



BRAZOS BEND BUNCH BUGLE

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Linda Heinicke has completed her term as Secretary and Dave Armstrong has completed his term as Treasurer. They performed their duties with enthusiasm and dedication. Both Linda and Dave will continue to help Brazos Bend State Park with their involvement in activities and projects. When you see them, please say thanks for the work they did as officers of our organization.

You also need to say thanks to the two members that are going to fill these positions. Belinda DiMarcello has agreed to serve as our Secretary. Bob Kowalewski will replace Dave as our Treasurer.

Our annual picnic is on October 15. Our group picture is scheduled for 5:30 PM with social time before we have our meal shortly after 6:00 PM. We will have barbeque in addition to the pot luck dishes you bring. Do not let the barbeque keep you from bringing a meat casserole or veggies and **DESSERTS**.

Please join us for our next general meeting on November 12 at 5:00 PM. You will be able to enjoy some food before the meeting and then help in the direction of our organization.

Offie Walker

In this issue:

From the President's Desk....	1
September Meeting Notes....	2
Staff Reports.	4
Volunteer Hours for FY11....	5
Congratulations.	6
Thank you.....	7
New Volunteer Training.	7
Never a Dull Moment.	8
Nature Center Report	9
TWPD News.....	10
DMV \$5 Opt-in Donation For State Parks.	12
Maintenance Report.....	13
Kudos to BBSP.....	13
Outreach.....	14
Outreach at Houston Zoo....	14
Visitor Comments.....	15
Calendar of Events.....	15

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES

President Offie Walker called the meeting to order on September 10, 2011. There were 22 volunteers, 8 VITs and 3 staff members present. The August meeting minutes were approved as posted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Dave Armstrong brought the Treasurer's report. The reports were accepted as presented.

The following requests for funds were presented by the Budget Committee and approved by the membership:

Steve Killian:

- Gravel for trail building/trail renovation, to develop the Prairie Loop Trail, the Creekwood Short Loop trail, the Creekwood Long Loop, and the Live Oak Trail. Funds will come from park maintenance fund.
- Purchase of used portable toilet unit for Darrington Prison work crew when they come out to build trails, from the Superintendent's fund.
- Red River Marker Dye for tall grass prairie from the superintendent's fund.
- Outrider herbicide for tall grass prairie from Superintendent's fund.

Mary Lockwood:

- Volunteer Organization shoulder patches.

Karl Franke:

- new stools for behind the front desk.

Judy Strauss:

- replace accordion doors for the GS

ELECTIONS:

Dave Armstrong presented the Nominating Committee slate of officers, which was submitted last meeting. The slate was elected by acclamation.

President, Offie Walker
Vice-President, Mary Lockwood
Secretary, Belinda DiMarcello
Treasurer, Bob Kowalewski

All four officers were authorized to sign checks for the organization, along with Rachelle Watson, Comptroller.

Dave Armstrong, outgoing Treasurer, gave a presentation about the office and welcomed Bob Kowalewski as the new Treasurer. He thanked Diane Carpentar and Rachelle Watson for their help.

Outgoing officers Dave Armstrong and Linda Heinicke were recognized and thanked by the organization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GIFT SHOP: Beth Debenport thanked all the volunteers for their help. We are always looking for new merchandise and ideas. Please share your suggestions with us.

WOOD YARD: Chuck Duplant reported that wood sales are slow, due to the heat and the burn ban. There will be no sales until further notice. For the winter, we plan to purchase pre-bundled wood.

BUILDING FUND: Chuck Duplant reported that there will be a BBEEC Committee meeting October 8 at 1 PM, where Dave Armstrong and Mike Manley will present a suggested business plan for the new building. Committee meetings are open to all interested members. (*Ed. note: The meeting date has been changed to November 12 at 1:00 PM.*)

MAINTENANCE: Bruce Williamson reported that he is impressed with the work done by the maintenance crew.

NATURE CENTER: Teresa Jones welcomed the new VITs, and reported that the yearling alligators were released in Elm Lake.

OUTREACH: Judy Strauss reported that the Texian Market Days at George Ranch is posted on the Events Calendar. Please sign up for this fun outreach.

TRAINING: Anna Dell Williamson reported that training started today and we have a very active group of 12 VITs. Eight are attending this evening's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Offie Walker reported that several went to Austin for Sharon's 25th Anniversary with TPWD. While there he spoke with Scott Burrow about the new Nature Center, and Mr. Burrow suggested that he might come to BBSP. He has been sent a letter regarding the visit.

The annual Volunteer Picnic will be October 15. We will take a group picture at 5:30 PM and have a potluck meal a 6:00, with brisket and ham provided. Bring meat, sides or dessert to share.

The Williamson's plan to visit Rose Aden in San Angelo in October. If you want to send her anything, contact the Williamson's.

The meeting was adjourned.



STAFF REPORTS



PARK SUPERINTENDENT STEVE KILLIAN

Fiscal Year 2011 was the best year ever. We had a record revenue year, record sales of park passes, the best year in the Headquarters and their Gift Shop. BBSP needs the volunteers in the Nature Center to provide services to the 50- to 60,000 visitors who go through the Nature Center in a year.

The drought is not all bad. It is good for the health of wetlands to dry out occasionally, and the rangers have been able to do critical repairs on the lakes. They repaired the Creekfield long pier, by lifting and stabilizing it. It will remain level for years to come. This work was done by Richard Taylor, Jeff Orsak and other rangers.

We have new signage for Headquarters showing the increased fees. There is a need to make more money to support BBSP and other parks in the system.

Volunteers Ron Morrison and the Maintenance Crew completed the bridges on Live Oak Trail. We have approval for several new trails: Creekwood Lake Trail, is a 3.2 mile, dead-end trail. We plan to create 2 loops – a long one along the fence line, and a shorter one at the front part of trail. We will also create a new Prairie Loop trail from the Platform to the Live Oak Trail, 1 mile. We will soon have approval to gravel 700 feet of Live Oak Trail, due to wetlands issues. We will also develop a walking path from overflow camping to Headquarters.

We have developed two wildlife ponds along Riverview Trail to provide critical water to wildlife and create good habitat. One is near the existing windmill, and the other Equestrian area.

Staff and volunteers are killing invasive Chinese tallow trees, and reducing the amount of shredding for deer hunt to let the forests grow back. We are also reforesting along Hale Lake near the day use area and killing tallow trees there.

Ranger staff has removed multiple dead trees throughout park. Be careful and avoid accidents. Dead trees don't always fall the way we would expect them to. Be safety conscious and use safety equipment. Chaps are especially needed when handling power saws. All staff safety rules apply to volunteers.

Ted Stevens, Acting Assistant Superintendent, fought fires in Bastrop, helping to save historic CCC structures. Almost all facilities were saved, but several staff homes were lost, including those of Brent Leisure, the Region V Maintenance specialist, and the Superintendent at Buescher. Many rangers fought fires while their own homes burned.

We have received an archaeological survey report. This area had rich cultural heritage thousands of years before we arrived. Archaeological site information is not available to the public. Sharon Hanzik celebrated her 25th anniversary with TPWD at the Commission Meeting in Austin last month. Carter Smith said many good things about Sharon and about BBSP, which was the most mentioned park during meeting, since our first manager and others with BBSP contacts were also honored.

Fire is a prime issue at present. Prairies are based on fire ecology and burns. The bottomland hardwood forest, oaks and elms, are not based on fires. BBSP usually allows small cooking fires, even during burn bands, but we're not so sure now. We have lots of sick trees, and we now have a burn ban allowing charcoal only on the standup grills, and no wood fires. Be vigilant in watching for fire conditions.



SHARON HANZIK
INTERPRETIVE RANGER AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

We have great attendance this evening, including 8 VITs who started today: Lindsay Kahn, Earline Okruhlik, Mark Ostroski, Michael Ostroski, Joe Sosa, Randi Sosa, Woody Scott, and Jenny Thomkins.

Schools are calling for fall field trips. Check out the special events calendar and sign up where you can serve.

The Brazos River Pickers will be back October 1, and perform the first Saturday of each month, through April, weather permitting.

Astronomy Day at the George Observatory, October 8, is a busy day for us in the late afternoon. There will be no meetings that day, and the annual Volunteer Picnic will be October 15.

November 5 is Prairie Heritage Day.

Doris Mager will present four raptor programs on February 10, 11, and 12. Check the calendar for times and place.

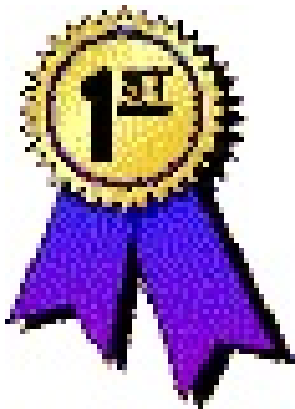
Be sure to record all of your hours. There is a place for everything you do, on the volunteer log form. Every hour counts, including preparation at home for hikes and programs. We reported 20,489 hours for Fiscal Year 2011, and this has been reported to Austin. Thanks for getting your hours in.

VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR FY11

from Sharon Hanzik

The state records data based on the fiscal year from September 1 to August 31. BBSPVO reported a grand total of 20,489 hours for Fiscal Year 2011. Our normal report is about 18,000 hours per fiscal year and we haven't exceeded 20,000 in quite a few years.

THANK YOU for turning in those hours. Remember that everything you do for the Park or Organization, on site, at home, or wherever volunteer responsibilities take you, counts somewhere on the report sheet. Hours need to be reported, preferably as you go along. Report preparation time for presentations, research, administrative duties, meeting time, travel time, informal interpretation, outreach, the list goes on.



Congratulations again on being the top-performing volunteer organization in TPWD - without your support the park would have a lot less to offer!

END OF THIRD QUARTER IS SEPTEMBER 30 - have you worked and recorded your 6 hours?

CONGRATULATIONS



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Nicole Olson
Mozelle Franklin (Emeritus)
Veronique Toussaint-Sweerts
Buddy Franklin (Emeritus)
Tom Kanak
Pete Hart
Debbie Fewell
Lisa Hacker VIT

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Diane and Jerry Carpenter
Justin and Kate Bower

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ray Anderson
Nelda Gay (Emeritus)
David Heinicke (Staff)
Steve Killian (Staff)
Patricia Marshall
Tori Matta (VIT)
Curtis Parent

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Holly and Gene Haynes
Mike & Paige Manley

Congratulations to Kat Hosek, Reyes Torres, and Pete and Christian Guzman for completing their training and becoming full volunteers. Be sure to welcome these new volunteers as they join the organization.

Thank you!

Newsletter:

Diane Carpenter for reporting on visitor comments from the NC cards and guest register
Jaci Elliott for article on Pushing Pedals
Carrie Sample for article and pictures on Never a Dull Moment
Ron Morrison for photos of Maintenance Crew and their work

from Mary Lockwood:

I just wanted to thank all of the volunteers who came to the VIT luncheon, brought great food, and helped to celebrate the new VITs first training day. We have an eager group of new volunteers who will certainly be an asset to the volunteer organization and to Brazos Bend State Park.

to everyone who helped with volunteer training:

Lunch: Mary Lockwood and many others for organizing and serving the lunch

Printing training materials: Nancy Bailey

Printing VIT name tags: Mary Lockwood

Compiling training materials: Mary Lockwood, Beth Debenport

Driving VITs on the road tour: Dave Armstrong, Nancy Dobbs and Bear, Kent and Debbie Fewell, Carl Franke, Linda Keltner and Sammie, Mary Lockwood, Mike Manley, Paige O'Neal, Mike Sanderson,

Mentors: (even if your VIT found it necessary to drop out) Dave Armstrong, Nancy Dobbs and Bear, Kent and Debbie Fewell, Carl Franke, Suzie Gann, Ethan Hoover, Linda Keltner and Sammie, Glen Kilgore, Mary Lockwood, Mike Manley, Paige O'Neal, Tom Prentiss, Carrie Sample, Mike Sanderson, Judy Strauss

Presenters for September 10: Sharon Hanzik, Offie Walker, Steve Killian, all the volunteers who attended lunch and introduced themselves.

Presenters for September 17: Chuck Duplant, Sharon Hanzik, David Heinicke, Glen Kilgore, Tom Prentiss.

Presenters for September 24: Noel Duncan, Richard Taylor, Judy Strauss, Carl Franke, Tom Prentiss, Glen Kilgore, Mike Sanderson, Maureen Goode, Sharon Hanzik.

Meeting supper, September:

Linda Heinicke, Mary Lockwood, Connie Waltrip, Offie Walker

Gift Shop:

Judy Strauss for ordering and Chuck Duplant for installing the new accordion door to the Gift Shop

Outreach:

You guys are great! You are the reason why our Outreach is so successful! Thanks so much for your response to the Houston Wilderness Weekend!

NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Volunteer training entered Phase 1 on September 24, with 12 volunteers completing the three classroom sessions. Phase I includes training shifts in the Gift Shop and Nature Center, one Water Station shift, and the ATV tour of the park. Phase II involves watching and presenting programs and attending and leading hikes. VITs will also need a volunteer to assist with trail interpretation and trail trimming sessions.

VITs will be calling or emailing their mentors and those names on the resource list to help them complete these assisted training requirements. Please be ready to help them earn their patch and cap.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

by Carrie Sample

One Sunday morning coming into the park, I spotted this juvenile armadillo beside the road. I say juvenile, because his carapace still looked a little soft. Being hard of hearing and having poor sight, he allowed me to get pretty close to him before taking off!



When I arrived at the nature center, some volunteers had spotted a copperhead eating a cicada, right in the flower bed by the porch. It took a while for us to actually figure out what he was eating. Rick Dishnau said he had just read that cicadas are in their diet, so this confirmed what he had read.

Over on the benches by the deck, Rick spotted this thread legged bug. There was a considerable discussion between Rick and Chuck as to whether the bug was a walking stick or a type of mantis. With the help of Kaufman's Field Guide to Insects of North America, it was determined to be a thread legged bug! He is actually a member of the assassin bug family. The difference between them and walking sticks is that their front legs are modified for catching small insects. They may be found in loose bark, brush piles or abandoned buildings. (Possibly he heard that we were wanting to build a new nature center and was thinking the present one was already abandoned...) This bug will often stalk prey that is trapped in spider webs. The Mantis also has front legs adapted for catching prey, whereas the walking sticks are vegetarians.



Alligators were in the shaded water with their nose and eyes sticking out of the water. Close to the observation tower, I was surprised to see these young bullfrogs sitting on top of a lotus leaf. Was surprised that they would be sitting in the full sun like that. Farther down the trail, I saw more frogs with the right idea. They were in the shade of a lotus leaf instead of on the top of it!

As I approached the water station on both Saturday and Sunday, visitors made it a point to thank us for providing the cold water.



NATURE CENTER REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2011

Below are the totals of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for September 1-30, 2011. Attendance picked up, even with the continued hot, dry weather.

PROGRAMS	TOTALS
NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE September 2011 - 4,676 September 2010 - 4,112 September 2009 - 4,535 September 2008 - 1,386 September 2007 - 5,142 September 2006 - 4,286	Saturdays (4) - 2003 High, 659 (9/24) Average: 500
	Sundays (4) - 1345 High, 510 (9/4) Average: 336
	Weekdays (22) - 1,328 High, 687 (Labor Day) (9/5) Average: 60
CREEKFIELD HIKES (7)	137
ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS (4)	105
SNAKE PROGRAMS (4)	81
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME (5)	72
OUTREACH (3)	235
TRAILSIDE INTERPRETATION (4)	140
HUMMINGBIRD BANDING (5)	118
SUNDIAL (2)	116
OWLS	74
OTHER PROGRAMS (5) include birds, photo hike, animal tracks and mammals.	110
TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN HIKES AND PROGRAMS	1,188

4



TPWD NEWS: BASTROP AND BUESCHER STATE PARKS

Sept. 15, 2011

Wildfire had significant impact on Bastrop State Park: How the public can help



Photo by Earl Nottingham,
Copyright TPWD

AUSTIN – Beyond the loss of lives and property, the still-smoldering Bastrop Complex Fire has had a significant impact not only on the iconic and highly-popular Bastrop State Park but much of the entire Lost Pines ecosystem. The fire, which began north of the park on Sept. 4, claimed two lives, destroyed more than 1,500 homes, and changed the lives of thousands in Bastrop County.

“Texas Parks and Wildlife has been experiencing an outpouring of concern from citizens, conservationists and nature enthusiasts worried about the ecological impact on the park and the ecosystem it anchors,” said Todd McClanahan, park superintendent. “People have been offering money, trees, and wildflowers – even wildlife. We’d like to ask the public to be patient while we assess the impact of this disaster and determine what TPWD needs to do, but we have set up a system for the public to offer assistance.”

While few areas within the park escaped the fire, most of the Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed buildings and other park infrastructure were saved. Even so, TPWD officials know that the fire has had a profound impact on the Lost Pines vegetation and wildlife habitats, though neither was totally lost.

“There will be remarkable changes in the landscape,” Greg Creacy, Natural Resources and Regional Wildland Fire Coordinator for State Parks said. “TPWD staff and cooperating scientists are focusing on assessing and documenting these effects.”

On the short term, however, TPWD personnel are still mopping up after the fire – dealing with smoldering stumps and yet-unburned fuel. Flare-ups are still a threat, especially with the continuing drought and red flag fire conditions. Additionally, there are many hazardous trees to deal with—hundreds of which will continue to smolder and fall over the coming months.

The Lost Pines are among the more unique ecosystems in the nation and Bastrop and Buescher State Parks contain one of the best examples of the southwest-most extent of the loblolly pine. The genetics of Lost Pines are unique, and TPWD does not want to introduce trees, grasses or wild flowers foreign to Bastrop. TPWD will be assessing fire effects to determine the most seriously impacted sites and what the best strategies are to bring about maximum stabilization and recovery.

“Another focus will be protecting especially sensitive habitats like the Houston Toad breeding ponds,” said Greg Creacy, Natural Resources and Regional Wildland Fire Coordinator for State Parks. “All our study sites and transects will be monitored to determine effects on insects, wildlife, and vegetation.” The Lost Pines are considered the last stronghold of the endangered amphibian, which once could be found in 14 Texas counties.

Here’s how the public can help:

If you are interested in the ecological restoration of Bastrop State Park and want to donate to habitat restoration or research please send your donations to:

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Attn: Cashiers, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744
On the memo line note: Bastrop Recover Project-Habitat Restoration

If you would like to donate your time or specialty items for both the short and long-term restoration and

Sept. 22, 2011

'Lost Pines' Experience Lives on at Buescher State Park

BASTROP – State park fans reeling from the closure of Bastrop State Park due to destruction caused by the recent wildfire that blackened all but 100 acres of the park can still enjoy a fall outing in the “Lost Pines” by visiting its nearby sister state park that escaped unscathed and reopened this week. Buescher (pronounced Bish-er) State Park, a 1,017-acre park just 13 miles east of better-known Bastrop State Park, opened to campers, picnickers, hikers and anglers on September 20 after being closed since Sept. 4 due to the threatening wildfires. Its scenic loblolly pine and mixed hardwood woodlands, as well as all of its facilities, were untouched by the conflagration that swept through the county.

DMV \$5 OPT-IN DONATION FOR STATE PARKS

Memo from Brent Leisure, 9/14/11

During the last Legislative session, House Bill 1301 passed, which authorizes an individual to make a voluntary contribution to State Parks when registering or renewing a Texas vehicle registration. This program becomes effective on January 1, 2012 and is authorized for the biennium. An amount of \$1.6 million dollars is appropriated under this program in both FY 2012 and FY 2013.

We need your support in communicating this initiative to the public. If we do not convince enough citizens to contribute to this effort, state parks will need to make up the difference before the fiscal year is over. That equates to more cuts in our operations. I want to update all of you on the work that is being done to promote the awareness of this program

An interagency team of State Parks and Communications staff has been working to develop an action plan to do everything possible to encourage Texans to donate \$5 or more to state parks when they register their motor vehicle:

- < DMV will display donation information prominently on registration notices and online.
- < County Tax-Assessor's Offices (where 75% of all motor vehicle registrations occur) will be provided with a number of very eye-catching promotional materials (table tents, counter mats and posters).
- < The travel section of “See Texas First “ has run an ad promoting the motor vehicle donation opt-in, which was inserted into the Sunday newspapers in major cities. This ad was donated by Texas Tourism Industry Association.
- < The Communications division will be promoting this program in all their media vehicles, including in the State Parks Getaways e-newsletter going out in September.
- < We have also been in discussions with Toyota to develop promotions and other ways that they can get the word out to their millions of Texas customers. We are certain that Toyota will do everything they can to help us.

To help get the message out to park users, look for the following materials and activities as we near the January start date:

- Banners, posters and buttons for parks
- Talking points for park staff, including interpreters, to use
- Camping reservation email confirmation messaging
- Email blasts to customers
- Email signature for all park staff to use beginning in 2012
- Rack cards
- Spotlight on web park pages and special /help webpage
- Facebook and Twitter posts
- Visits to local county tax offices to ask for their support
- Media news events at county tax offices in medium-sized markets where we have a good likelihood of receiving media coverage.

SEPTEMBER MAINTENANCE REPORT

Wood Yard:

Split firewood

Mowing and Landscaping:

Water Creekfield Forest Trail trees

Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance:

Complete Live Oak Trail Bridge



Live Oak Trail Bridge in progress



Finished bridge

Pest Control:

Treat Chinese tallow

KUDOS TO BBSP

(Ed. Note: The following notes were sent to BBSP staff and have been shared with the Volunteer Organization.)

Outstanding Job in FY 11

from Justin Rhodes, Region 4 Director

You all do a fantastic job and set the bar high. I am especially proud that with over 236,000 visitors, I did not receive one visitor complaint for FY11. That is remarkable and speaks volumes to your high level of customer service both in the office and field.

Thank you for all you do.

To Brazos Bend State Park Team Members,
from Steve Killian, BBSP Park Superintendent

We have the Best TEAM in State Parks - THE BRAZOS BEND!

1. The Best / Customer Service Oriented HQ Staff!
2. Awesome / Professional Park Rangers that have a can do attitude!
3. The Professional Interpreters that truly make a positive difference by educating school children and adults alike!

We continue to exceed expectations and make real differences in the lives of our visitors by providing Quality Outdoor Recreation, Environmental Education while being good stewards of this precious natural resource. Brazos Bend State Park touches the entire Houston region with our positive Environmental Stewardship message.

We continue to increase (moving up the rankings) in Total Revenue, Park Pass Sales and Overall Visitation because of your professionalism and dedication (see data below for FY 11)!

FY 11 Revenue - Number 7 in the state.

Park Pass Sales - Number 4 in the state

Visitation - Number 6 in the state, (236,000)

OUTREACH

by Dave Armstrong

Lynn Manuel, activity director for Quality Living, a special protected place for people suffering from Alzheimers and/or dementia, requested a program for the residents. Dave Armstrong accepted the challenge and on September 6 presented a program for the residents. The one hour program stretched into a two hour program as everyone (including Dave) was having a good time.

The residents presented the array of the various manifestations of the disease and would mentally come and go during the presentation. Some were alert and some slept through the program. The residents who were alert sparkled and smiled when given the opportunity to touch a pelt, stroke the deer antlers, ponder a turtle shell, or touch a baby alligator. One resident enjoyed having the raccoon pelt shaped into a coonskin cap and placed on his head, and another beamed when the grey fox pelt was draped around her neck. She modeled it for her daughter who came in during the presentation, and she wanted to keep it wrapped around her neck. I wondered what memory the furry feeling invoked from her past.

All the extra driving, the planning, the loading and unloading, was worth it, when eyes that are normally dim beamed with happiness, when the muted voices attempted to express delight, and when they clapped when the presentation was over. Lynn and Dave agreed to do it again in a year.



OUTREACH AT HOUSTON ZOO

from Judy Strauss

We have a new event coming up at the Houston Zoo , called the Houston Wilderness Weekend, that is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. This is really short notice, but if I can get just two volunteers per shift to work our booth, we can make a go of this.

Entry to the Zoo will be free of charge for any Volunteer working this event, and parking passes will be sent out shortly, as soon as I know who can work the event. I will also send out additional information about the event at that time.

The event, and sign up for this event, is now on the events calendar. I would appreciate any and all help on this busy weekend (VIT's are welcome). If you have any questions, please feel free to call me (would be better than e-mailing me) at 281-980-4104 (wk), or 281-389-8617 (cell-evenings/weekends).

Thank you for your continued support!

VISITOR COMMENTS

compiled by Diane Carpenter

On our Visitor Survey & Comment cards, people tell us why they'll be visiting BBSP again:

The camping and the Nature Center was great
Everyone is so nice. Great views, sites, trails and nature center
Very interesting. The volunteer was very nice and helpful
The animals, scenery and great volunteers. Keep up the good work.
To see alligators
Trails, alligators and nature!
The animals keep me coming back.
The wildlife and fresh air
It's pretty and peaceful here.
Beautiful park; great people.



Our guest register lets us see where some of our visitors are from and what they liked about their visit:

Paris, France	Really good visit
India	Very nice visit and great volunteers
Sweden	Great and lot of nice examples
Luxembourg	Nice volunteers!
Everett, Washington	Awesome!! You have a jewel!
Norwood, NJ	Loved the hatching of the gators!
Massillon, OH	Very educated people
London, England	Marvelous!
Sydney, Australia	Good display – Thanks!
Switzerland	I love it
Manvel, TX	Great nature center for kids. Thanks!
Spring, TX	We learned a lot about snakes!
Trondheim, Norway	It was awesome!
Katy, Texas	We love this park!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 8	No regular meeting - see October 15 Astronomy Day, George Observatory
October 9	16 th Annual Butterfly Count
October 15	Annual Volunteer Picnic, 5:30 PM
October 21-22	Texian Market Days Outreach at George Ranch
November 7	Brazos River Pickers, 5:00 PM
November 5	Landscape photography Photo-walk #2, 3 PM. Prairie Heritage Day
November 12	BBEEC (New Building) Committee, 1:00 PM, open to all interested Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM Regular Business Meeting, 5:30 PM (Supper, 5:00 PM)
November 21-25	Thanksgiving Week, very busy. NC closed Thanksgiving Day

Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife
21901 FM 762
Needville, TX 77461

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011

FIRST CLASS



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

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

BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

President:	Offie Walker
Vice-President:	Mary Lockwood
Secretary	Linda Heinicke
Treasurer:	Dave Armstrong
Past-President:	Carrie Sample

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

**IN THE END, WE WILL CONSERVE ONLY WHAT WE LOVE,
WE WILL LOVE ONLY WHAT WE UNDERSTAND,
WE WILL UNDERSTAND ONLY WHAT WE ARE TAUGHT.**

**BABA DIOUM, SENEGAL
AFRICAN CONSERVATIONIST**