.

Pat Paradies, chair of the nominating committee, nominated the slate of directors. They were elected unanimously. Mrs. Sharon Reed was welcomed as a new director.

The President introduced and thanked:

James R. Townsend - representative of Roland and Faye Baird and the Baird Family Memorial Trust, who reported on the Trust and the Memorial Preserve;

Megan Biesele - niece of J.H. and Mrs. J.H. McAfee, donors of the J.H. McAfee Preserve;

J. David Bamberger - owner of the Bamberger Ranch Preserve near Johnson City, Texas;

Frances Williams - owner of Connemara, a preserve near Allen, Texas.

Sandy Penz delivered the report of the stewardship committee, headed by Katherine Goodbar. She reported that with the exception of beaver damage to some east Texas preserves and occasional trash dumping on urban sites, the preserves are in good health. Management plans have been written on five more of the areas, and a very successful burn was held at the Ennis Kachina Prairie.

On motion and second, the members unanimously passed resolutions honoring Katherine Goodbar and Dr. Harold Laughlin for many years of service to NAPA.

During the directors meeting which followed the membership meeting, officers for 1993 were elected. They are: Janice Bezanson, President; Katherine Goodbar,

Vice-President; Michaux Nash, Jr., Treasurer; Edward C. Fritz, Secretary.

The Directors ratified the acceptance of conservation easements on:

* 114 acres in Grimes County, Texas, by Nevin and Elizabeth Weaver, of Barnstable, Massachusetts.

* 3.9 acres in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas by Lucille G. Murchison, of Dallas.

* 3.4 acres in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas by June and Archie Bennet of Dallas.

* 1.6 acres in Montgomery County, Texas, Patton Village Preserve, by Timothy and Michael Bains, of Colorado.

Directors also authorized the transfer of a one-third acre tract in the southeast corner of the Grass Lake Addition to Larry E. Shelton to provide a sheltered access point to the Grass Lake Preserve complex. This preserve is located near the Naconiche Creek Preserve near Nacogdoches

OOPS! DEPARTMENT

Goofs happen. Let he who has never goofed cast the first stone. No one quite knows how they happen - they just do. In our last mailing, which was the article by Dorothy Mattiza from Texas Gardener and the Guide to the NAPA Urban Preserves by Ned Fritz, the entire last page was left out. This page included the last part of the description of the Lou Ann Gomez Preserve and all of the description of our largest urban preserve, Ennis Kachina Prairie. The mistake could lie with any one of three people who were attacked by goof-causing entities. The missing page is included here so you can take it out and add it to the other pages of the Urban Guide.

