



VOLUME 18, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2006

## AUGUST MEETING NOTES

*submitted by Bruce Williamson*

**President Judy Strauss** called the meeting to order August 12. The minutes of the July meeting were approved as posted. Judy announced that the new officers will take office October 1, rather than at the October meeting. This is a correction to the information presented in the last newsletter.

**Steve Killian, Sharon Hanzik and David Heinicke** brought there reports, which are elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Committee Reports:**

**Outreach Report:** No report.

**Gift Shop Report:** **Beth Debenport** reported that the Gift Shop has new postcards, using photographs supplied by **Chuck Duplant**. New embroidered alligator shirts are expected soon.

**President: Judy Strauss** reported that she received a complimentary email from **Herb Mann**. Herb is going to have to have one of his hips operated on again.

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**Training: Vice-president, Anna Dell Williamson,** reported that she still needs a number of volunteers to sign up to help with the Fall volunteer training as speakers, mentors, road tour drivers, to bring side dishes for lunch on September 9, the ATV trail tour (generally one-on-one), and trail patrol and interpretation. She passed out the training schedule and posted it in the upstairs hallway.

**Treasurer's Report: Comptroller Ken Debenport** presented the report in John Bradford's absence. Ken noted that the source from whom we have been purchasing firewood for resale in the park is reducing his business due to a decrease in the supply of labor. Anyone who knows of another source is requested to contact Ken.

In addition to the financial summary, Ken presented the following purchase requests:

**David Heinicke** requested funds to purchase a **remote control for video presentations**. The control will operate the PowerPoint® slide shows and provide a LASER pointer for the presenter. The purchase was approved.

**Bryan Leach** and **the Maintenance Crew** and **Steve Killian** requested funds to purchase materials to build a **cover for the number 4 pier** on Elm Lake. This is a one time project. There are no plans to cover the other piers. The purchase was approved.

**Sharon Hanzik** requested funds to purchase a **laminating machine** and supplies. The purchase was approved.

**David Heinicke** has received a new patrol bicycle, purchased with park funds. He requested the volunteers provide funds for **accessories**, including a new bicycle helmet and other supplies. The purchase was approved.

#### **Old Business:**

We need a volunteer to provide supper at the September meeting.

**Judy Strauss** presented the **Nominating Committee report**. The committee has received permission to enter the following names into nomination:

President:	Bruce Williamson
Vice-president:	Anna Dell Williamson
Secretary:	Nicole Olson
Treasurer:	Chuck Duplant

Judy opened the floor to nominations. There were no other nominations presented. Judy quoted from the By-laws that when there are no opposed candidates, the election is by acclamation, and no ballots are required. These nominees will be the officers for the new year, beginning October 1, 2006. Judy will continue on the Executive Committee as Past President.

#### **New Business:**

The director of this region of the State Parks, **Jerry Hopkins**, has sent the newsletter editor a couple of letters acknowledging receipt of the BBSPVO newsletter, and saying how much he enjoys reading it.

Sharon announced the **TPWD Commission Annual Public Meeting**, Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Austin. Lori Reiley, TPWD volunteer coordinator, and Carolyn Gonzalez, TPWD director of Human Resources, are planning to come to the BBSPVO training program, from Austin. They are also interested in our picnic in October.

Announcements: Sharon announced that Richard Board's heart surgery did not go very well. [Secretary's update: Richard suffered a stroke on Thursday, August 24 and was hospitalized. ]

The meeting was adjourned. ♦

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I would like to extend my congratulations to the newly elected officers of the BBSPVO, who will take office October 1, 2006 (their names and position will appear elsewhere in this newsletter). A great big THANK YOU to each of them for being willing to give a "bit more time" to our organization.



We have many great volunteers that really do exceptional programs, but I must tell you about one that I think everyone must go and hear. It is Glen Kilgore's "Storytelling", and I can't remember when I have enjoyed a story this much! The weekend I was hosting a Cub Scout troop was a very exciting one for me. We had a "Flag Retirement Ceremony" on Friday night (extremely emotional), went on the alligator hike on Saturday morning, to the "Mission Control" on Saturday afternoon, and I ended the evening with Glen's storytelling program (the scouts went on over to "view" the stars, never knowing what they were going to miss!) My only complaint was that it was over too soon! Glen did a fantastic job and told a couple of the most exciting stories; or maybe I should say that it was the way he told them that made them so exciting!. If you can find the time, be sure to go and listen to at least one of his storytelling programs. You'll be glad that you did! Thanks, Glen for a wonderful evening!!

Thanks to all of you who have been coming out and enjoying the heat! Hope to see you around soon.

*Judy Strauss* ♦

## VOLUNTEER

## PICNIC

for Members, Hosts, Staff and their families

Saturday, October 14  
5:30 PM at the Dining Hall

## AWARDS CEREMONY

*COME FOR FOOD AND FUN*

**Bring a covered dish to share**

# STAFF REPORTS

## STEVE KILLIAN



Steve's overview statement was that the TPWD fiscal year ends August 31<sup>st</sup> and BBSP revenue is up significantly this year. He thanked all the volunteers for the programs they have presented. Steve ran through the list of major renovation projects in work this year:

- (1) the lift station (completed last January)
- (2) the Pilant Slough project (completed July)
- (3) the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) re-paving project (completion expected in October or November)
- (4) prairie management and improvement
- (5) lake improvement
- (6) Improvements to Equestrian Camping Area
- (7) ceiling fans in the public restrooms
- (8) new vent motors installed in all restrooms
- (9) Gary Bialis has been doing a great job cleaning the restrooms. However, due to the budget, he will only be on the schedule four days per week next fiscal year.

**40-Acre Lake** - the water gate was used to add water to 40-Acre Lake from Pilant Lake. Now the park is using the re-serviced water pump to add water to 40-Acre Lake at a rate of 750 gallons per minute. At this rate, the cost of a one inch rise in the lake level is about \$80. The increased water depth will make 40-Acre Lake easier to maintain by helping with vegetation control. Most of the large alligators have migrated into 40-Acre Lake.

The **Creekfield Lake** well has been approved, and we are waiting for the driller to schedule the work (4 to 6 weeks). The Park plans to keep Creekfield Lake full. It would cost \$75,000 to \$100,000 per lake to drill wells to maintain 40-Acre Lake and Elm Lake. We need to work to find grant money to site wells for lake management purposes. Only Pilant Lake has a surface water source filled naturally only by local runoff. Old and New Horseshoe and Hale Lakes are also low. A ditch exists to move water from Pilant Lake to Old Horseshoe Lake, but the water level of Pilant Lake is too low to use the ditch.

The Park is go for a prairie burn this fall. Only personnel who have had the fire training may participate in the burn. There was an article in the Houston Chronicle about the state funding for the State Parks. The Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization (BBSPVO) provides the equivalent in volunteer hours of nine to eleven full time park employees.

## DAVID HEINICKE

David reported there are still 40 alligator eggs in incubation. Not all the hatchlings are expected to survive. At meeting time there were 27 - 28 survivors from last Thursday's hatching (August 10). Thank you to the volunteers who came to the Park to help the visitors participate in the hatching.

David mentioned that he has a new RADAR gun to enforce the speed limits in the park. He recently stopped a park visitor and issued his first speeding citation on the mile straightaway.



# SHARON HANZIK

Sharon reported that the volunteers have been doing a very good job at the Nature Center on weekdays and weekends. There were 384 visitors to the Nature Center on August 5 and 376 on August 12 (the meeting day). She also thanked the volunteers for filling in on the programs while she and David were on vacations: **Glen Kilgore** for Storytelling and **Ron Morrison** for Orienteering. Sharon expressed her joy at seeing Rose and Elmer Aden at the Park and at 40-Acre Lake. The August staff luncheon will be Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are invited, if they can come.



There are eighteen volunteers-in-training registered for the September class. All outgoing volunteers are encouraged to participate in the training. Anna Dell Williamson will present details later in the meeting.

The new photo gallery is up on the BBSPVO web site. Thanks to Chuck Duplant and Rick Dashnau for providing photographs to add to the web page.

## BEST WISHES

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gary Bialas (Staff)  
Ron Dearman  
Barry Eversole (Staff)  
Frank Gregg  
Linda Oden Heinicke  
Tina Ibarra (Staff)  
Mike Sharkey (Staff)



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

James Blankenship  
Buddy Franklin  
Mozelle Franklin  
Dennis Jones  
Diane Kerr  
Fletcher Morgan  
Nicole Olson

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jaci Elliott  
Jim and Patricia Hiatt  
Don and Marilyn Vossler



### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Diane and Jerry Carpenter

## CONGRATULATIONS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER MEMBERS:  
OFFIE WALKER AND DIANE KERR.**





- ☺ to **Noel Duncan** for the shepherd pie for the August meeting dinner and to **Anna Dell Williamson** for the salad.
- ☺ to **Glen Kilgore** (Storytelling) and **Ron Morrison** (Orienteering) for filling in on the programs while Sharon and David were on vacation
- ☺ to **Chuck Duplant** and **Rick Dashnau** for providing photographs to add to the web page
- ☺ to the **volunteers** who came to the Park to participate in the alligator hatching
- ☺ to **Chuck Duplant** for photographs for new post cards in the Gift Shop
- ☺ to **John Bradford, Tom Prentiss, Chuck Duplant, Ken Debenport, Candice Kenyan** and **Bruce, Anna Dell** and **Terry Williamson** for covering the Nature Center and Gift Shop on Labor Day – 692 visitors
- ☺ to **all the volunteers and staff** who have signed up to help with training. You are all wonderful!
- ☺ to **Kevin Dees** for the donation of the Speckled Kingsnake

## NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING

*by Anna Dell Williamson*

Fall volunteer training begins on **Orientation Day, September 9**, from 10:00 - 2:00, and continues **September 16 and 23**, 9:00 - 5:00. We have 17 VIT's. Thank you for the wonderful response to help with training. If you are interested in helping out, contact Anna Dell by phone or e-mail. The schedule is posted in the hallway and all sessions are open to interested volunteers.

### NATURE CENTER HAPPENINGS

New **baby alligators** in the aquarium

New **speckled king snake**

**Record attendance** for Labor Day - 692

# NATURE CENTER REPORT - AUGUST

by Anna Dell Williamson

Here is a breakdown of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for August 1-31. This month included a lot of hot weather. Numbers come from the calendar in the Nature Center and may not reflect all activities. Be sure to report program attendance for all programs and hikes and be sure it gets on the calendar behind the desk.

	2006	AUGUST
<b>NATURE CENTER Total for August, 2415</b>	<b>SATURDAYS (4)</b>	<b>1171</b> High, 384, 8/5
	<b>SUNDAYS (4)</b>	<b>699</b> High, 230, 8/13
	<b>WEEKDAYS (23)</b>	<b>545</b> High, 64, 8/3
<b>CREEKFIELD HIKES (7)</b>		<b>57</b> High, 21, 8/12
<b>SPIDER PROGRAM</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS AND HIKES (4)</b>		<b>213</b>
<b>WASP PROGRAM</b>		<b>25</b>
<b>ORIENTEERING</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>STORY TIME (2)</b>		<b>59</b>

## ALLIGATOR HATCHING

In late July, we had to rescue eggs from three nests threatened by rising water in 40-Acre Lake. On August 9, around 4:00, we hatched one nest of baby alligators, approximately 37 eggs. We have 22 healthy ones and 6 still in "intensive care". These are ones that were just a little early but doing fine. We tried the eggs from the other two nests but they just weren't ready. Come see the little darlin's.

## PERSONAL ACCOUNT

by Nancy Partlow

An e-mail on August 18 was sent requesting additional volunteers for the weekend slots, so I filled in for two hours on Saturday, August 19. Upon arriving at the Nature Center, I was told that some eggs were hatching, and I was invited to join others in the nursery. I got to hatch a baby, as did the Blankenships!! You never know what will happen at BBSP. On August 30, Sharon and I released some of the hatchlings, and that was another wonderful adventure.

# HEARD IN THE NATURE CENTER

Many visitors refer to the soft-shell turtles as “pancake turtles.” But one youngster was looking at the soft-shell turtles and called out to his friend, “Look, a tortilla turtle!”

A visitor from Holland saw our book on Dutch oven cooking in the Gift Shop, and asked, “What’s a Dutch oven? I’ve never heard of a Dutch oven.” (Some later research turned up the information that the Dutch settlers used the American made cooking pot so frequently that it was eventually called a “Dutch oven.”)

When Ken counts the money in the donation box, he stacks the pennies in the corner, 10 to a stack. Some little boys saw the stack in the corner and wondered aloud “How do they flip those pennies through the slot and make them stack up in the corner like that?”

“Mama, mama, real live alligator bones!”

“Is it real?”

## SPECKLED KINGSNAKE

Thanks to **Nancy Partlow** (and her friend) we now have a very docile, very friendly Speckled Kingsnake at the Nature Center. It will make a great addition to our collection of education and display animals. Feel free to work with it whenever you’re out.

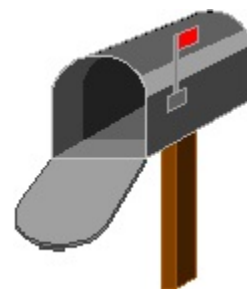
Nancy wrote that **Kevin Dees**, Biology Instructor at Wharton Ccounty Junior College, donated the kingsnake to the BBSP for educational display. Kevin has cared for this snake for 11 years.

## WE GET LETTERS

*We received a kind letter from Jerry Hopkins, Director, Region 4 State Parks. I’m passing this on to thank those of you who contribute to the success of the newsletter.*

Anna, I just wanted to thank everyone that contributes to the newsletter. It’s both entertaining and informative. Since I am not able to be at the park as much as I would like, I really enjoy catching up on the goings on. I particularly like to hear about the individual and collective contributions the volunteers make to the park on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. The volunteers definitely make a huge difference and I appreciate all of you. You’re awesome - Keep up the great work!

Jerry Hopkins



## WEB PHOTO GALLERY

The Photo Gallery is now on the web. Take time to look at some really nice photographs of the Nature Center, the George Observatory, volunteers in action, special events, wildlife, facilities, and locations. Click on “Photo Gallery” on the left side panel.



# PRAIRIE VIEW

by Al Childs

Hello prairie enthusiasts and volunteers. Welcome again to *Prairie View*. On August 20 our team members completed the 8<sup>th</sup> month of Prairie Project '06 by gathering data on Prairie #2 located just off the wetland platform. We finally have water in the pothole around the platform (only about 3 ¼") and Lan Shen and I had fun getting our wading boots wet working transect #3. I gave an excellent demonstration of what not to do by stepping into an old animal hole and falling down. I was lucky because although the ground was very soggy where I fell, it was less than an inch deep. And since the grass was very thick, I hardly got wet. I must admit it was a little difficult getting back up with everything being so slippery, but I did finally manage it. After we finished the transects, several team members received a special gift for their dedication to making Prairie Project '06 a success. The rest of the team will receive similar awards when we meet next month.

Last month we talked a little about Rattlesnake Master so I thought I would continue this month with a short article about switchgrass. Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) is a hardy, warm season perennial found in remnant prairies, pastures, and along roadsides. It also goes by other names such as Wobsqua grass, lowland switchgrass, blackbent, tall prairie grass, wild redtop, and thatchgrass. This native grass begins growth in late spring and can reach up to 6 feet. It is good forage for all types of livestock and also used for wildlife habitat improvement. Its seeds provide food for songbirds, pheasants, ducks, geese, wild turkey, rabbits, muskrats, and many more creatures. Due to its extensive root system, it is also a good choice for controlling erosion. Switchgrass can be easily identified by its wide, large seedhead, called a panicle and prefers lower moist areas, but is also very drought resistant. Because switchgrass is hardy and grows rapidly, it is a good candidate for feedstock or as a biofuel as mentioned recently by the President in his 2006 State of the Union address. There is a lot of testing being conducted to see how fuel efficient switchgrass is as a biofuel, and preliminary results look good. There is, however, still a lot of controversy, and it doesn't look like the answer will be resolved anytime soon. So where can I see switchgrass at Brazos Bend State Park? Well, if you are coming into the park, as you enter the mile long stretch, start looking along the left side of the road. Watch for what appears to be large clumps of emerald green grass anywhere from one to two or more feet high. You should be able to easily see the large panicle or seed head rising above the long broad leaves. There are also a few on the right side of the road. With any luck you will be able to count about 30 or more plants. Don't forget to take water with you on any outdoor excursion. Until next month, take care and enjoy the park.

## BRAZOS BEND BUTTERFLY COUNT

This is a reminder to everyone interested in butterflies. The annual Brazos Bend Butterfly Count will be held on **Sunday, September 24**. No previous experience is necessary. Meet at the 40 Acre Lake parking lot at 8:30 AM and plan on counting until lunchtime at the picnic grounds(bring your own). The Park entry fee will be waived for participants, but NABA charges a \$3.00 administration fee for each counter 12 years of age or older. For additional information, see previous newsletters or contact Rich and Sandy Jespersen at [jespera@consolidated.net](mailto:jespera@consolidated.net).

# VOLUNTEER DRESS CODE

*by Sharon Hanzik*

Yes, there is a dress code. If you've gone through training within the last several years, we have been covering this topic. I'd like to remind you or inform you of "the code" just in case there is some confusion. We are making every effort to follow the basic uniform and appearance guidelines of TPWD.

-Volunteers are supplied with two Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer patches and one cap with the TPWD generic volunteer patch. Generic volunteer patches are given to hosts and temporary volunteers. You may purchase extra BBSPVO patches at \$2 each. If you wear out or lose your cap we will replace it for free. You may provide your own green or khaki-colored cap as long as it has the patch on it.

-Name tags are the responsibility of the volunteer. They may be ordered from any office supply store. They should be 3" X 1" kelly green and read

Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer and your name.
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There are some exceptions such as noting that you speak different languages. Please check with staff if you are in doubt. Tags are worn on the right side of your shirt, especially when wearing khaki.

- Volunteer t-shirts and sweatshirts may be ordered from the organization. T-shirts are best for any maintenance or outdoor work. Do not attach patches to t-shirts. T-shirts aren't easily recognized at a distance when you are on the trails. If you want to wear a t-shirt, please also wear the cap.

-Tan Khaki shirts may be ordered from almost any sporting goods supply. Almost any style will do. Patches are placed on the left sleeve of khaki shirts only. Patches may be added to khaki vests, which are also acceptable attire.

-We recommend a dress-type uniform when working in the center or presenting programs/ hikes or at outreach events.

-We recommend that you wear blue jeans or any neutral color pants or shorts. Shorts should be a respectable length, approximately no more than 5 inches above the knee.

-Wear appropriate footwear for the task at hand. No sandals of any kind.

-Maintenance crews may wear suitable clothing, as long as they are recognizable in some form, i.e. green cap.

-Please keep hair, beards, mustaches neatly groomed. No excessive body piercing or visible tattoos.

Remember that we are all "park staff" and our physical appearance reflects on us all. Be proud to wear the uniform.

# VOLUNTEER IN THE NEWS



In the September issue of *Texas Highways Magazine* - "A Zillion Ways to See Texas - Footloose and Fancy-free"- Volunteer **Carol Jones** appeared in a photo taken at her place of work, The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, where she is the Education Manager (page 61).

## ALLIGATOR SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

*by Rick Dashnau*

Some volunteers may be aware of a small pamphlet-type publication (about 44 pages long) that I was able to find a few years ago. It was in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. It's an article titled "Social Signals of Adult American Alligators", published in 1978. I happened upon it at one of the nature book sources I'd dealt with online. I bought the last few copies they had. I donated one of these to the Volunteer Library. That's the history.

I happened to find that this entire publication is available in digital format (.pdf), apparently for free! COOL! It's well worth looking at. Just by reading the study, I was able to go and find my first alligator bellowing, among other things. Here's the link for the file. It's about 10 Mb. <http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/handle/2246/564>

## AUGUST 2006 MAINTENANCE REPORT

*by Bryan Leach*

### **Wood Yard:**

Tied wood, split wood, and delivered tied wood to the wood racks in both camping loops  
Cleaned up the wood yard area.

### **Mowing and Landscaping:**

Mowed the Red Buckeye Trail, the Bluestem/Whiteoak Trail, and the Pilant Slough Trail  
Mowed around the 20 staked Pecan trees along the road to the Red Buckeye Trail

### **Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance:**

Cut up downed trees on the Hale Lake Loop Trail, the Bluestem Trail, and at one of the Elm Lake parking areas  
Removed downed trees and limbs on the Creekfield Forrest Trail, the Bluestem/Whiteoak Trail, and the Red Buckeye Trail  
Lopped over hanging limbs on the Red Buckeye Trail

### **Equipment Maintenance:**

Changed engine oil and filter on the K2 Kubota and replaced the thermostat and gasket on the K1 Kubota

### **General Maintenance:**

Removed dirt buildup and leveled the area around Joe's bench  
Built a new lift bar for our portable generator  
Constructed a barrier out of orange fencing and T post, defining a walkway for the George Observatory and the Creekfield  
ADA Trail foot traffic, from the parking lot

## RICHARD BOARD

Richard Board has had a stroke and is not doing well. Please keep him and Nancy in your thoughts and prayers.

# The Unforeseen Wilderness

The world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our feet, and learn to be at home.

Wendell Berry

## TPWD'S MISSION AND YOU

*(A personal commentary by Dennis Jones)*

"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations"

Words have meaning. A mission more simply defined means purpose. A purpose is an end, aim, or design. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's mission describes why it exists and what it must accomplish to justify its existence to the people of Texas. Mission statements are everywhere. It seems like every business or organization has a mission statement upon a wall collecting dust somewhere. After the statement is developed it is seldom read and often forgotten in the day to day. I think if one understands the meaning behind the collection of words, the mission lives. Otherwise, it just takes up space on the wall and sounds good.

Our mission mandates three things; manage, conserve, and provide. We are supposed to **manage and conserve** the natural and cultural resources in our care as well as **provide** opportunities for outdoor recreation on those same resources which include hunting and fishing. It is that simple, but the simple things are sometimes the hardest to accomplish. And yet the hardest things are often easy. Confused? Welcome to the world of managing and conserving natural and cultural resources while providing outdoor recreational opportunities for present and future generations. It's a delicate balance at best and all actions need to be predicated on the question, "Is this consistent with our mission?"

Everything we do as an agency is designed to meet those ends: **manage, conserve and provide**. Procedures for accommodating campers, deer hunts, kid fishing programs, prescribed burns, public safety, interpretation, mowing grass, repairing facilities, to name only a few. All the things we do, no matter how trivial, are a result of our need to satisfy our mission. If they don't do this, then we shouldn't be doing them or we need to do them better.

Our mission not only serves the here and now but must also consider the future impacts on the resources. What we do today WILL affect tomorrow. The question is how. Will mowing a picnic area for 25 years prevent the growth of new trees to replace the ones that die over time? Should new trees be planted to replace the ones that are lost? Should the picnic area have trees at all? When does resource management and consumptive outdoor recreation reach equilibrium? Is a walk in the woods or a picnic consumptive on some levels? How does one manage and conserve resources that are constantly changing? Is cutting down a stately oak worth reclaiming a vanishing prairie?

Still confused? I suspect we all are. Those simple words, **manage, conserve, and provide** seem unachievable when expanded to encompass all that they imply in our mission. We must all strive to do the best we can within the context of the mission, but we can only do that with the mission in mind. Will we make mistakes? I suspect we will. To accomplish our mission we must approach it as if we were on a journey. We take one step at a time, staying on the path and anticipating the destination. Every day ask yourself if what you are doing furthers the mission. If the answer is yes, no matter how small the task, you are on the right path. dj

# MEETING NIGHT SUPPERS

*by Anna Dell Williamson*

Thanks to Noel Duncan for bringing supper for the August meeting. Supper is at 5:00 PM, right before the meeting. If you are interested in providing a supper, sign up. Keep your receipts to give to Anna Dell and you will be reimbursed. We collect \$3.00 per person to cover costs. If you are willing to prepare a meal for a future meeting, please contact me by email (<awilliamson4 @houston.rr.com>) or by phone (281-485-2843). We do not need anyone for October because that is the picnic. But from November on we have lots of openings. Thank you to all those who have already brought a meal.♦

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Creekfield Hikes will start at 10:00 AM through the end of September.**

September 9	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
September 9	New Volunteer Training Orientation, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, lunch
September 16	New Volunteer Training, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
September 23	New Volunteer Training, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
September 24	BBSP Butterfly Count, 8:30 AM, 40-Acre Parking Lot
October 7	Bird photography Photo-walk #3, 5:00 PM
October 14	Annual Volunteer Picnic, 5:30 PM
October 27	Bird Hike, 40-Acre restrooms, 8:00 AM
October 28-29	Texian Market Days, George Ranch
November 4	Landscape photography Photo-walk #2, 3:00 PM.
November 11	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
November 17	Bird Hike, 40-Acre restrooms, 8:00 AM
November 23	Thanksgiving, Nature Center closed
November 26	Bird Hike, 40-Acre restrooms, 8:00 AM
December 2	Landscape photography Photo-walk #3, 3:00 PM
December 9	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM

## GUIDED BIRD WATCHING HIKES

Guided Bird hikes will be held Friday and Sunday mornings and Saturday evenings. Leaders are David Heinicke and Bill Godley. Photographer Greg Lavaty will assist "shutter bug birders" on several Sundays. Beginners and advanced birders are invited to participate. Hikes will normally be 1 - 2 hours in duration. Hike dates and times are subject to change. Check our website for changes and for additional weekend hikes. Bring your binoculars and cameras! We look forward to seeing you! There are approximately 2 hikes a month. The entire schedule is on the Web site. Here is the schedule for the next two months.

**Meet at 40 Acre Lake restrooms at 8:00 AM.**

Friday, October 27, 2006

Friday, November 17, 2006

Sunday, November 26, 2006

**Brazos Bend State Park**

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
21901 FM 762  
Needville TX 77461

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

→NEXT MEETING DAY AND TIME←

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2006, 5:30 PM**



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**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
Bird Hikes	See schedule in calendar

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.

**BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK  
VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION**

**OFFICERS**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Judy Strauss</b>
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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@houston.rr.com). Notify Anna Dell (281-485-2843) well in advance of any events you want announced in the newsletter.

**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Editor	Anna Dell Williamson
Production Assistants	Bruce Williamson Terry Williamson