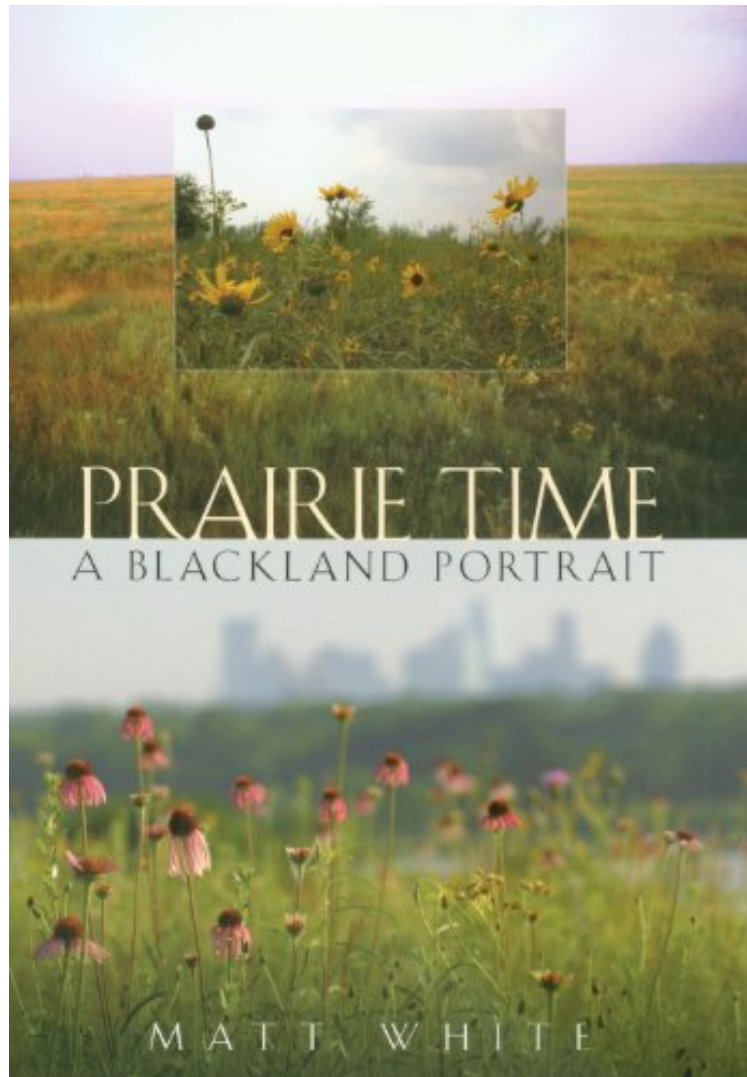


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Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait (Sam Rayburn Series on Rural Life, sponsored by Texas AM University-Commerce)

Matt White

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Matt White : *Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait* (Sam Rayburn Series on Rural Life, sponsored by Texas AM University-Commerce) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait* (Sam Rayburn Series on Rural Life, sponsored by Texas AM University-Commerce):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An intimate history of placeBy JoyceThis book is an intimate history

of our place here on the Blackland Prairie, told by a man who loves this spot on the earth and knows it well. The title came about when teacher/historian/poet White and his wife took their daughter (who was then three) with them on her first visit to one of the few remaining untouched prairies. They weren't sure the girl was old enough to accompany them through the tall grass, but she loved it and even wanted to spend the night. As they drove away, she complained, "I need more prairie time." Indeed, we all need more prairie time, in that we all need time on earth in its natural form. In this case, that form was awesome seas of tall grass. Next best is to read White's paean to the prairie in its glory days and his elegy to its passing. Here is a taste: "Today the bobwhites are gone from our land . . . the bobwhites no longer wake me up in the morning. . . Deep inside, I cannot accept that they are gone. I find myself hoping that they will somehow return; that one day the familiar bobwhite call will wake me up. . . Sadly, my young daughters will not grow up hearing the bobwhite's two-note onomatopoeic call. Its haunting repeated phrase will not be woven into their consciousness. . . As creatures disappear one by one over time, succeeding generations soon have no knowledge or memory of them. . . The truth is that if they have never seen lightning bugs, my daughters will not miss them. Still, the loss is a tragedy. . . Every time an organism disappears from the landscape, part of the place is gone too, and those of us who love the place cannot help but grieve."0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'm a Master Naturalist. I live on this threatened ...By Judith HansonI'm a Master Naturalist. I live on this threatened and damaged Backland Prairie - the book resonated for me. I have worked to help bring back Clymer Meadow, and I completely shared Matt White's thoughts0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy C. ShometteThis is an excellent book. If you care about prairie preservation you should read it.

In its most extensive prime, the Texas Blackland Prairie formed a twelve-million-acre grassy swath across the state from near San Antonio north to the Red River. Perhaps less than one tenth of one percent of this vast prairie remains small patches tucked away here and there, once serving as hay meadows or sprouting from rock too stony to plow. Matt White's connections with both prairie plants and prairie people are evident in the stories of discovery and inspiration he tells as he tracks the ever dwindling parcels of tallgrass prairie in northeast Texas. In his search, he stumbles upon some unexpected fragments of virgin land, as well as some remarkable tales of both destruction and stewardship. Helping us understand what a prairie is and how to appreciate its beauty and importance, White also increases our awareness of prairies, past and present, so that we might champion their survival in whatever small plots remain.

It seems fair that every region, every landscape, every place deserves a champion. The imperiled prairies of northeast Texas certainly have one in Matt White, a native son and an unabashed prairie enthusiast. Whether he is writing about mycorrhizal fungi, gilgai topography, rattlesnake master, buffalo wallows, or mima mounds, it is apparent that he lives, breathes, and relishes his subject matter. As such, he offers a credible voice and insight into the blackland prairie, its history, its residents, its architecture, and its natural diversity. His enthusiasm was obviously genuine. It was also infectious and encompassing. At times, I felt like I was right alongside him at the moment of discovery.--Carter Smith, Texas Parks Wildlife Department