



## MEETING NOTES MAY 10, 2014

*reported by Beth Debenport*

**Presiding Officer: Mary Lockwood**, President.

**Attendance:** 10 members, 1 VIT, 1 staff.

Staff reports from Chris, Jacob, and David follow meeting notes.

Committee Reports:

**Budget Committee, Treasurer, Woody Scott:**

Report of finances for April, 2014.

Requests for purchase, submitted by Budget Committee and approved by membership:

- ◆ A concrete pad for outside the woodworking shop.
- ◆ John Deere 3-point hitch quick connect for the tractor.
- ◆ Replace Stihl 261 Chainsaw.
- ◆ Apple iPad with retina display, WiFi, 16gb for Superintendent Chris Bishop.
- ◆ Griffin Technology, Survivor case for the Apple iPad.
- ◆ 3,000 "I touched a snake" and 7,000 "I touched an alligator" stickers for Outreach.
- ◆ Replace three books in the library, *Dragonflies of Texas*, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America* and *Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America*.
- ◆ Sign to show date changes for the blood drive sign.

**Gift Shop, Beth Debenport:**

Thanks to those who volunteer for a shift in the Gift Shop.  
Reminder that we always need help.

**Maintenance, Woody Scott:**

April: 251 hours in wood yard, bundling wood, fire ant control around NC and picnic area.

**Woodyard, Chuck Duplant:**

Over Spring Break, volunteers made about 80% on wood sales.

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**Outreach, Judy Strauss:**

April 5 event, 5000 visitors.  
May 12 event, 1200 visitors.  
Upcoming event May 17, Beasley Bash, need help.

**Volunteer picnic, October 11.**

## MEETING NOTES JUNE 14, 2014

*reported by Anna Dell Williamson*

**Presiding Officer: Mary Lockwood**, President

Attendance: 10 members, 3 staff.

Staff reports from Chris, Jacob, and Sharon follow meeting notes

**Committee Reports:**

**Budget Committee, Treasurer, Woody Scott:**

Report on finances for May: Good month, better than May 2013.

Requests for purchase, submitted by Budget Committee and approved by membership:

- ◆ Small wall fan for NC help desk.
- ◆ Ceiling Fan (52-inch) for office.
- ◆ Parts for polesaw.
- ◆ Clutch for lawn mower.
- ◆ Deer corn for hog traps.
- ◆ Coarse river sand for general fill material
- ◆ Crushed limestone for trail maintenance
- ◆ Additional fan for wood yard
- ◆ Membership in Central Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce

**Gift Shop, Beth Debenport:** We had a good May and appreciate the help from the membership.

**Maintenance, Woody Scott:**

The crew has been splitting wood, catching up on work, trapping hogs, spraying tallows, controlling fire ants, trimming trees, cleaning blowdowns.

We have funds from recent memorials and have not asked survivors what they want to do with it.

Suggestion: Combine with other funds to improve Creekfield, enlarge bridge, make an observation platform, improve the trail.

**Outreach, Judy Strauss:**

So far in 2014 we have had 16 Outreach programs and reached 8000 people.

May 17, Beasley Bash. BBQ and fair. Our first time, 723 visitors.

Exchange Club of Rosenberg, bring mentally and physically challenged individuals to park.

Will have some school groups coming during the summer. Heritage Learning Center in Katy will bring 25 students ages 3-12

George Ranch will start our fall program in October. Sign up on Events Calendar.

Thanks to **Jacob Dement** and **Chris Bishop** for working so well together and keeping the park going.

**Volunteer picnic October 11: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the BBSP Volunteer Organization. **Jaci Elliott** is chairperson for the picnic.

# STAFF REPORTS MAY



## CHRIS BISHOP, SUPERINTENDENT

### General comments:

Thanks for welcome back cake.

There is a third ticket lane opened, still trying to work out the best way to use the three lanes coming out of one lane.

Rangers are working on the superintendent house. Move in is scheduled for May 22.

Thanks to all who helped on Easter. Things went smoothly.

### Current projects:

50-foot communication tower for land and wifi for public

Water station replacement

Expanding the gift shop at headquarters

Expedited entry for staff and volunteers without having to go through the ticket lane

Partnership with Buc-ees to get funding for some projects.

Bee study at BBSP by students from UT.

Seventeen new maps of the park to go at various trails.

An Eagle Scout will double the size of the Wood Kiosk on the 200 loop, which is the one that gets empty on the weekend

## JACOB DEMENT, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### General comments:

Appreciated support volunteers gave while serving as Acting Superintendent

Easter weekend revenue in entry fees and headquarters gift shop was very high

**Police report:** Game Warden and State Troopers helped out Easter Sunday

**Easter Sunday:** Record high revenue.



## DAVID HEINICKE, INTERPRETIVE RANGER

All remaining VITS from the September 2013 class have completed their training.

There will be a 100-mile run in December.

Carrie Sample will not be doing Eco-Explorers this year. We will have an "Arts in the Parks" themed summer program on Thursdays.

Be on the lookout for alligator nests

We need to watch out for visitors with heat problems.

# STAFF REPORTS JUNE

## CHRIS BISHOP, PARK SUPERINTENDENT

### Current projects:

Meeting with Transportation System and Natural and Cultural Resources park planner and TxDOT to discuss flow of traffic from entrance through Headquarters and a potential separate staff/volunteer entrance. Report next month.

Headquarters is getting a new roof and communications tower.

June 24 there will be a meeting with Houston Zoo conservation interns to meet staff and discuss a service project.

**Announcements:**

Researcher from UT at BBSP to study bees. Will be trapping bees in the prairie areas.  
Public Lands Hunt information will be a totally online only system. There will be no print information or hard-copy lottery tickets.  
Still working on partnership with Buc-ees for funding.  
Headquarters is getting a new roof and communications tower.  
Devon Elster, Maintenance Tech, has left the agency for a new job. We will posting the position for a Maintenance Assistant soon.

**JACOB DEMENT, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

Best May ever.  
BBSP ranks fifth or sixth in TPWD in park revenue.

**SHARON HANZIK, INTERPRETIVE RANGER, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

**Training:** Press release sent out along with Facebook posting. Have good applicants, including grandson of Marilyn Vossler, son of Mark Ostrowski, and returning from Canada, Mark Garbutt. Interviews are being set up for September applicants  
Training dates are September 13, 20, and 27.

We are out of volunteer organization brochures.

**Arts in Parks** will begin this summer.

Headquarters takes reservations for the series, collects payment for all classes at first class.

Fees go to BBSPVO, Eco-Explorers account.

Sign up on Special Events Calendar to help.

**National Trails Day:** Over 700 visitors attended special hikes, programs, and the NC.

**Independence Day Parade** will be July 4; sign up on Special Events calendar.

**Blood Drive** will be July 12, 9-3, in the NC Parking Lot.

*Kids Out and About* is conducting a vote for favorite places for kids.

Respond to email asking for your vote for BBSP. Forward email to friends.



Our Sincere Sympathy  
to Joe and Colton Southern  
on the death of  
Joe's mother and Colton's grandmother,  
Donna Southern.  
  
Our thoughts are with the family.

Our Sincere Sympathy  
to Jaci Elliott  
on the death of her father  
David McIlwaine  
  
Our thoughts are with the family.

# NATURE CENTER REPORT

## APRIL / MAY 2014

*Below are the totals of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for April 1-30 and May 1-31, 2014. April and May are among the busiest months of the year. Easter, Good Friday, and several other days had high attendance, but we had some excellent weekdays as well. Volunteers and staff offered 30 on-site programs and hikes in April and 45 in May, and 12 Outreach programs reached 6615 visitors.*

PROGRAMS	TOTALS APRIL	TOTALS MAY
<b>NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE</b> 2014 Apr. 8,847 / May 8,484 2013 Apr. 7,523 / May 8,287 2012 Apr. 9,994 / May 8,366 2011 Apr. 9,206 / May 8,131 2010 Apr. 8,300 / May 8,979 2009 Apr. 5,739 / May 8,578 2008 Apr. 6,387 / May 7,060 2007 Apr. 7,399 / May 5,633 2006 Apr. 7,168 / May 5,387 2005 Apr. 7,027 / May 5,443 <b>2014 NC THRU 5/30</b> <b>39,507</b>	Saturdays (4) - 3,946 High, 1,485 (4/12) Average: 986	Saturdays (5) - 4,176 High, 1,174 (3/29) Average: 835
	Sundays (4) - 1,651 High, 594 (4/20-Easter) Average: 412	Sundays (5) - 1,687 High, 791 (3/30) Average: 337
	Weekdays (22) - 3,250 High, 748 (4/18-Good Friday) Average: 148	Weekdays (21) - 5,366 High, 833 (3/14) Average: 256
<b>CREEKFIELD HIKES</b> (11 & 10)	214, average: 19	108, average: 11
<b>SNAKE PROGRAM</b> (4 & 5)	161, average: 40	158, average: 32
<b>CHILDREN'S STORYTIME</b> (2 & 5)	30, average: 15	125, average: 25
<b>BIRDS</b> (3 & 3)	21, average 21	57, average: 21
<b>ALLIGATOR PROGRAM</b> (4 & 3)	107, average: 27	61, average: 20
<b>OUTREACH</b> ( 5 & 7)	4559, average: 912	2056, average: 294
<b>WILDLIFE VIEWING</b> (1 & 3)	17, average: 17	152, average: 51
<b>GEOCACHING</b> (3 & 2)	35, average: 12	24, average: 12
<b>OTHER PROGRAMS</b> (18): Photo Walk (2), Pondlife (3), Mammals (2), Food Chain (1), Otters (1), Bike Ride (3), Owls (3), Haiku (1), Armadillos (1)	63, average: 16	352, average: 25
<b>TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN ON-SITE HIKES AND PROGRAMS</b>	711 in 30 programs, average program, 23	1034 in 45 programs, average: 23
<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	Interpretation = 772 Maintenance = 277 <b>TOTAL = 1049</b>	Interpretation = 718 Maintenance = 214 <b>TOTAL = 932</b>
<b>PARK ATTENDANCE</b> (Percentage reflects the percentage of total visitors in each category.)	Park Total = 29,566 Day use (81%)= 23,982 Overnight (19%) = 5,584 NC (29%) = 8,847	Park Total = 28,661 Day use (82%) = 23,479 Overnight (18%) = 5,182 NC (29%) = 8,484

# MAINTENANCE REPORT

## APRIL, MAY 2014

Maintenance workers reported 277 hours in April and 214 hours in May.

### Wood Yard:

- Split and bundle wood
- Build tool rack at wood yard

### Mowing and Landscaping:

- Work Pocket Prairie

### Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance:

- Clear blowdown trees
- Trail clean up
- Trim Creekfield
- Spread trail material

### Wood Yard:

- Split and bundle wood
- Build tool rack at wood yard

### Mowing and Landscaping:

- Work Pocket Prairie

### Special Projects:

- Set up for trail run

### Trail Trimming and Trail Maintenance:

- Clear blowdown trees
- Trail clean up
- Trim Creekfield
- Spread trail material

### Equipment Maintenance:

- Repair chain saw
- Hitch for pressure washer
- Wash John Deere Gators

### General Maintenance

- Pull post/signs

### Pest Control:

- Fire-ants: set out bait, and compile and write documentation for control
- Tallow trees
- Hog traps

## NEW RESIDENTS IN THE NATURE CENTER

*from Sharon Hanzik*

We have acquired two new prairie king snakes from a critter-snatcher friend and neighbor of mine. The larger one on display is okay to handle but BE WARNED - IT IS FAST! The other smaller king is in the tank higher on the shelf against the wall. All tanks now have snakes in them, so please be careful and cautious with the animals and enclosures. These two new snakes have not been handled very often so please proceed with caution.

We have another tarantula. Its display area is in the touch table room next to the copperhead tank. Please keep it here. It is too much of a traffic jam and distraction at the front desk. For those who like to handle the animal, please do so sparingly. Constant in-and-out of the tank is stressful for the animal. If you choose to handle it, do so in the touch table room. Make SURE that those entering the touch table room are aware that it is out of the tank.



Also, if you enjoy it that much, consider using her and the black widow in a spider program. Rick Dashnau has provided us with those laminated photos behind the front desk, and we have a large plastic spider to help with anatomy. Summer is spider season and it would make a wonderful addition to our weekend programming.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# BBEEC PLANNING MEETING

*Notes by David Heinicke*

On June 25, 2014, BBSP staff Chris Bishop, David Heinicke and Sharon Hanzik and volunteers Offie Walker and Barbara Willy met with Justin Rhodes, Regional Director, TPWD, to discuss the next step we can take in the development of a new Brazos Bend Environmental Education Center.

After a brief history of the project by David Heinicke, Park Superintendent Chris Bishop confirmed management support of the project and restated the need for a new larger education center. Offie Walker reported on conversations with Brent Leisure, Parks Division Director and Scott Buroff, Deputy Director of TPWD. Barbara Willy presented an overview of the building drawings and discussed the fundraising plans and marketing approach.

Following the presentations, there was discussion on the roles of TPWD and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundations on the BBEEC project. This will be further clarified by communication among the parties involved. Several action items will be reported on at the next meeting of the BBEEC.

Update: Brent Leisure met with Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director, who is supportive of the project. There will be a meeting with the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas to gauge their interest in either leading or supporting the project.

## ARTS IN THE PARKS

BBSP has a new Summer Youth Program this summer held on Thursdays, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, June 19 through July 31 for children ages 8 and up. The group meets at the Elm Lake Picnic Pavilion and enjoys a different nature-related lesson and art project each week. Each student creates their own work of art at every class. Projects vary from painting and pottery to origami and nature journaling and more. Brazos Bend provides all instruction and supplies needed for those registered in the class.

Topics and presenters:

- June 19, Building a Bird, Sharon Hanzik
- June 26, Nature Journaling and Landscape Art, Sharon Hanzik
- July 3, Pottery/Native Americans, David Heinicke
- July 10, Birds and Origami, David Heinicke
- July 17, Haiku Poetry, Chris Bishop
- July 24, Leaf Printing, Suzie Gann
- July 31, Up-cycling crafts using drink pouches

The photo shows Suzie Gann's class on Leaf Printing.



## BLOOD DRIVE

*by Chuck Duplant*

We had a VERY successful July 12th Blood Drive. Our goal, set by the Blood Center, was 21 units of blood. We ended the drive with 33 units of blood. Out of 32 potential donors, 24 were able to donate. Nine donors of red blood cells/plasma (counts as 2 units) and fifteen donors of whole blood gave us the 33 units. Eighteen Visitors and fourteen Staff /Volunteers/Hosts made up the 32 donors. Thanks to everyone who helped or donated. You made it a great success.

# HEAT PROBLEMS

*SOURCES: Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety brochure; OSHA Publication 2056.*

Summer is here, and with it, heat-related dangers. Remember to keep an eye on the public and fellow volunteers during these hot summer months. Carry extra water in case you come across a visitor with heat problems. Here are some facts about heat and some steps to protect yourself from heat-related illness and harmful ultraviolet radiation.

On the average, 384 people die each year from heat stroke.

Heat related injuries seem to occur often with the elderly or with people who are not in good physical condition or acclimatized to the heat.

There are 4 major heat-related health problems:

**Heat Rash** (Prickly Heat) - a painful rash, treated by resting in cool places.

**Heat Cramps** - painful muscle spasms that result from the loss of salt and electrolytes due to excessive sweating, treated by drinking fluids containing electrolytes.

**Heat Exhaustion** - weakness, nausea and headache brought on by the loss of fluids during excessive sweating. Skin is clammy and moist, complexion pale and body temperature normal or slightly higher. Treat by cooling off with cool compresses, elevating the feet and giving the victim plenty of fluids.

**Heat Stroke** - a severe medical emergency where the body's core temperature gets too high. The victim will have hot, dry skin, high pulse, and low blood pressure. Treat immediately by cooling the victim with water or wrapping him in cool wet sheets. Seek immediate medical attention.

Ways to prevent heat-related health problems:

**Drink Up:** Thirsty or not, drink plenty of water - a cup every 15 to 20 minutes. Avoid caffeine or alcohol.

**Acclimatize:** It takes time to adjust to working in heat. Gradually increase your work load and heat exposure.

**Diet:** Eat light and stay away from heavy foods.

**Cover Up and Protect:** Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing, UV rated sunglasses and a wide-brim hat. Apply sunscreen with a Sun-Protection Factor of at least 30. Re-apply every 2 hours and after sweating.

**Shield from Sun:** Set up shade or use umbrellas, buildings or trees to shield you from the rays of the sun.

**Time it Right:** Avoid the sun and strenuous tasks between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

**Cool Off:** Pace your work activities at a slower rate and take breaks to rest and cool off in the shade or in air-conditioned buildings or vehicles. Don't over-exert yourself.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to Collect Seeds for the Pocket Prairie

*by Ron Morrison*

Wild flowers are producing seeds in the park right now, and we need them for our pocket prairie! Black Eyed Susan, Mexican Hat, and Spotted Bee Balm are some of the flowers that we will add to our prairie. This is not a difficult job, and no long time commitment is required. Mornings are usually best because afternoons are hotter. If you would like to work with us on this, please contact Ron Morrison ([rcmorri@gmail.com](mailto:rcmorri@gmail.com)) and we'll set up a time after August 12.



# CONGRATULATIONS

Please welcome these new volunteers to the Organization from the February 2014 class. Let them know we appreciate them.



Eugene Aufdembrink



Debra Walker



Marianne Feeney

Eugene sends a special thank you to his mentor, Doris Dahse.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### July Birthdays

Eugene Aufdembrink  
Debra Baker  
Chris Bishop (Staff)  
Diane Carpenter  
Jo Ann Davis  
Jacob Dement (Staff)  
Jaci Elliott  
Susie Taylor (Staff)  
Barb Tucker

### August Birthdays

Sylvia Carrillo (Staff)  
Amanda Elsworth (Staff)  
Marianne Feeney  
Jim Gilliam (Staff)  
Eddy Grizzaffi  
Beverly Lannou  
Lara Malone  
Frank Seay  
Joe Southern

### September Birthdays

Gary Bialas (Staff)  
Jim Calvert  
Allen Elster (Staff)  
Barry Eversole (Staff)  
Frank Gregg (Emeritus)  
Holly Haynes  
Linda Oden Heinicke  
Tina Ibarra (Staff)  
Mike Manley  
Sammie Miller

### July Anniversaries

Calvin and Debra Walker

### August Anniversaries

Ray and Dana Anderson	Frank and Stacey Seay
Eugene and Connie Aufdembrink	Veronika Vaneckova and Martin Kroupa
Jim and Lorena Calvert	Bruce and Anna Dell Williamson
Ron and Margaret Morrison	Gary (VIT 2/14) and Margie Mefford
Laszlo and Lexi Perlaky	

### September Anniversaries

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

# INDEPENDENCE DAY BIKE PARADE 2014

by David Heinicke  
photos by Chuck Duplant

On Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, the park hosted the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Independence Day Bike parade. As always we had lots of energetic patriotic bike riders. With dark clouds looming, about 45 riders decorated their bikes with colored paper, balloons and American flags. After a few comments, introductions and safety warnings, the parade was off. This year we actually picked up a few more riders along the way and finished with about 50 riders. With thunder clapping loudly (several kids thought it was fireworks), we wrapped up the parade and enjoyed lemonade, watermelon and frozen treats.

Every year I ponder whether the bike parade is worth the effort and expense, and after seeing how much visitors enjoy it, I realize it's definitely worth continuing. If you've participated in the bike parade in the past and have any suggestions on how to improve it, please let me know.

Of course none of this would be possible without the help and support of the Volunteer Organization and the volunteers that helped pull it off. I'd like to thank Debra and Calvin Walker, Chuck Duplant, Annabell Redman, Mary Lockwood, Diane Carpenter, Mike Fisher, Linda Heinicke, Captain Gene (camp host), and the entire Watson gang, Brian, Rachelle, Molly, Joseph and James (plus 2 extra honorary Watsons).



Next year's parade will be on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars!

## THANK YOU

- ☺ to **Beth Debenport** for taking minutes at the May and July meetings.
- ☺ to **Jaci Elliott** and **Dasu Baregala** for volunteering to co-chair the BBSP Volunteer Picnic for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- ☺ to **blood donors** for the April and July Blood Drives
- ☺ to **all volunteers** for responses to requests for assistance.
- ☺ from **Jacob Dement**: appreciates the support the volunteer gave while he was acting superintend.
- ☺ to **all volunteers** who helped with the 10k, 25k and 50k runs in the park.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## BBSPVO 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC, OCTOBER 11, 2014**

Contact Jaci Elliott to help with set up, clean up and program planning.  
Check your emails for details.

# BBSP WATER TESTING REPORT

## MARCH AND APRIL 2014

Sampling Date/Time: Sun. Mar 16th, 8:30-10:30AM

Tester(s): Hannah Meddaugh

Weather: Clear, lower 70s with high humidity

Water body	Temp (°F)	Dissolved O <sup>2</sup> (mg/L)	pH	Nitrates (mg/L)	Phosphates (mg/L)
Elm Lake	65.1	9	7.8	0	0
New Horseshoe	65.1	7.3	7.8	0	0
40 Acre	65.1	6.2	7.6	0	0.5
Pilant Lake	64.3	1.3	7.4	3	4
Creekfield	65.7	9.1	7.8	0	0

Notes/Comments:

- Water temperatures have increased about 5 degrees since last month. Overall however readings are pretty similar to February, with the below exception
- Significantly higher than usual levels of nitrates and phosphates in Pilant Lake, confirmed via retesting. Possibly due to die-off of the algae noted last month

Sampling Date/Time: Sun. Apr 27th, 8:30-10:30AM

Tester(s): Hannah Meddaugh

Weather: Clear, mid-upper 70s with high humidity

Water body	Temp (°F)	Dissolved O <sup>2</sup> (mg/L)	pH	Nitrates (mg/L)	Phosphates (mg/L)
Elm Lake	78.9	8.5	7.8	0	0
New Horseshoe	78.3	8.2	8	0	0
40 Acre	77.9	5.8	8	0	0.5
Pilant Lake	75.6	0.8	6.6	3	4
Creekfield	75.6	2.3	7.6	0	0

Notes/Comments:

- Water temperatures significantly higher this month, despite our unusually cool spring. The previous few days, however, saw air temperatures into the mid-80s. Since we are measuring from the shore in relatively shallow water, we expect to see a close mirroring of air temperature.
- There was some duckweed and algae present, though less than in February.
- Pilant retained the high phosphate levels seen last month. Phosphates can enter waterways from both natural and manmade sources. Since Pilant's water source (runoff) is contained entirely in BBSP, the higher levels are probably natural in origin, possibly from plant die off (sulfurous smell from Pilant noted in February indicated high levels of decomposition).

# THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

from Chris Bishop

We received some great news this week. Last fall, *Texas Highways Magazine* asked its readers to vote for the list of the Top 40 Travel Destinations in Texas. *Texas Highways* announced earlier this week that the readers voted Brazos Bend State Park as the # 12 travel destination in Texas! We are blessed in Texas with almost countless high quality travel destinations. To be voted into the top 40 is indeed an honor. To be voted as the # 12 destination is remarkable! All 40 destinations will be published in the August 2014 copy of *Texas Highways* (and we have an advanced copy, in case you would like to sneak a peak).

I am grateful to the loyal Brazos Bend State Park supporters who voted for us, and I am beside myself with gratitude to you for your work that makes Brazos Bend such a special place in our visitors' hearts. In my mind, this should be an affirmation that we are succeeding in serving as stewards of natural and cultural resources, providing high quality outdoor recreation opportunities and providing exemplary service to the people.

Congratulations! And I thank you in advance for your continued exceptional service.

<http://texashighways.com/component/k2/item/7501-texas-top-40-no-12-brazos-bend-state-park>

## TPWD NEWS

### TPWD PUBLIC HUNT DRAWING SYSTEM GOING PAPERLESS

TPWD has changed its procedures for the public hunts held in state parks. No more hunt booklets will be delivered to the parks. Everything is online now. BBSP usually hosts two public deer/hog hunts in November and December and a youth specific hunt in February. We may be receiving questions from visitors on this change, so please familiarize yourself with the information. You may also direct anyone with questions to [hunt@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:hunt@tpwd.texas.gov) for more information.

Effective with this summer's applications, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's popular Public Hunt Drawing System will be online-only. The Public Hunt Drawing System offers affordable hunting experiences in more than two dozen different hunt categories, including eight specifically for youth only. Applications will only be accepted online — no "Applications for Drawings on Public Hunting Lands" booklets or application forms will be printed and mailed out.

With the new paperless system, hunters will be able to browse the drawn hunt catalog by hunt category and location using interactive maps, as well as complete the application and pay online. Selected applicants will be notified by email and can accept permits and pay any fees online. Permits will be issued by email and can be printed at home or stored on a mobile device. Those applicants who are not selected may still be eligible through a secondary drawing if any permits are unclaimed by the payment deadline. There may still be opportunities for traditional standby hunts at some locations.

In addition to now being able to apply for multiple hunt areas within the same hunt category (i.e. apply for a Gun Deer — Either Sex hunt on more than one hunt area), the online system will give hunters more time to apply. Application deadlines start in August and wrap up in January. Applicants will have until midnight on the day of the deadline to apply. The new online-only system will begin accepting electronic applications in July for 2014-15 Drawn Hunts, including Special Permit hunts, E-Postcard hunts, and US Forest Service Antlerless Deer Permits. For more information about the new online system, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/drawn hunts>

## GOOD NEWS FOR TEXAS BATS

Recent surveys in Texas for white-nose syndrome, a devastating fungal disease that has killed more than six million bats across eastern North America, found no evidence of the disease in the state.

## ZEBRA MUSSELS – DON'T TAKE THEM WITH YOU

A Video News Report is now available on the TPWD site called "Zebra Mussels." A new Texas rule, just passed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, expands boat draining rules from 47 counties to statewide. The rule will go into effect July 1 and requires boats and other vessels operating on all public lakes, rivers and creeks to be completely drained to help combat the further spread of zebra mussels. Zebra mussels are a destructive invasive species that can damage motor boats, hurt aquatic life, hinder water recreation and even affect our water supply by clogging water intake systems. Texas Parks and Wildlife has this report.

For a high resolution download on our site, click on the link <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/files/video/>

Look for "May VNR\_Zebra Mussels" There is a split track version and a mixed audio version with CG, both in HD.

## POND LIFE PROGRAM

*by Glen Kilgore*

On Saturday, May 17, the volunteer organization put on a Pond Life Program under the big oak tree in front of the nature center. We collected buckets of pond water and vegetation from Creekfield Lake and Pilant Slough early in the morning and began sorting through them around 10:00 A.M.

We found a lot of very interesting little animals, some of which were quite unusual and uncommon. One of the neatest was a predaceous diving beetle larva, sometimes called a water tiger. This is a very scary looking creature, like a worm about two inches long but with thin legs and jaws like a pair of ice tongs.

We started setting up the program about 1:30 in the afternoon and were all ready to go for our 3:00 showtime. A total of 116 people came through to look at our exhibits and many of them took the identification quiz from the mystery table. We gave out a lot of pond life stickers to the kids who completed the quiz.

I want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who helped with this program. Mary Lockwood, LaToya McElvey, Dasu Baregala, Lindsay LaCour and her son Walker all took part, and without them, we could not have done it. Thanks to all.



# STAFF TEAMBUILDING

## JUNE STAFF MEETING 2014

The story starts with “Once Upon a Time....” We pass the paper around the room and each staff member is to add another line to the story.

Once Upon a Time...  
a boy went for a walk.  
He saw a big alligator.  
And had the thought,  
“What a strange creature with green skin.  
I wonder if he likes to play cards?”  
Looking for the basketball goal.  
The boy asked “What does that gator do?”  
Whatever he darn well pleases!  
The park ranger watched the gator return to the water.  
The boy threw a stick at the alligator as it swam through the water.  
The alligator arched its head and tail out of the water and bellowed.  
The gator yelled, “I’ll huff, and I’ll puff, and I’ll make my girlfriend jealous!”  
“OK, buddy”, yelled the boy back.  
And he pointed to his new gator boots.  
“Your girlfriend fits just right!”



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 31 Arts in the Parks, Elm Lake Pavilion, 9:30 AM
- August 9 Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM  
Regular Business Meeting, 5:30 PM (Bring Your Own Eats, 5:00 PM)
- September 6 Amphibian and Reptile Photography Photo-walk, 5:00 PM, meet at Nature Center
- September 13 New Volunteer Training Orientation 9:30 - 3:00. Lunch served.  
Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM  
Regular Business Meeting, 5:30 PM (Bring Your Own Eats, 5:00 PM)
- September 20 New Volunteer Training, 9:00 - 5:00
- September 27 New Volunteer Training, 9:00 - 5:00
- October 4 Landscape Photography Photo-walk, 5:00 PM, meet at Nature Center
- October 5 Butterfly Count
- October 11 Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM  
Volunteer Picnic, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Dining Hall. Group Photo at 4:30 PM
- October 17 Outreach: Texian Market Days, George Ranch, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- October 18 Outreach: Texian Market Days, George Ranch, 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- November 1 Bird Photography Photo-walk, 5:00 PM, meet at Nature Center
- November 8 Blood Drive, NC Parking Lot, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM  
Regular Business Meeting, 5:30 PM (Bring Your Own Eats, 5:00 PM)
- December 6 Landscape Photography Photo-walk, 5:00 PM, meet at Nature Center
- December 13 Budget and Executive Meetings, 3:00 PM  
Regular Business Meeting, 5:30 PM (Bring Your Own Eats, 5:00 PM)
- December 20 30<sup>th</sup> Brazos Bend Christmas Bird Count (tentative)



Honey Bee Red Buckeye  
*Jerry Zona*



Butter Brushes  
*Sharon Hanzik*



Cut-leaf Grounded Red Buckeye  
*Jerry Zona*

## Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
21901 FM 762  
Needville, TX 77461

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014**

**SATURDAY, September 13, 2014**

**5:00 PM Dinner: Bring Your Own Eats**

**5:30 PM, General Meeting, Nature Center**

**October 11, Volunteer Picnic and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BBSPVO**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



## 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:	Mary Lockwood
Vice-President:	Glen Kilgore
Secretary	Melanie Jahn
Treasurer:	Woody Scott
Past-President:	Offie Walker
Members-at-Large:	Mike Sanderson Diane Welty
Comptroller:	Nancy Lynn Jones

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](mailto:awilliamson4@comcast.net)> or <[newsletter@brazosbend.org](mailto: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.**

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

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**BABA DIOUM, SENEGAL  
AFRICAN CONSERVATIONIST**