



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Carrie Sample accepting proclamations Photo by Chuck Duplant

What a great honor it was to accept the Texas Senate's and Texas House's proclamations to the Brazos Bend Volunteer Organization! Each of you, no matter the amount of volunteer hours you can contribute, made this award possible.

Yeah, the lakes are up since the rain on April

18th . All of the creatures in and by the water looked like they were celebrating also. The alligators especially had that special grin. The shore birds I reported last month were instantly missing in action.

I was so happy to hear how our outreach activities are going so well. Seems like we are reaching out to others as well as receiving rewards ourselves!

The park seems like a great place to exercise, but how can you keep moving at a steady pace when there is so much to see? Rick's article last month certainly reaffirmed the notion that the slower you go on the trails, the greater your wildlife experiences.

Hope each of you makes the time to get out and enjoy the park, for whatever excuse you can come up with!

Carrie Sample

MAY 2009

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APRIL MEETING NOTES

Contributed by Eddye Grizzaffi

President **Carrie Sample** called the general meeting to order on April 11, 2009. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as posted. There were 2 staff members, 13 volunteers and 1volunteer in training present.

Budget: **Diane Carpenter** brought the Treasurer's report. She explained that the Pay Pal was operational now under "Donations" on the organization's web page. As a test, she donated \$20.00 to the organization and the organization received \$19.12. Diane presented the following purchase requests, which were passed:

- Dave Armstrong presented information on the sundial renovation project. The plan is to use paving stones to make a semi-circle 24 feet wide and 12 feet across in the center with engraved paving stones with the months and time at the appropriate place. The project would be done in three phases. The first phrase would be to get the stone engraved. That will take about 45 days. The second phase would be to excavate the site. We have permission from Texas Parks and Wildlife to do this per their rules and regulations. David talked about doing it on Saturday and making it an interpretive site. The third phase would be to put the paving stone down. It was decided at this time to purchase the engraved brick from Mason, Texas. The Watsons will pick them up when they are finished. Further investigation will be done to determine whether the remainder of the project will be done by our work crew or contracted out, and what additional funds will be used for the project.
- **Sharon Hanzik** requested six bug Glasses "See what a bug sees" for the Nature Center interactive display.
- The Anniversary Committee agreed to create new volunteer organization brochures and posters to advertise what the organization does and how it spends donations. The Anniversary Committee requested funds from the remaining Earth Day account, **Staci Hobbet's** anniversary donation and outreach account.
- **Pam Tatge** had requested funds from the El Paso/Morrison Fund for nine trees for the Creekfield Forest Trail from Mercer Arboretum March Plant Sale. **Ron Morrison** and **Pamela Tatge** attended the sale and determined that there were additional trees needed for the project and requested those additional funds.
- Ron Morrison requested funds for trees to enhance the Creekfield Forest Trail as an interpretive trail. Only species that have been approved by David will be used in the Reforestation. The trees are not to be purchased at one time, but whenever the time is right, or the trees wanted were located. Signage will come later, along with a self-guided brochure. The Budget Committee had tabled this item. After David provided information to further explain the project and request, the request was approved.

Outreach: Judy Strauss reported on the following events: The Children's Festival at Fort Bend Museum on March 28 had 647 people attending. Jane Minard, Jerry Carpenter, Diane Carpenter, and Carol Ramsayer helped with this outreach program. The Envirofest 2009, Brazos Mall, Lake Jackson, April 18, and Creekside Church in Needville May 9, still need people to help. Chuck Duplant and Judy Strauss will do the Ducks Unlimited May 3 in Hempstead.

Gift Shop: **Beth Debenport** reported that the net for March was very good. We've been busy ordering inventory.

Announcements: Junior volunteers have helped out when needed. We are looking for junior volunteer candidates to have another training session.

Thank you from **Beth Debenport** to **Diane Carpenter** and **Rachelle Watson** for taking over the organization's accounting and not missing a beat.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35PM.

INTERPRETIVE STAFF REPORTS

SHARON HANZIK



Spring Break was the best ever. Monday alone saw 450 people; 110 people attended the Snake Program. The busiest day was Friday, with 776 attending. Total attendance for the week was 3,413.

The Eco-Explorer program will start June 11 and go thru August 6, nine Thursdays. The fee is \$2.00 for the two-hour class. See Carrie Sample if you'd like to present or assist.

Thanks to Pam Tatge for the new volunteer brochures and promotional posters. She did an excellent job. There was representation of fifty volunteers for the 25th Anniversary celebration. There were 1,700 people getting information under the volunteer tent.

Family Camping Weekend, April 25, is filled and there is a waiting list. School groups are booked up for April and May. Please sign up on the volunteer events calendar.

New volunteer caps are here. They are free to new members and replacement for worn-out caps (one per volunteer). If you just want one, the cost is \$7. The organization has purchased these caps just as they purchased the BBSPVO volunteer patch. First two patches are free. Extras are \$2 each.

The Texas Senate proclamation is hanging on the wall downstairs in the NC. The Texas House Representative proclamation is being framed.

DAVID HEINICKE

We have submitted a grant request to George Foundation for our Elm Lake Viewing Platform. There will be more news next month. Mission possible with a goal for urban citizens to get to more parks. June 6 is National Trails Day.

There were 12 people that went on the field trip to see the big Live Oak tree at the San Bernard Wildlife Sanctuary. All had a good time. The next trip will be a paddle trip on the San Bernard River.



David Heinicke poses at the huge Cypress tree at Bates Allen Park.

RICHARD TAYLOR, LEAD RANGER

It has really been busy over the past month. The staff has done a great job manicuring the park for our visitors and for our 25th Anniversary. Big applause to all who work so hard to make BBSP shine. **Blake Flessner** and **Jim Gilliam** attended the yearly Utility Plant Operator Conference in Tyler this month. They were updated on the latest rules and regulations that we must follow to stay in compliance with TCEQ and discussions were held to improve our operations of the water and waste water plants. Between these two Rangers we are glad to say we are in compliance and are providing safe drinking water and environmentally friendly control of our waste water. A big thanks to them.

APRIL MAINTENANCE REPORT

Contributed by Ron Morrison

Wood Yard: Split 2 cords of wood. Bundled and delivered wood to camping loop kiosks.

Mowing and Landscaping: Planted approximately 50 trees on 40 Acre and Elm lakes, including staking, mulching and watering them. Cleared spots on the Creekfield Forest Nature trail for planting trees, and planted approximately 20 trees on Creekfield Forest Nature trail, including mulching and watering them.

Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance: Cleared some of the blown down trees from the 100 loop camping area.

General Maintenance: Repaired approximately 20 benches. Treated the Nature Center deck and benches, picnic tables, and bridges throughout the park with water sealer.

Pest Control: Treated the park for fire ants in all areas of high traffic, including Headquarters, Maintenance, two residences, Nature Center, 100 and 200 camping loops, primitive & overflow camping areas, 40 acre, Elm & Hale lake picnic areas, Elm, 40 acre and Creekfield Lake trails.

OUTREACH REPORT

Contributed by Judy Strauss

The last outreach event we attended was Envirofest 2009 in Lake Jackson on Saturday, April 18. To my knowledge, this was our first time to attend this event, and I must say that it was one of the most enjoyable Outreaches that we have had.



It was held in the Brazos Mall in Lake Jackson from 10:00-1:00. We may have started around 9:45 or so, and ended about 1:10, but in that short time, we had a minimum of 863 visitors stop by our booth. There were four of us there manning the booth, and I can promise you that most of the time, we were all busy, and having a great time!

I would like to send out a huge "Thank You" to Jerry Zona, Susie Gann and Pam Tatge for being there to interact with all of the visitors. It was a great day, enjoyed by many. The organizers sent a message to us that our booth was the most talked about booth at the event!

Visitor at Envirofest Photo by Judy Strauss

Thanks, too, Jerry, for having the patience to stop in at the local dollar store with me as we were leaving (gotta keep an eye out for gift shop items), even tho it was pouring down rain and flooding, and for not complaining at all about my driving as we drove back in the downpour and flooding rains!

Our next Outreach is the Creekside Outdoor Expo on Saturday, May 9th from 8:00-3:30, in Needville. It will be held on the grounds of the Creekside Church on Hwy 36, across from the high school. I am still in need of help, and have broken it down into 3 shifts. Even an hour or two of your time really helps, so if you're available, please sign up for a shift, or all day if you prefer. I would really appreciate any help. We did this event year before last, and despite the "storm" we had a fantastic time. Lots of kids, lots of adults!



Volunteers Susie Gann, Jerry Zona, and Pam Tatge at Envirofest. Photo by Judy Strauss

NATURE CENTER REPORT

Contributed by Anna Dell Williamson

Here are the totals of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for April 1-30, 2009. Attendance was affected by very bad weather Easter and a couple of Saturdays.

| PROGRAMS | TOTALS |
|---|---|
| NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE April 2009 - 5739 (high 895, 4/4) April 2008 - 6387 | Saturdays (4) – 2,441 - High, 895, 4/4 Average: 610 |
| | Sundays (4) – 1462 High, 521, 4/5 Average: 365 |
| | Weekdays (22) – 1836 High, 188, 4/9 Average, 83 |
| CREEKFIELD HIKES (8) | 193– High, 4/4 – 70 |
| ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS (5) | 385 - High, 4/4 - 107 |
| BIRD PROGRAMS/HIKES (5) | 106 High, 4/10 - 67 |
| SNAKE PROGRAMS (3) | 160 – High, 4/4 - 88 |
| CHILDREN'S STORY TIME (5) | 110– High, 4/4 - 49 |
| OUTREACH (6) | 2950– High, 4/4 - 1,728 |
| OTHER PROGRAMS (4) includes videos, pond life, photo and ask the ranger | 122 |
| TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN HIKES AND PROGRAMS | 4,026 |
| TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS | 490 |

WHAT'S IN THE GARDEN?

By Joan Jackson

Mexican Honeysuckle

Justicia spicigera

Other common names: Orange Plume Flower, Firecracker Plant



This evergreen shrub grows to five feet tall and four feet wide. It requires little to moderate watering and propagates by cuttings and layering. The blooms are clusters of orange flowers year around. It can be found to the right outside the back door of the Nature Center.

VOLUNTEER NEWS & NOTES

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome back to active status **Noel Duncan**.

We are sorry to hear that **Bob Haynes** recently had an auto accident. But we are happy that he managed to walk away virtually unhurt when he rolled his classic Mercedes.

Bruce Williamson is recovering well after removal of a salivary gland in his cheek.



Dear Judy,

Please extend my thanks to your volunteer colleagues for coming to Children's Day. The kids get such a kick out of seeing and touching the alligators and snakes - and the information you share is invaluable. Thanks for coming!"

Claire Rogers Education Coordinator Fort Bend Museum



... to Judy Strauss, Anna Dell Williamson, Bruce Williamson, Beth Debenport, Jerry Carpenter and Diane Carpenter for all their help in covering weekend gift shop and nature center.

... to everyone who has helped tie wood. It was really needed during the busy camping season.

... to **Pam Tatge** and **Rick Dashnau** for leading two hikes for the French Council. The organization received a donation.

... to **Judy Strauss** for the April meeting dinner.

... to **Cindy Peterson** for signing up for the May meeting dinner.



May Birthdays

Rose Aden (Emeritus) Dennis Keprta (Emeritus) Suzie Gann Virginia Harrison Dawn Tejero Carrie Sample JT Kalina (Staff)

June Birthdays

Anna Dell Williamson Glen Kilgore Jacob Ramirez



May Anniversaries Rose and Elmer Aden (Emeritus) Linda and David Heinicke Patricia and Steve Marshall

June Anniversaries

Joe and Sue Carmichael (1953) (Emeritus) Nelda and Martin Gay Joan and Warren Jackson (Emeritus) Joyce and Darrell Giese

MEETING NIGHT DINNERS

Don't forget to sign up for a meeting night dinner. Dinner is at 5:00, right before the meeting, and you will be reimbursed for your expenses. Sign up on the volunteer calendar.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As you all are aware, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of BBSP and the 20th Anniversary of BBSPVO on April 4. However, the celebration is not over. At the annual picnic October 10, we plan to extend the celebration to a presentation of the history of the volunteer organization and some video footage of the speakers and presentations from April 4.

Bill Godley and **Anna Dell Williamson** are working on a pictorial history and a written history of the organization. We would like to include stories and pictures of events, volunteers, projects, the park, animals, plants, etc. Please send your stories and/or pictures to Anna Dell at <u>awilliamson4@comcast.net</u> or mail them to her, or give them to her or Bill at the park. There is a plastic wall-mounted file holder in the lounge to the left of the big window as you face it. Items can be left there as well.

Thanks for all your support!

Photos by Chuck Duplant



The Needville High School Choir performing at the Anniversary Celebration.



Frank Seay (far right) and his band perform his original "Gator Song".



Parks Department Director Walt Dabney



Justin Rhodes, Regional Director; Superintendent Steve Killian; Past Superintendents Jerry Bartel and Laird Fowler (currently Regional Director, Panhandle area).

JUNIOR VOLUNTEER TRAINING



Junior Volunteer Tyler Teague (seated, right) with volunteers Linda Heinicke and Susie Gann at the Volunteer booth at the Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Chuck Duplant.

We are having a Junior Volunteer training class on June 20. The program is for children ages 8-14. Children 13 and 14 years of age may choose if they want to be a JR volunteer or go through the adult training to become a full volunteer. The deadline for applying is May 11. The candidate must have an interview with program leaders prior to acceptance. JR Volunteers who reach the age of 14 may choose to go through regular training to become a full volunteer.

All candidates for the Junior Volunteer program must have an active volunteer sponsor in order to be in the training program. The sponsor must attend the interview and all segments of training, and agree to be with the JR VIT and JR Vol at all times when the child is in the park, even after training is completed.

If you are willing to sponsor a child, contact Carrie Sample by May 11. We have 3 applicants who do not have active volunteer sponsors at this time. Other volunteers may want to sponsor their own children or grandchildren or special friends. Parental permission and release of liability must be obtained before children are accepted into the program.

ARMADILLOS

Contributed by Dennis Jones

Why did the chicken cross the road? To prove to the armadillo it could be done. The nine-banded armadillo is a cute symbol of Texas and has been adopted as the state mammal. It came to Texas in 1880 from Mexico and Central America to settle here. They were introduced to Florida in the 1920's and its range has continually expanded northward and eastward since then. The armadillo has been successful in North America because it found a job no other animal was doing. That job was digging holes in the ground and gobbling up insects, grubs, earthworms and the like. And that's where the trouble begins.

People call the state park and want to know what they can do about the armadillo digging up their garden or flower beds filled with compost, bone or blood meal and other smelly treats for armadillos. I wish I had a good answer for them. It's easier to prevent armadillos from living in your yard than to remove them, and that's not easy either. Fences will keep most of the little rascals out of sensitive areas but they can dig under them. Raised flower beds will also deter armadillos as they are not great climbers, but we're talking about twelve inches or more, and that's not an option for a lot of folks. I have not found anything that will repel armadillos in flower beds and I've tried just about everything. Some people use things such as red pepper or mothballs, but I don't think they have much success. Avoiding the use of smelly garden additives such as blood meal, bone meal and "aromatic" composts might help. Dogs might help keep them away, but that raises another set of problems.

Removal is another option, but it's difficult in the best of circumstances. What about baited live traps, you say? It's a good idea in principle, but you are more likely to catch a raccoon, opossum or the neighbor's cat than the armadillo. It's all about the bait. You might get lucky if you bait the trap with earthworms enclosed in a piece of hose or stocking so the worms won't crawl off. Worms can be obtained at a lot of outdoor stores in case you are not up to digging your own.

Physically catching the armadillo is another option, but it has its drawbacks as well. Armadillos are primarily nocturnal and that means catching them when they are about. Sitting up at 3:00 AM waiting for an armadillo is about as much fun as watching paint dry, and one of ol' Murphy's Laws says the armadillo won't come out until you go to bed.

Assuming you meet the armadillo one dark and stormy night, you can sneak up on him. I have had them stumble over my boots after I made a stealthy approach. That's when I like to pet them on the back. They bounce straight up in the air and hit the ground running. It's amazing to watch. But I digress. If you can get close enough through stealth you can pick them up by the tail and thrust them headfirst into a five gallon bucket for relocation. Be careful of their sharp claws. They don't/can't bite, but they will buck trying to get away; a firm grip is required. You could also use a fishing dip net to put over them. I can just see it now...you wandering around in your front yard at 3:00 AM in your PJ's with dip net and a bucket. The neighbors are going to think you are around the bend (assuming they are up at that hour), *unless* the neighbor is wandering around his front yard in his PJ's with a dip net and bucket as well.

Now that you've caught your "dillo", what do you do? Take him away — very far away. Find a place where there is accessible water and some cover for it to hide in. The dillo will do the rest. I don't expect most people to catch their own armadillos, but there it is in case you want to try. By the way, be sure you don't let the armadillo escape from his transport container prior to his release, like say... in the inside of your car. Believe me, you don't want that.

Now that you've caught the armadillo, your problems are over right? Not necessarily. You see, YOUR armadillo kept all the other armadillos away, kind of like a "watchdillo". So now after a period of peace and quiet in the flower beds, you will begin to notice the telltale evidence of a new tenant, and you can begin the process again. Prevention, live traps or PJ patrol. I would think about prevention if I were you.

PS: What's this about armadillos and leprosy? Yes, they are the only other critter that seems to get leprosy. Normally they get a different strain of the disease than humans, and they are used as surrogates for the study of the disease. What is the likelihood of you getting leprosy from an armadillo? Very small. You must have a predisposition for the disease, be in a weakened immune condition, and be exposed to an animal that has the disease. It's more likely you'll win the Texas Lottery. Yeah, right. Happy Trails.

GENERATION GAP

Contributed by Sharon Hanzik

When it comes to nature, I don't believe one exists. I believe it's interest, not age, that determines one's knowledge of the natural world. How many times have I had an eight-year boy in the audience who could take over my reptile program right on the spot?

Volunteers **James Watson** (age 14) and **Tom Prentiss** (not 14) both share a love of reptiles and amphibians. Mr. Prentiss, hoping to mentor young Watson, recently tested him on his knowledge of all things "herp". Young Mr. Watson passed with flying colors. This did not disappoint Mr. Prentiss. On the contrary he was quite impressed as he related this "mentoring session" to me. I have also overheard him relating this story to quite a few volunteers. I do believe, however, that Young Mr. Watson could still be mentored by his elder, especially when it comes to interpreting these natural wonders to our visiting public. Mr. Prentiss does a very fine job in this area. I do hope that young Mr. Watson will continue to assist in future reptile programs until he feels comfortable enough to present regularly on his own. Let's also see if Young Mr. Watson may teach Mr. Prentiss something new. We shall see.....

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Contributed by Sharon Hanzik

Continuing education for volunteers happens every weekend. With staff and volunteer schedules as varied as they are, it has been difficult to present continuing educational programs only for volunteers.

Take advantage of what already exists: attend a Creekfield Hike. Attend a few by different presenters. Everyone has their "specialty" and you can also learn from their interpretive technique. The same applies for alligator programs, Ask the Ranger, snake programs, mammal programs, skulls and skeletons, birds of prey, story time, etc.

Remember to use the library. If you want to view a DVD or video, please check with interpretive staff before you take it home. They are not part of the library, as we use them for programs and need to make sure they are on the shelf when we need them.

Pro Brance Data and a part

San Bernard River, Bates Allen Park

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Bates Allen Park & Largest Cypress Tree

Several of us have been talking about a field trip out to Bates Allen Park in Fort Bend Country to paddle on the San Bernard River and see what might be the largest Cypress tree in Texas (record pending). If you are interested and have (or can beg, borrow or steal) a canoe or Kayak (no motor boats allowed in the park), please join us. This trip is open to BBSP volunteers, master naturalists, muckers — all are welcome. We will meet at the boat launch at Bates Allen Park at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 19. The total paddle trip is about 1.5 miles south and about the same distance going to the north with very little flow. Bring water, sunscreen, binoculars, sack lunch, etc. Please feel free to invite anyone interested.

Bates M. Allen Park is located at 630 Charlie Roberts Lane, Kendleton, Texas, 77451. Amenities include

wetlands, 2 pavilions, walking trails, play area, fishing pier, grills, lake, observation deck, canoe ramp, restroom, tables, sand volleyball court, historical site. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the summer and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the fall and winter.



Rich & Sandy Jesperson at a bird program at the Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Chuck Duplant.

INDIAN PAINTBRUSHES

From Texas State Parks Getaways Newsletter, "Sprint", 2009



Indian Paintbrushes (the genus Castilleja) look like someone dipped the flowering stalk in brightly colored paint. Different species may be red, pink, or even yellow. These bright colors are not the flowers (which are in most cases inconspicuous and greenish), but the bracts which surround the flowers. Paintbrushes are "hemi-parasites", meaning that they obtain some of their nutrition by latching onto the roots of other plants. Thus when planting paintbrush seed, it's best to plant in a grassy area. Transplanting paintbrushes may kill them, so grow them from seed. Please do not pick flowers or dig up plants from public lands.

State Parks to Visit: Paintbrushes bloom around the same time as bluebonnets, and a great display can usually be seen at LBJ State Park and Historic Site. Central Texas parks such as Inks Lake State Park, Guadalupe River State Park, McKinney Falls State Park, and Garner State Park often have wonderful displays as well.



Volunteers Maureen Goode and Carol Ramsayer help visitors dissect owl pellets at a program at the Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Chuck Duplant.



Buddy Franklin, long time volunteer, with staff members at the Anniversary Celebration.

Photo by Richard Taylor. -12-

2009 CALENDER OF EVENTS

| May 8 May 9 | Bird Hike, 40-Acre Lake, 8:00 AM Bird photography Photo-walk #2, 5:00 PM Regular meeting, 5:30 PM |
|--|---|
| May 17 May 25 June 6 June 13 July 4 | Bird Hike, 40-Acre Lake, 8:00 AM Memorial Day Holiday Close-up photography, Photo Walk #1, 5:00 PM Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Independence Day |
| July 11 August 8 September 7 September 12 October 10 October 12 October 31 November 14 November 26 December 5 December 12 December 25 | Close-up photography, Photo Walk #2, 5:00 PM Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Labor Day Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Annual Picnic, 5:30 PM Columbus Day Holiday Halloween Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Thanksgiving Simple Christmas Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Christmas |



Silver Alligator presented to Steve Killian from TPWD at the Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Richard Taylor.

Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife 21901 FM 762 Needville TX 77461

FIRST CLASS MAIL

→ NEXT MEETING DAY AND TIME \leftarrow SATURDAY, May 9, 2009 at 5:30 PM



REGULAR VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Creekfield Hikes

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

Bird Hikes

BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

President: Vice-President: Secretary: Treasurer: Carrie Sample Suzie Gann Eddye Grizzaffi Diane Carpenter

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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 Saturday following the monthly meeting, if mailed to Anna Dell Williamson, or at the meeting if delivered to the park. (E-mail address: <u>awilliamson4@comcast.net</u>). Notify Anna Dell (281-485-2843) well in advance of any events you want announced in the newsletter.