



# Society for Ecological Restoration Texas Chapter



## Restoration Update

August, 2014

### In This Issue

TXSER Newsflash  
2014 Conference Update  
Member Spotlight  
CC-The Roaming Ecologist



## TXSER Newsflash

**Silent Auction - October 17-19, 2014**



We have a new event at our conference this year - a Silent Auction! Proceeds from the auction will help to fund student scholarships to future TXSER and SER-SW conferences.

We encourage all to participate. Be creative. Anything goes (well almost anything:-) How about: artwork, plants or seeds, homemade jam or jelly, landscape consultations, gift baskets or certificates, Texas wildflower identification books, a stay at a vacation home, dinner at your favorite restaurant, a museum membership or behind the scenes tour... You can be imaginative or practical, whatever it takes to generate excitement and competition in bidding.

### Quick Links

1/4ly Newsletter Archive

Monthly Update Archive

Ecological Restoration  
Briefs Archive

More About TXSER

More About SER

If you are interested in donating, or wish more information, please contact Michelle Villafranca at:

[michelle.villafranca@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:michelle.villafranca@fortworthtexas.gov)

We hope to see you in Alpine!

## 2014 Conference Update

**October 17-19, 2014, Alpine Texas**

\*\*\*\*\*

**2014 Annual Conference  
TXSER & SER-SW**

**Alpine, TX**  
**October 17-19, 2014**

**Register Now**

\*\*\*\*\*



**TXSER**  
**Board of Directors**

President  
Charlotte Reemts

Vice President  
Kelly Lyons

Secretary  
Leslie Dietz

Treasurer  
Colin Shackelford

North Texas Rep.  
Michelle Villafranca

East Texas Rep.  
William Forbes

South Texas Rep.  
Eric Grahmann

West Texas Rep.  
Katherine Crosthwaite

Central Texas Rep.  
Ingrid Karklins

Coastal Texas Rep.  
Mary Edwards

Chapter Coordinator  
Gwen Thomas

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

**Employment**  
**Opportunities**  
**& More**

For up-to-date

***Ecological Restoration in the Southwest***

**Call for Abstracts**

The 2014 joint conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Texas and Southwest Chapters will be held October 17-19, 2014 in Alpine, TX on the campus of Sul Ross State University. We invite submissions for presentations and posters on any topic related to restoration, management, or conservation of natural areas in the Southwest in either rural or urban settings.

Abstracts should be sent by September 15<sup>th</sup> 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 notified of the status of the acceptance of their abstracts by September 20, 2014.

- Title
- Abstract (not to exceed 250 words)
- Authors (format - Lyons, K., Pendleton, R.,... 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 graduate or undergraduate student presentation or poster award

For updates on registration, field trips, & program information, visit: **[2014 Conference](#)**

[Photo credit: [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)]

## Member Spotlight

**Name:** Jaime Gonzalez

**City:** Houston/Katy

**Affiliation:** Katy Prairie  
Conservancy

**Position:** Conservation  
Education Director

announcements of positions open in ecological restoration and environmental science, visit our website at: [Job Postings](#)

We also post a wide range of articles on ecological restoration issues as well as job and volunteer opportunities on our Facebook page at: [TXSER Facebook Page](#)



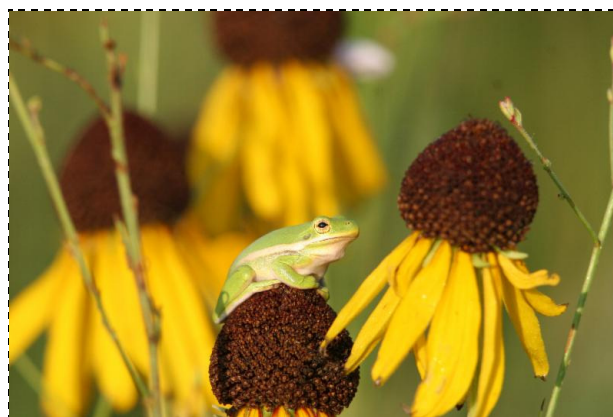
Like us on Facebook

### Briefly describe your ongoing efforts/ interest in ecological restoration:

I have a real interest in rebuilding and reconstructing native prairies in the sprawling Houston region for both wildlife and people. In Houston, the once ubiquitous Coastal Prairie is now fragmented and vulnerable - putting countless birds, mammals, insects, and amphibians at risk in our area. Even if we could purchase every stitch of undisturbed prairie land in our region, we would still need to restore or reconstruct prairies to provide the scale of habitat appropriate for our collective ecological goals. My work involves working with conservationists and seed companies to bring new prairie seeds to market. This will help make our restorations more effective. I also work to restore prairies on the Flat Out Wonderful Katy Prairie Preserve located just northwest of Houston. Wearing my education hat, I coordinate our Prairie Builders Schools and Parks program - a program whose aim is to build pocket prairies in Houston-area schools and highly visible public parks. These pocket habitats provide waystations for monarch butterflies, migratory birds, and other wildlife while giving Texans a tangible, interpreted introduction to the grassland habitat that forged cowboys, helped build our transportation system, clothed us, and provided for much of our early economy. Most importantly it gives folks a chance to discover a sense of place and local history in a globalized world.



**Jaime Gonzalez, wearing his education hat, leads a program on the Katy Prairie**



**Katy Prairie; Photo Credit: Carolyn Fannon**

### Describe your favorite outdoor activity:

My favorite outdoor activity is reading in my backyard with binoculars at the ready. Once I've settled in, birds, beetles, butterflies, and a whole wild kingdom start to buzz, click, chirp, and live their lives around me. This makes me feel in tune

with the pulse of the living community around me.

### What is your favorite plant and/or animal?

**Favorite Plant:** My favorite plant is rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). This plant is a pollinator powerhouse. My colleague Larry Allain, who works for the USGS in Louisiana, has documented



over 200 species of insects that visit this increasingly rare prairie native. It is for this reason that I incorporated rattlesnake master into the logo design of the Coastal Prairie Partnership ([www.prairiepartner.org](http://www.prairiepartner.org)) when I co-founded this institution in 2009 with Flo Hannah of Houston Audubon Society.

**Favorite Animal:** My favorite animal is the black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*). This species was once widespread throughout Houston and I have fond memories of them from my youth in the Aldine area just north of Houston. Today, they are much harder to find and, therefore, are symbolic of wild prairie.

## Coordinator's Corner

### The Roaming Ecologist -

### Searching for a Healthy Land Ethic and Learning from Nature

In my efforts to stay up to speed on Texan and Southwestern ecological restoration efforts, I recently bumped into a wonderful blog entitled [The Roaming Ecologist](#), written by restoration ecologist, nature writer and photographer, Jameson Crumpler. What initially caught my attention was a recent piece entitled "[Finding the Bright Side](#)" in which the author describes a patch of native grassland between Apache and the Davis Mountains. He describes his pleasure in finding such a place and concern that this piece of land may someday go the way of other grasslands of the Trans-Pecos region succumbing to the introduction of non-native livestock and grazing patterns that wreak havoc on native flora and fauna. His frustrations about short-sighted human priorities that focus on making a buck instead of the longer-term impact are evident.

Interestingly, Crumpler references a short article by I.W. Tournay entitled "[The Gradual Disappearance of the Range Grasses of the West](#)" written in 1894, yes 1894! In this article, Tournay raises many of the same concerns that we have today about the survival of native grasslands and perennials of the Southwest and the limitations for stocking these



**Compass plant**  
(*Silphium laciniatum*)

Photo Credit: [www.gonative.org](http://www.gonative.org) posts.

lands - both for the permanency of the rangeland as well as for the profitability of the herd. One hundred and twenty years later, we still have these same concerns for managing arid and semi-arid rangelands.

Crumpler points out, one of the great pleasures of working in the restoration field is finding one of these last remnants of native grasslands/prairie/forest/desert... It gives us hope, buoying us up to continue in our efforts to protect and restore these valued landscapes that we cherish. I encourage our readers to check out [The Roaming Ecologist](#) blog. Crumpler has a talent for words that he shares with us through his many reflections from his search for Silphium (compass plant) in North Texas to local perceptions of rain fall in the Texas Mountains and Basins region, and from the plight of monarch butterflies and other pollinators to the geology and grandeur of the mountains of far West Texas. His writing is a delight to read and I look forward to future

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.

## Become a member today!

## Click Here to Join Us!

Join the Texas Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration. Chapter members receive valuable benefits 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 workdays around the state; and,  
monthly updates and quarterly newsletters with articles and notices about regional events that allow you to connect to the local restoration community.

Chapter membership fees of \$15 support chapter administration. The TXSER Board of Directors consists of volunteers who share a passion for furthering ecological restoration in Texas.

Joining SER links you with a global restoration network. SER member benefits include:

SERNews quarterly newsletter;  
discounts on journal publications;  
discounts to SER World Conferences;  
discounts on SER Career Center;  
access to Restoration Project Showcase;  
access to a searchable, online member directory, and,  
promotional opportunities through the SER Calendar of Events and Restoration Project Showcase.

To become a member visit: [www.ser.org/membership](http://www.ser.org/membership)

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

### [Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to gmthomas\_eco@fastmail.fm by [gmthomas\\_eco@fastmail.fm](mailto:gmthomas_eco@fastmail.fm) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Society for Ecological Restoration, Texas Chapter | 5606 Southampton Drive | Richardson | TX | 75082