



FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

At our May meeting, a request for funds for a viewing platform on Creekfield Forest Trail was approved. The Maintenance Group will build this platform. Material for the platform was delivered Tuesday, May 24. If you are interested in working on this project please contact Ron Morrison.

Major projects at BBSP need the support of our elected officials at the county level and state level. We need to review our contact with these officials and perhaps do something on a periodic basis to make sure they know the volume of visitors that enjoy the park. Please give us your thoughts on a method to keep them aware of BBSP and our organization.

At our monthly meeting we have requests for funds for projects and in some cases reallocation of budgeted funds. It is important that each of us have a vote in these actions. Our next meeting day is June 11. Please place this date on your calendar and be a part of the decisions.

Offie Walker

Free Maps of the Great Texas Wildlife Trails to Commemorate Project

To celebrate the completion of the Great Texas Wildlife Trails project, free full color trail maps are available at any state park or TxDOT travel information center while supplies last. Each of the nine featured regions has its own map, complete with unique bird, mammal and butterfly viewing points. The Trails have over 950 viewing sites across Texas. For more information visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx/wildlifetrails>.

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MAY MEETING NOTES

submitted by Anna Dell Williamson

President Offie Walker called the May 14, 2011, meeting to order. There were 14 volunteers, 2 Junior Volunteers and 3 staff members present. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as posted.

Staff Reports are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

REPORTS:

BUDGET: Dave Armstrong, Treasurer, presented the Monthly Meeting Report for April, including the Monies Available for Budget Purposes. The financial reports were approved as presented.

The following budget requests were approved:

Steve Killian:

- bagged corn for hog trapping, hinges for the Headquarters renovation, and camera batteries, from the Park supervisor's fund
- tractor repair, from the Park Supervisor's fund
- tires for Ford Ranger, from Equipment Repair - Park
- Grasshopper mower battery from Equipment Repair – Park
- herbicides for tall grass prairie management, from Chemical and Poisons account
- crushed limestone gravel, to use on Live Oak Trail. Funds are matched by a Federal trails grant, from Trail Maintenance – Park. We will also have some bridges built by scouts, and eventually some board walks on this trail.
- a request for a BBSPVO budget modification to increase the budget allotments (not total amount) that may be made without Budget Committee approval

Ron Morrison:

- supplies to build a boardwalk and platform on Creekfield Forest Trail, from the Morrison/El Paso Acct.
- new John Deere Gator to be stored at Woodyard with 2 others and to bring number of vehicles available to Maintenance Crew to 4, from Reserve Funds for Gator Replacement. Funds will be replaced on a monthly basis as established in the budget.

David Heinicke:

- two plastic and one bronze sign for the Elm Lake Viewing platform, from Elm Lake Platform account
- lockout kits for David and Chris, from Tools & Equipment Fund

Ted Stevens:

- funds to buy items for the Geocaching course, which will be reimbursed by the TPWD through the Urban Grants Program after they are purchased.

GIFT SHOP: Beth Debenport reported that we are having great sales, and we appreciate all the help from the volunteers in the Gift Shop.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Chuck Duplant reported that we had no meeting today. We are waiting to hear from Austin about the hold on fund raising. We are also waiting for news on a grant for training in fundraising.

WOOD SALES: Chuck Duplant reported that sales are slow. We are bundling wood again and will hold off on buying pre-bundled wood for the time being.

OUTREACH: Judy Strauss reported that we had a good outreach at Sweeney Pride Day.

NEWSLETTER: Anna Dell Williamson reported that Cynthia Morales is doing the layout now.

TRAINING: Anna Dell Williamson reported that we are having an Open House on June 4, Trails Day, to acquaint interested people in the training program for next September.

OLD BUSINESS:

GRANT APPLICATION: Offie Walker reported that there were many applications for the Everyday Grant, and we haven't heard the results yet.

BBEEC: Offie reported that TPWD has asked us to delay fund-raising because they are focusing on two other projects right now, a new game warden facility and a building at Sheldon Lake being built jointly with The Audubon Society.

Offie is writing a letter to Austin regarding funding which will go out next week.

The meeting was adjourned.

STAFF REPORTS



PARK SUPERINTENDENT STEVE KILLIAN

Thanks to all for all the help you give to BBSP.

TPWD Parks Division is responding to the budget cuts. Jobs are being lost and operations are being consolidated. TPWD had eight regional offices to serve 94 parks; As of June 1, there are six regional offices. Our Region IV will lose Lake Texana SP and gain Huntsville SP, Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS, Ft. Boggy SP, Mission Tejas SP, Fanthrop Inn SHS, and Lake Somerville SP.

This has been an Awesome April, the biggest month ever for attendance, best Easter ever, best day ever, and highest revenue ever. We had 3 lines at Headquarters for entrance fees on Easter Sunday, and at one point the line backed up to Chris's driveway. The park did not close on Easter.

Headquarters renovation is almost done and should be finished in June. The changes should be great assets for productivity. Restroom renovations are still not completed. Headquarters now has a trailer restroom.

In the area of resource management, we have pumped water to 40-Acre Lake and brought up the water level to help alligators and other wildlife populations as the drought continues. The Live Oak Trail grant project is nearing completion. Rangers and the maintenance crew are both working on this project. We will still need a boardwalk at the wetlands area. The Elm Lake Viewing Platform is nearing completion. The Prairies and Lake Management spraying activities are happening four days a week, ten hours a day.

BBSP will premier on "Swamp Brothers", Friday at 9:30 PM on the Discovery Channel. This program is show biz sprinkled with science and gets our name out. "The Little Couple" was out here this weekend camping and filmed an episode that will air in about 6 months. David Heinicke, Steve Killian, Melissa Moody and Tina Ibarra provided support for the film crew.

Headquarters and the Nature Center have been painted and we hope to have all park facilities painted soon. Staff and hosts are working on this project. The wings on the Amphitheater will be added to the project.

Brian Frasier, Austin, has funding to replace our park entrance sign. The new sign is based on our bookmark with the large alligator.

We have had a major archaeological survey at the park and have found some areas of high cultural significance. This is why we must have approval to dig a hole in the park. Be sure to follow the rules and get clearance to dig any time. We may be able to market our cultural heritage similar to how we market our natural heritage at some time in the future. In the park the archaeologist have found interesting soil layering and geological anomalies under the soil. Big Creek and Oyster Creek were once the Brazos River, as was Pilant Lake. We may be able to invite Ruth Matthews to present a program or meeting for us.



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT CHRIS BISHOP

Chris commented on the many happy campers, school groups, and smiles on faces he has seen recently. He shared a story with us about a friend who does cancer research at MD Anderson and was asked to host a physician from Norway. Last Sunday, they came out to the park and walked around 40-Acre Lake. It was a dream trip. They saw alligators of all sizes, some bellowing. They saw the wounded alligator, visited the NC, and attended a program. They have never seen anything like BBSP before. By the way, the wounded alligator seems to be doing well, and has been seen on the back side of 40-Acre Lake for the 3rd week in a row. *(Ed. note: As of May 20, the gator was still alive.)*



NATURALIST AND PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER DAVID HEINICKE

Thanks for Easter help. We need help watching for alligator nests, which may be built low because of the drought, and then be in danger of flooding when we get some rain. Keep your eyes open, and let staff know if you see a nest,

The new Sundial sign is installed. It is larger than the old one and looks nice. Region IV Office designed and paid for it. The sign makes it more obvious that there is something to see.

This is the season for tons of school groups during the week, Check the volunteer calendar for big groups through NC, when we need lots of extra help.

Ted Stevens started a Geocaching program with a grant from Region IV to buy GPS units. Geocaching combines youth using technology and also getting out in nature. Trained volunteers can carry out the program when Ted leaves. The first program was very successful. Several families with kids participated and had lots of fun. Volunteers will be trained in September to lead this program.

June 4-5 is National Trails Day, Healthy Parks, Healthy People day, and the Volunteer open house. Meet and Greet. There will be bird hikes, alligator hikes, Tai Chi classes, and other events posted on the website. We are discussing also having a dedication for the Elm Lake Wildlife Viewing Platform, which is almost done. Plans include a brief program about 11:00, by volunteers, politicians, and donors, followed by refreshments. *(Ed. note: The dedication for the Elm Lake Wildlife Viewing Platform has been postponed to a future date.)*

CONGRATULATIONS



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kent Fewell
Peter Guzman (VIT)
Linda Keltner
Glen Kilgore
Michael Sanderson (VIT)
Rebecca Sykes
Anna Dell Williamson

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

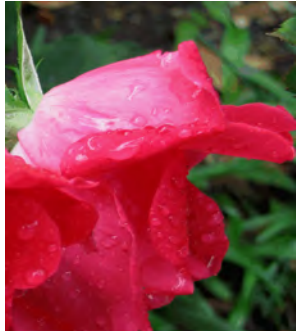
Joe and Sue Carmichael (1953)
(Emeritus)
Linda and Don Keltner

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Debra Baker
Christopher Bishop (Staff)
Diane Carpenter
Jo Ann Davis
Jaci Elliott
Drake Hacker VIT
Joan Hebert
Cynthia Morales
Susie Taylor (Staff)
Barb Tucker
Elizabeth Villanueva (1997)
Denise Wilks (Staff)

Judy Strauss is a grandmother for the sixth time.
Chase Edward was born on 5/9/11.





SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes out to Rachelle Watson and family on the death of her father.

Thank you!

to **Carrie Sample** for organizing the surprise dinner to celebrate **Sharon Hanzik's** 25th anniversary as a TPWD employee. She has spent all 25 years at BBSP.

to the **Staff** and **Volunteers** who assisted us with the Cinco de Mayo Events. All the visitors and especially the children were very receptive to the different programs.

to **Sherri Sherbo** for the article and pictures on the Levi Jordon Plantation

to **Carrie Sample** for the articles and pictures on the trapped owl and the hawk and crows.

to **Jerry Zona** for pictures of birds and flowers

to **Judy Strauss, Susie Gann, Holly Haynes, Patty Henry, Mary Lockwood** and **Offie Walker** for their help with Outreach programs

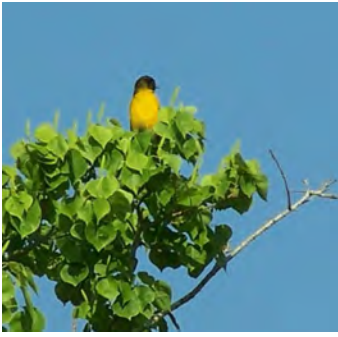
to **Jo Ann Davis** for the thank you note and pictures of birds.

BIRD HIKE ADVENTURE

submitted by Jo Ann Davis



Thank you to **David Heinicke** and **Bill Godley** for the great Bird Hike recently. You two make the hike a pleasure for all and just wanted you to see the pictures I took at this one.



The Baltimore Oriole was so bright on top of that tree that I thought a balloon got stuck in the limbs.



It was the first time for me to see the facial skin and eye of the Anhinga so blue-green during breeding conditions.



Got a good picture of the Black-Bellied Whistling Duck on top of that bird box, I don't think I have ever seen a red or bright orange bill on another duck before. We are lucky to have so many stop by our park each year.

Thank you, David and Bill.
Jo Ann Davis, volunteer

TRIVIA

submitted by Anna Dell Williamson

I was visiting in a school, and I found this bit of information posted on the stall door in the restroom. I think it was to help kids prepare for the TAKS test. I thought some of you might enjoy the information.

What king can you make from the head of a lamb, the middle of a pig, the rear of a buffalo, and the tail of a dragon?



Did you know a dragonfly can fly at 36 MPH?

Flight speed: Tillyard claimed to have recorded the Southern Giant Darner flying at nearly 60 miles per hour (97 km/h) in a rough field measurement. However, the greatest reliable flight speed records are for other types of insects. In general, large dragonflies like the hawkers have a maximum speed of 10–15 metres per second (22–34 mph) with average cruising speed of about 4.5 metres per second (10 mph).

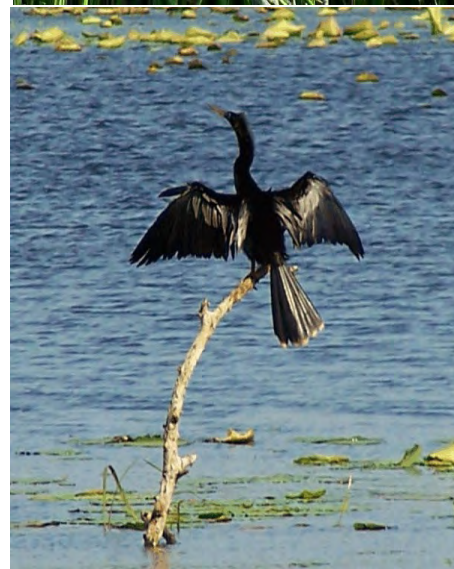
(Ed. note: The picture of this dragonfly at Creekfield Lake was supplied by Cynthia Morales, who has no idea what kind of dragonfly is depicted, but suspects that it is not the Southern Giant Darner.)

NATURE CENTER REPORT

MAY 2011

Below are the totals of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for April 1-30, 2011. May included Memorial Day weekend (3 days) and outstanding attendance several weekends and weekdays. In this unusual month, several Sundays exceeded Saturdays in attendance.

PROGRAMS	TOTALS
NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE May 2011 - 8,182 May 2010 - 8,979 May 2009 - 8,578 May 2008 - 7,060 May 2007 - 5,633 May 2006 - 5,387 May 2005 - 5,443	Saturdays (4) - 2573 High, 745 (5/7) Average: 643
	Sundays (4) - 2556 High, 681 (5/29) Average: 639
	Weekdays (22) - 3002 High, 614 (5/30, Memorial Day) Average: 137
CREEKFIELD HIKES (11)	183
ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS (6)	202
SNAKE PROGRAMS (4)	217
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME (5)	59
OUTREACH (4)	605
OWL (2)	61
BIRD PROGRAMS (2)	42
OTHER PROGRAMS (5) include sundial, photo walk, ask the ranger, pond life, and 40-Acre hike	61
TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN HIKES AND ONSITE PROGRAMS	1430



MAY MAINTENANCE REPORT

Wood Yard: Split firewood

Mowing and Landscaping: Mulched and watered trees on Creekfield Forest Trail. Restore water retention rings that the armadillo has destroyed around the trees

Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance: Laid trail material on Live Oak Trail

Pest Control: Treated Chinese tallow trees



BLINDSIDED!

By
Sharon Hanzik

Photos by Bruce Williamson



Carrie Sample thinks she's awfully clever for pulling the big surprise and stating "how many people invite guests to their own surprise party?" Well, she has every right to think so as she was very clever in pulling off "the big surprise". I must say that even as I walked up to the restaurant and saw a gift bag in the hand of a volunteer, I thought "oh gee whiz, whose birthday is it?" For those of you who were not present or who may have had their backs turned – imagine my surprise when the realization hit! I tried to run but two volunteers skillfully blocked my path. I could have knocked them aside but that would have been behavior unbecoming to a volunteer coordinator. I thought this was just another dinner out with a few volunteers after "work", not a surprise 25th anniversary party! Yes. Believe it. I have the paperwork to prove it.

Although the rumor I have circulating through TPWD has me starting my career at age 12, I actually started work at age 18 near the end of my senior year of high school and all 25 years have been right here at home at Brazos Bend. I started from the toilet up! I cleaned restrooms, controlled litter and assisted the public on weekends. Being somewhat of a lost kid after high school, I just decided to continue working. Still a bit of an introvert, mowing grass, cleaning restrooms and performing various other maintenance tasks suited me just fine! As I grew a bit more accustomed to serving visitors, I did a little time in the front office and spent a summer assisting in the interpretive field. That kind of "took" as they say. Later on, I spent a little more time out on the trails on my bicycle doing what we call roving trail interpretation. That eventually led me to apply for a vacancy in the interpretive department and I've been on the front lines and coordinating volunteers for the past 11 years or so.

Yes, I've left out a lot of detail and many an anecdote. Oh, the stories I could tell and the names I could name! I'll save that for my state park memoirs, should I ever feel disciplined enough to write them.

It's the people and moments we share that make the journey memorable. Here's to more of the journey! Thank you to all who were able to attend and to those who were there in spirit.



CINCO DE MAYO SPECIAL EVENT

submitted by Susie Taylor



BBSP staff and volunteers combined to present a *Cinco de mayo* celebration on Saturday, May 7 for our visitors. This event was a first for us and most likely will be held again next year. The programs ranged from local students dancing some hot steps, paper flower-making demonstration, bilingual story followed by Mexican bingo (*Lotto*) which depicted animals and plants in both English and Spanish, and a tortilla-making demonstration in which visitors rolled and ate their own tortillas. A local food vendor, Rosa Rita Mexican Restaurant, was the participating concessioner for this event.

All visitors, and especially the children, were excited to participate in these events, as were the Staff and Volunteers who assisted with the programs.

Photos by
Steve Killian
and
Richard Taylor



JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE PARK...

Submitted by Carrie Sample

It was a usual Sunday morning at the park, when two visitors dropped in at the Nature Center to report an owl that seemed to be caught up in fishing wire in a tree by the bridge at Creekfield Lake. David loaded up a ladder, gloves, cutters, and his waders, in case the owl needed to be rescued from the water. He also had the assistance of Chuck DuPlant and Ted Stevens. Judy Strauss and I went along, well, just to tag along!

Turns out it was a young barred owl caught up in the fishing wire. David thought he was a youngster, about 8 weeks old. David used the ladder to reach the owl and then proceeded to grab his two feet with his gloved hands. Owl did not seem to put up much of a fight as David brought him down. Chuck proceeded to carefully cut the wire from around his wings. We did not know at that point if the owl had broken any bones in his wings. David took the bird away from the water to see if he could still fly. That owl showed his appreciation of being rescued by clamping his beak down on David's glove. (Just a little love bite!)



David put him on the ground. The owl flew into a nearby tree, gathered his thoughts together and flew again. He did not seem to have any injuries. He waited on the top of a nearby tree along the water edge, probably to show us his appreciation, again, of saving him, before he flew on out of sight.

LEVI JORDAN PLANTATION, WINDOW ON THE PAST

Submitted by Sherri Sherbo



The Levi Jordan Plantation, a historical, archeological dig site and intriguing part of Texas heritage, gave members of BBSPVO a private tour in April. The site, owned by the State of Texas and managed by TPWD, is closed to the public except for the first Saturday of every month from June to October, 10am – 2pm. We were conducted on a fascinating tour of the past by guides Sherry Fritts, a former BBSP Volunteer, and her colleague, Amanda.



Levi Jordan (b:1793 d:1873) a cotton and cane grower, sold his holdings in Arkansas and moved his family and a number of slaves to Brazoria County in 1848. Here he built the largest sugarcane mill in the country providing a processing plant, not only for his crops, but also for the crops of others. According to the historical society, his wish was to develop a piece of land which would “outlive” him and survive for generations. He was successful; his descendants sit on the board of the Levi Jordan Historical Society today.

Just past the corner of FM 524 on FM 521 out of Sweeny, Texas, the family homestead has stood for over a hundred years. It has been modeled and remodeled by previous tenants. Shallow excavations show the locations of a walkway, patio and kitchen. Painstaking research conducted since 1986 by Dr. Kenneth Brown (University of Houston, Dept. of Anthropology) and his students, expose a true dichotomy of experience and recollection between the Jordan/McNeill/Martin family and the families of tenants who lived on the land as slaves and then later as sharecroppers and tenant farmers. The sites of the former slave/tenant dwellings have produced numerous artifacts which detail the lives of the former occupants.

As another note of interest, the Muscadine Grape in the photos rivals the size of the biggest grape at Brazos Bend SP (so touts the LJ docent, Sherry Fritts).

Many thanks to Sherry and Amanda for their knowledge and expertise! For more information on the site, visit: <<http://www.webarchaeology.com/html/Default.htm>>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 4 Close-up photography Photo-walk #1, 5 PM.
- June 11 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)
- July 2 Close-up photography Photo-walk #2, 5 PM.
- July 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)
- August 13 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)

DON'T CHOOSE SIDES TOO QUICKLY

Submitted by Carrie Sample

Once in a while, we all choose sides too quickly (not talking politically, although, by now, hopefully some have realized their mistake). But getting back to my story...



We were with Bill Godley on one of his April bird hikes. We had just left viewing the pier at 40- Acre Lake, when Ethan Hoover spotted a commotion going on in the picnic area. Three crows were picking on a poor red shouldered hawk. They were all on the ground - three against one...



Those nasty crows had the hawk backed up against a tree. One of them would attack him in the front while another would go for his back. That hawk had his feathers fluffed out and was "holding his own."



It soon became apparent that the hawk had a prey in his claws that he was protecting - for his life! This went on for about 10-15 minutes. Finally the hawk was able to take off in flight. At this point, the "poor red shouldered hawk" became that "nasty red shouldered hawk," for his prey was a baby crow... As the title says, in all things, know the facts before you choose your sides.



IT'S A SCARY WORLD OUT THERE

Submitted by Anna Dell Williamson

alarmed by alligators
baffled by bees/birds
cowed by caterpillars
disturbed by dragon flies
frightened by falcons

intimidated by insects
repelled by reptiles
scared of snakes
spooked by spiders
terrified of turtles

Those expressions describe some of our visitors. They come into the Nature Center or get out on the trails, and as soon as they see a certain specimen, they scream, jump, hide behind a friend, or leave the Nature Center in great haste. I'm not making fun of any of their fears. Most people have some sort of phobia that makes them cringe to even think about it. But let's look at what we need to do as interpreters in a nature-centered park, when our visitors express great fear of our beloved animals.

First, we need to be aware of the fears our visitors experience and respect those fears. That is why we have certain places to sit when we interpret live animals and do not wander around the Nature Center with a live animal. We always inform visitors that we have an animal, and never force them to touch it or even stand close to our exhibit. Even photos or plastic toys of the feared creature can be disturbing to some visitors.

Second, when we interpret an animal, we explain facts about the animal without overdoing the scary aspects. We do explain what should be feared and emphasize respect of the animals, We remind visitors that most animals are naturally afraid of humans and do not want to be in the same area with them. Animals attack humans when humans get too close, threaten the animal or their babies, or feed wild animals.

Third, we emphasize the benefit each animal serves in the natural world. Snakes eat rodents, dragonflies eat mosquitos, alligators keep the wetlands population in control, spiders eat insects, etc.

One of my greatest joys was having a senior visitor who was terrified of snakes see one up close and, on her own, venture to touch it. I felt like her fear had been relieved somewhat, and she could enjoy nature on a different level now. Our job is not to show off how brave or daring we are, but to help visitors understand the natural world better and to appreciate it.

OUTREACH

Submitted by Judy Strauss, Events Coordinator



On Sunday, May 1, 2011, there was a Ducks Unlimited Outreach at Dewberry Farms near Hempstead. This is always a small event, but we are very much appreciated, and the people are wonderful. We do always manage to reach a few people that have never been to BBSP, and seem to be very interested in visiting.

Holly Haynes helped me click in 228 visitors to this event. A good time was had by all ! Thank you, Holly!

The following Saturday, May 7, our Outreach took us to the town of Sweeny, Texas, for their Sweeny Pride Day event. This was my first year to do this event, and, I must say, it was very impressive! And

very well organized for such a large happening.

We had around 963 visitors by our booth throughout the day, and another 5 or 6 that stopped us as we were carrying the "critters" to the car. They just couldn't seem to get enough of us!

There were two little boys that came to visit us at two separate times, that are the ultimate in what we are all about. There is no photo in the world that can capture the look of amazement and joy on the faces of these children. THEY are the ones that really make us aware of what we are doing with these programs; not only bringing new visitors to BBSP, but in educating the public, especially the children. All it takes is one little face looking at you with amazement to make it all worthwhile....and we had TWO!



I would like to thank Susie Gann, Holly Haynes, Patty Henry, Mary Lockwood and Offie Walker for their help and support for this event. I would also like to thank Susie Gann for taking the "critters" back to the Park for me that evening. I was being pulled in several different directions that weekend, and that was such a big help to me. Thank you, Susie!

Thank you to everyone for their help with the Outreach events. As of date, the next Outreach event that I am currently aware of (except for some small ones) will be Texian Market Days in October. We will worry about that one as it gets closer. I will update you on anything that might come up before then. Again, Thank You to Everyone! I really appreciate your support.



Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife
21901 FM 762
Needville, TX 77461

NEXT MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 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
Past-President:	Carrie Sample

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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: <awilliamson4@comcast.net> or <newsletter@brazosbend.org>). Notify Anna Dell (281-485-2843) well in advance of any events you want announced in the newsletter.

**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**