



BRAZOS BEND BUNCH
BUGLE

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Brazos Bend State Park is always a prime location for spring break relaxing. This year park attendance was bigger than in the past. Our volunteers and VITs again provided support to our many visitors. According to my count 120 shifts were worked by volunteers and VITs. I know our guests appreciate this effort because they keep coming back, and in larger numbers.

At the first of this month **Steve Killian, David Heinicke, Chuck Duplant, Dave Armstrong,** and I had an opportunity to meet with TPWD staff and discuss a new **Brazos Bend Environmental Education Center.** They were very positive about our organization and stated that they often use us as an example when in discussion with other park support groups. They understand our need and seemed pleased with the planning that has taken place over the last several months. We received the impression that they will support our project and after review by Austin TPWD, we should expect to hear from them in the next few weeks.

A contract has been signed for construction of the **Elm Lake Nature Platform.** A pre-construction meeting was held on March 31. We will see activity very soon.

Please join us for our next monthly meeting on April 9. It is important for you to participate in the direction and project selections of our organization.

Offie Walker

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MARCH MEETING NOTES

submitted by Anna Dell Williamson

Office Walker called the March General Meeting to order on March 12, 2011. There were 16 volunteers, 4 staff members, and 2 VITs present. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as posted.

Staff members brought their reports, which are printed elsewhere in the newsletter.

REPORTS

Treasurer Dave Armstrong: The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

The following requests for spending were approved:

Sharon Hanzik: replacement computer

Steve Killian: repair of the Big Foot tractor for upcoming growing season

Steve Killian: pumps and regulators for the Mud Buddy, airboat and ATVs, for aquatic vegetation and tall grass prairie management.

Comptroller Rachelle Watson: The organization tax return is being prepared.

Gift Shop Beth Debenport: Sales are doing well and we are working to keep up with inventory. Sales are good and beverage sales are up since we installed the new cooler, which holds more bottles and is visible to visitors. Diane Carpenter compared January/February 2010 with this past January/ February, and drink sales were up substantially. The new cooler has made a great difference and is much easier to keep track of supply and easier to restock. Many visitors comment on our reasonable prices. Our stock includes items campers forget, and they are very grateful we carry these items.

Building Program Chuck Duplant: Offie Walker, Dave Armstrong, David Heinicke, Steve Killian and Chuck Duplant went to Austin to meet with TPWD leadership. Our project was well- received, and they were impressed with the in-depth planning we have done. We had a good estimate on pricing. There are still some concerns we need to work out, including a memorandum of agreement, choice of architect, master plan for the project, an increase in our funds for up-front preliminary drawings, designs, and cost estimates, We are steadily moving forward with this ambitious project, TPWD is interested in moving on with this and will let us know in a few days if we're approved. They need to run the proposal by some other committees.

Wood Sales, Chuck Duplant: Wood sales are good but there is a lot of loss. The electrical outlets were out on the 200 loop, and we suffered loss from there. The lights have been repaired. We are still operating in the black, but not as much as we'd like. We plan to add a kiosk in overflow.

We plan to plant some more willow trees around the lakes. We can take branches and stick them in the mud. They will take root and grow.

We are re-seeding the pocket prairie down the hill from the Nature Center. We have permission to turn the empty fields by the observatory service road into flowerbeds - approved native plants only. Over several years we can get enough seeds and plants, and then replant. We should have some good beds in several years. Flowers attract bees and butterflies, who need flowers for habitat.

Nature Center, Teresa Jones: Updates are planned in the alligator viewing area in the Nature Center after the slow down in summer.

Outreach: Offie reported for Judy Strauss that the outreach at Sea Center Texas last Saturday had very good attendance

Newsletter, Anna Dell Williamson: We need help with the newsletter. Reporters and writers for feature articles, etc., are needed to help fill the pages.

Volunteer t-shirts, Cindy Peterson: We need orders for 8 more shirts before we can place an order. We also have some unclaimed shirts on hand to resell. A notice of sizes, styles and colors will be sent out.

Training, Anna Dell Williamson: We have ordered lanyard holders for nametags. They will be offered to the VITs, and we can print name tags on card stock to fit the holders. Current volunteers who would like the lanyards can send a request to Anna Dell, and we will order them and make the cards. There will be no charge for the first lanyard and name card. One caution: do not wear lanyards when using power tools that might catch them and cause an accident or injury.

Offie encouraged attendance at the next meeting. We want all of the members to know what is going on from the financial standpoint. Members need to keep informed on what we're doing.

David will be leading a Red Buckeye hike on Friday morning. The area is gorgeous right now.

STAFF REPORTS

STEVE KILLIAN, SUPERINTENDENT

This February was the second best February for attendance. Current projects include spraying lakes and repairing the Live Oak trail, adding some gravel and grinding stumps. We hope to finish this fiscal year. Volunteer help is welcome. Restrooms are open in the camping loops. There is still some work on lighting, ventilation and touchup to be completed soon.

Welcome back, Chris Bishop. Now we should always have a law enforcement officer on staff and in the park.

Administrative staff attended a management conference recently, and Susie Taylor attended a training conference for office managers. John Towers has joined the staff as the Utility Plant Operator (Water Management). He came from another park and is well-suited to this position.

We recently passed the Internal audit of our fiscal operations with flying colors. Headquarters renovation will be completed soon. We are adding three new offices and a break room. The administrative and gift shop areas have been enlarged. Regional is adding funds to our budget to retile the Headquarters area and upgrade the air conditioning.

Steve Killian and David Heinicke attended the Houston Wilderness Luncheon recently.

Visitors have been asking about gunshots they hear in the park. They probably come from private property in Pecan Bend.

TPWD is facing a budget cut of possibly 30%, BBSP is all right in terms of maintaining what we have.

At the recent meeting in Austin about our new Environmental Education Center, TPWD officials were impressed with BBSPVO. Brent Leisure, Director, used our organization as a model when talking to another organization. Our presentation was well-received in Austin.

Ted Stevens, Management Trainee, will be working in Galveston over the summer and will return to BBSP in the fall.

CHRIS BISHOP, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Chris stated he is very glad to be back on the job. After his nine months of training, he has a probationary "Field Training" period under supervision for 6 months to a year. He is looking forward to settling back in his role here.

Chris is looking into getting alternative funding for the park in two areas and will work on getting pesticide licensing.

He thanked the organization for his "Welcome Back" cake.

SHARON HANZIK, INTERPRETIVE RANGER

There were 1104 visitors through the Nature Center today. We will need lots of help during Spring Break. Please sign up for Nature Center and Gift Shop.

Welcome to VITs Sherry Sherbo and Ethan Hoover. We have a new maintenance volunteer, Gerry Reuter, who will be working on maintenance projects around the Nature Center.

Sharon just returned from the State-wide Interpreters' Workshop. This is a good opportunity for networking, as well as classes and breakout sessions. Next year some volunteers might be interested in attending the National Interpreters' Association meeting in Austin.

BBSP participated in a booth at the Wildlife Show and Rodeo.

The newsletter has pictures and a report on the Stephen F Austin State Park field trip several volunteers attended. The next field trip will be in April, at the Levi Jordan Plantation Site near Sweeny and Brazoria.

School groups are now on the volunteer events calendar and more will be added.

The last week of March, Monday through Wednesday, a student from Awty International School will be observing and asking about what we do here.

DAVID HEINICKE, INTERPRETIVE RANGER

Thanks for all the work you do. We have a crazy nine days ahead of us for Spring Break. We expect good weather and big crowds,

The new crocodilian panel is on its way. It was shipped to Regional, and will be moved here soon. Hopefully it will be hung by mid-April. The next major project is to redesign the front counter in the Nature Center. Construction of the Viewing Platform may start the week after Spring Break.

It was asked when the roof repairs will start on the Nature Center. David will check on that.

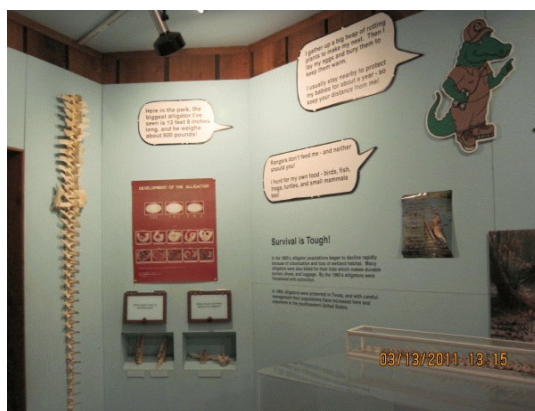
We hope the lights in the parking lot will be installed soon.

Dawn Tejero and David set up a table with an alligator skull, skin, etc. on the trail, Volunteers are encouraged to do this during Spring Break and also set up with the spotting scope.

NATURE CENTER REPORT MARCH 2011

Below are the totals of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for March 1-31, 2011. March was Spring Break, and attendance was outstanding. See details in the article following. The photos below are of the current alligator display in the Nature Center. Watch for changes soon. The side photos are VITs Christian and Peter Guzman at work in the NC.

PROGRAMS	TOTALS
NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE March 2011 - 12,427 March 2010 - 11,816 March 2009 - 9,669 March 2008 - 10,684 March 2007 - 6,835	Saturdays (4) - 3968 High, 1140 (3/26) Average: 992
	Sundays (4) – 2798 High, 844 (3/13) Average: 670
	Weekdays (23) - 5661 High, 1077 (3/17) Average: 246
CREEKFIELD HIKES (15)	313
ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS (5)	291
SNAKE PROGRAMS (7)	314
CHILDREN’S STORYTIME (6)	112
OUTREACH (9)	1468
SPOTTING SCOPE (2)	94
BIRD PROGRAMS (6)	82
OTHER PROGRAMS (13) include Red Buckeye hike, owls, ask the ranger, armadillo (2), pond life (2), defense mechanisms, butterflies (2), under the microscope, creatures of the night, mammals	274
TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN HIKES AND ONSITE PROGRAMS	2639



SPRING BREAK REPORT

by Anna Dell Williamson

Nine Saturdays in a row, that's what Spring Break is like. Big Saturdays. Double lines at Headquarters, crowds through the Nature Center, lots of Gift Shop sales, talking about baby gators or snakes until you think you can't talk any more, and beautiful weather. You can see the totals in the Nature Center report, but here is a breakdown of daily attendance:

Saturday, March 12	1104	Thursday	1022
Sunday	844	Friday	976
Monday (the rainy day)	292	Saturday March 19	1058
Tuesday	969	Sunday	783
Wednesday	834	Total	7882

There were many volunteers present to help, and some individuals were there all day or for several days during the break. I have the names from the signup calendar, and I can remember some who just showed up. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. The following volunteers were at the Nature Center, Gift Shop or led a Creekfield Hike or program during Spring Break: Justin Bower, Kevin Brantley, Diane and Jerry Carpenter, Sherida Carpenter, Doris Dahse, Rick Dashnau, JoAnn Davis, Ron Dearman, Beth Debenport, Doug DeVries, Nancy and Bear Dobbs, Chuck Duplant, Jaci Elliott, Debbie and Kent Fewell, Carl Franke, Suzie Gann, Bill Godley, Maureen Goode, Eddy Grizzaffi, Peter and Christian Guzman (VITs), Lisa and Drake Hacker (VIT), Virginia Harrison, Ethan Hoover (VIT), Sid Jones, Teresa Jones, Candice and Tom Kanak, Linda Keltner, Rosemary Kennedy (VIT), Mikki Kilgore, Mary Lockwood, Lara and Leah Malone (VITs), Tori Matta (VIT), Jeff McMullen, Sammie Miller, Jane Minard, Cynthia Morales, Cathy Nevotti (VIT), Cindy Peterson, Tom Prentiss, Carrie Sample, Michael Sanderson (VIT), Sherri Sherbo (VIT), Reyes Torres (VIT), Elizabeth Villanueva, Marilyn Vossler, Connie Waltrip, Offie Walker, Rachelle, Bryan, James, Joseph and Molly Watson, Anna Dell and Bruce Williamson. Thanks to each and every one of you. Forty-eight regular volunteers and thirteen VITs helped out, and all sixty-one were kept busy.

The interesting thing is that those high attendance numbers haven't stopped. Weekends and weekdays alike in March were still busy with very high visitation. April has started out the same. Come out and meet the visitors and share your knowledge of the park with them, walk the trails or deliver water to the water stations. There are plenty of opportunities for service.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Richard Taylor (Staff)
Leah Malone VIT

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Virginia and Charlie
Harrison
Jim and Jacqueline North

CONGRATULATIONS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Mikki Kilgore
Rose Aden (Emeritus)
Kevin Brantley
Dennis Keppta (Emeritus)
Suzie Gann
Virginia Harrison
Dawn Tejero



Carrie Sample
JT Kalina (Staff)
Ethan Hoover VIT
Kathleen Hosek VIT

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Linda and David Heinicke
Patricia and Steve Marshall
Jo Ann and Chuck Davis

MEETING NIGHT DINNERS

by Judy Strauss

I would like to thank Anna Dell and Beth for taking care of the meeting night dinner in my absence on the 12th. I understand that Anna Dell whipped up a delicious dinner that was enjoyed by everyone.

Please keep in mind that we would appreciate someone signing up to prepare the dinner on Meeting nights. A different person (or two if you would like to work together), once each month, would really help us out. We try to keep the expense as low as possible while still providing a delicious meal. You will be reimbursed for the expense of the food purchased to prepare the meal. You can sign up for this on the regular calendar under "meeting night dinner/supper". Thank you so much!

Thanks

to **Anna Dell Williamson** for the meeting night supper in February.
to **Teresa Jones** for cleaning the alligator tank faithfully every week.
to **Cindy Peterson** for ordering the volunteer t-shirts
to **Eddy Grizzaffi, Suzie Gann, Marilyn Vossler, Sharon Hanzik, Anna Dell Williamson** and **Mary Lockwood** (who introduced me to the cute little tarantula) for making my first day of practical/hands-on volunteer training so much fun, from Sherri Sherbo
to Maintenance Volunteer **Gerald Rueter** and Park Host **Gene Randolph** for all the hard work putting up the new parking lot lights near the Nature Center, from Richard Taylor
to **Sherri Sherbo** (VIT) for the article on the prairie, and **Dennis Jones** for his collaboration.

PARKING LOT LIGHTS

Maintenance Volunteer **Gerald Rueter** and Park Host **Gene Randolph** helped park maintenance staff install new parking lot lights at the Nature Center. This addition should add to the security and safety of the parking lot. The lights will be shaded by a shroud to cast the light downward to prevent light pollution. The lights were installed on existing poles, which have been shortened to the proper height. Photos by Lead Ranger Richard Taylor.



NAME TAG OPTION

We can purchase name-tag lanyards for use by volunteers who would prefer them to the pin-on or magnet style name tags. We can provide one lanyard free to every volunteer who requests one (after that, they are \$.50 each), and we can make an insert with the name and other required information printed on card stock, so you don't have to buy a plastic name tag. This is an option, not a requirement. The plastic name tags are still allowed for anyone who wants to purchase one. The only caveat about the lanyards is that if you are doing maintenance work, you might not want to wear a lanyard while using power equipment.

If you would like to use a lanyard name-tag, contact Anna Dell Williamson at <newsletter@brazosbend.org> by April 20. Please specify the name you want on the tag. We will order the lanyards and print name tags for those requesting them. New volunteers will be given the choice of using the lanyards or purchasing their own plastic name tags when they enter the training program. Every time we have a class, we can make the lanyards and new card stock name tags available to interested members.

BBSP AT THE RODEO



BBSP volunteers participated in the Houston Livestock and Rodeo exhibits at a State Parks Booth set up by Regional Interpretive Specialist Walt Bailey. Eddy Grizzaffi, Pam Tatge, Mike Manley and Noel Duncan participated in staffing the booth.

This was a very busy event, especially on Sunday. Walt Bailey wrote to thank Amanda Adair and Katherine Crippens for providing the hands-on activities, and Sharon Hanzik (and the volunteers she sent) and Ben Horstmann for making this event the success that it was. He also sent the pictures included in this article. Pictured are Pam Tatge, Eddy Grizzaffi and Walt Bailey.



OUTREACH REPORT

by Judy Strauss

The Sea Center Texas Outreach went well, despite the cold and rainy weather. We had a total of 485 visitors by our booth on Saturday, March 5th. My sincere thanks to Ron Dearman, Jim North, Christine Kovack, Offie Walker and Tyler and Riley Teague (Jr. Vols) for their help with the program.

We received a "thank you" letter (below) from Connie Stolte of Sea Center Texas praising our booth and participation in their program. It was a very good day!

There are two other events coming up that are on the events calendar, one in April, and the other in May. At this time, I have not officially been notified of any other upcoming events. As I receive information, they, too, will be posted on the events calendar.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped/signed up to help. We really appreciate your dedication to the BBSP Volunteer Organization.

LETTER FROM SEA CENTER TEXAS

Thank you for participating in Nature Day at Sea Center Texas and providing an educational opportunity for our visitors. Your exhibit was wonderful! We had a total of 565 registered guests.

We have tentatively scheduled Nature Day 2012 for Saturday, February 25, 2012. I hope you will save the date on your calendars and plan to attend again.

I have attached some photos from the event. Please let me know if you need any other information. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,
Connie Stolte



Volunteers Offie Walker, Judy Strauss and Ron Dearman

LOAN ME AN ALLIGATOR

Assistant Manager **Chris Bishop** received an email from **Beth Tragus**, Volunteer Coordinator at San Jacinto Historic Site Complex, that attests to the popularity of BBSP. Enjoy.

Subject: Loan me an alligator?

I went to Sonic this morning on my way to work, so I was in uniform. The kid comes out of the building with my food, hands it to me in a very disgruntled fashion, and then actually looks at me. He immediately changed demeanor and says excitedly, "Do you work at Brazos Bend?!"

I reply, "No, I work at San Jacinto."

"AWW...."

"Where the Battleship is!"

"Uh huh.."

"We have alligators too!"

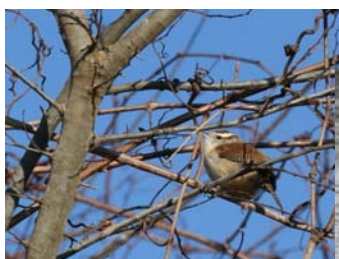
He wandered off.



SPRING MIGRATION BIRDING TOUR

The Spring Migration Birding Tour will take place at the Matagorda Island WMA on April 9, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. With its seclusion, Matagorda Island is a great place for birding. Staff will take you to the various birding sites via truck and trailer. The island is only accessible by boat and there is no state-provided transportation to or from the island. All visitor access is by chartered boat or private boat. This birding tour is limited to 20 people. Participants are required to possess either a Limited Public Use Permit or Annual Public Hunting Permit. Permits are available anywhere hunting and fishing licenses are sold and will not be available for purchase on the island. Reservations required and will be accepted by phone from April 4 – 7 between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Contact Phone (979) 323-9669.

Photos by Jerry Zona: Carolina Wren, Blue-winged Teal, Couch's Kingbird, American Coot



NEWSLETTER HELP REQUEST

I'm looking for volunteers who are willing to help out with the newsletter. Many volunteers send me articles about what they see and do at the park, or what their committee is up to at the moment, and I really appreciate it. However, I'd like to add some specific articles and features to the newsletter and have some additional reporters who write for the newsletter. The more people looking for news, the better.

Below are a few of the topics I'm thinking about. Some would be regular feature articles, and others would be current news items, seasonal events, or special features. Other suggestions will be welcomed.

Spotlight on a volunteer - interview a volunteer each month and have a picture so we can get better acquainted with each other.

Share experiences on the trail, in the Nature Center, etc.

Interpretive continuing education - write articles on "nature" topics to inform the membership and add to their interpretive information. We can always use this type of article.

Myth or Reality - Question something you have heard in the NC or on the trail by a volunteer or visitor, send it to David and Sharon for clarification, and write up the response.

Articles or reports about BBSP committee work, volunteer business and events, park improvements, any new information you learn about.

Other articles/features that YOU come up with. The list goes on.....

I could also use help editing articles for publication. This can be handled by email. Cynthia Morales will be helping me with the layout starting in May.

If you are willing to help, please send me your name and your interest, and I will put your email address on my distribution list to inform you of the newsletter deadline for the next issue (which is about a week after the meeting). Even if you don't want to be a member of the newsletter staff, you can send articles and/or pictures at any time, and I will publish them based on time constraints, space available, topics, etc., so it might not come out the very next issue, but it will be used.

Thank you for your support of the newsletter.

Anna Dell Williamson, Newsletter@brazosbend.org, 713-817-1393.

BASIC OUTDOOR SKILLS AND ADVANCED OUTDOOR SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Outdoor Programs will be sponsoring training for group leaders April 26-28 at Parrie Haynes Ranch in Killeen. The deadline for registration is April 18th. The Basic Outdoor Skills and Advanced Outdoor Skills Workshops are inexpensive training programs that help you lead a group in the Outdoors. Everything you need for under \$100. Food and lodging included! Come join us and gain greater knowledge and insight into the outdoors and Texas Parks and Wildlife programs and facilities.

Topics include basic camping skills, outdoor trip planning, hiking, wilderness first aid, archery, paddle sports basics, and fishing. Registration fee of \$95.00 includes two nights lodging, instruction, materials, participation certificate, resource guide and six meals. For more information contact Tim Spice, tim.spice@tpwd.state.tx.us or call (512) 389-8141.

WILDFLOWERS ON PARADE



Roadside Wildflowers 5,000! That's the number of wildflower species in Texas. And if it's springtime in Texas, it's time to go scope them out, so pack a picnic and grab your camera. While winter cold snaps and rainfall (or lack thereof) influence their appearance, experience tells us that yes, there really will be wildflowers.

Wildflower worshippers can find 700,000 acres along Texas highways to indulge their passion. Find safe stops to admire, photograph and smell the flowers at more than 90 state parks. Some of the most prolific wildflower crops traditionally are found in rolling, verdant

Washington County along twisting rural roads and at places like Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park. Before taking the family for a drive to view the wildflowers, encourage your kids to learn what they may see on their next road trip.

Many Texas State Parks will host spring nature walks, such as Dinosaur Valley State Park's Two-Step Across Texas Wildflower Walks in March and April. Check the TPWD website events calendar for these and other hiking and plant walk opportunities that will take you up close and personal to Texas' native blossoms.



Photos by Bruce Williamson, March, 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 8 | Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake Restrooms, then Migration Madness, Quintana (optional) |
| April 9 | BBEEC (New Building) Committee, 1:00 PM, open to all interested
Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM
Regular Business Meeting, 5:30 PM (Supper, 5:00 PM) |
| April 15 | Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake Restrooms, then Migration Madness, Quintana (optional) |
| April 17 | Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake Restrooms |
| April 22 | Good Friday, very busy weekend
Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake Restrooms, then Migration Madness, Quintana (optional) |
| April 24 | Easter Sunday, busiest day of year |
| April 29 | Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake Restrooms, then Migration Madness, Quintana (optional) |
| May 6 | Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake Restrooms |
| May 7 | Outreach: Sweeney event. Check events calendar for times and to sign up
Bird photography Photo-walk #2, 5 PM. |
| May 14 | BBEEC (New Building) Committee, 1:00 PM, open to all interested
Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM
Regular Business Meeting, 5:30 PM (Supper, 5:00 PM) |
| May 15 | Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake Restrooms |

PRAIRIE HIKE NOTES

by Sherri Sherbo

(These notes were taken during the training hike led by Dennis Jones on February 19, 2011. Thanks to Dennis for his additions and clarifications.)

-Brazos Bend State Park has close to 500 acres of Coastal Prairie. This is the only remnant of original Coastal Prairie in the state parks system, consisting of some 250 - 300 species of plants and grasses.

-Grass propagates via rhizomes, stolons and seeds. Rhizomes of the Prairie grass, as clones of the original, may be as much as 1000 years old!

-Grasses - The four most abundant prairie grasses in the park are: Little Blue Stem, Switchgrass, Indian Grass and Big Blue Stem. Big and Little Blue Stem Grasses can be told apart by their "flowers" or inflorescences. Only the stems/stalks are bluish. If there are no flowers present, the thickness of the stalk is an indicator of the type.

-The Prairie is dotted with Mima mounds and potholes which alter the "lay of the land" and allow for water collection in the wet season and so a wide array of plant and wild life. The topography of the prairies adds to its diversity, although the mounds and "holes" go almost unnoticed. These prairies are called "mesic"; sometimes very wet and other times very dry.

-The Prairie and Plains grasses are quickly disappearing because of cattle grazing, (cattle like native grasses best), agriculture (John Deere invented the steel plow in 1837), fire suppression, urban development and fragmentation.

-One resident of the prairie is the slender glass lizard, which has no legs but is not a snake because it has eyelids and external earholes.



-If you see what looks like a fire ant mound but it has no ants, it is the work of a pocket gopher. The soil also looks different; it is not as granular. The gopher is about 6 inches long and he seals the opening of the hole so it's very difficult to find. (Good online resource: Mammals of Texas.)

And finally.....when differentiating between Coyote and Bobcat scat, both are hairy, but the Bobcat scat may be smaller with a "tootsie roll" appearance. This may be a subjective differentiation; coyote and bobcat scat do look different, however.

(Note from Dennis: A good source for understanding prairies and "prairie reconstruction" is a site called The Prairie Ecologist. Chris Helzer with the Nature Conservancy produces some very informative articles about prairies. I highly recommend it. A recent article was about why prairie fires don't contribute to "global warming".)



Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife
21901 FM 762
Needville, TX 77461

NEXT MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011



FIRST CLASS MAIL

REGULAR VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Creekfield Hikes	Every Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 AM, led by volunteers
Photo Hikes	First Saturday of each month
Volunteer meeting	Second Saturday of each month at 5:30 PM, supper at 5:00 PM
Bird Hikes	See schedule in calendar

BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

President:	Offie Walker
Vice-President:	Mary Lockwood
Secretary	Linda Heinicke
Treasurer:	Dave Armstrong

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor	Anna Dell Williamson
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The **Brazos Bend Bunch Bugle** is the newsletter of the Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization, A.K.A. The Brazos Bend Bunch. It is distributed monthly to volunteers through the BBSPVO web site. For further information on this newsletter or the volunteer program, contact David Heinicke or Sharon Hanzik at Brazos Bend State Park, phone 979-553-5101.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the author of the article and do not necessarily reflect the official position of Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization nor of BBSP administration. The deadline for Newsletter contributions is the 18th of the month prior to publication. Articles may be emailed to the editor at any time and will be published as space permits. Send time-sensitive event announcements well in advance of the event. Send articles to <awilliamson4@comcast.net> or <newsletter@brazosbend.org>.

**IN THE END, WE WILL CONSERVE ONLY WHAT WE LOVE,
WE WILL LOVE ONLY WHAT WE UNDERSTAND,
WE WILL UNDERSTAND ONLY WHAT WE ARE TAUGHT.**

**BABA DIOUM, SENEGAL
AFRICAN CONSERVATIONIST**