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# Society for Ecological Restoration Texas Chapter



## Restoration Update July/2013

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Board of Directors**

**President  
Charlotte Reemts**

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Kelly Lyons**

### TXSER News Flash

Registration for our 2013 Annual Conference is now open.

### **The New Ecology: Managing for Resilience in a Changing World**

November 1-2, 2013  
Texas Tech University, Llano River Field Station  
Junction, TX

To register for the conference, click here: [Conference Registration](#).

For more information on the conference, please visit our website at [www.txser.org](http://www.txser.org).

### Call for Abstracts

#### **2013 Joint Conference**

We invite submissions for presentations and posters on any topic related to restoration, management, or conservation of natural areas of Texas in either rural or urban settings. Abstracts should be sent by September 15th as an MS Word document to Gwen Thomas at [gmthomas\\_eco@fastmail.fm](mailto:gmthomas_eco@fastmail.fm). Please include with your abstract submission the information below. Authors will be

**Secretary  
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Mary Edwards**

**Chapter Coordinator  
Gwen Thomas**

**TXSER  
[info@txser.org](mailto:info@txser.org)  
(469) 321-4883**

### Save the Date!

**TXSER & TRA  
Joint Conference  
November 1-2, 2013  
Junction, TX**

Join us along the banks of the South Llano River on the campus of Texas Tech University for the TXSER and Texas Riparian Association Joint Annual Conference.

Registration is now open. To register or for updates on field trips and program information visit:

[www.txser.org](http://www.txser.org)

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notified of the status of the acceptance of their abstracts by October 1, 2013.

- Title
- Abstract (not to exceed 250 words)
- Authors (format - Lyons, K., Dictson, N.,.... Please add an asterisk before the last name of the presenting author.)
- Authors' affiliations
- Preferred presentation type (Talk or Poster)
- E-Mail and phone number for presenting author
- Indicate if you would like to be considered for a best student presentation or poster award

### Prairie Restoration Roundup

**Texas City Prairie Reserve, Texas City, TX  
July 26, 2013**

Join restorationists of SE Texas for a day of hands-on demonstrations and insightful discussions about restoring prairie to farms, ranches, private residences, parks, and more.

The Prairie Restoration Roundup is organized by the Coastal Prairie Partnership, the Houston Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and The Nature Conservancy.

Registration required. Registration fees are \$35 and \$25 for students and Texas Master Naturalists.

For more information call 713-523-6135, e-mail [prairiepartner@gmail.com](mailto:prairiepartner@gmail.com); or visit [www.prairiepartner.org](http://www.prairiepartner.org).

### Restoration of Neighborhood Park in North Texas - Technical Assistance Needed

### Lend A Hand to the Early College High School Biology Students' Restoration Efforts!

This fall Chauncy Stafford, Biology Teacher at Early College High School in Carrollton, TX, is initiating a project-based learning endeavor with his students to restore a neighborhood park. They will be working to restore original habitat and to help in future park planning. Anyone with restoration information to share, website suggestions, or those who might speak to the class and/or assist with



Big Bluestem Flowering  
(*Andropogon gerardii*)  
Photo Credit: Carolyn Fannon

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some hands-on work, please get in touch with Chauncy at: [chauncy.c.s@gmail.com](mailto:chauncy.c.s@gmail.com). All assistance is much appreciated!

**Coordinator's Corner**

Imagine having a niche so small that your entire universe revolves around one flower blossom. This was the question I pondered as I looked up from my lunch at the kitchen table to find a perfect little camouflaged caterpillar crawling across a coreopsis blossom that I had cut from the garden and set in a vase on the table. How would it be to have one's food and water, one's life cycles all dependent on the health of this tiny ecosystem where one resides. By the same token, what happens when the health of that tiny ecosystem is disrupted, as it was when I cut that blossom and brought it indoors?



Coreopsis Camo  
Photo credit - Gwen Thomas

As a relatively new transplant to the great State of Texas, I chuckle when we say with pride "everything is bigger in Texas." In many ways, everything in Texas is bigger. Yet, we can look at eco-regions within the state and diverse ecosystems within those eco-regions right down to that small flower blossom. Is the scale of Texas that much bigger when we look from the outside in - from a national, global, or even interplanetary perspective? No, it isn't. The health of our local ecosystems, and in turn the links to the health of the broader globe are greatly impacted by the decisions and actions that its residents, you and me, take. What happens to the increasingly complex systems that are disrupted by the natural, or unnatural, removal of one species as our population grows and we develop. The multiple pieces of these systems are interdependent. When we remove a piece of the chain, what remains? Can those remaining species, including humans, adapt and survive?

TXSER, and all of us, have our work cut out for us to protect and restore the remaining pieces of the ecosystem/niche that we live in. We start where we are and the impact flows outwards. Luckily for the little caterpillar on my kitchen table, he was gently relocated to an outdoor coreopsis blossom where hopefully he lived the remainder of his life to the fullest.

\*Shout out in the next TXSER Update to the person who can ID this little caterpillar, which I presume is some sort of coreopsis moth.

The Society for Ecological Restoration, Texas Chapter promotes ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and re-establishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.

**Membership**

TXSER members receive valuable benefits from the chapter including:

- the opportunity to network with restoration practitioners and enthusiasts;
- discounts to our Annual Conference, an opportunity to share and learn;
- invitations to attend volunteer field days around the state; and,
- regular updates with notices about regional events that allow you to connect to the local restoration community.

SER member benefits include:

- RESTORE biweekly e-bulletin
- SERNews quarterly newsletter
- Discounts on journal publications
- Discounts to SER World Conferences
- Discounts on SER Career Center
- Access to a searchable, online member director
- Promotional opportunities through the SER Calendar of Events, Restoration Project Showcase, and Restoration Marketplace.

To become a member, click here: [Join Us](#)

Be sure to click the Texas Chapter as your Chapter Affiliate. We look forward to having you join us!

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