

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge's Annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival

“Booming-N-Blooming”

Is Just Around the Corner

The 24th Annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken festival, “Booming-N-Blooming”, will kick off Saturday, April 14, continuing through Sunday, April 15, 7 am-2 pm each day, at Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. The event features Attwater's Prairie-Chicken viewing, special presentations by this year's guest speaker, Mary O. Parker, and a performance by native American dancers. Van tours of the refuge are scheduled at set times of the day and guided birding and native plant walks are planned.

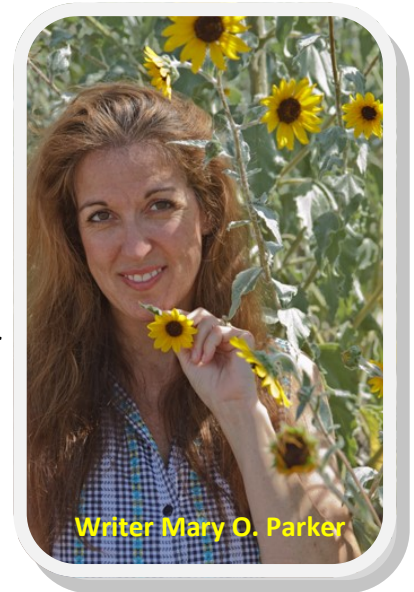
Winning artwork from this year's Student Art Contest will be on display in the visitors center. The Friends will again be providing, complimentary bottled water and refreshments at the Friends “store”, as well as festival tee shirts, “Forever” tee shirts, tote bags and limited edition waterfowl art.

Guest speaker

Mary O. Parker is an award winning writer and nature lover who lives in central Texas. Her work includes dozens of articles on topics including travel, family, nature, conservation, education and pieces that appeal to the general audiences. Her work has appeared in Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine and Texas Highways Magazine.

She is the recipient of the 2015 Gabriele Rico Award in Creative Nonfiction and, in December 2016 one of her braided essays was short-listed for the Barry Lopez Prize in Creative Nonfiction. Mary O is the author of Explore Texas--A Nature Travel Guide available through Texas A&M Press. The book is part of Texas A&M's “Myra & David K. Langford Working Lands” series. The book is perfect for nature lovers who love to travel and travelers who love nature. We hope to have the book available for purchase at the friends store.

Mary O also offers writers creativity workshops at her ranch through her Red Belly Writing School. She will be presenting, “Nature Tourism and the Preservation of Biodiversity” at 10:00 am, both Saturday and Sunday during the festival.



Writer Mary O. Parker

The 24th Annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival is presented in partnership with the

Friends of Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge

A 501(c)(3) non profit organization

whose mission is to support the National Wildlife Refuge and the recovery of the endangered Attwater's Prairie-Chicken

www.attwater.org



Native American Dance Demonstration

The Craig Hall Family dancers are scheduled to perform at 11:00 am Saturday April 14th only.

Always popular with visitors, this is their 3rd year at the festival. They will perform the traditional Prairie Chicken Dance as originated by the Blackfoot Confederacy. You can see the dance performed and learn about its origin and its cultural significance. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions, take photographs with the dancers and participate in a traditional round dance.



Festival Schedule

Saturday

- 7:00 am....Prairie Chicken viewing
- 8:30 am....Guided birding walking tour
- 10:00 am...Guest speaker's presentation
- 10:30 am...Refuge van tour
- 11:00 am...Native American dancer presentation
- 12:00 pm... Refuge van tour
- 12:30 pm...Guided native plant walking tour
- 1:30 pm.....Refuge van tour
- All day.....Student art contest display,
complimentary refreshment,
Friends store, static displays

Sunday

- 7:00 am....Prairie Chicken viewing
- 8:30 am....Guided birding walking tour
- 10:00 am...Guest speaker's presentation
- 10:30 am...Refuge van tour
- 12:00 pm... Refuge van tour
- 12:30 pm...Guided native plant walking tour
- 1:30 pm.....Refuge van tour
- All day.....Student art contest display,
complimentary refreshment,
Friends store, static displays

Refuge Directions:

The Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge is located South of I-10 between San Antonio and Houston. In Sealy, take exit #720, go South one mile on SH 36, then Right on **FM3013** for 10 miles. From Eagle Lake, Take **FM3013** Northeast for 6.5 miles. Look for the large brown sign on the side of the highway.

PLEASE NOTE - There is NO PUBLIC ACCESS to the Refuge from I-10

