



BRAZOS BEND BUNCH BUGLE

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2009

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mark Saturday, April 4 on your calendars now! We will be celebrating Brazos Bend's 25th anniversary and our Volunteer Organization's 20th anniversary. There will be festivities at the park during the day. We will consider changing our meeting date from April 11 to that Saturday so we can celebrate our volunteer's anniversary with a dinner and a meeting. Come and stay the entire day (or whenever you can) to share in the celebrations.

Rumor has it that Frank will be composing a song about the volunteers. Chuck is collecting photos to create posters about the Organization and our activities at the park. Pam will be putting together a new Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Brochure. Anna Dell has been busy coming up with ideas and will be asking more people to help with the event! David and Sharon, along with the park staff, will be organizing programs for the park's celebration. Hope to see all there and, hopefully, many of you can help make this a memorable time.

The alligators have taken a backseat to the birds these past weeks at the park. Two birds that should not be this far north have been seen. Rusty blackbirds and a Tropical Parula have been the cause of many birders coming to the park for sightings. Look for **Bill Godley's** article in this newsletter to find out more info.

I want to welcome our new class of volunteer trainees. We are looking forward to helping you make your volunteer time at the park successful and rewarding.

Before I close, I need to thank **David Armstrong** for taking on the responsibility of updating our sundial by the Nature Center.

Thanks for all you do at the park!

Carrie Sample

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JANUARY MEETING NOTES

by Anna Dell Williamson

President **Carrie Sample** called the general meeting of the BBSP Volunteer Organization to order at 5:30 PM on January 10, 2009. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as posted. Thanks to **Cindy Peterson** for the dinner and **Carrie Sample** and **Carol Ramsayer** for dessert.

Park Staff **Steve Killian, Richard Taylor, David Heinicke** and **Sharon Hanzik** brought their reports, which are published elsewhere in this issue.

Budget Report: Treasurer **Diane Carpenter** brought the budget report. Copies of the report are on the table in the volunteer lounge. The 2009 Budget will be presented next month.

In comparison with last year, income through donations, Gift Shop inventory, and net Gift Shop is up. The discrepancy in the Gift Shop inventory is nominal. Wood sales remained even from last year. Expenses were up in Maintenance, Education and Depreciation. Outreach expenses were down (no Earth Day). Membership expenses remained even.

The following requests for purchase were submitted and approved:

- Order 50 volunteer caps with embroidery patch for new volunteers. Motion was passed.
- Creekfield Forest Bridge: **Ron Morrison** requested funds to rent a dumpster to remove materials from the current bridge. Funds have been approved to rebuild and widen the bridge, but did not include removing materials from the existing bridge. **Richard Taylor** said he may be able to use the bridge for materials if we can get it out whole or in half. There could be another use for it in the park. The request was tabled until we determine if the materials can be removed.
- Laptop: **Bruce Williamson** requested funds to cover the actual cost of the purchase of the laptop, software, etc. Actual cost was over the approved amount. There was a request to change the amount to cover actual cost. Motion carried.
- Installation of high speed internet: **Bruce Williamson** requested funds for installation of high speed internet through HughesNet including satellite modem, etc. which includes four wired connections. The park will pay the monthly fees. There is a two-year contract. Motion carried.
- Maintenance requested a state license to take the wood chipper on public roads. Repairs are needed while the chipper is under warranty (April). This will be charged to the equipment maintenance budget.

Sharon Hanzik reported that we have received one new park maintenance volunteer, **Charlie Matocha**, who works with our maintenance crew. Sharon will continue recruiting for maintenance only volunteers.

Diane Carpenter requested the serial number on the Kubota that the Volunteer Organization gave to the park. The transfer of ownership must be accepted by the Parks Commission.

Chuck Duplant reported on the wood situation. Wood has been split and bundled. The green wood signs have been removed and wood is ready to sell. New Year's was a good week. We sold almost 300 bundles, with 95% paid for.

Gift Shop Report: **Anna Dell Williamson** reported that almost all of the Gift Shop items now have new bar codes.

Training Report: **Anna Dell Williamson** reported that new volunteer training will occur February 7, 14, and 21. We have ten trainees, several returning from last September. There will be an orientation luncheon on February 7.

Outreach Report: **Jerry Carpenter** reported that there will be an outreach opportunity on February 28, at Sea Center Texas. There were lots of visitors last year at our booth. Jerry will be coordinating. You may sign up on the events calendar for one of two shifts. Future outreach events include Brazoria Heritage Day Event in March and Children's Day at the Fort Bend Museum.

New Business: **Bruce Williamson** mentioned how pleased he is with the enthusiasm, talent and new ideas of recent volunteers who are involved in the organization.

The meeting was adjourned.

STAFF REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

STEVE KILLIAN



December was another record good month. Attendance in 2008 exceeded the previous year, in spite of the hurricane damage and being closed for a month.

Rangers have burned four brush piles left by Hurricane Ike, three at Hale Lake and one at the Observatory. We have received a refurbished air boat from Sea Rim at Village Creek. It will be used for resource management, especially in Pilant, Elm, and 40-Acre Lakes. It will be useful for vegetation control in low water areas and seasons when the Mud Buddy cannot be used. Staff will take volunteers out on the air boat if they are willing to spray.

We will open a new kayak launching area on the Brazos River. The Houston Wilderness Society will announce the event in February.

David Heinicke is developing a new trail grant proposal and has several ideas, including a woodland trail around Creekfield, and a primitive backpacking area for camping. He is open for other ideas. We will use volunteer hours/work to provide required matching funds.

Next week, we will have a photographer and helper from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine in the park on Wednesday and Thursday. They will stay in the Dining Hall and take pictures of the park. We might even be on the cover of the magazine.

We plan to open the equestrian area for backpacking and primitive camping. It will not be used by many. Campers would park at the Hale Lake parking area and hike in four miles. A new fee structure would be in place for the primitive campsites.

We have two new employees: **Melissa Moody** is the new part-time clerk at Headquarters, and **Stuart Chapman** is the Park Operations trainee. Stuart's is a temporary position for two to five years, training for a management position in the state.

The next Texas Family Camping Event at BBSP will be February 14. They will camp behind the Dining Hall and have access to the Hall.

We have big plans for a special event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the park on April 4, 2009. It is also the 20th anniversary of the Volunteer Organization. Volunteers are welcome to participate in the event. We hope to have Carter Smith or Walt Dabney as a keynote speaker.

There are donated trees at the wood yard to be planted. See **Ron Morrison** if you are interested in helping with this.

Audit requirements state that we need to review the organization bank statements with financial statements once a month, from last September on. **Diane Carpenter** and **Rachelle Watson** will handle this request.

The new Park Manager of Lake Texana State Park will be at BBSP for training January 21-23. He needs to talk with the volunteers about their organization and contributions.

Stocking of New Horseshoe Lake with trout will occur on Monday, January 26, and will be closed to fishing until the special fishing event on Saturday, January 31.



RICHARD TAYLOR, LEAD RANGER

There have been a lot of cleanups around Maintenance. Limestone has been brought in for the parking lot. Staff has cleaned up trash and cut weeds, trees, and vines from around the fence for security and safety.

Trash is an issue. It is not getting picked up; campers are leaving it out. We want to concentrate on picking up trash. Volunteers are reminded to pick up trash if they can or to call a ranger if the job is too big.

BBSP is getting another new Ford ranger pickup in exchange for an older one. BBSP is low on the list of vehicles compared to other parks, so this is good news. Also, we will receive 80 cedar posts from Galveston SP. They were stockpiled before Ike and scattered during the storm.

Maintenance staff has examined the roof on the Nature Center and will repair roof leaks. Materials have been purchased for the repairs.

Hosts have helped with carpentry work: **Leo Ariel** and **Captain Gene** built shelves for the new dry goods building. This is helping get the shop area cleaned up and organized.

Concrete is being laid at Headquarters to expand the gift shop area.

We have major ant problems at the playgrounds and shelters. We have received several calls. We ran out of poison and have received some more. There is a need to coordinate the purchasing of materials. The volunteers use bait, which is not good in cool weather.

Maintenance crew is working on the landscaping at Headquarters and is putting together plans. A committee will be formed to come up with ideas. He would like for Sharon, David and some volunteers to be on the committee. We want to incorporate a windmill and native plants.

If the volunteer organization needs help in construction of anything for the Anniversary celebrations, contact Richard in advance.

DAVID HEINICKE

Doris Mager, with her Birds of Prey program, will be at BBSP February 6-8. The Dining Hall has already been rented, so we will have to have the programs outside at the Amphitheater. In case of bad weather she will use the classroom, if available. **Jerry Carpenter** has volunteered to help her with setting up for the programs, which will be Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm, Saturday at 11 AM and 2 PM, and Sunday at 11 AM and 3 PM.

Progress on the Elm Lake Wildlife Viewing Platform in memory of **Bryan Leach** is moving well, and hopefully in a few months we will have plans and start construction.

Anniversary plans are moving along.

In December, we held the 23rd Annual Christmas Bird Count. We observed the second highest number of species, 149 species spotted by 55 participants. This was the highest number of participants ever. Several good birds were sighted, including rusty blackbirds, between piers 3 and 4 on Elm Lake. In the scheduled hike for Friday, January 9, eight species of ducks were spotted around 40 Acre Lake, with a total of 58 birds on the hike.

SHARON HANZIK



The Sugar Land Sun ran an article on the Seven Wonders of Fort Bend County, using Sharon's article on BBSP. They listed both the Brazos River and BBSP as two of the natural wonders.

The Family Fishing Event is Saturday, January 31. No license is required for state parks. The bag limit is five per day, and there is no minimum length.

Laszlo Perlaky has a photo show dedicated to **Ken Debenport** at Fill Your Cup Coffee House in Richmond.

Volunteer hours for the fiscal year ending August 08 totaled 19,615 hours. There were 15,450 reported in 2007, an increase of 4,165 hours more than 2007. We currently have 112 volunteers on the roster, 7 Emeritus members, several of whom still work and report hours, and 2 inactive members. Here is a summary of the report: Sixty volunteers worked the minimum up to 100 hours and 33 worked more than 100 hours. Of those 33, thirteen reported 101-200 hours, five reported 201-300 hours, six reported 301-400 hours, one reported 401-500 hours, seven reported 501-1000, and one reported over 1000 hours. Thanks for all of that work and dedication.

The Volunteer Organization donated the Kubota that was out of service to the Park to be repaired. We received a Grasshopper mower from Galveston State Park, and the motor was put in the Kubota. The rangers who worked on this project did a great job.



JANUARY MAINTENANCE REPORT

Submitted by Ron Morrison

Wood Yard:

Cut and delivered 6-1/4 cord of wood to the wood yard.
 Moved wood rack #5 & #6 so that we could service the new wood racks along the fence.
 Split & racked 3 cords of wood.

Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance:

Cleared a tree that was blocking the Red Buckeye trail.

Equipment Maintenance:

Replaced a bad tire on the Kubota.
 Put a new tire on the spare Kubota tire rim and the Gator spare rim.



General Maintenance:

Rebuilt two benches by the windmill.

NATURE CENTER REPORT

Submitted by Anna Dell Williamson

Here are the totals for the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for January 1-31, 2008. There was one holiday, Jan. 18, when the NC was open 9-5. Weather was erratic.

PROGRAMS	TOTALS
NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE January 2009 - 5143 January 2008 - 4197	Saturdays (5): 2361 Sundays (4): 1229 Weekdays (22): 1553
CREEKFIELD HIKES (10)	75
ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS/HIKES (3)	74
SNAKE PROGRAMS (7)	155
CHILDREN'S STORY TIME (9)	173
BIRD PROGRAMS/HIKES (7)	116
OTHER PROGRAMS (6) Includes Videos, Creatures of the Night, Resource Management, pond life, mammals and armadillos	113
TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN HIKES AND PROGRAMS:	683

OUTREACH REPORT

by Judy Strauss

We have three Outreach events coming up. There is one at Sea Center Texas on February 28, and we have another one on March 7th, the "Brazoria Heritage Day of Celebration" in Brazoria. The third is Children's Day at the Fort Bend Museum on Saturday, March 28th. All will be available on our Volunteer Events Calendar for sign up. Jerry Carpenter is in charge of the event at Sea Center Texas, and I will handle the one in Brazoria.

We all had a great time at the event last year at Sea Center Texas. There was a lot of public contact, and the Volunteers at Sea Center Texas couldn't have been more friendly and interesting.

I am not sure if we have been to the Brazoria Heritage Day Outreach before or not, but after talking with Donnette, the organizer of the event, it sounds like it is really big. It will start with a parade, and there will be vendors available for food and drinks. Donnette will be sending me more information as the date approaches.

We can use your help! As with our other events, the more Volunteers that we have to sign up, the more we are able to take some time out to enjoy the festivities ourselves.

Please visit our Events Calendar and sign up for any of these events. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

BUSINESS PASSES — IMPORTANT REMINDER

Just a reminder that all volunteers should not only stop at the park entrance when they come into the park to work, but should wait for a Business Pass which should be placed on the windshield. The pass identifies you as a volunteer. Anyone who comes into the park must have some type of identification sticker; annual pass hanging, white receipt, camping receipt or a business pass. This also assists the law enforcement officer (**David Heinicke**) with compliance. Thanks for your cooperation. Call **Susie Taylor** at HQ with any questions.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

By Anna Dell Williamson

Don't forget that the new volunteer training will take place February 7, 14, and 21. On February 7 we will have our orientation luncheon and introductions. Please bring sandwich makings and be prepared to introduce yourself to the new VITs. I can use a couple of drivers for the Road Tour after training (about 2:00). Please sign up on the events calendar letting me know what you are bringing for lunch and if you can drive for the road tour.

After February 21, the VITs will start on Phase I of their hands-on training. They will need your help in the Nature Center, Gift Shop, Wood Yard and Water Station. The Nature Center and Gift Shop handbooks have been revised and updated, and we will ask the VITs to read the handbook on their first session in those two areas. Hopefully this will help us better standardize the training. It might be a good idea for the current volunteers to read these two handbooks also, to help them when they train a VIT.

Thanks for all your help. It takes the entire Organization working together to help new volunteers get a good start. If you have any questions regarding training, please contact me at 713-817-1393 or awilliamson4@comcast.net.

2008 VISITATION REPORT

Fletcher Morgan compiles a report of the attendance in the Nature Center each year. For the year 2008, we had visitors from 37 countries. The United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France and Australia led the way. Visitors from the United States came from 35 states, with California, Minnesota, Illinois and Ohio behind Texas.



"NATURAL PERL" PHOTO-WALKS 2009

The Art and Technique of Nature Photography with Dr. Laszlo Perlaky

Look on the BBSPVO website for the 2009 schedule for photo walks at BBSP, led by volunteer **Laszlo Perlaky**. You are invited to join these photography sessions every month. The dates will also be included in the Calendar of Events published in the newsletter every month.

NIGHT HIKES

The Friday night hikes have now been expanded to Friday *and* Saturday nights. Assistant Park Manager **Dennis Jones** is leading the public night hikes every Friday and Saturday until March 28. The purpose of the hikes is to learn about the nighttime at BBSP, to discover how the darkness is utilized by the park's wildlife, to understand how animals, including ourselves, use senses other than sight, and to have fun!

The hikes begin at 7:00 PM and last approximately two hours. Hikers will meet at Park Headquarters at 6:30 PM and car pool to the actual hike location. The hike will be approximately one-half to one mile along darkened trails.

Advance reservations are required through park headquarters (979-553-5101) no later than 12:00 noon the day of the hike. The fee is \$5.00 per person 7 - 12 years old, and \$10.00 per person 13 years old and up (includes park entrance fee).

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE OWLS?

You might see these on a Night Hike at BBSP!

Photo © Paul Miller



Answers are on Page 13.

VOLUNTEER NEWS & NOTES



From **Judy Strauss**: I would like to thank **Jerry Carpenter** for heading the Outreach event at Sea Center, Texas. Without your help, Jerry, we may not have been able to attend the event. Thank you so much! I will do my best to see that you have some help!

... to **Cindy Peterson** for the meeting night supper.

... to **Fletcher Morgan** for his report on Nature Center visitation for 2008.



February Anniversaries:

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

March Anniversaries

Glen and Maureen Kilgore
Dawn and Oscar Tejero



February Birthdays:

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

March Birthdays:

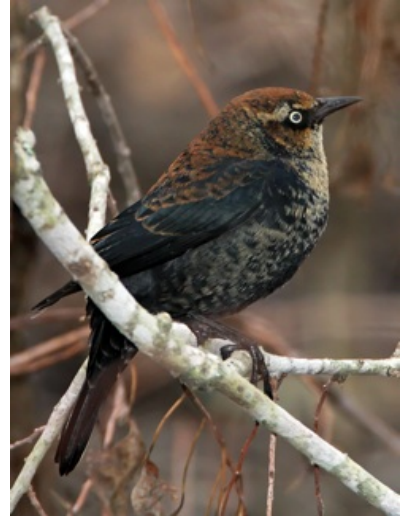
Elmer Aden (Emeritus)
Willie Anderson (Emeritus)
Rita Cooper (Emeritus)
Joan Jackson (Emeritus)
Herb Mann (Emeritus)
Jennifer Parent

BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Bill Godley

The 24th Christmas Bird Count was an outstanding success. Good weather and a nice crowd of nearly 70 participants made it a very enjoyable event from start to finish. Pending approval, 149 species, second highest in history, were recorded in the 15 mile diameter count circle. We had several volunteers assisting the effort. Next year we will do even better!

Of special interest was the award of the "Big Bird" plaque to the Elm Lake group for their sighting of the pair of Rusty Blackbirds on the south side of the lake. This species is in dramatic decline and is seen only on very rare occasions any more in its wintering grounds. Our park is the southwestern limit of its traditional winter area, and it had not been seen at BBSP in over a decade. **Bruce Bodson** led the group which also included our own **Carol Ramsayer**, who specializes in rare bird sightings, on occasion traveling a thousand miles from Vermont to assist us in our efforts.



Rusty Blackbird

Carol, you may recall, flipped open a copy of the Sibley bird guide in front of me four years ago. She gently reflected that both I (and the Texas records committee) had misidentified the "Mystery Oriole" for two months prior to her accurate analysis that it was a Streak-backed Oriole. She continues to make me look like a rookie; I love it!

I hope everyone gets to see the bird. Blackbirds, unfortunately, get no respect and that contributes, perhaps, to this lovely bird's declining numbers. Never fear! Carol made a CD of the Rusty Blackbird in song. Even now, she may be playing it in Vermont in hope of reestablishing the presence of this terrific bird.

If the Christmas Bird Count didn't create enough news for the birders, this past month certainly has put a stamp on Elm Lake for its excitement. The Rusty Blackbirds continue to hang out on the south side of the lake, and shortly after the new year, **Marie Asscherick** found a Tropical Parula in the large oak trees north of both the picnic pavilion and road close to Big Creek. This bird, a cousin to the frequently seen Northern Parula, has not been witnessed in the park in perhaps twenty years. The Houston Ornithology Group confirmed the existence of this rare bird on their hike on January 17. Several folks have posted terrific photos of the little blue and yellow bird. Normally found in Mexico, it ventures into the Rio Grande Valley on occasion. A sighting this far north is highly unusual. Thus far, the bird (or birds) remains in the area.



Tropical Parula

If that is not enough, several Vermilion Flycatchers are visible while navigating the trail around Elm Lake as well. And last week, Cinnamon Teal, a rarity this far east in the U.S., made their appearance at the west end of the lake. Let's have no more complaints, bird enthusiasts!

THE GRASSHOPPER & THE KUBOTA: THE REBIRTH

by Richard Taylor, Lead Ranger

Over the years I have been fortunate to work in many environments with a variety of conditions and equipment. In each one I found that listening, watching, and hands-on training nourished my abilities to better perform my job. They say that life experiences only occur if one puts life into their work. And you will find that as I write I often use quotes and phrases from others to give meaning to what I offer. So here is one more: "Where there is a will, there is a way." I recently reported the following to BBSP Park Superintendent **Steve Killian** and others. Some of the replies I got back were, "well deserved," "sounds like a Kung-Fu title," and "can't wait to see the movie." Nevertheless, giving credit to others on paper is just the least I can do. Here is one good example of putting life into your work.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge two individuals for their skills and abilities, along with their teamwork. Brazos Bend State Park Maintenance Tech V Mechanic **Jeff Orsak** and Park Host **Jim Cassidy**.

Recently, due to the unfortunate flooding of Hurricane Ike, BBSP obtained two Grasshopper Mowers from Galveston State Park. What was thought to be a total loss turned out to benefit BBSP in more ways than one.

After receiving the mowers Jeff began work on the mowers to see if they could be salvaged. The mowers had been immersed completely in saltwater for some time during the storm at GISP. Jeff, in his spare time between fixing and repairing equipment at BBSP, started taking systems and parts loose on the mowers. Most of the electrical on one of the mowers was totally gone from the electrolysis taking place in the wiring and components. The saltwater deterioration was evident all over the mowers. Jeff drained both mowers of fluids and flushed them out. And again they sat for some time waiting for Jeff to get back to them. Meanwhile, as time permitted, Jeff called vendors to find out costs of repairs and replacement parts. The numbers he received back were in the thousands of dollars.

In December 2008, Park Hosts **Jim and Irene Cassidy** arrived at BBSP. As the Lead Ranger I was assigning Jim duties on various maintenance tasks around the park. Then I found out Jim was retired from a Highway Department up north and knew his way around equipment and engines pretty well. So, knowing Jeff needed some assistance around the shop, I put Jim to work with Jeff, assisting him on the Grasshoppers and other mechanic work.

It was determined that one of the Grasshoppers had bad electrical problems and would be very costly to fix. However, most of the parts available on the machine would interchange with some of the Grasshopper Mowers we had on site at BBSP. After getting the okay to salvage the parts, the two started disassembling the one Grasshopper and shelving the good parts, including the Kubota engine that was on it.

The turn in events was the day the mowing deck on that one particular Grasshopper was swapped out with an old broken deck on one of the older BBSP Grasshoppers. The next thing I knew we were out mowing grass with the mower. Then Jeff called me and told me to listen over the phone. These two guys had gotten the other Grasshopper from GISP running. This in itself was astonishing!

In December's BBSP volunteer meeting, the group voted to turn over and transfer ownership of a 3-4 year old Kubota RTV 900 4x4 ATV to BBSP. During the past year this particular unit had lost water during operation from a hose leak and basically burnt the engine up. The replacement cost and repairs were near \$5,000, so the group gave it to the Park in hopes funds would eventually become available to repair it.

Now the good part. I guess Jeff and I thought of it about the same time. The question came up, would the engine out of the Grasshopper fit in the Kubota? To our amazement, they were the same exact model numbers, Kubota D902's. On January 5, Jeff and Jim started taking the motor out of the Kubota and swapping certain parts off of it and putting them on the other engine. On January 7, they got the good motor back in the Kubota. Just a note: It's not as easy as it seems. They did it without taking the transmission (and other things) out. You'll just have to see the machine and have it explained to you.

On January 8, Jeff was out in the Park most of the day with BBSP Fire Brigade burning "Ike" piles of wood. He got back into the shop around 3:00 p. m. Shortly after, they had the motor running. What an accomplishment!!! Talk about an assistant, Jim really did well.

So, long story short. My hat is off to these two individuals who proved teamwork, knowledge, and ability can work saving our organization thousands of dollars and reviving lost equipment to serve our conservation efforts. I think our whole Field Staff was happy about these two pieces of equipment getting up and running. I know that I, for one, am very pleased to have such individuals working with me. ATTA-BOYS well deserved.

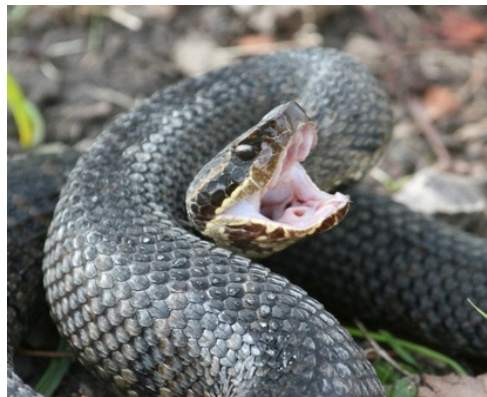
Nature Center Snakes

by Jerry Zona

On Sunday, January 11, Park Ranger David Heinicke cleaned out the venomous snake cages that are on display in the Nature Center. He took the cages outside, removed the snakes, placed them in a snake bucket, and then cleaned the cages. Four snakes in total. Since it was a cold morning, in the lower forties, the snakes where not active. This allowed us to get some good pictures:



Canebrake Rattlesnake



Cottonmouth



Copperhead



Pygmy Rattlesnake

WHAT'S IN THE GARDEN?

By Joan Jackson

Wedelia

Wedelia trilobata

COMMON NAMES:

Yellow Dots, Creeping Daisy,



Wedelia forms low-growing mats which can grow up to ten inches tall. Leaves are deeply lobed. It blooms profusely with one-inch yellow-orange flowers resembling marigolds or zinnias, which are borne singly on the end of each stem. The plant creeps and roots at nodes, making a dense ground cover. Grows best in moist, well-drained, fertile soil, but does fine in poor soil as well. Quite adaptable in tropical climates. Prefers sun to part shade, soil that is moist to average, and propagates by division. It serves as excellent ground cover in warm climates. It's especially good for soil retention and erosion control. Very attractive because of nearly constant and prolific blooming. It may be mowed to keep low and manicured. Wedelia has use in traditional medicine: crushed leaves are used as a poultice and tea is given to alleviate symptoms of colds and flu.

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 6	Bird Hike, 40-Acre Lake, 8:00 AM Birds of Prey program, PM, check posted schedule for time Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
February 7	New Volunteer Training, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Volunteer Orientation Potluck Lunch, 11:45 AM Birds of Prey program, 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM Bird photography Photo-walk #1, 3:00 PM Brazos River Pickers, Amphitheater, 5:00 PM Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
February 8	Birds of Prey program, 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM
February 13	Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
February 14	New Volunteer Training, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Regular meeting, 5:30 PM Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
February 14-15	Texas Outdoor Family Workshop
February 15	Bird Hike, 40-Acre Lake, 8:00 AM
February 16	President's Day Holiday
February 20	Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
February 21	New Volunteer Training, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
February 27	Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM
March 1	Night Hike, HQ, Reservation Required, 7:00 PM

IDENTIFICATION QUIZ SOLUTION:

(A) Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*); (B) Eastern Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*); (C) Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); (D) Barn Owl (*Tito Alba*); (E) Barred Owl (*Strix varia*).

Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife
21901 FM 762
Needville TX 77461

FIRST CLASS MAIL

→ **NEXT MEETING DAY AND TIME** ←
SATURDAY, February 14, 2009 at 5:30 PM



REGULAR VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Creekfield Hikes	Every Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 AM, led by volunteers
Photo Hikes	First Saturday of each month
Volunteer meeting	Second Saturday of each month at 5:30 PM; Supper at 5:00 PM
Bird Hikes	See schedule in calendar

BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

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

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Layout:	Jenn Mantei
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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.