



BRAZOS BEND BUNCH BUGLE

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2008

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Brazos Bend has suffered a great loss in the death of **Ken Debenport**. Our thoughts and prayers go to Beth and the rest of his family. Ken was one of the finest gentlemen I have had the privilege to know. He always made sure everyone at the park felt welcomed and included and was ready to give a helping hand whenever it was needed. He did this on top of running the wood yard and keeping the volunteers' accounting records. There was so much more that I could have still learned from Ken.

The volunteer organization could use a volunteer to oversee our memorials for the park. We need someone to be the liaison between the park and the family to make sure the memorial is accomplished in a timely manner. Let me know if you would be interested.

Since 31 volunteers showed up on the 28th to help clean up the park, I assume everyone has missed the park as much as I have. I have nothing to report about the wildlife and birds, because I haven't been able to see them! On the home front, I had five hummingbirds at my feeders before the storm. They evidently all survived the storm because they were really looking for their feeders after the storm passed. Isn't it amazing that a small creature can find shelter in such a powerful storm.

A special thanks to **Jerry Zona** for sending out weekly pictures of the park (when the park was closed he sent pictures from his home!). This is a great help in identifying plants and animals at the park. If you are not on his list, I'm sure he would be glad to add your name.

I will close with a saying I heard from a WWII Veteran's wife last week - Always do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do!

Carrie Sample

P.S.: Ron, being a volunteer means you don't have to have a doctor's excuse not to show up! For those of you who don't know - Ron injured his same toe twice, having to go to the doctor's each time. I am still waiting to hear more details...

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LOSSES IN THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of two deaths within our volunteer family in the month of September. Our sincere sympathy goes out to family and friends.

Ken Debenport, a volunteer since 1989, suffered a heart attack and passed away on September 23. The funeral service was held on September 27.

Former member **Judy Huber**, a volunteer since 1998, passed away on September 19 after a long struggle with cancer. She had recently resigned due to health problems.

Members are invited to write tributes about these volunteers for the November newsletter. E-mail or regular mail them to the editor for publication: <awilliamson4@comcast.net>, or 3419 Shadycrest, Pearland, TX 77581. Deadline is October 24.



SEPTEMBER MAINTENANCE REPORT

by Ron Morrison and Noel Duncan

Wood Yard:

Split 4 cords of wood

Mowing and Landscaping:

Cleared 2 Chinese Tallow trees endangering the 40 Acre Lake picnic grounds

Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance:

Cleared the 40 Acre Lake trail of a blowdown limb

Equipment Maintenance:

Replaced the main drive belt on the wood chipper

Pest Control:

Treated 750 Chinese Tallow trees with herbicide

Hurricane Ike Cleanup:

Two weeks' of work with park staff and additional staff from TPWD Region 2.

As of September 23: No power, water or sewer. Park staff, TPWD Region 2 employees and park volunteers had cleared all large trees and branches from the main roads, Headquarters lawn, Nature Center lawn and surrounding areas, campsites and the Elm Lake picnic area. Creekfield Lake trails are almost completely cleared and crews are working on clearing Elm Lake and 40-Acre Lake Trails.

As of September 30: Power was restored to the entire park on Friday the 26th. However, there is a major problem with our largest water well that services most of the park including the Nature Center, Observatory, camping loops, plus Elm and Hale Lake picnic areas. Once we can get the problem corrected we must pass three consecutive water tests before we can supply safe potable water to our visitors. Tree clearing is still underway. Once the 40-Acre Lake Trail is cleared (possibly by the end of this week) we will need to clear the remainder of the Hale Lake area and all trails in the back country areas.

As of October 7: The park will re-open to the public Friday, October 10, at 7:00 AM. We need lots of help!!

WOW! IKE CLEANUP SUNDAY

by David Heinicke

Wow! When we ask for help, we really get it! I can't thank you all enough for your hard work on September 28. We greatly exceeded my expectations of what we could get done in six hours. We had a total of 31 volunteers show up. I don't ever remember that many folks coming out to help out with any projects.

Here's a summary of what we got done:

1. Completely cleared and trimmed Hoot's Hollow Trail
2. Had 6 people dragging limbs at Hale Lake all day
3. Had 2 Gators hauling in fire wood and hauling off unusable wood all day
4. Cleaned and re-hung the fishing banners
5. Repaired the information kiosk in the 100 loop.
6. Trimmed dead and low-hanging limbs at the Nature Center
7. Edged and blew the sidewalks off at the Nature Center
8. Cleaned out the ice machine (154 bags)
9. Dusted and swept the Nature Center
10. Cleaned the gator tank
11. Reinstalled the "Oxbow Lake " sign and hauled off the broken sign at Horseshoe lake.
12. Moved the freezer from HQ to the Nature Center
13. Replaced the damaged trail marker on Creekfield Trail
14. Cleaned off the picnic table pads in the 100 and 200 loops
15. Cleaned of the Elm Lake picnic pavilion
16. Raked up and hauled off small debris from the Nature Center lawn

Thanks again for all your hard work. Hopefully the park will re-open in the next week. Please watch the website for details. See you at the park soon!

From Suzie Taylor: David, Kudos to you and the whole Bunch that came out; this is why this organization is so great!

From Sharon Hanzik: THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP! Although these things weren't big jobs, like moving trees, etc., they make the same difference.

CHANGES TO VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES

Because of Hurricane Ike, new volunteer training was completely disrupted. Sharon sent the following letter to the VIT's, rescheduling training to February. The class was polled earlier, and the majority was willing to work with us. If you are currently a mentor, we will keep you as one.

Greetings current VITs,

I hope homelife is back to normal for all of you. Since Ike got in our way with training, we will not be able to reschedule it until the next go-round scheduled for February. We do not want to skimp on your training. You deserve the full class. We train in the off-season because we are just too busy otherwise. Some of you had to drop out at the last minute. You are welcome to try it again. I know it may be a problem for some of you. We cannot find a suitable alternative. We will most likely have additional VITs join us, so we would like for you all to repeat orientation.

The dates are as follows: February 7, 14 and 21. I need to know if you will be able to make this, as it will help me determine how many new applicants I can accept.

Please feel free to visit once we open again. Don't be strangers. We plan on having our annual picnic on October 11. Please feel free to join us. It is pot luck. Please bring a dish and dessert. See the newsletter on the web for details.

PRAIRIE HERITAGE DAY

Just a reminder that Prairie Heritage Day is Saturday, November 15, 2008, at Brazos Bend State Park! Activities include guided hikes, wagon rides, story corner, wildfire education, prairie birds, edible plant talk and other presentations on the prairie's past, present and potential, from people who are passionate about prairies! For more information, visit www.coastalprairie.org.



. . . from **Beth Debenport**:

I want to express my appreciation for the love and sympathy shown by the Volunteer Organization on the passing of Ken. Your calls, cards, prayers, visits, hugs, and attendance at the visitation and funeral were a tribute to Ken

and a comfort to me. I look forward to seeing you all at the park in the coming weeks.

. . . from **Anna Dell Williamson**: To all the volunteers who assisted with Orientation on September 6 for new VIT training. And to the volunteers who brought food for lunch and shared their experiences with the VIT's; the mentors, the drivers, the team who compiled training manuals, and many others were all very much appreciated.



September Birthdays:

Gary Bialas (Staff)
Jim Calvert
Ron Dearman
Barry Eversole (Staff)
Frank Gregg (Emeritus)
Linda Oden Heinicke
Tina Ibarra (Staff)



September Anniversaries:

Dave and Gay Armstrong (1967)
Jaci Elliott
Eddy and Sam Grizzaffi
Jim and Patricia Hiatt
Don and Marilyn Vossler (1966)

October Anniversaries:

Diane and Jerry Carpenter
Pam (VIT) and Reid Tatge

October Birthdays:

James Blankenship
Buddy Franklin (Emeritus)
Mozelle Franklin (Emeritus)
Fletcher Morgan (Emeritus)
Dennis Jones (Staff)
Tom Kanak
Diana Kerr
Nicole Olson

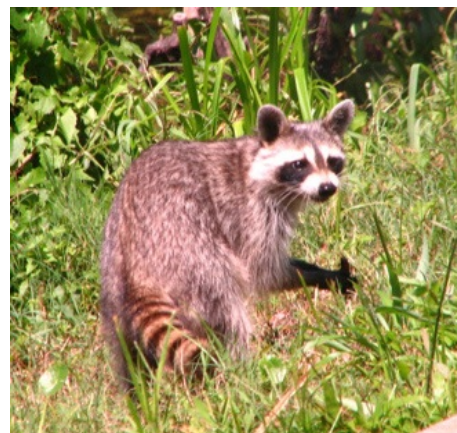


Photo by Carrie Sample



PARK OPENING and ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC

The park will reopen to the public on Friday, October 10. We have power, sewer and have passed the tests for potable water.

We are keeping the Volunteer Picnic on schedule for October 11. It would be difficult to find another Saturday this fall to hold it at the Dining Hall. Please proceed with planning. Volunteers interested in assisting with the picnic should contact Sharon Hanzik as soon as possible. The picnic will be preceded by a group picture of the organization members at 5:30 PM. **Volunteers wishing to be in the photo must get there BEFORE 5:30.** The Volunteers busy with preparations have little time to spare.

The potluck meal will be served at 6:00, and after the meal, we have a brief business meeting, awards and other activities, including a remembrance of volunteers who have passed away since the last picnic: **Brian Leach, Judy Huber** and **Ken Debenport**. Please keep it lighthearted. Share your good times and funny stories. I'm sure there are more than you can shake a gator at. Contact Carrie Sample to let her know you would like to speak.

Following the Volunteer Picnic, we will have the volunteer camp out. Judy Strauss will keep a contact list for all of you that call and let her know you want to camp. We have asked for shelter 11, and the area between it and the dining hall is more than ample for many tents. Hope to have lots of you camping! You can contact Judy at work, 281-980-4104, or at home, 979-793-7392.

After the picnic, we have a campfire for more togetherness, conversation and fun. You do NOT have to be camping in order to come and visit with everyone at the campfire...the more the merrier! Just bring a chair.

We Get Letters..



The following email was sent on September 8, 2008 from a family in Manvel, Texas:

I just wanted to say "THANKS!" to whomever is responsible for stocking cold water at the stations at 40 Acre Lake and Elm Lake. My family did a 6.6 mile hike on Sunday, and I can't tell you how much we appreciated having cold water available. It was such a gift. Thank you. It made the hike more enjoyable.

Sincerely,

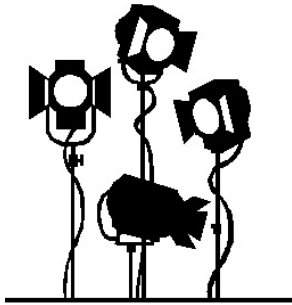
Kelly Schumann

Following is an email sent to every manager and regional director of TPWD:

Attached is the Brazos Bend Volunteers' newsletter, which shows what their volunteers have been up to. Brazos Bend logs the largest amount of volunteer hours every year with just under 25,000 hours in FY07 and just over 28,000 in FY08. Enjoy!

Lori Reiley

Personnel Services & Volunteer Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, State Parks Division



Volunteer Spotlight: *Fletcher Morgan*

by Jenn Mantei

I sat down with Fletcher Morgan on a hot Saturday afternoon in August. Despite the heat, Fletcher was cool as a cucumber in his Volunteer uniform and signature jacket, a large manila envelope under one arm. To my surprise and astonishment, inside the envelope were copies of his latest resume (dated November, 2001), biography, and service record and honorable discharge papers from the U.S. Army. Also enclosed were several newspaper clippings from the Associated Negro Press and the Houston Informer from 1944 and 1945. One article is entitled “NEGRO ARTILLERY UNIT ROUTS GERMANS: Uncanny Accuracy Breaks Spirit of Nazis at St. Malo.” The Battle of the Bulge.

We started out talking about Fletcher’s days in the military. It all began at Texas A & M Prairie View, where he joined the ROTC while pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Vocational Agriculture. From there, he went to induction at Fort Sam Houston, then on to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for basic training. After basic, he taught school on base. “You’d be surprised how many fellas (soldiers) couldn’t read and write,” he said.

After leaving Fort Sill, Fletcher went on to Fort Gruber, Oklahoma and then was shipped overseas to Europe. That was April of 1944. On landing in England, his heavy artillery unit was held back by a rough English Channel, and had to wait an extra day to cross. “D-Day Plus Six,” says Fletcher. They went from France into Germany, supporting the 101st Airborne in the Breakthrough. General C. H. Hodges was the commander. After Hodges came General Eisenhower, but owing to some “disorganization”, Fletcher and the rest of his unit were following General Patton when the war ended.

“...Battery B fired on an enemy battery of three guns. Three direct hits destroyed the guns. Eight rounds were fired on an enemy emplacement located on an island. Direct hits destroyed the guns. Computer for this battery at the time of firing was Pfc. Fletcher Morgan, Bay City, Tex.”

- **Assoc. Negro Press**

“...Cpl. Morgan makes and keeps up-to-date graphic charts of our ammunition expenditure and keeps a detailed record of missions fired. Cpl. Morgan was formerly a student at Prairie View

At the end of the war, Fletcher was asked to work as a Service Officer. “I took charge of recreation, ordered equipment and supplies, picked up VIP visitors like the president of the Heinz food company.” He returned home in November of 1945. “I remember we had two Thanksgivings that year. The first Thursday we were in New York, bivouacked there at West Point. Then we traveled to Tyler, Texas, and had another Thanksgiving there. The day after that I was discharged, and headed to Houston.”

After the service, Fletcher went back to Prairie View and earned his Masters degree in Agriculture Economics in 1946. He began teaching Veterans how to farm, build homes, and raise farm animals, eventually landing a job with the USDA Farmers Home Administration as a supervisor. He had about 20 students in his first class. “I remember back then, we didn’t have sprayers like they have now. We had a cultivator, and I’d hook a pump sprayer on each side. We’d pump it up, spray, stop and pump it up again.”

Married in 1946, he and his wife, Alice, moved to Fort Bend County, where he farmed and did custom work like building fences. He then went back to work as a “roaming supervisor” with the FHA. He retired in January of 1986. He and Alice have been married 63 years.

Fletcher recalls his introduction to Brazos Bend State Park at the first Earth Day Celebration in 1990, where he helped staff a tent for the Water Conservation Board, where he was chairperson of the Audit Committee.

FLETCHER MORGAN, *Continued*

“A couple of the other people went off to eat, and came back, and I asked them where to go get food.” When he got to the food tent, Fletcher asked where to pay. The people informed him the meal was free, provided by the park volunteers. He said, “Where do I sign up? They had a desk out there under a big pecan tree, and that was when I signed up. That was 18 years ago next month.”

Back then, Fletcher helped out with anything and everything that needed to be done – trimming trees, fixing fences, picking up trash. “Dennis was a technician back then, a park ranger. He was teaching our classes. I told him, ‘Dennis, I’ll listen, but I’m not gonna look at any snakes!’”

It’s well known among the Volunteers that Fletcher is afraid of snakes, and when he’s working the desk in the Nature Center we keep them at a respectable distance. I asked him where his fear came from, if he’d had a traumatic experience with a snake. “I don’t know, nothing that I know of. I’m afraid of snakes and mice. I just can’t stand to look at snakes. When I see them on television or magazines, I have to look off. I used to garden – every year I had a nice garden, up until 2004 when I had a pacemaker put in (he can no longer stoop or bend over). My wife and I would be out in the garden, and she’d find a snake, and she’d go look for a hoe and then go back looking for the snake!”

Fletcher and Alice have three daughters and a son, as well as seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. “I worry about them being able to get an education now. It’s going to be much more expensive. When I went to school at Prairie View, it was \$18 a month for room and board. I went into the service, and when I came out and went for my Masters degree, it was \$22. And now, they don’t have dormitories, they have apartments that are \$600, \$700 a month.” Times have indeed changed.

Fletcher had his pacemaker put in four years ago, and has also been on dialysis for as many years. This hasn’t stopped him though – he still drives himself 40 miles to Wharton for dialysis three days a week, and works at the park at least one Sunday a month. He still has his farm, where he’s worked hard his entire life, farming his family’s land raising cotton, corn, watermelon, and running a hay-baling operation. In the past several years, Fletcher has sold off his equipment and cattle and has been cleaning and making repairs to the buildings. “I told my wife, if I leave her, she won’t have anything to worry about.”

Reading through the biography Fletcher gave me, I realize there is much more to this fascinating man than I have room to print. He’s studied real estate and financial management, has received numerous awards and recognitions for his outstanding achievements, and is an active leader in the community. Fletcher was recently named the first recipient of the Sen. Walter M. Burton Award presented by the Supporting America’s Best organization, which recognizes men and women who have followed in a tradition of service through politics and community affairs. He’s a life member of the NAACP. In a word, he’s made history.

The next time you see Fletcher Morgan manning the desk at the Nature Center, stop for a chat. You’re sure to be awed and inspired by the stories he has to tell. Just don’t mention the “Ssss” word.



"Ike Survivor"
Photo by Jerry Zona

UPCOMING EVENTS

by Sharon Hanzik

Creekfield Hikes

Hikes can be very busy on Saturdays throughout the Fall. More than one or two leaders may be needed. If you've signed up in advance but aren't needed, or the hike does not take place, you still get your 2 hour credit. If all volunteers who signed up are not needed, the first ones signed up have dibs on if they want to lead or not.

Simple Christmas

The Simple Christmas celebration will be Saturday, December 6 from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Help needed for this fun event, which takes place on the Nature Center lawn. Sharon will be in touch.

Holidays

Please consult the Volunteer Calendar for holiday openings and hours of the Nature Center. We normally try to stay open the entire week of Thanksgiving. We will be open Thanksgiving Day only if the Franklins choose to do so. The Nature Center is closed Christmas Day. The park will not close on any holiday. Weather permitting, the holiday season can be extremely busy. Please also be aware of the upcoming deer hunt closures, November 4-6 and December 1-4.

MORE ABOUT SNAKE BITES

By Dennis Jones

In the August newsletter we talked about what to do if you are bitten by a venomous snake. Simply put, you go to the doctor. Now I would like to share with you a bit more about snake bites to enable you to understand what is taking place if you or someone else is actually bitten.

First we need to differentiate between *venom* and *poison*. The results are generally the same, but there is a big difference. Venom comes from living organisms; poison does not necessarily come from living things but it can (like a toad or a frog). Spiders, wasps, and snakes have venom. Venoms are injected; poisons are ingested. Snake venom is a complex set of proteins and enzymes; poisons are chemically based. Assuming you drank snake venom and it did not come in contact with blood via a cold sore, ulcer, etc., you would digest it just as you would any other protein such as meat with no ill affects (that's not to say it would be pleasant, however). Poisons are not digested but rather assimilated by ingestion, inhalation or absorption and, depending on the dosage, can be fatal.

In the case of spiders and snakes and some other biting critters, venom is glorified spit — saliva that has evolved to enable critters without teeth for chewing to begin the digestion process outside their stomachs. When venom enters the bloodstream the proteins and enzymes start to work, breaking down the blood and beginning to react with the blood cells and tissue. The victims are actually being digested from the inside out. Some enzymes may delay their work until they reach the tissue or organ they are specifically designed to digest, such as the nervous system.

That brings us to two broad categories of venoms: *hemotoxic* and *neurotoxic*. I say "broad" because all venoms will have components of each. The quantity or proportion of each toxin determines into which broad category they are placed. Hemotoxins generally create clots and tissue damage (necrosis) that ultimately affects the heart, causing damage and/or death. Neurotoxins attack the nervous system, and paralysis of the diaphragm causes the victim to asphyxiate.

In North America our venomous snakes can be placed into three categories based on the type of venom they dispense and the method of injection. Neurotoxic venoms come from snakes called elapids. The Coral Snake is the only member of that family that lives here. Cobras are also elapids. This family has relatively short fangs. The fangs are not retractable and fit into grooves in the mouth. Incidentally, Coral Snakes can bite anywhere you can pinch skin.

SNAKE BITES, *Continued*

Hemotoxic venoms are found in crotalids: the Rattlesnakes, Copperheads (“Moccasins”) and Cottonmouths (the correct name for “Water Moccasins”). These snakes are also called “Pit Vipers”, which refers to the small heat-sensitive organ between their eye and nose that aids them in directing their strike toward warm-blooded creatures. They can have comparatively long fangs which are retractable, meaning they fold flat when the mouth is closed.

The last category includes some of the colubrids (almost all the other snakes in North America). These snakes are rear-fanged and “mildly venomous” and have to chew the venom into their prey. This includes some members of the hog-nosed snake family. They are rear-fanged and have mild venom that acts like an anesthetic. They use the rear fangs to deflate the lungs and the venom to “calm down” the toads that they almost exclusively eat in the wild. Hognose snakes will not bite humans (you don’t smell like a toad). Other mildly venomous colubrids include the Texas Lyre snake, the Northern Cat-eyed snake, the Texas Night and Spotted Night snakes and lastly the Black-striped snake. None of these snakes occur in the Coastal Bend area of Texas, however. Some people have been known to have mild reactions from the saliva of other colubrids as well, such as garter snakes. All snake bites can become infected.

Now you know how venom works and the difference between venom and poison. The last thing you need to know is that snakes don’t want to bite you because you are too big to eat. If you give them a wide berth, keep your hands off them and watch where you put your hands and feet, you should have no trouble avoiding snake bites.

Lastly, from time to time people will ask why our signage says “poisonous snakes exist in the park” rather than “venomous snakes exist in the park.” It’s a matter of communication; most people know poisonous means dangerous, but a great many people cannot spell venomous, much less know the difference. It may not be accurate for the purists like you and me, but it does communicate the right message to everyone. Take care.

HURRICANE IKE UPDATES FROM TPWD

Following are excerpts from TPWD updates on Hurricane Ike and how it impacted the park system. This information comes from TPWD press releases and can also be found at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008

Several coastal parks are evacuating campers and closing today due to Ike. Other parks outside the area affected by the storm are preparing to accept people evacuating from areas hit by the storm. Evacuees from storm-damaged areas may tent camp or stay in RVs or campers at no cost in Texas State Parks, and they may stay in cabins or screen shelters at discounted rates.

TPWD has more than 200 game wardens and equipment deployed or ready to deploy to respond to Hurricane Ike. Every warden in the Division is preparing to deploy if necessary.

Galveston Island, Lake Texana, Goose Island and Mustang Island SP’s began evacuations. Brazos Bend and Stephen F. Austin SP’s are currently on standby for a possible evacuation. Sea Rim SP remains closed to the public due to damage cause by Hurricane Rita. All other state parks in Region 4 (upper coast) and in Region 2 (lower coast) are on standby and executing hurricane preparedness plans. At this point, no parks in the region are accepting evacuees.

Friday, Sept. 12, 2008

Thirty-two state parks are now closed due to Ike. Other state parks are accepting people evacuating from areas hit by the storm. More than 1,000 Ike evacuees are now staying in state parks outside the storm’s expected path.

UPDATES FROM TPWD, *Continued*

All of the approximately 500 game wardens in the state are preparing to deploy if necessary. Search and rescue, delivery of food, water and ice, and the prevention of looting are all duties familiar to game wardens in the wake of storms.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008

Close to 4,000 Ike evacuees are now staying at 36 state parks outside the storm's path. Garner State Park has far and away the most, with 1,650 evacuees, at least half of those from the Houston area.

Game wardens worked in Bridge City and Orange mid-day with airboats and had completed 50 rescues by 4 p.m., plucking people from rooftops and second story windows, bringing them back to National Guard trucks. Five game warden strike teams with airboats and riverboats fanned out across Southeast Texas for search and rescue and damage assessment.

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008

More than 5,000 people took refuge from Hurricane Ike at 59 different state parks across Texas. On Saturday and Sunday, as conditions cleared, the campgrounds began to empty. More than 30 Texas State Parks remained closed due to Ike in Southeast and East Texas. . No loss of life or injuries have been reported for the State Parks Division.

Regarding ecological impacts, longtime division staff member and Murphree WMA Superintendent Jim Sutherlin had this to say: " Wildlife impacts to every thing that doesn't fly will be significant like it was back in the early 1960s with Hurricane Carla. I expect a great reduction in reptiles and amphibians, particularly alligators, but also snakes, frogs, all the things that move on the ground in the coastal plains. It will set plant communities back to very early successional stages, and we'll see big changes in the landscape when this water comes off, for a couple of decades. That's something we'll see as our careers mature, and the young people starting careers in wildlife ecology now will follow it as we followed Carla."

Monday, Sept. 15, 2008

Game wardens and associated boats and equipment continued search and rescue in places like the Bolivar Peninsula, while many game warden teams are turning to a law enforcement mission in other affected areas. This morning, a total of 23 Texas State Parks remain closed due to Ike, down from 37 closures at the event's height. Since the storm event began, 5,315 evacuees have been given shelter at 59 state parks outside of Ike's path.

Hurricane Ike delivered a powerful blow to Texas State Parks. Two coastal parks, Galveston and Sea Rim, sustained catastrophic damage. Structures and facilities at Sea Rim near Port Arthur appear to be a total loss. At Galveston Island, Ike caused heavy beach erosion and swept away the park headquarters building, restrooms, and shelters. Seven other state parks and the LaPorte regional office suffered significant damage ranging from downed trees and power lines to storm surge flooding and wind damage to buildings and facilities. These parks include Lake Livingston, Martin Dies, Jr., the San Jacinto Battleground / Battleship Texas, Huntsville, Daingerfield, Martin Creek Lake and Mission Tejas. Four state parks sustained moderate damage: Brazos Bend, Sheldon Lake, Village Creek and Caddo Lake. These parks took only light damage: Goose Island, Mustang Island, Stephen F. Austin, Fanthorp Inn, Washington on the Brazos, Fairfield Lake, Tyler and Atlanta. The San Jacinto Battleground was significantly damaged by storm surge flooding and wind, with widespread downed trees and fencing. The park store and Battleship TEXAS restrooms were flooded, the site well house destroyed, among other damage.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008

This morning, a total of 22 Texas State Parks remain closed due to Ike, down from 37 closures at the event's height. Since the storm event began, 5,828 evacuees have been given shelter at 63 state parks outside Ike's path.

UPDATES FROM TPWD, Continued

Wednesday, Sept. 17

This morning, a total of 18 Texas State Parks remain closed due to Ike.

Thursday, Sept. 18

Game warden search and rescue operations continue on the Bolivar Peninsula today. Yesterday, strike teams rescued an elderly couple of which the husband had congestive heart failure. The Bolivar team also yesterday aided the safe extraction of a lion and tiger that had become residents on the peninsula with the help of the owners and the Houston Zoo.

This morning, 17 Texas State Parks are closed due to Ike. More than 5,900 evacuees have been given shelter at 64 state parks outside Ike's path. These climbing numbers show evacuees are continuing to arrive at some parks, although many have departed since evacuees first started arriving last week.



Damage from Hurricane Ike at BBSP

Friday, Sept 19, 2008

Today, 13 state parks are still closed due to Ike. Park enforcement officers have accomplished missions to secure sites and been demobilized. Natural resource and infrastructure damage evaluations will continue into next week.

The Human Resources Division is coordinating agency-wide employee disaster relief efforts aimed at supporting affected employees who lost homes or were otherwise affected by Ike. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has set up a special "TPWD Employee Hurricane Relief Fund." Donation checks can be mailed to: Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Re: TPWD Employee Hurricane Relief Fund, 1901 North Akard, Dallas, TX 75201.

Monday, Sept. 22, 2008

This week on Galveston Island, TPWD has been tasked to deploy 50 game wardens to meet with 100 DPS troopers to assist with law enforcement and traffic control. Today another game warden team is part of a recovery effort led by Chambers County on Smith Point, where much of the debris from Bolivar Peninsula communities washed ashore.



Debris Cleanup at BBSP

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has raised \$100,000 in donations to support employees who lost homes or were otherwise affected by Ike. The Palo Duro Canyon State Park friends group has also donated \$10,000 to this effort. The Human Resources Division is coordinating agency-wide employee disaster relief efforts.

TEXIAN MARKET DAYS

by Judy Strauss

Texian Market Days is October 24-25 at the George Ranch on FM 762 between the Park and the railroad tracks at FM 762 and Crabb River Road in Richmond. BBSPVO has always had an outreach booth at this event, and we need volunteers again this year to help man the booth. Below is a tentative breakdown of hours for each day. Please call me ASAP to let me know which day(s) and hours you can work. There will be no charge to you to get into the event if you are working the booth, and you will be able to attend the rest of the events around the Ranch during the times you are not scheduled. We see thousands of people each day, and we need all the help we can get.

There are many food vendors there or you can bring your own lunch/snacks/drinks/water. You must wear your Volunteer uniform and wear your name tag. VITs are more than welcome to come help, as are camp hosts. You can work as many shifts as you want, both days if you want. We need 3-5 people for each shift.

Friday will be mainly school children, from elementary to high school (although public will not be turned away). The shifts will be 8:30 to 11:30, 11:30 to 2:30, and 2:30 to 5:30.

Saturday will be mainly for the general public, but there will be school groups also. The shifts will be 8:30 to 11:00, 11:00 to 1:30, 1:30 to 4:00, and 4:00 to 6:00 (this will be the "tear-down" shift).

David and I also could use some help setting up the tent on Thursday evening. If we can get at least two to help us, it shouldn't take more than 30 minutes to set up the tent/tables. We will meet at the George Ranch Thursday evening @ 6:30, at the area where our booth will be. Please let me know if you can help. My work number is 291-890-4104 and my home number is 979-793-7392.

This has always been a fun event, and we get many, many visitors that are not aware of BBSP. There is always a lot to talk about! We would appreciate your help. Hope to hear from you soon, and thank you!

WHAT'S IN THE GARDEN?

By Joan Jackson

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea



A native plant, known for its herbal properties, makes a welcome addition to your garden. It is drought tolerant as well as disease and pest free. This herbaceous perennial has large daisy-like rose-purple flowers whose centers are cone-shaped and purple-brown in color. The lance-shaped dark green leaves are coarse like sand paper and are four to eight inches long. Seeds or divisions of roots propagate this plant. It is not particular about soil conditions and does best in full sun but will tolerate some shade. The flowers are long lasting and great as cut flowers. They are well suited to drying.

Butterflies nectar on purple coneflowers all summer long. Goldfinches enjoy feeding on the dried flower seed heads in the fall. Native Americans used Echinacea for numerous medicinal purposes. Many pharmaceutical products are made from the extracts of this plant in Europe today. They can stimulate the immune system and increase resistance to infections.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 11	Volunteer Annual Picnic, 5:30 PM
October 24-25	Texian Market Days
November 4-6	Deer Hunt
November 8	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
November 27	Thanksgiving (NC open Friday after, 9-5)
December 1-4	Deer Hunt
December 6	Simple Christmas, 3:00 - 7:00 PM
December 13	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE . . . FUNGI?

Jerry Zona almost always includes at least one interesting fungus photo in his weekly e-mail. Since I had a difficult time identifying these -- and therefore have no answers for you in this issue -- I thought perhaps someone out there could help us out! Please e-mail your answers to me at jmantei@earthlink.net; we'll publish your responses in an upcoming issue. Have fun identifying these weird and wonderful... "things". Thanks for the great photos, Jerry!



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

→ **NEXT MEETING DAY AND TIME** ←
SATURDAY, October 11, 5:30 PM
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC
☆☆☆☆☆☆



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

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Vice-President:	Suzie Gann
Secretary:	Eddy Grizzaffi
Treasurer:	Diane Carpenter

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The **Brazos Bend Bunch Bugle** is the newsletter of the Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization, A.K.A. The Brazos Bend Bunch. It is distributed monthly to volunteers through the BBSPVO web site. For further information on this newsletter or the volunteer program, contact David Heinicke or Sharon Hanzik at Brazos Bend State Park, phone 979-553-5101.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the author of the article and do not necessarily reflect the official position of Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization nor of BBSP administration. The deadline for Newsletter contributions is the Saturday following the monthly meeting, if mailed to Anna Dell Williamson, or at the meeting if delivered to the park. (E-mail address: awilliamson4@comcast.net). Notify Anna Dell (281-485-2843) well in advance of any events you want announced in the newsletter.