

# 2025 UHCC-TPWD Coastal Prairies Restoration Practitioners Forum Agenda

**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM – Bonus field trip for early arrivals to Charlie's Pasture @ Port Aransas Nature Preserve led by Rae Mooney, Nature Preserve Manager, City of Port Aransas - Gather together for dinner later at Port Aransas Lelo's Island Bar & Grill!**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Day 1 at UT Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, TX & Site Visit to Mustang Island State Park**

**11:00 AM - NOON – REGISTRATION**, Beverages and snacks – Bring lunch or eat beforehand.

**NOON-12:50 PM WELCOME** by Forum Planners & **Precision Agriculture for Coastal Prairies: UAV Options for Vegetation Mapping & Spot Herbicide Delivery** - Ubaldo Torres, Ph.D. Candidate, Soil and Crops Sciences Department, Texas A&M University

**12:50 – 1:35 PM Detecting Emergent Macartney Rose (*Rosa bracteata*) Cover Using Very Fine Resolution Imagery** – William Longoria, Research Assistant, Landscape Ecology and Drone Lab, Texas A&M University AND **Quantifying the Spatial Distribution of Macartney Rose on Rangelands Using Very Fine Scale Resolution Imagery** – Shanna Gleason, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries, Texas A&M University

**1:35 – 1:50 PM BREAK for Refreshments**

**1:50 – 2:35 PM Case Study: Public Lands Coastal Prairie Restoration at Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area** – Daniel Walker, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**2:35 – 3:30 PM Nexus of Landowner Economics, Ecology, & Ecotourism** - Dr. Yuri Calil, Texas Agrilife Extension Center Specialist; Loy Sneary, Sneary Cattle, Gulf Coast Green Energy, Former Matagorda County Judge; Katie Swanson, Fennessey Ranch/Mission-Aransas Reserve Manager, UT-Austin Marine Science Dept.

**3:30 – 3:45 PM BREAK for Refreshments**

**3:45 – 4:30 PM Realities of Aligning Incentive-Based Restoration Programs with Landowner Needs** – Trey Barron, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Shannon Barron, Natural Resources Specialist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**4:30 – 5:00 PM Barrier Island Grassland Restoration at Mustang Island State Park** – Kristen Eggers, Natural Resources Specialist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**5:00-6:00 PM DINNER** at UT Marine Science Institute (*A Vegan or Vegetarian option can be selected during registration.*)

**6:00 PM Departure & Site Visit to Mustang Island State Park** restoration area led by Scott Taylor, Park Superintendent and Kristen Eggers, Naturalist Resources Specialist and Ben Taylor, Park Interpreter

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Day 2 in the field at Fennessey Ranch and Welder Wildlife Refuge restoration sites – BRING YOUR BINOCULARS**

**First Field Visit to Fennessey Ranch**

**8:00 - 8:30 AM REGISTRATION** at gate of Fennessey Ranch - Coffee, Juice, & Pastries

**8:30 - 8:45 AM Carpooling** to departure site at Fennessey Ranch pavilion

**9:00 – 11:15 AM Two rotating groups tour & discuss restoration** at (a) St. John 's Prairie by trailer hayride and (b) Miguel Lake on foot by Katie Swanson, Ranch Manager

**11:15 – 11:30 AM Board personal vehicles and leave for Welder Wildlife Refuge**

**Second Field Visit to Welder Wildlife Refuge**

**Noon – 1:00 PM Sandwich Buffet Lunch** at Welder Wildlife Refuge and Orientation by Ty Higginbotham, Executive Director

**1:00 -3:00 PM Tour of Welder Wildlife Refuge** by trailer hayride

**3:00 PM End of forum**

**Hosts: The University of Houston Coastal Center (Evelyn L. Merz) & Texas Parks and Wildlife (Tim Siegmund)**