



**PORT ARANSAS**  
— NATURE PRESERVE —

2017-2018 in Review



# Thank You Donors

## City of Port Aransas - Preserving History, Protecting Habitat and Promoting harmony with Nature

Texas Ornithological Society, \$9500

Lynne & Jack Rosser, \$300

Lynne Rosser, \$300

Nancy Holt Allman, \$300

Gary & Sally Dekok, \$200

Terry Jones, \$150

Edward & Eleanor Kapustka, \$150

Reynold & Reynolds memory of Miles Merwin, \$150

Susan & Edward Westfall, \$100

Blake & Elizabeth Forbes, \$100

Gerald & Bernice Geenen, \$100

Eric Vormelker & Lisa Schneider, \$100

Nancy & Larry Leaton, \$100

Susan E. Woods, \$50

Native Dave Inc.  
In Kind Trees

Larry Watson  
In Kind Rebuild Texas Fund Grant Application

Blueline Rental  
In Kind Scissor Lift for Birding Classic Big Sit

Hank Arnold  
In Kind Drone Photography for Debris and Invasive Monitoring

Port Aransas Garden Club  
Adopt-A-Spot, Birding Center

Alexis Granite Design  
In Kind Counter & Installation

Cheryl Johnson, \$200 &  
Outburst Advertising  
In Kind Recovery Plan Signs

Darrell W Cochran  
In Kind Water Drip

AEP Texas  
In Kind Tree Relocation

Beau Hardigree  
In Kind Grant Writing/Review

Jim Lago  
In Kind Radio Publicity

Cameron Perry, HDR  
In Kind Engineering Advice

Alicia Walker, ARK  
Endangered Species Monitoring



## The Recreation Foundation of Port Aransas - a 501c3 dedicated to supporting the Preserve

Coastal Bend Audubon Society, \$2500

Bastrop County Audubon Society, \$1600

Jerry & Glenda Livingston, \$1000

Port Aransas Wildlife, \$1200

West Texas Avian Research, Inc., \$500

Cheryl Johnson, \$200

Tito's Handmade Vodka, \$1500

Gary & Denise Luker, \$200

Frank Guevara, \$200

Karen Dusty Ayala, \$100

Lynn Tinnin, \$100

Meredith K Morrill, \$100

Larry Watson, \$100

Caroline Scott, \$250

Delia Swanner, \$350

Lane & Charlotte Mitchell

Patricia Bowman, In Kind Donation Quilt\*

Rally Dillahunt, In Kind T-Shirts & Carpentry

\*Special thanks to those who purchased raffle tickets & t-shirts, \$2,811 was raised through these fundraising efforts

We'd like to offer a special thank you to the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Bureau and New Day Port A Foundation who helped coordinate volunteers, solicit donations and offer emotional support and guidance through the recovery. Without the hard work of Sheri Johnson, Jeff Hentz, Joan Garland and their team members the Preserve would not be in the shape it is.

City records indicate that 237 individuals volunteers helped with storm recovery from August 2017 - April 2018. They worked 1,549 hours, at an estimated value of \$38,248!\*

\*(rate based on Independent Sector Releases New Value of Volunteer Time of \$24.69 Per Hour)

## Individual Volunteers - From near and far, all coming together to help the Preserve.

Tommi Abbott	Steven Douglass	Wesley Harrey	Jessica Mendoza	John Shreves
Sofia Aguilar	Chad Duases	Isaiah Harris	Blake Mooney	Donald Smith
Chris Aguilar	Kelly Dumny	Ashley Haynes	Richard Moreau	Vince Smith
Milo Alex	Doward Dykstra	Janie Hernandez	Dolores Nangle	Kim Smith
Dustin Alumbaugh	Shirley Dykstra	Micah Hillebrenner	William Nichols	Gavin Smith
Carne Andrew	Scott Eastman	Heather Hillebrenner	Rod Oberhaus	Ron Sperman
Priscilla Arredondo	Karen Easton	Michelle Hinojosa	Jackie Oleson	Anne Sperman
David Ayers	Jill Eisenberg	Leslie Hoekstra	Eric Oleson	Steve Steinert
Hank Arnold	Jonathan Eisenberg	Joan Holt	Stephan Olsen	John Stevens
Anthony Banks	David Evert	Scott Holt	Cody Ortega	Selena Stewart
Danielle Barnford	Roy Evette	Ben Hranicky	Reta Pearson	Chrysta Stuart
Jacob Beach	James Faubion	Crystal Hughes	Sylvia Percy	Mary Sutherland
Hector Beltran	Deanna Ferrante	Kaelie Jager	Christian Peregrin	Katie Swanson
Roger Bennett	Will Fielder	Matthew Janis	Nick Peret	V. Sydney
Will Boren	Julie Findley	Brita Jenssen	Rydia Perez	Sonny Szejbach
Vernon Bracey	Edwin Flan	Rae Johnson	Josh Perez	Chris Szejbach
Gladys Brinks	Joaquin Flores	Alex Kan	Jona Perez	Robbie Thomas
Dashika Brown	Denise Flores	Joe Keller	Judy Perkins	Nick Thomas
Selena Brown	Steven Flores	Marie Kieber-Emmons	Donna Phillips	Curtis Tiffany
Steve Brown	Isaac Flores	Scott Kim	Karie Pias	Chad Tiffany
Ted Bryan	Gabriella Flores	Helen Kines	Jonathan Pitchford	Bryan Tilley
Alec Burkhardt	Edward Foss	Maggie Knoup	Dave Polasek	Rick Tinnin
Mary Burkhardt	Brian Foss	Craig Kondoff	Oscar Preciado	Sammie Tipton
Duane Burton	Alec Foss	Jue Korhonen	Else Preciado	Stormie Tipton
Rebekah Burton	Ben Fox	Keith Krenz	Sarah Price	Matt Trent
Ted Byrd	Cindy Frank	Mari Krenz	Jason Pugh	Johann Van
Yiling Cao	Roy Frette	Carol Krepel	Henry Ramirez	Ahlad Vasa
Will Carr	Brian Frion	Mark Kroen	Christoph Ranaldes	Luis Villarreal
Michelle Carvajal	Lauren Gaggini	Ken Landry	Kenny Raposa	Wes Villarreal
Lidia Castro	Clint Galloway	Ron Langheler	Pat Reilly	Vivian Vu
Jerry Certez	Elizandro Garcia	Bobbie Lanning	Kimberly Reinholz	Nicole Wallace
Doug Christiansen	C.C. Garcia	Michelle LaRocco	Scott Reynolds	Coowe Walker
Alnea Comier	Nancy Gawrylash	Ken Laundry	Brittany Ridolfi	Evana Wang
Nathan Conele	Nolan Gepanaga	Dave Lee	Cory Riley	Tracy Weatherall
Ethan Conquered	Edward Gilbert	Scott Lerberg	Filiberto Rivera	Robin Weber
John Contreras	Rebecca Giuntoli	Xiaofei Li	James Roactl	Frank Wiedemann
Jordan Cooke	Sharon Gloyer	Julie Lie	Rhonda Robinson	Frank Westmann
Brian Cormier	Kat Gonzalez	Andrew Lopez	Paul Robinson	Elizabeth Wilton
AJ Coward	Kurt Gonzalez	Kelle Loughlin	Matt Rogers	Jerry Woodall
Graham Coward	Joshua Goode	Eli Luchembe	Angie Rosales	Xiaoxi Xu
Rachel Coward	Nick Grant	Hilman Mae	Denbow Ryan	John Yarbrough
Richard Coward	John Grant	Jim Marsh	Richard Safford	Dustin Yelvington
Maira Cruz	Brian Grant	Rosario Martinez	Lee Samuel	David Young
Suhas Dara	O.G. Gremel	Virginia Martinez	Angel Sanchez	Bryan Young
Charlie Davidson	Cindy Groth	Matthew McCarty	Cales Sandoval	Ann Zadra
Angelina Davilla	Sean Groth	Bill McCutchen	M.L. Sane	Jeff Zadra
Javier Davilla	Andrea Habeck	Dan McKeen	Matt Schneider	Vanessa Zapata
Jake Davis	Mandalena Hall	Dan McLendon	Colin Serkowski	Athea Zepeda
Ray Dillahunt	Wes Harkey	Andrew Medley	Lisa Shearer	Robert Zetelski
Megan Dominique				

## **Group Volunteers**

**Manual labor in the heat, humidity  
and mosquitoes.**

American Conservation Experience (ACE)

Blackbeard's Woodworks Disaster Relief

Calvary Chapel

Cannon McAdoo & Team

Cheniere Energy, Inc.

Cleburne, Fort Worth & Abilene Firefighters

Eastside Preparatory School

Golden Key, Texas A&M Corpus Christi

H2 Enterprises & Duraroot

Keep Port Aransas Beautiful

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Native Dave Inc.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Palmilla Beach Golf Club

Port Royal Ocean Resort & Conference Center

Recreational Vehicle Disaster Corps

Sisters on the Fly - Disaster Corp

Spurs Sports & Entertainment, AT&T Center

Texas A&M Kingsville

Tito's Handmade Vodka

University of Texas at Austin Sustainability Class

## **Advisory Board Members**

**Time and efforts for planning  
and recovery.**

Place 1: Rae Mooney

Place 2: Jace Tunnell

Place 3: Katie Swanson

Place 4: Cameron Pratt

Place 5: Rick Tinnin, Vice-Chair

Place 6: Sonia Najara

Place 7: Scott Holt, Chair

## **City Council**

Mayor: Charles Bujan

Place 1: Wendy Moore

Place 2: Beverly Bolner

Place 3: Beth Owens

Place 4: Bruce Clark

Place 5: Charles Crawford, Jr.

Place 6: Joan Holt







## Staff

Parks & Recreation Director David Hyde, guided staff through rebuilding with experience and patience by "tackling the smallest jobs first." A true coach in his field.

Jackie Romeyn, Preserve Groundskeeper, did an excellent job stepping up to supervise, instruct and supply volunteers, track volunteer data and all while maintaining the Preserve grounds.

Colleen Simpson, Preserve Manager, secured grant funding, prioritized management decisions and guided the recovery process.

Pat McKeever, Doug Turner and Public Works Crew, David Lown and Parks and Recreation Grounds Crew, Jared Mathews and Lifeguards, for all of their help moving, clearing, hauling throughout the entire recovery. Dave Parsons, Rick Adams and Darla Honea for leadership throughout the recovery.

## Research

American Bird Conservancy & Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Coastal Bird Program monitor Wilson's Plovers (WIPL), Snowy Plovers (SNPL) and Least Terns nesting in the mudflats of Charlie's Pasture.

This year they banded 18 adult snowy plovers, 5 snowy plover chicks, 9 Wilson's plover adults and 4 Wilson's plover chicks.

See the tables here to see how this year's data compares to the last five years.



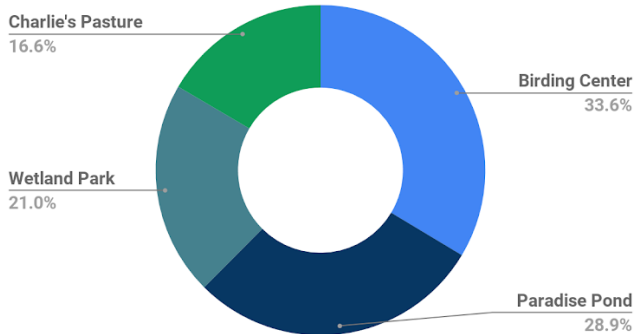
Snowy Plover Nests Port Aransas						
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Hatched	4	4	1	4	4	10
Depredated	4	2	4	0	8	6
Washout	0	1	2	5	19	8
Abandoned	2	0	0	1	0	3
Unknown	0	0	2	14	5	3
Other Failure	3	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Nests</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>

Wilson's Plover Nests Port Aransas						
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Hatched	3	5	1	1	3	13
Depredated	6	12	3	2	6	0
Washout	1	3	3	4	11	0
Abandoned	0	0	1	1	1	0
Unknown	1	1	1	7	8	3
Other Failure	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total Nests</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>

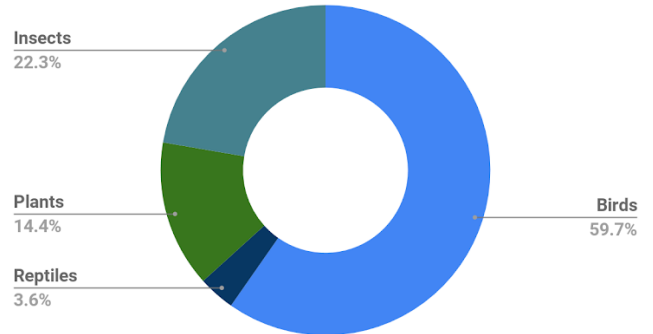
# Citizen Science

Visitors to the Nature Preserve System can record their observations on the mobile apps eBird and iNaturalist. Using technology to record observations is helpful in monitoring invasive species, recording new or unique sightings and creating a long term dataset for population monitoring.

**eBird Species Recorded in 2018**



**iNaturalist Observations (144 total)**



## Invasive Species Management

The Texas Gulf Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area supports the removal of the Invasive Brazilian Peppertree within the Nature Preserve. Volunteers and contract labor treated approximately 55 acres this year. Funding for this work was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, the University of Texas Marine Science Institute and other local partners.



## Outreach



**Texas State Aquarium SeaCamp -**  
Biodiversity Lessons - 60 students

**UT Summer Science - Nature Walks -**  
48 students

**Audubon Christmas Bird Count -** 145  
species recorded

**TPWD Great Texas Birding Classic, Big  
Sit -** 111 species recorded

**Bird Walks -** 126 participants



# Looking Forward

Nature Preserve staff is continuously working to aid in the recovery of habitat damaged by Hurricane Harvey and restore public access via boardwalk and trails.

Primary Objectives for 2018-2019 Include:

- Removing storm debris and damaged boardwalk from Nature Preserve.
- Removing Brazilian Peppertrees from shoreline between Birding Center and Nature Preserve.
- Constructing a new Boardwalk and Observation Tower at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center that will connect to the Nature Preserve Trails from Hwy 361.
- Expanding preserved land at the Joan & Scott Holt Paradise Pond, planting native vegetation and connecting the area to the Community Park via trail (funding pending).
- Designing the repair of bulkhead, boardwalks and trails in Nature Preserve

## Grants Awarded

Rebuild Texas Fund \$400,000

Texas Parks & Wildlife Recreational Trails Grant \$200,000

Stillwater Foundation \$50,000

Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program Human Use Workgroup \$30,000

Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program Habitat and Living Resources \$18,500

Texas Parks & Wildlife Great Texas Birding Classic \$5,000

Texas A&M Forest Service \$4,000

**TOTAL: \$707,500**

## Grant Pending

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund \$100,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Program \$20,000

Texas Parks & Wildlife Local Parks Grant \$400,000

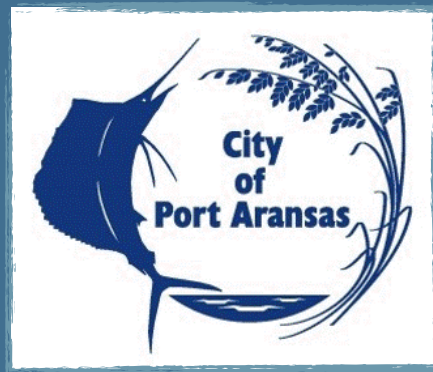
AEP \$35,000

**TOTAL: \$555,000**



# PORT ARANSAS

— NATURE PRESERVE —



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Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PortANaturePreserves>