



**VOLUME 20, NUMBER 4**

**APRIL 2008**

## MARCH MEETING NOTES

*Reported by Secretary Nicole Olson*

President **James Blankenship** called the meeting to order March 8, 2008. There were eighteen volunteers and three staff members present. The February 2008 meeting minutes were approved as posted.

### REPORTS

#### Outreach Report:

At Sea Center last Saturday, there were 923 people. We had ten volunteers. Our next outreach will be the Children's Festival at Richmond, Texas on March 29. Ducks Unlimited has a youth group called Green-winged Teal. We may participate in their program at the Old Gun Range.

#### Treasurer's Report:

**Diane Carpenter** brought the budget report. (See Financial Report for complete information)

The following requests were made and approved:

- A 3-1/2 ton **floor jack** for vehicle maintenance.
- Three **radios** with standard belt clip and battery charger to replace ones that were destroyed or lost. This gives us five radios for the nature center and one for the wood yard.
- A Vermeer BC 600 XL **brush chipper** funded from the El Paso Foundation money.

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### **Maintenance Report:**

**Noel Duncan** brought the Maintenance report, which is published elsewhere in the newsletter.

### **Gift Shop Report:**

**Beth Debenport** reported that sales have been good. We have alligator pins with BBSP on them, and have ordered armadillo pins. We have a new logo for frisbees that will be ordered soon.

### **Training:**

Anna Dell Williamson reported that nine VITs went through September training, and two have completed. There will be six juniors in the junior training coming up on April 14. Junior volunteers can assist us with programs and can interpret in the Nature Center, including handling baby alligators and snakes .

### **Announcements:**

David will lead a hike on Red Buckeye trail next Wednesday. Red buckeyes are blooming. All areas of the park are blooming. Rose Aden reported that she saw a new alligator at Creekfield Lake.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*by Steve Killian*

This was the best February we have ever had. This may still be related to the recent *Houston Chronicle* article, so I'm real happy about that. Easter is two weeks away.

The **Zero Based Budget** compares what we need to be a high quality park versus what we have right now. BBSP staff calculated that we need 38.27 employees versus the 16.5 salaried employees now. When you add the equivalent of 3.48 workers with park hosts and 8.478 employees from the BBSPVO, we get the equivalent of 28.45 staff members, and our ideal is 38.27 staff members. The staff members do not all have to be paid staff, but we need 34.5% more staff. The results of our study will be presented to the Legislature for consideration before we know any results.



The **Texas Outdoor Family Program** is dedicated to introducing camping to families who have never camped. BBSP and Cedarville SP have been chosen as test parks. The program is still under development. We will offer one additional interpretive program as part of the activity. It will be a paid program starting at BBSP in the fall (October 15, 2008 to April 15, 2009). We can fund it and make it happen.

The **amphitheater** has new seating. It is rough right now, but we will stain it and water seal it. There will also be some electrical work, a nice new projector and a sound system.

**Resource Management** - We are trapping hogs, an activity which continues all year-round. Eight hogs were trapped this week. We also sprayed native and non-native species of vegetation. The vulture population is starting to kill some of the tree branches around Creekfield Lake. We will try to disperse them near the public areas using non-lethal methods – as they get ready to roost, we will disperse them.

We have a new **Regional Director: Justin Rhodes**. He comes from Martin Dies State Park.

**Comments from members:**

- The recession favors the gift shop here because they are not going to drive far, its local. Lots of visitors keep coming back. Many compliment us by saying we are the best state park they've visited.
- We went to Sea Center last week for an outreach program and talked with volunteers. They were very nice. They have no organization, don't generate any ideas, they do what the staff asks them to do. At least at BBSP we can talk amongst us and generate new ideas.

Keep up the good work!

## INTERPRETIVE STAFF REPORTS

### DAVID HEINICKE

Naturalist David Heinicke reminded us that week after next is **spring break**. A whole week of busy Saturdays during the week! Come spend your **Easter** Sunday with us. There will be a Christian rock band on Saturday and sunrise services on Sunday morning.

We are developing new **trail head maps**. Hopefully next month we'll have some pricing. We are going to color-code the hiking trails with fiberglass markers – some pricing by next month. We will be using Ron Morrison's money.

There's a meeting tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. to kick around ideas for a new **classroom facility**. This is an initial meeting to develop a proposal.



### SHARON HANZIK



Naturalist Sharon Hanzik thanked everyone, including all who worked during the week!

We have completed school group training. Ten people participated. We will not conduct another training this year. We are sending out confirmations on school groups.

I'm doing a lot of programs – "Ask the Ranger", Identifying Birds, etc.

On weekends when only one of us is here, we need more than one volunteer on the trails. It helps to have more when the trails are busy.

The interpretive training scheduled for Saturday, March 22, is full. There will be another one in the spring. There's a cabinet full of program outlines to use.

On April 12, we will have Junior Training. There are six candidates so far. There are still five VITs to finish from the regular September training and nine from the February training.

*Photo by Jenn Mantei,  
March, 2008*



# NATURE CENTER REPORT

## MARCH 2008

*By Anna Dell Williamson*

Here is a breakdown of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for March 1 - 30, 2008. It was the busiest month in a long time. There were at least two busy weeks due to spring breaks, and Easter fell in March this year. Numbers come from the calendar in the Nature Center and may not reflect all activities. Be sure to report Nature Center visitation on the calendar, and attendance for all programs and hikes on the form behind the front desk.

	PROGRAMS	TOTALS
<b>NATURE CENTER</b> <b>TOTAL:</b> MAR. 2008, 10,684 MAR. 2007, 6835	<b>SATURDAYS (5)</b>	<b>3779</b> - High, 834, 3/15 average: 756
	<b>SUNDAYS (5)</b>	<b>2627</b> - High, 735, 3/16 average: 525
	<b>WEEKDAYS (20)</b>	<b>4278</b> - High, 791, 3/21 average: 214
	<b>CREEKFIELD HIKES (11 days)</b>	<b>200</b> - High, 74, 3/8
	<b>ASK THE RANGER (3 days)</b>	<b>93</b>
	<b>SNAKE/REPTILE PROGRAMS (5)</b>	<b>151</b>
	<b>ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS (7)</b>	<b>316</b>
	<b>BIRD HIKES AND PROGRAMS (4)</b>	<b>151</b>
	<b>CHILDREN'S STORY TIME (10)</b>	<b>164</b>
	<b>OTHER PROGRAMS (8)</b> includes pond life, various videos (3), photo walk, skull, spotting scope (2), pond, special hikes (3) and junior angler programs	<b>324</b>

**Spring Break** brought us loads of visitors. For the weekdays of March 17-21, we logged 2,520 visitors, an average of 504 visitors a day. For the entire month, there were **10,684 visitors through the Nature Center**. Let's hope that each and every one of them was greeted by a friendly volunteer and made to feel welcome.

## MAINTENANCE REPORT

*Reported by Noel Duncan and Ron Morrison*

### **Wood Yard:**

Built new wood yard rack.

Unloaded, cut and split wood.

Replaced rotten timber in #6 and #10 wood racks and lifted them off the ground.

Removed nails from the 6" X 6" posts at the wood yard.

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

Removed 40 tallow trees and treated 200.

Cleaned up Hoots Hollow Bridge.

Cleaned rocks, mud and debris off of bridges, fishing piers, observation tower, and viewing platforms, pulled grass and weeds from the cracks, and checked the nails and screws.

Cleaned up trails after the wayward cows and hauled manure elsewhere for fertilizer.

Installed water station cup holders & doggie water bowls.

Installed 2" pipe to hold Creekfield Lake Hike information sign.

Trimmed portions of the Prairie trail, the Creekfield Forest trail and the Creekfield Lake trail.

Hacked and squirted 200 Chinese Tallow trees - Hale, Creekfield, Pilant Slough & NC.

Cleaned algae from signs on all lake and spillway trails.

Mounted the brochure box to the Prairie Platform.



*Delivery of the Vermeer chipper.  
Pictured, from left to right, are: Jim Heitt,  
Ron Morrison, Dennis Keptra, and Bob Haynes.*

### **Equipment Maintenance:**

Changed the oil in Kubota # K1 and K2 and in both Gators 06 and 07.

Sharpened four chain saw blades and replaced dull blades.

### **General Maintenance:**

Replaced 30 barbeque grills in camping areas.

Moved campground fire rings and maintained the fire rings.

Cut blown down tree at Elm Lake picnic area and dead tree at Hale Lake Fishing pier.

Replaced broken coat hook in 100 loop campground.

Filled dangerous potholes on the approaches to Elm Lake piers #5 and #7.

Installed 14 new BBQ grills in the overflow camping area.

Cleared 24 Chinese Tallow trees in 200 camping loop.

Trimmed low branches along the 100 loop campground.

### **THE JOYS OF WORKING IN THE WOOD YARD**

*by Ron Morrison*



I enjoy warmth from building a fire at BBSP three fold:

Once when I cut it,  
once when I split it,  
and once when I burn it.

# Volunteer News & Notes

## IMPORTANT MEETING ITEM

A group of interested volunteers has been meeting with David to address the need for a new classroom facility. Our current classroom is too small for many of our popular programs, and the group has been looking at the possibilities for creating a different classroom site. The consensus has been to build a free-standing classroom facility as Phase 1 of the new Environmental Education Center. Of course, there are many steps before the construction can be approved, but this is a beginning. The project will be presented to the Executive Committee at the April 12 meeting. If approved by the Executive Committee, the project will be presented to the membership at the general meeting. The committee is looking for support from the organization for the project. Please be present at the April 12 meeting to discuss this proposal.

## REPORTING HOURS

This is just a reminder regarding the requirements to be a BBSP volunteer. The Standard Operating Procedures for the organization define active membership as follows: *(Selections follow; for the complete SOP, see the members section of the website.)*

### **Article 1, Section 2 - Active Membership**

In order to maintain active membership status, a volunteer must complete a minimum forty-eight (48) hours of service per calendar year. Twenty-four (24) of the forty-eight (48) required hours must consist of six (6) hours per quarter in any combination of these required areas: Nature Center Information Desk, Gift Shop, Water Station/Trail Patrol, Creekfield Hike/Trail Patrol and Firewood Work Projects. Traveling time and monthly meeting time are not included as hours of service. All hours including travel and meeting time must be recorded. See definitions of required hours in attached Appendix B. *(Appendix may be read on the website in the members section.)*

### **Article 1, Section 7 - Duties of Members**

- Participate in educational and/or civic activities deemed appropriate by the Department and BBSPVO in the furtherance of the Park.
- Accept personal responsibility for fulfilling the work commitment, accepting guidance and support necessary to carry out any task.
- Actively participate with other volunteers and/or TPWD staff as a team
- Follow all basic safety and operational rules of the Park.
- Attend required training sessions and any appropriate training for certification standards.
- Refrain from undertaking involvement in any TPWD function and/or activities of the Park without the express permission of the park staff.
- Avoid any conflict of interest between the Park and BBSPVO and any other entity or organization.
- Follow all procedures and policies before using any equipment that belongs to the BBSPVO or TPWD.
- Obtain permission before using any TPWD equipment and/or vehicle.
- Help to fulfill the commitments agreed upon by the BBSPVO and the Park, e.g., Creekfield Hike, Gift Shop, Nature Center, Maintenance, Water Station.
- Report all volunteer hours, including travel time and meetings.

This reminder is to point out that all hours MUST be recorded in the volunteer log book kept on the table in the volunteer lounge. If hours are not reported, they will not be counted. You need to record your hours each time you are at the park. All hours for a month should be recorded by the end of that month.



Report the required quarterly hours (six per quarter) in the appropriate column. Simply record the number of hours in the space for the date, and then total those hours. The middle part of the sheet has three columns. Select the label that best fits what you did. Remember that work at home on volunteer business (newsletter, hike preparation, personal study, etc.) and work at the park on committees and interpretation all count. Attending or leading training classes also counts, whether it's new volunteer training or specified training for school groups, programs, etc. It also counts if you attend a program. We want to report all of the hours we work, including training. Most of the non-required hours are recorded in the center section. Write the total of the quarterly hours plus the other hours in the second total column. Then put in meeting hours and travel and write the total of both previous columns and the travel time column in the last column. These are the hours that are reported to Austin.

If you have any questions about reporting hours, please check with Sharon.

## CREEKFIELD HIKE MEETING PLACE HAS CHANGED

*by Sharon Hanzik*

We have relocated the pipe that holds the sign advertising the nature hike ("Nature Program Starts Here"). It is now located at the first corner of the deck by the sidewalk. Please have your hike meet/start on the lawn next to the deck, away from the front door and not on the sidewalk. Meeting on the sidewalk causes a traffic jam, and there are too many elements to compete with when starting your hike.

## CREEKFIELD FOREST TRAIL

*by Ron Morrison*

As you may know, the Master Naturalists and Brazos Bend State Park have been considering joining forces to restore a trail called Creekfield Forest that is very well located, but in pretty bad shape. On March 30, David Heinicke, Amy Bradford, Pamela Tatge, Cheryl Sedivec, Chuck Duplant and I met to discuss the joint project.

The trail restoration would be broken into several projects including the following:

- Restoration of several portions of the trail by raising it above water level.
- Replacing the current bridge with one wide enough for service vehicles.
- Improvement of the current Interpretative signage and the addition of an interpretative brochure.
- Building a boardwalk out over the water.
- Maintaining the trail on a more regular basis.

If one or more of these projects interests you, let me know and I will include you in future meetings.

E-mail: [rcmorri@alltel.net](mailto:rcmorri@alltel.net).



*Tricolor Heron*

*Photo by Jerry Zona, March, 2008*

# OUTREACH UPDATE

by Judy Strauss



Eddy Grizzaffi at the BBSP table at Sea Center Texas.

The Sea Center Texas Outreach was a huge success. The weather was perfect, and although I cannot remember the actual count, we saw a lot of visitors — a really huge number compared to what we expected — and had a really great time! There were enough of us there that we were all able to get out and enjoy the other booths. If you have never visited Sea Center Texas (this was my first, but not my last time), you really ought to go. It is fascinating, to say the least. I can't wait to take the grandkids out there (but maybe not all five at once)!

I want to extend a very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who came out to help: Warren & Joan Jackson, Bruce & Anna Dell Williamson, Nancy & Jennet Bertmeyer, Eddy Grizzaffi, Jerry Carpenter, and Patricia Marshall. I could have never done this by myself, and I really do appreciate your involvement in our Outreach programs. Thanks again to all of you.

## THE FIRST TIME IS ALWAYS THE FIRST TIME

by Bruce Williamson

The first time I rescued an injured raptor occurred on March 13, 2008 (Friday the Thirteenth came on a Thursday this month) around 7:00 p.m. CDT. I was near the trailer dump station when I spotted a red-shouldered hawk behaving atypically, on the pavement thirty yards down the road. I had my heavy leather gloves with me, and as I have held the kestrel and the caracara, I felt secure approaching the hawk — although slowly and carefully.

After I had the hawk supported with both my hands, he/she seemed to relax somewhat. He lowered his wings and just looked at me. With both hands busy holding the injured bird, I couldn't use my cell phone to summon help, so I flagged down a passing car. The couple was very cooperative. They turned around and drove to our camp site, and told Anna Dell I needed her help. After Anna Dell arrived, she summoned Dennis Jones (probably right in the middle of his dinner). Dennis brought a cardboard box in which we placed the bird until Friday morning when we were able to contact a wildlife rehabilitator. She drove to the park to pick up the bird.

After the rehabilitator got home and examined the hawk, she called back and reported that he appeared to have been electrocuted on a power pole by claspings the pole top just at the ground wire, while its wings touched the hot wire. No bones were broken, so perhaps the hawk was able to glide to the ground. One leg was not functional and both wings had necrotic tissue where the electric arc had damaged them. Based on the progress of the necrotic tissue and the state of dehydration, the rehabilitator estimated the bird had been injured three to four days prior to our encounter. She felt that a full recovery was possible, and said they will eventually release him at BBSP.

Footnote: In years gone by, I used to collect copperheads from the campgrounds and relocate them to more remote areas. I was trained to handle venomous snakes by my brother, a herpetologist in New Mexico. I don't do that anymore, because I don't trust my balance and dexterity. Handling this hawk was a completely different experience. However, I would advise anyone not familiar with handling birds with dangerous talons to call for help rather than trying to approach the bird as I did. Dennis showed us how to calm a bird by gently covering its head with a piece of soft cloth.



# Congratulations!

...to Ian Randolph and Clara Pultar for completing their volunteer training. Both are from the September 2007 class. Give these newest volunteers a hearty welcome!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ken Debenport  
Joyce Blankenship  
Joyce Giese (VIT)

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Virginia & Charlie Harrison  
Jim & Jacqueline North

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Rose Aden  
Dennis Keprta  
Suzie Gann  
Virginia Harrison  
Dawn Tejero (VIT)

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Rose & Elmer Aden  
Linda & David Heinicke  
Patricia & Steve Marshall



*(Ed. Note: If your birthday and/or anniversary are not appearing in the newsletter, or if there are any errors, please inform Anna Dell to correct the problem.)*

## Thanks

- ☺ to **Bruce Williamson** for purchasing the USB drives for Sharon Hanzik and David Heinicke.
- ☺ to the **new volunteers and VITs** for tying a lot of wood
- ☺ to **Carrie Sample** for the meeting night dinner in March
- ☺ to **Teresa Jones** for cleaning algae from signs on lake and spillway trails
- ☺ to **Warren and Joan Jackson, Bruce and Anna Dell Williamson, Nancy and Jennet Bertmeyer, Eddy Grizzaffi, Jerry Carpenter, and Patricia Marshall** for helping with the outreach at Sea Center Texas
- ☺ to **Dennis Jones and Jean Northington** for the articles for the newsletter
- ☺ to **everyone** who came out during Spring Break and Easter Sunday to help with the crowds in the Nature Center and on the trails.

# PHOTO WALKS

by Laszlo Perlaky



Time is flying by and we have just realized that almost all trees and shrubs have freshly opened leaves and the Texas wildflowers are in full bloom. This is a great time to grab your camera, see the light, and take pictures as you see the world around you.

The next free Photo Walk at Brazos Bend State Park will be on April 5, 2008. Laszlo will be at the Nature Center from 3-5 PM, and after that we will look for wildflowers, most likely for Spider Lilies, probably nearby the Prairie close to 40-Acre Lake. We will return to the parking area after dark. Please bring your macro-, wide angle-, or telephoto lenses with extension tubes and a solid tripod. The area where the Spider Lilies are is normally wet and muddy, so wear rubber boots or something similar.

## INTERPRETATION

Commentary by Dennis Jones

What do you think the key element to successful interpretation is? Good organization of thoughts and ideas around a central theme is very important, of course, but I think the key element is *passion*. Without passion, interpretation is just information. Information by itself can be sterile and lifeless. Enos Mills, a nature guide (1920), said that nature guiding should be more “inspirational than informational” and that with the proper use of information one can “illuminate and reveal the alluring world.” The proper use of information comes from passion with an equal amount of enthusiasm.

Long after a lifeless presentation is forgotten, the guide with a twinkle in their eye and zeal for their subject will be remembered. Sometimes it can be remembered for a lifetime. I recall having a conversation with a young fellow I had watched grow from an eager high school sophomore with an interest in reptiles and frogs to a PhD candidate in life sciences a few years back. He told me that he remembered a “Snake Program” I had done for his fourth grade class at the park. I cannot say that I had anything to do with the direction this young man has taken in his life, but I do know I made an impression on him on some level.

Enthusiasm and passion can be contagious. So when you take a group on a nature hike or present another form of interpretation to our visitors, you have the opportunity to make the words you share with them last for more than the moment. What an investment in the future! Here are some of my thoughts on how to share your passion and enthusiasm as it relates to interpretation.

- I am a strong believer in the idea that if you are afraid to make a fool of yourself you will never reach your full potential as an interpreter.
- Be animated and unpredictable in your presentation if you can. They will, if for no other reason, pay attention to see what the fool is going to do next.
- Don't be afraid. They (your audience) won't kill you, and they can't eat you. They want to like you; give them a reason to do so. Be friendly and outgoing.
- Be confident. They can smell fear. (Just kidding!)
- Start your hike with positive expectations, TELL them they are going to have a good time (and mean it), and they just might.
- You can't forget humor. People like to laugh. Its good medicine and folks will feel better for it if you weave it into your presentation.
- Present your “information” from a different perspective than people are used to. Help them to see things from that mile in another's moccasins. If you accomplish this they won't forget what you have shared with them.
- Don't forget the little people. Talk to the children on their level in terms they can understand. Don't just talk *at* them. They will teach you.
- Don't take yourself or your subject too seriously — have fun with it.

Lastly, consider this: "I would rather be ashes than dust! I would rather that my spark burn out in a brilliant blaze than it be stifled by dry rot. I would rather be a meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy permanent planet" (Jack London). Be that for your audience and "know the joy of the otters in the river though your own joy as you go walking along the same river" (Chuang Tzu). Happy trails. Hope to visit with you again soon.

## VOLUNTEERS IN TRAINING

*By Anna Dell Williamson*

We currently have two VIT classes working on requirements, a few from the September class, who have until April to finish, and the group from the February class, most of whom are finishing up Phase 1 soon. Many of you are assisting VIT's to complete their requirements and will be asked questions about what VIT's can do. In order for us to maintain consistency in the training, the following information spells out what VIT's can do during training, and what they can do after they become full volunteers.

### **VIT's may do the following during Phase I and Phase II of their training:**

- Attend any programs or hikes s/he is interested in
- Participate in Outreach activities, like Texian Market Days, Astronomy Day, etc.
- Participate in special events, like Earth Day, Simple Christmas, etc.
- Come to the Nature Center just to watch seasoned volunteers at work
- Attend meetings (no vote) of the organization
- Come to all social events scheduled for the organization (picnic, suppers out, staff/host/volunteer luncheons, etc.
- Stay in the volunteer camp site with other volunteers
- Follow the order of training: Classroom, Phase One, Phase Two. Each segment must be finished before starting the next. The training tasks within Phase One and within Phase Two may be done in any order, as long as observations are done before practice (alligator program, Creekfield hike).
- Use the volunteer lounge, refrigerator and microwave
- Purchase water and Gatorade at the volunteer discount price in the Gift Shop
- Enter the park free for training activities
- Wear the VIT name badge at all times in the park
- Access the "members' only" section of the web site to sign up on the calendar, read the Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures, and access the newsletter.
- Drive vehicles (Gator, Kubota) with a regular volunteer if you have a driver's license

### **VIT's may *not* do the following until they have completed all of their training:**

- Wear a volunteer tee-shirt, sweatshirt, cap or name tag
- Reserve the volunteer camp site
- Vote in meetings of the organization
- Have the combinations to the locks



*Blue-eyed Grass  
Photo by Jerry Zona  
April 2008*

# TO TEA... OR NOT TO TEA?

## New Information on the Yaupon Holly

Reported by Jean Northington

I was doing a bit of research in preparation for the Creekfield hike and ran across an interesting passage about Yaupon in Euell Gibbon's *Stalking the Blue-eyed Scallop*. On page 313 he writes,



"This tea actually contains appreciable amounts of caffeine, making it slightly stimulating like Oriental tea or coffee. Some Southern Indian tribes knew the secret of making this bracing beverage, but these same Indians, at some of their solemn ceremonies, used another beverage, the famous "black drink" which acted as a powerful emetic. The black drink was a concoction of various roots and herbs, but some careless observer once reported that it was the Yaupon tea that had this undesirable effect, thus giving this valuable plant an undeserved bad reputation. This error has persisted in the literature, and one can still read current accounts that connect the Yaupon with the infamous "black drink". Because of this error, it was given the scientific name it bears, *Ilex vomitoria*. It is time we correct this

ancient error and clear the name of the fine plant, for it makes a mildly stimulating tea that is delicious and as wholesome as the commercial tea and coffee we buy."

He goes on to describe the process for making tea from the Yaupon leaves and adds that it is the perfect drink to accompany a seafood meal for which you have foraged the food (!).

I don't think we should re-write our descriptions about Yaupon based on this passage, but it might be an interesting footnote to add that there is at least one naturalist who believes Yaupon has gotten a bad rap.

# HOODED MERGANSER

Reported by Sharon Hanzik

On Sunday, March 30, I identified a female Hooded Merganser with several chicks, and by "several" I mean at least ten. They are located in the southwest corner of Elm Lake across from the intersection that leads to 40-Acre Lake. I will search further for Dad but did not find one Sunday.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 4	Bird Hike, 40-Acre Restroom, 8:00 AM
April 5	Junior Angler Workshop, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, Nature Center Brazos River Pickers, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Amphitheater
April 6	Bird Hike, 40-Acre Restroom, 8:00 AM
April 12	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Junior Volunteer Training, 9:00 - 5:00
May 9	Bird Hike, 40-Acre Restroom, 8:00 AM
May 10	Junior Angler Workshop, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, Nature Center Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
May 11	Bird Hike, 40-Acre Restroom, 8:00 AM
June 6	Bird Hike, 40-Acre Restroom, 8:00 AM
June 14	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
July 4	Independence Day Bicycle Parade
July 12	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
August 9	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
September 13	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
October 11	Volunteer Annual Picnic, 5:30 PM
October 25	Texian Market Days

## MURPHY'S LAWS OF PARK SERVICE

*submitted by Dennis Jones*

Nature is nice, but not in your neighborhood.  
Always watch where you put your hands, feet... and head.  
Programs about alligators fill up; wildflower walks don't.  
If the park closes at 10:00, visitors will arrive at 9:59.  
A "DO NOT ENTER" sign is forbidden fruit.  
Firewood should be free; most folks think it is.  
The visitors pay your salary.  
If you're short of everything except visitors, it's the weekend.  
Group campers must ALWAYS camp together or they will die.  
Parking on the grass is guaranteed by the Constitution.  
Anything can be done in the name of fishing, photography or bird watching, and its o.k.

*Loch Ness Cormorant  
Photo by Jerry Zona,  
April 2008*



**Brazos Bend State Park**  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
21901 FM 762  
Needville TX 77461

FIRST CLASS MAIL

→ **NEXT MEETING DAY AND TIME** ←  
**SATURDAY, April 12, 2008, 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
Bird Hikes	See schedule in calendar

**BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION**

**VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OFFICERS**

President:	James Blankenship
Vice-President:	Anna Dell Williamson
Secretary:	Nicole Olson
Treasurer:	Diane Carpenter

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