



October 2019

Okploverfest Celebrates and Educates!

by Kathryn Tunnell

CBBEP's Coastal Bird Program celebrates and educates with Okploverfest! A fun twist on the worldwide festival Oktoberfest, the plover-themed event held earlier this month attracted bird and beer lovers alike in celebration of what we consider to be the *ploveriest* corner of the continent! No place else in the world is as important as right here in the Coastal Bend for 8 of the 9 species of North American plovers, who use our coastal and inland habitats for feeding, resting, sleeping, preparing for migrations, and even nesting.

The event featured a perfect combination of Lorelei Brewing Company's delicious Oktoberfest beer offerings, food, and live music. The highlight, however, was the hand-carved wood block prints of the 8 North American plover species that utilize our area, as well as an Okploverfest design featuring the American Golden-Plover. The custom designs were printed on T-shirts to order, or any other item you wanted to bring, including Onesies and canvas bags! It was a big hit and the team was working well past closing hour to fill the last order.

More than a celebration though, the event was meant to bring awareness to the plight of plovers in the Coastal Bend.

"There is no time in the course of the year that the Coastal Bend is not critically important for at least three or four of the plover species" said David Newstead, Director of the Coastal Bird Program. "Everything we do in the habitats we share has the potential to affect them, and consequently their survival and the fate of the population."

Which leads us to the Plover Pledge. Festivalgoers were given the opportunity to take the pledge, which outlined very specific things people can do make it easier on the plovers and encouraged people to think about life from a plover's



point of view. David and the Coastal Bird Program are hopeful that if people learn to recognize and observe these birds, and see how they react to the things we do, they will begin to think about how they can be better neighbors.

We are extra appreciative of Lorelei Brewing for hosting the event, and friends in the Department of Art & Design at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi for providing the incredible artwork. Proceeds from the event will benefit CBBEP Coastal Bird Program efforts to protect and restore bird populations in the Coastal Bend and beyond.



The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of the Texas Coastal Bend. For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Kathryn Tunnell at (361)336-0311 or ktunnell@cbbep.org. This report published in October 2019.

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