



VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2010

## DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

*Contributed by Eddy Grizzaffi*

President **Carrie Sample** called the meeting to order on December 12, 2009. There were 13 Volunteers, 1 VIT, and 4 staff members present. Minutes were approved as posted.

### Budget Report

**Dave Armstrong** presented roses to **Diane Carpenter** and **Rachelle Watson** for helping him with the change of Treasurer. He gave the monthly treasurer report saying, "We've had a very good month!" . The Gift Shop is in the black. Wood sales were good. The report was accepted.

The following budget requests were approved:

**Chuck Duplant** requested funds for lights and electrical material to change kiosk lighting at the camping loops. Double lighting fixtures will be installed to light up the iron ranger (holds money) and the kiosk. He will move the light fixtures from the bulletin boards to the kiosks for better lighting in these areas.

**Steve Killian** requested funds from the donated money from the deer hunt for deer corn.

**Ron Morrison** requested additional funds for trees.

**David Heinicke** requested funds from the George Foundation Grant to order supplies and equipment for the Brazos Bend/George Foundation volunteer "Youth in Philanthropy" project originally set for February. This project has been reset for January 30, 2010.

**Chuck Duplant** requested that the Wood Yard's budget be increased until the end of 2009. We went through four cords of wood during Thanksgiving week. We have doubled our sales with 822 bundles sold since last year.

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**Ron Morrison** requested that funds be taken from the El Paso/Morrison restricted fund to complete the funding of the Elm Lake Wildlife Viewing Platform. All work is to be contracted out as per the TPWD engineering drawing. The Commission hearing will be January 27, 2010, and the funds are earmarked for this project only.

**Gift Shop**

**Beth Debenport** reported that inventory would be next week during the deer hunt.

**Wood Yard**

**Chuck Duplant** reported a record month in November. A big thanks to volunteers who tied 490 bundles for Thanksgiving week. We are working on a project to increase visibility for the iron ranger and kiosk.

**Maintenance Report**

There has been trail trimming, gravel laying, and bench repair on the Creekfield long pier. We've had two to six people with the bad weather.

**Outreach**

**Judy Strauss** reported that spring reservations are being made for 2010: Brazoria Heritage Event – March 6; Katy Festival – April 10; Greatwood Spring Fling – April 17; and Rosenberg Railroad Hobo Day – April 24.

**Announcements**

A memorial fund has been set up for **Fletcher Morgan**. Donations may be made to the fund through **Dave Armstrong**.

**Mary Lockwood** brought us keychain flashlights to help on dark nights after meetings. Thanks, Mary! Mary also reported that we had a distinguished guest in the Nature Center in November. NASA Astronaut Maoshi Yakazama is a Mission Specialist from Japan on the STS 131 to go up in March. She was doing a documentary to be shown on Japanese television.

The meeting was adjourned.

## STAFF REPORTS

**Steve Killian, Superintendent**



Deer Hunt is scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until noon next week for 35 deer. Thirty-two deer were taken in November, along with 17 hogs.

The water level management is working. The gates are open from Pilant Lake, building the water level into both horseshoe lakes, over the spillway, and the slough.

The trails are extremely wet, no Kubotas are allowed and no driving on the NC grounds. The Live Oak Trail is closed.

Staff has been working on the 2" water well in the equestrian area but hit a snag. We have the pump, pipe, etc. but the casing failed; it won't hold water. We are still on track for potable water and electricity. A 4" water line from Hale Lake along Blue Stem Riverview will be available by mid or late summer.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a non-profit organization whose members intern at National Parks campgrounds. Texas Parks & Wildlife will host two leaders and eight members in Resource Management soon. Crews will trim and build trails on weekdays at BBSP in preparation for going on to National Parks.

Staff met with the TxDot Coordinator about fixing erosion on the campground road and resurfacing the Observatory road. They will build a storage area at Blue Stem. There is good native vegetation to screen off the storage area from the road, and trees may be planted later. The Houston Museum Observatory service parking lot will be expanded. Some trees will be cut down. All the materials will be furnished by the Houston Museum.

Funds have been received for the Live Oak Boardwalk for hikers and bikers. We have taken steps to control the raccoon population.

It is our good fortune that Chris Bishop started on December 1. He's been working for 12 days now. He will start school next fall semester 2010-2011 for law enforcement at the Police Academy. Chris brings lots of experience to the job and we are happy to have him on board. He has a B. S. in Forest Management from the University of Maine, along with graduate work from Stephen F. Austin University. He has worked in recreation and parks for 9 years, including Lake Houston State Park, Purtis Creek State Park, Davy Crockett National Forest, and the Forest Service Visitor's Center in Northern New Hampshire. He has researched the BBSP web site and newsletter for information. He likes public service, natural resources, and recreation. He has ideas for facilities, partnerships, programming, and alternative funding. "I'm thrilled to be here," says Chris. "I've been a fan of Brazos Bend for quite some time now. I'm impressed by the volunteer group; the website is excellent. Teamwork is a partnership for a good learning resource."



## Sharon Hanzik, Interpretive Ranger

We're over the hump for Simple Christmas. We had 200+ people. Ed Waley is officially a volunteer member now.

Sharon showed us the Yellowstone Landing panel and the Paddling Safety Panel that will be installed at the river landing site. Trailhead signs have been ordered for Live Oak Trail.

The new volunteer application deadline was November 30th. We have 10 who have applied and completed all their paperwork.

Thank you for a good year; you've been trained well.

## David Heinicke, Interpretive Ranger

**Sharon Hanzik** is officially the "Volunteer Coordinator." She will be on vacation December 21 to January 4.

The annual Christmas bird count is December 19. This is our 25th year. The count will cover a 15-mile diameter. This event starts at 6:30 am until 5:30 pm with a catered barbecue dinner. There is a \$5 participation fee, which goes to the National Audubon Society.



We expect Christmas and New Year's to be a busy time. We need your help.

Brazos Bend/George Foundation will host the "Youth in Philanthropy" project originally set for February. It has been rescheduled for January 30, 2010. There will be 150 – 200 children and we need help with the crews, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. All field staff will be working rain or shine. This project serves a big purpose. This is a high level organization, and there will be chaperones.



## Richard Taylor, Lead Ranger

It was a magical sort of place at BBSP when it snowed. Although it did not last long, the transformation was something spectacular. The staff on duty really got to enjoy the beauty of the park as it unfolded into a winter wonderland. What I noticed that stood out the most was the red Cardinals around the Nature Center. Their colors really radiated amongst the white backdrop.

As I mention the snow, we all know what happens to it when it melts. All the recent rains and melted snow has really affected the park in various ways. Some maintenance projects we had planned are on hold until it dries up. Other issues associated with maintenance include trying to keep our visitors on the pavement and off the grass or shoulder areas along the roads. We have had numerous ruts and tire markings along the roads that are really an eyesore for the grounds. Please ask all to keep on the pavement and stay off the shoulders. One reason is to keep a good looking park and another is a maintenance issue. We have a lot of underground water and electric lines running right beside the roads all through the park. A heavy vehicle pulling over onto soft ground may damage one of these lines. And yes, this has already happened several times recently.



**Northern Cardinal**

*Photo by Jerry Zona*

We welcome our new hosts that are here for the winter. I am gaining much appreciation for the skills and abilities that our hosts have. It's really unbelievable the diversity that comes to assist us. We have retired school teachers, carpenters, mechanics, operators, boat captain, and military, and the skill levels of each one are just superior. The hosts are a tremendous help in the park from HQ to the restrooms. So please acknowledge their efforts and give them a big thank you.

At present we are in our maintenance and holiday modes, meaning that a lot of the projects we came up with during the year are now getting started, and much needed leave is being taken. Just a few things to mention regarding projects: We are planning some remodeling at HQ to allow our office administration to stretch their wings some. They have been cramped up in the little office for a long time. Pending weather and funds, we should get this into full gear after the first of the year. We are also planning the installation of utilities to our new residence and host area next to the maintenance yard. This will allow us to have two new host sites and a residence there for a potential Park Manager Trainee.

In addition, we will start a lot of tree trimming and roadway clearing. **David Heinicke** has spearheaded the YIP (Youth in Philanthropy) project with the George Foundation and we are expected to have this event on January 30. Hopefully we will have a lot of help to really catch up on much-needed trimming. We have numerous dead trees throughout the park that are posing hazards, and we will focus on them. I have several other projects that are on the board, such as painting and roof repairs, but we will need some nice weather to undertake them.

Park Resource Specialist **Dennis Jones** has helped me tremendously by doing a lot of trail inspections. Dennis' experience and expertise have put the finger on numerous repair projects. Our Park Hosts and Rangers have been doing some repairs to the shelters and dining hall. Their efforts aren't going unnoticed. Thanks to all involved.

I would like to congratulate the entire park staff, hosts, and volunteers for the preparation and management of our two recent park deer hunts. We were successful in achieving a resource goal while keeping it safe and productive. We managed our deer herd and enlightened new visitors that BBSP is not your average State Park. I think they learned that we care about our resources, our customers, and teamwork. For all of you who don't know what is involved to plan, set up, and implement a state sponsored deer Hunt, there is a lot involved. The Rangers all worked together well, making this happen without a hitch, and were commended by numerous hunters on the class act. **Jeff Orsak** and **JT Kalina** were the hunt managers while **Gary Bialas**, **Jim Gilliam**, **Blake Flessner**, and **Dennis Jones** followed through with much needed assistance. I just can't express enough how proud I am of these guys who spent a lot of long hours making this a success. We achieved it all without any violations or incidents and sent everyone home safely.

# NATURE CENTER REPORT

## DECEMBER 2009

*Contributed by Anna Dell Williamson*

*Below are the totals of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for December 1-31, 2009. We were closed 3 days for the hunt and Christmas Day. There was lots of bad weather.*

PROGRAMS	TOTALS
<b>NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE</b> Dec 2009 - 2999 December 2008 - 3600	<b>Saturdays (4) 1062</b> High, 385, 12/26 Average: 266
	<b>Sundays (4) – 822</b> High, 485, 12/27 Average: 205
	<b>Weekdays (18)– 1115</b> High, 246, 12/28 Average: 62
<b>CREEKFIELD HIKES (6 days)</b>	71
<b>ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS (4)</b>	150
<b>BIRD PROGRAMS/HIKES (4)</b>	80
<b>SNAKE PROGRAMS (3)</b>	86
<b>CHILDREN’S STORY TIME (3)</b>	32
<b>OWL PROGRAMS (3)</b>	34
<b>VIDEOS (3)</b>	21
<b>TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN HIKES AND PROGRAMS</b>	482
<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	732

## OUTREACH REPORT

*Contributed by Judy Strauss*

Just a heads up about our spring outreach opportunities. The following activities are coming up, and you are invited to help. Contact **Judy Strauss** if you are available. These activities will also be placed on the Events Calendar when they get closer. All are on a Saturday, and two to three people are needed for each one.

Brazoria Heritage Day, March 6  
 Katy Festival, April 10

Greatwood Spring Fling, April 17  
 Rosenberg Railroad Hobo Day, April 24

# VOLUNTEER NEWS & NOTES

## THANKS

... to **Jennifer and Curtis Parent, Ed Waley, Ric Rincon, Sid Jones, Linda Heinicke** and **Judy Strauss** for bundling wood over Thanksgiving.

... to **Mary Lockwood** for the keychain flashlights to help us navigate the parking lot on dark nights.

... to **Eddy Grizzaffi** for the December meeting supper and to **Diane and Jerry Carpenter** for dessert.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dave Armstrong  
Justin Bowers (VIT)  
Joe Carmichael (Emeritus)  
Sharon Hanzik (Staff)  
Jim Hiatt  
Warren Jackson (Emeritus)  
Nancy Lynn Jones (VIT)  
Jane Minard  
Jim North  
Ron Morrison  
Laszlo Perlaky  
Marilyn Vossler  
Bruce Williamson

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Carpenter  
Noel Duncan  
Judy Strauss  
Devin Elester (Staff)  
Blake Flessner (Staff)  
Bill Godley  
Sid Jones  
Johnny Hite  
Mandy Hite  
Jenn Mantei  
Cindy Peterson  
Pam Tatge (VIT)  
Veronica Telthorster



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Robert and Shannon Aaron  
Suzie and Rick Gann  
Linda and Rod Hite



Downy Woodpecker  
*Photo by Jerry Zona*



# IDENTIFICATION QUIZ

*Contributed by Jenn Mantei*

Can you identify these mammals? Answers are on page 11.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G

# YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY

*Submitted by David Heinicke*

BBSP and the George Foundation are sponsoring a Youth in Philanthropy event on January 30. The purpose is to expose high school students to volunteerism. The George Foundation will supply funds for 150-200 high school students from Fort Bend ISD and some private schools to work in various areas in the park on that day, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Depending on the weather, they will work on clearing brush, clearing out along the Mile Stretch, painting at Maintenance, trimming low limbs at picnic areas, removing spiders and mud daubers from restrooms, and landscaping around HQ. A grant from George Foundation will provide rental and purchase of equipment, some of which will stay with us. The Foundation will provide transportation, water and food for the students all day. This activity will help us complete many projects. Staff members will all be on duty, and volunteers are needed to help in many areas. If you are available to help or if you have an idea for a project, contact **David Heinicke**.

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*Submitted by Bill Godley*

The "Silver Anniversary" Brazos Bend Christmas Bird Count saw a record 72 participants who were able to enjoy clear cool weather and record 151 species. In our CBC history, this is the second highest total – exceeded only by 154 species in 2000.



**Purple Gallinule**

*Photo by Jerry Zona*

The coveted "Big Bird" award was not difficult to choose, as a very late Purple Gallinule was clearly seen and photographed by our own volunteer **Justin Bower** at Elm Lake. This is a "first ever" for this species on the CBC and raises the historical total species to 239.

The "Countdown BBQ Dinner," sponsored by NRG Energy and provided by the Swinging Door, was exceptional. Featured was a short briefing by Bob Honig, a co-founder of the count, on "How we counted 20 million incoming blackbirds and other roosting species at sunset." This winter dusk phenomena occurs in little over an hour at the 40 Acre Lake Observation Tower. Bob's astonishing story occurred in 1986; this year the figure was perhaps 1% of that total but still very impressive. No matter, 150,000 birds taking refuge in the evening at our park is quite a sight.

Hope to see you next year on the 26th CBC! Mark December 18, 2010, on your calendar. Thanks for your support.

# LEAST GREBES

*Submitted by Rick Dashnau*

December 20 was the first bright, sunny Sunday we've had in almost a month. I decided to go to Creekfield Lake and see if any otters would show up. No, they didn't, or at least I didn't see any. But staying by the lake and watching is a lot of fun. When I got onto the long pier, I came upon one of our park visitors photographing the Least Grebes. They were very close to the pier, and obviously didn't mind people near them. The water was crystal clear.

I moved closer to the Grebes, and started taking pictures of them, and they submerged as usual. But today, they were easily visible while under the clear water. A small group of us watched as the Grebes paddled around, although they always seemed to turn their butts towards us while on the surface. What's up with that? When they submerged, we could all easily see them poking around on the bottom. It was really quite exciting. I shot for slow-motion, hoping to slow my jerky camera movement as I tried to track them underwater. I shot a few clips, some nice dives and a few surfacing Grebes. I got one nice continuous clip of a Grebe diving, foraging, and surfacing all in one go. At the adjusted slow-motion frame rate, the clip is about two minutes long (but actually happened 7 times



faster than that). I've edited it a bit (I did some enhancement of the underwater sequence to try to minimize surface glare), and added sound (my usual type of music).

Here's the link: <http://rickubis.20m.com/leastgrbundrw.wmv>. It is of a single Least Grebe going through an entire sequence of diving, foraging underwater, and surfacing.

This next clip is comprised of a number of short segments of the three Least Grebes (someone told me one parent and two young) diving and surfacing. I put these together and am passing them on because it's so much fun watching them. They were extremely close to the pier, and it's nice to see them this way. The bird folks amongst us can verify this, but it is still uncommon to see this species in our area, isn't it? We're just lucky to have had them over the last few years. It is still just one "family" isn't it?



**Least Grebe**  
*Photo by Rick Daschnau*

There are a few points that I'd like to ask about (you bird folks know who you are). I mentioned that the Grebes seemed to keep their butts turned towards us most of the time. Not only that, but they appear to open the air-gaps between the feathers so that it appears (to me, anyway) that bare skin is visible. The sun is generally behind me when I'm watching the Grebes. Is it possible that they are trying to catch some solar heating on the bare skin back there? The under-feathers are brightly-colored, and not dark (which would help absorb solar heat). Right before a dive, I can see them fold the feathers back down, forming a more streamlined profile, and also catching air against the skin (more guessing about function). It doesn't make sense to be ballast, but large air bubbles appear when the Grebes dive.

I'm also amazed at the contortions that the legs are capable of while swimming. They're doing a lot more than just "rowing" straight back or paddling while the Grebes are surfaced. They push up, out, twist, and even seem to brake the Grebe when it surfaces. And those piercing yellow eyes are brilliant. The very last segment in this clip shows them off.

This is the link for the new clip: [http://rickubis.20m.com/leastgrbsdivesurf\\_122009.wmv](http://rickubis.20m.com/leastgrbsdivesurf_122009.wmv)

After a little research, I was able to find one of my answers about behavior online. It seems that my guess was correct, and that Least Grebes are sunning themselves when they bare their backsides. At least (heh...) they aren't mooning us.

## THE NOT-SO-EVERGREEN LIVE OAK (Part 1)

*Submitted by Pam Tatge*

Recently I overheard one of our most talented interpretive guides begin the Creekfield Hike. This man's knowledge is encyclopedic; I often ask him for information that I accept without a second thought. When I heard him mention something about live oaks that contradicted my hard-won tree education, I knew he would appreciate a gentle correction. When he returned after another superbly delivered hike, I whispered to him, "Dear, esteemed, nearly favorite fellow volunteer who almost bleeds maroon, live oaks aren't evergreen." Oops.

His eyes popped out of his head as if I had a forked tongue. He ran for the first reference book he could find. "Evergreen!" he proclaimed. Later that day, he called me "that" in front of Suzie. Clearly, my horticultural insanity and insulting approach had jeopardized our friendship.

I am fond of trees, especially oaks. When I teach Tree Care 101 and people ask for an evergreen, they are really asking for a tree that doesn't make a mess. Unfortunately, most homeowners' associations won't let you "plant" silk or plastic trees outdoors. I love live oaks—in the park and in other places where they are allowed to grow in their natural form. But I become aggravated when Live oaks are planted out of lack of imagination or out of laziness (trying to avoid a mess). Why? First, we are not enjoying the true, majestic, spreading form of the Live oak when we plant

it as a street tree and limb it up. Secondly, we are creating a monoculture that invites diseases such as oak wilt, and the possibility of losing all of our Live oaks, much as we once lost elms to Dutch elm disease. Finally, the landscape can be healthier and more attractive when we introduce diversity with sycamores, pecans, cedar elms, and other types of oak.

So, how did I come by the notion that live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) aren't evergreen? Some of you may be inclined to blame it on my Aggie instructors, including:

Dr. McEachern, a professor on A&M's Horticultural Sciences Faculty, taught the tree section of my master gardener class. That man is a character — a well-spoken, well-educated, entertaining, emphatic opinion on many horticultural topics. He was the first person I heard say, "Live oaks are not evergreen. They lose all their leaves every year. They just lose them at the same time that the new leaves appear. It is stupid to call them evergreen." The man writes books about trees. I believe him. And I didn't want him to call me stupid. (Although he did say the French have bland food. And he said we should eat guacamole every day.)

Dr. Moon, also a professor on A&M's Horticultural Sciences Faculty (former consultant to Sugar Land as a tree care specialist) reiterated Dr. McEachern's opinions about live oak trees, but more gently, and kept his food preferences to himself.

Dr. Watson, another Aggie (current consultant to Sugar Land as a tree care specialist) taught the Arboriculture 101 course I forked out \$450 for last January, where I heard again that, technically, Live oaks are not evergreen.

Well okay, you might be saying. A Live oak loses its old leaves because they are pushed out by the new leaves. Nope, that doesn't happen. The new leaves occur on new growth.

By now, I hope that you've picked up a reference book, too. And I'm betting that your book says that Live oaks are evergreen. (Although our new Sibley guide says they are "evergreen or deciduous." How's that for a firm decision?)

Why do so many references use the term "evergreen"? Maybe it's because they rely upon other references for source information. This kind of thing happens all the time. Just look around you. For example, consider all the local trees that are incorrectly mulched in the "volcano sacrifice" style. Why does that happen? Because the workers who are mulching look around them for examples and copy work already done, without knowing that it was done incorrectly. Better — or worse — sit on a standards committee (as, sadly, I have done several times.) That's where I learned the term WOMBAT (waste of money, brains, and time).

Add my "out loud" references (Dr. McEachern, Dr. Moon, Dr. Watson) to your books. Additionally...

The U.S. Forest Service calls the Live oak "evergreen or semi-evergreen"

The U.S. Federal Plants & Trees Data Base calls Live oak "nearly evergreen"

*Flora of North America* calls Live oak "sub-evergreen"

*Sequoiadendron* calls Live oak "evergreen (or nearly so)"

The Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce avoids a term by saying, "Live oak remains foliated nearly year-round, dropping its leaves and regenerating new growth within a few weeks during spring."

Finally, the A&M horticulture department's web site calls Live oak "evergreen or semi-evergreen."

What is an evergreen? The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines it as "Having foliage that remains green and functional through more than one growing season." From a landscape standpoint, evergreen is defined as "Having green leaves or needles all year. Evergreen trees lose their leaves individually on an ongoing basis, rather than losing all of them in a short period at the end of a growing season in the manner of deciduous trees." These terms don't apply to the Live oak. Live oaks do lose leaves throughout the year, but in the same manner as water oaks, pecans, elms, and similar hardwoods in our forest.

By contrast, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines deciduous as "falling off or shed seasonally or at a certain stage of development in the life cycle." Well... Live oaks do have a season where they lose all their leaves. It's called three

weeks in February. And those last few weeks that the old leaves are on the tree? They're not green. They're shabby and ugly. They're like drunken guests who won't leave the party at 3:00 a.m.

Let's compare the life span of a live oak leaf to that of a true evergreen. There are many different types of evergreens; leaf retention can vary from several months to several decades, but they are never all dropped within a short period of time. One evergreen, the Great Bristlecone Pine, has leaves, or needles, that can live over for 40 years.

Let's challenge something else we know about trees. Great Bristlecone Pines are the oldest living trees in North America—not the redwoods or sequoias. A bristlecone pine (nicknamed Methuselah) over 4,700 years old stands in the White Mountains of California. Before an area in Nevada became Great Basin National Park, a bristlecone pine (nicknamed Prometheus) was cut down, sectioned, its growth rings counted—it was 4,950 years old. A spruce tree in Sweden was found to be nearly 10,000 years old by carbon dating a sample of the living wood. The oldest living Giant Sequoia is only 2,500 years old—barely older than I am.

Is it important if we call live oaks evergreen? In the grand scheme of things, probably not. In a personal sense, probably. Many of us who volunteer at BBSP like to know and use correct, precise terminology (e.g., venomous vs. poisonous). We like to provide correct information. We want to send visitors away knowing a little more than they did when they came to the park. So next month, I will provide additional information about live oaks and other trees that you can use when leading the Creekfield Hike...

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010

January 8	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
January 9	Regular Meeting, 5:30 PM Brazos River Pickers, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Amphitheater
January 10	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
January 16	Bird Hike, 5:00 PM, Observation Tower
January 18	Martin Luther King Day Holiday
January 30	Youth Leaders in Philanthropy, 9:00 - 5:00
February 5	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
February 6	Brazos River Pickers, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Amphitheater
February 7	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
February 13	New Volunteer Training, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Volunteer Orientation Potluck Lunch, 11:45 AM Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
February 15	President's Day Holiday
February 20	New Volunteer Training, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
February 27	New Volunteer Training, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
March 5	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
March 6	Outreach, Brazoria Heritage Event Brazos River Pickers, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Amphitheater
March 13	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM



**Identification  
Quiz Answers**  
(from page 7):

- |                             |                          |                 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| A. Virginia Opossum         | D. Deer Mouse            | G. Eastern Mole |
| B. 13-Lined Ground Squirrel | E. Evening Bat           |                 |
| C. American Mink            | F. North American Beaver |                 |

## Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
21901 FM 762  
Needville, TX 77461

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

→ **NEXT MEETING DAY AND TIME** ←  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2010, 5:30 PM**



### 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:	<b>Carrie Sample</b>
Vice-President:	<b>Suzie Gann</b>
Secretary:	<b>Eddy Grizzaffi</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Dave Carpenter</b>

#### NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor	<b>Anna Dell Williamson</b>
Layout	<b>Jenn Mantei</b>
Production Assistants	<b>Bruce Williamson</b> <b>Terry Williamson</b>

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: [awilliamson4@comcast.net](mailto:awilliamson4@comcast.net)). Notify Anna Dell (281-485-2843) well in advance of any events you want announced in the newsletter.