



Friday evening, June 11

Our Grand Opening evening special includes:

6pm—Dedication of the Park as the *Frances Nabors Griffin Bird Sanctuary*, including speakers on the history of the park.

7pm—**"Sounds of the Night" introduction**, Learn about amphibian love calls, by Lee Ann Linam and Marsha May, leaders of the Amphibian Watch Program at TX Parks and Wildlife.

8pm— Keynote Speaker Andrew Sansom, Executive Director of River Systems Institute, will speak on water conservation and our future, from the old bridge over the creek.



9pm—**"Sounds of the Night"** walk-about. Look and Listen.

9:30pm—Outdoor movie on the big screen, complete with popcorn. *America's Endangered Species: Don't Say Goodbye.*

Hamburgers and drinks will be available for purchase.

Saturday 8:30am—5pm, June 12

Scheduled presentations in the big tent are noted with an \*. All others are run more or less continuous during the day.

**Native Prairie Grasses.** Dr. Barron Rector, Associate Professor Texas A&M and co-author of *Brush and Weeds of Texas Rangelands*, will tell you about the history and value of our wonderful native prairies.



See our own emerging plot of Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Eastern Gamma, and Switchgrass.

**Wildflowers.** Walk with Flo Oxley, Director of Education and Conservation at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, as she tells you about **"Flo's Garden", our "in progress" work on our own** wildflower meadow, and **talks about the "Legends and Lore" of many of** our beautiful Texas Wildflowers!



**Lollipop Flowers.** Join Flo and her gang in making your own pretty flowers—at the wildflower meadow.

**Wildscaping\*.** At 1pm learn from Mark Klym, co-author of *Hummingbirds of Texas*, about providing the essentials that all birds and animals need to survive—water, food, cover, and a place to raise their young. By using native plants/trees and avoiding chemicals, we can help the world of animals continue to provide joy to us and future generations. Learn how to build your own wildscapes, and see the start of ours in the park.

**National Historic Trail\*.** At noon and 2pm in the big tent, Jeff Williams from Sam Houston State University, will give a presentation on the fascinating history and location of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, which runs right through Milam County.

**Beak Tools.** Learn about different kinds of bird beaks by comparing how common tools function similar to different types of bird

beaks, and learn how each type of beak is adapted to feed on specific foods.

**Bug Suckers.** Participants will make their own aspirators and use them to collect small insects.

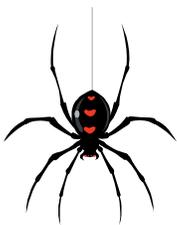
**Enviroscape.** Participants will learn how water pollution occurs and how it can be prevented.

**Snakes.** See and learn about venomous snakes of Central Texas, where they live, what to look for. Learn some proven first aid tips on snake bites.



Coral snake

**Spiders.** Join "Spider Joe" Lapp, as he leads you on an energetic and enthusiastic search for all kinds of these creepy-crawly creatures around Wilson-Ledbetter Park. He always finds lots of interesting specimens of our friends, the arachnids, while teaching the kids about spiders' habitat, food, and lifecycles in a fun and entertaining way.



**Native American Lifeways\*.** Alston Thoms, professor of Anthropology Tx A&M, will present on "Ancient and Historic Native American Lifeways in Milam County and Vicinity", at 11 am and 3pm.

**Archeology / Knapping.** Participate in a "sandbox dig" for ancient artifacts and learn about the tools and documentation involved. Local knappers will be demonstrating the art of replicating ancient arrowheads and other items once used by the Native Americans of

Milam county. They will be using materials found locally to shape tools useful to living on **the plains of Texas' past.**

**Amphibians and Mussels.** Learn all about the Texas Nature Trackers program where you can learn how to identify important species and provide documentation to biologists who are studying their environments and trends.

**Dragonflies\*.** At 9am Jason Lochlin, Temple College, will make a tent presentation on these beautiful creatures.

**For the Birds.** Make up some bags of bird nesting materials to take home with you. We have net bags, poly batting, horse hair, string, etc. for the bags. Also, coat pine cones with peanut butter and roll in bird seed. Help your feathered friends build their nests and eat well!



**Animal Tracks.** Do you like playing with Plaster-of-Paris? Then come make some animal tracks of your own to take home using our nature track molds. Free track identification brochure.

**Horned Lizards.** Ever seen or held a "Horny Toad"? Learn more about these fascinating fellows, and take home a cute lizard bookmark.



**Pollinators.** Learn all about moving pollen from male flowers to female flowers by our friends—flies, hummingbirds, bees, moths, butterflies, and more...

**Face Painting.** Let our talented artists give your cheeks a bit of colorful nature—for the young and old!

**Caterpillar Races.** No, not real caterpillars, but a fun game for kids using those plastic foam swimming noodles. They will stick one end on the back of one person and the other end on the belly of the second, and continue the "train" making several multiple segment caterpillars. Then they walk/run with arms stretched out and legs bent to imitate a caterpillar. Bring your camera!

**Bats.** When children arrive at the Bat Table, they will receive a bat booklet containing bat questions. There are five bat stations nearby in the park where the children will go to read information about bats, mark the correct answers to the questions in their booklet, and then return to the Bat Table. Now the fun begins. They will make their own Clip-on-Bats to wear on their clothes or in their hair and they will pick up Bat Masks, Bat Facts, Bat Crossword puzzles, and Bat Stickers.

**Raptors.** Come early to watch Mark Ellett show off feats of beautiful and powerful live raptors, before it gets too hot and they have to leave. Fascinating!



**Yard Art\*.** Under the big tent, Jill Nokes, landscape designer and author of *Yard Art and Handmade Places: Extraordinary Expressions of Home*, will present on elements of her book, and have copies of the book for sale.

**Garden Goddesses.** Make your own Gar-

den Goddess using gourd heads and recycled articles and have it displayed in the "Yard Art" area of the Nature Festival. A Garden Goddess does not depend on scary looks to keep the birds away from a vegetable garden, instead she peacefully watches over them and magically keeps the birds away! (At least she adds a bit of whimsy to the garden!)

**"Something Fishy".** Visit the "Fish Trailer" and see what AgriLife / Parks and Wildlife has to say about what lurks below the surface!

**White Tail Deer Exhibit.** See the Parks and Wildlife trailer display of antlers and join the discussion about hunting and deer management.



**Photography Exhibit/Contest.** Inside the Ladies Auxiliary building will be posted all the nature photos submitted for the Festival Photo Contest. See if yours has won!

**Vendors and Goodies.** TX Organic Farmers info. and veggie samples, Native Plant Society plants, Jelly and Jams, Cowboy Kennel puppies, Raised Bed Gardens, Gourds and Wood Products, Pocket Guides, Texas Folklore, **Stone Work Angels from "A Wing and a Prayer"**, **Frog Store**, and more...

**Food and Drink.** Lots of variety provided by local vendors. Burgers, Hot Dogs, Fries, Frito Pie, Nachos, Tacos, Sausage on a Stick, Chicken on a Stick, Biscuits & Gravy, Mashed Potato Buffet, BBQ Chicken, Rib Sandwiches, Funnel Cakes, Snow Cones, Popcorn, Lemonade, Soft Drinks and Water.

## Big Tent Presentation Schedule

- 9:00 am Dragonflies, Dr. Jason Lochlin
- 10:00 am Yard Art, Jill Nokes
- 11:00 am Ancient and Historic Native American Lifeways in Milam County and Vicinity,  
Dr Alston Thoms
- 12:00 pm El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, Jeff Williams
- 1:00 pm Wildscaping, Mark Klym
- 2:00 pm El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, Jeff Williams
- 3:00 pm Ancient and Historic Native American Lifeways in Milam County and Vicinity,  
Dr. Alston Thoms
- 4:00 pm Photo Contest Award Ceremony Announcement—(held in the Ladies Auxiliary Bldg)

### How to get to Wilson-Ledbetter Park

