

# 2024 UHCC-TPWD Coastal Prairies Restoration Practitioners Forum

**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Day 1 at Chambers County Westside Complex; 8138 FM 3246; Baytown, TX 77523 (near Cove, TX) & Site Visit to J.J. Mayes Wildlife Trace at Wallisville Lake Project**

**11:00 AM NOON – REGISTRATION**, Beverages and snacks

## **First Session**

**NOON-1:00 PM** Soil Carbon Measurement and Monitoring as a Tool of Restoration Progress – Michael Szuter and Hunter Thompson of Resource Environmental Solutions

**1:00 – 2:00 PM** The Strengths and Shortcomings of Floral Quality in Prairie Ecology– Larry Allain, Plant Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey (Retired), Lafayette, LA – Presentation is preparatory to Thursday afternoon Floristic Quality Assessment field exercise.

**2:00 – 2:15 PM** No-Cost Restoration & Ag Advisory Assistance to Landowners – Schyler Rhea, Conservationist, Wildlife Habitat Federation

**2:15-2:30 PM BREAK for Refreshments**

## **Second Session**

**2:30 PM – 3:30 PM** Candy Abshier WMA Coastal Prairie Restoration CASE STUDY – Phillip Pauling, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM** Challenges of Managing a Wetlands and Coastal Prairie Matrix – Andrew Sipocz, Regional Natural Resources Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**4:30 PM – 5:00 PM** Running Off McCartney Rose – Trey Barron, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

## **Dinner & Tour**

5:00-6:00 PM Dinner

6:00 PM Departure & Site visit to J.J. Mayes Wildlife Trace at the Wallisville Lake Project

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Day 2 at Chambers County Westside Complex & Visit to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Pintail Unit Restoration Site**

## **First Session**

**8:00 - 8:30 AM** **REGISTRATION** and Coffee, Juice, & Pastries

**8:30 - 9:30 AM** Consequences of Changing the Grazing Protocols at Chocolate Bayou Coastal Prairie in Brazoria County – Ricci Simmons, Conservation Stewardship Manager, Galveston Bay Foundation

**9:30 - 10:30 AM** Using Drone Technology to Assist Coastal Prairie Restoration – Dr. Humberto Perotto, Associate Professor, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, Texas A&M University

**10:30 – 10:45 AM** **BREAK for Refreshments**

## **Second Session**

**10:45 - 11:45 AM** Road to Restoration at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge – Kristin Fritz, Anahuac NWR Refuge Manager

**11:45 AM – NOON** Closing Remarks and Wrap-Up

**NOON** Lunch and Leave for Site visit to Pintail Unit of Anahuac NWR guided by Kristin Fritz, Refuge Manager & Field exercise led by Larry Allain and Jason Singhurst to calculate Floristic Quality Index using Coefficients of Conservatism

***Hosted by the University of Houston Coastal Center and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department***

## **Forum Organizers**

### **Evelyn L. Merz**

Program Director, University of Houston Coastal Center  
The Texas Institute for Coastal Prairie Research and Education

[elmerz@central.uh.edu](mailto:elmerz@central.uh.edu)

Website: <https://uhcc.uh.edu/>

713-201-4061 Cell

### **Tim Siegmund**

Private Lands Program Leader, Wildlife Division  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

[Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov)

903-426-1834 Cell