

The Midden

Photo by Barbara Rabek

Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists

February 2013

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Reflections and Looking Forward by Sara Snell, President 2013

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve as chapter president for the year 2013. The chapter accomplishments, since its beginning in 2001, are very impressive with over 100,000 hours of volunteer service and 195 paid members. Our chapter is recognized across the state as one with motivated and very active members.

We are so fortunate to have our Advanced Training Committee that provides us ongoing, stimulating education so there is no reason not to obtain the required 8 hours of AT. The various Stewardship Activities across the county have kept many of our members with endless opportunities for volunteer service, with the bulk of those activities being prairie and dune restoration. Education outreach continued throughout the year with 197 known events reaching almost 10,000 direct contacts. Our chapter is most fortunate to have volunteer service activities of all kinds to provide an easy task of obtaining the necessary 40 hours each year.

The 17th GBAC Training Class will begin 2/28/2013 and there are many ways for members to help, so start thinking of how you would like to help and sign up when you have the chance at the Volunteer Sign-Up and Training Lunch on 2/6 at the Agrilife Bldg. beginning at 11:00 until 1:00.

This year the board will be reviewing the past 3-5 years and developing our next 3-5 year plan for our chapter.

Next Chapter Meeting

February 7th

Freshwater Turtles

By

Kelli Haskett
Armand Bayou Nature
Center

At Carbide Park



Photo by Steve Upperman

If you can

SEE IT and

BELIEVE IT, then you can

MAKE IT HAPPEN.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our first chapter meeting on 2/7/2013 at the AgriLife Building - or, at the prairie, marsh, or the beach.

Prairie Ponderings by Dick Benoit

The 2012 weather was normal without any major storms in the area. My official rain gauge for the year recorded 51.44 inches in my back yard, slightly above normal for the area. Temperatures were also in the normal range for the area. These conditions produced a record number of plants restored to the local prairies - 165,000 one-gallon plants have been added since 2000.

An overview for the restoration in the area by our chapter since 2000:

Armand Bayou Nature Center had almost 76,000 plants restored since 2000. Spearheaded since 2007 by Tom Solomon and Jim Duron, with a dedicated crew of more than 20 workers on Fridays, about 17,250 plants were installed in 2012.

Sheldon Lake State Park had almost 45,000 plants restored since 2008. This effort also begun by Tom and Jim, a multi-chapter dedicated crew of a dozen works on Tuesdays and in 2012 installed 15,000 plants.

Galveston Island State Park had 23,500 plants restored to prairies and dunes since Hurricane Ike in 2007. Main

workers were Andy Sipocz, Chatt Smith, Larry Brasfield, Tom Betros, Root Choyce, Artist Boat and myself. In 2012 we installed 2,500 plants.

Texas City Prairie Preserve had almost 15,500 plants restored since 2000, work begun by Mary Beth Arnold and now led by Jim Duron. The crew of a dozen works on Tuesdays and in 2012 installed almost 8,000 plants. A plant material center was created, concerned mainly with growing prairie plants for their seeds.

San Jacinto State Park initiated its multi-chapter effort in 2012, led by Tom Solomon and planted 3,900 plants on Thursdays during the year.

Miscellaneous plant sites since 2007 have totaled about 1,800 plants. These sites were mainly Brazos Bend State Park and Reitan Scenic Galveston.

In 2012 we had our best planting year of almost 47,000 plants. Many of these plants were planted during group planting days by citizens and students mentored by Texas Master Naturalists, staffs, and volunteers.

Wetland Wanderings by Diane Humes

Finally, rain on the wetlands at Sheldon Lake State Park has dampened the ponds! The Wetlands Restoration Team celebrated by planting *Carex hyalinolepis*, thin-scaled sedge, a great native plant for soil stabilization and wildlife habitat. Come out any Wednesday to share in such celebrations; meet at the Coastal Watershed Office, 1250 Bay Area Blvd, 8:15 to ride the van, or meet at 9 am at SLSP.

Wetland restoration is an integral part of the Galveston Bay Plan. The project goals at SLSP are to restore 44 acres of coastal wetlands, in order to demonstrate effective ways to improve regional water quality, engage citizens (Master Naturalists and others!) in wetland issues and encourage wetland restorations at other sites.

Studies of wetlands, groundwater and surface water and their intersections with water quality, flooding and drought are based on research that began in the early 1900's. In the White Mountains of New Hampshire, land was set aside for such research at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest because, as stated in 1948, "For managing our water resources intelligently, a great amount of basic information is needed on the various factors that influence the behavior of water after it is deposited on the land as rain or snow."



As an undergraduate, I heard a series of seminars about the exciting research at Hubbard Brook on acid rain and effects of various forest management practices on stream chemistry. These ingenious studies continue, with experiments conducted on 13 gauged, discrete watersheds. Researchers at Hubbard Brook have

compiled the largest watershed database of its kind, collecting data since 1956 on studies of precipitation, precipitation and stream chemistry, atmospheric chemistry, throughfall, soil water, soil chemistry, vegetation, microbes, animal populations and behavior of the forest ecosystem, and the limnology of the various streams and Mirror Lake in the Hubbard Brook Valley.

Although a long way from the Texas Gulf Coast - we have no rocks, hills, snow, and forests - we have gained

basic understanding from such studies. We now understand that clear-cutting the forest will raise the stream temperature, muddy the water, change its chemistry and affect the stream fauna. Likewise, overgrazing and loss of wetlands will affect water all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

(<http://www.hubbardbrook.org>)

It's a dirty job, but the Vultures can do it! by Madeleine K. Barnes

Why do we need to know about our environmental clean-up crew? While often misunderstood and maligned,



vultures are critically important in recycling life and cleaning disease from the environment, thereby providing a benefit for us all. Their digestive tract is being studied because of their ability to consume and kill various bacteria and viruses, including anthrax. The resulting sanitized (disease free) excrement continues to kill bacteria when

on their feet. Is there a market for vulture sanitizer in our future?

Did you know that the turkey vulture is one of the few birds that can smell, being able to scent food sources from as far as 1-2 miles away? Their body shape during flight was used as a mold for airplane design due to their efficient soaring capability. Throughout the world, vultures are in decline, and many species are threatened or endangered due to a variety of issues such as veterinary drug use in the treatment of domestic



livestock, chemical misuse, traditional practices, and loss of habitat.

Where did I learn all of this? At the workshop "Nature's Noble Caretakers" on November 10th presented by Ken Kramm. He provided many interesting facts, as well as group activities to demonstrate the three ways vultures locate food sources. He also showed a body farm film with team

discussion on social facilitation in feeding.

Here are a few resources for your perusal. Don't miss out on "The Turkey Vulture Rap" and on the opportunity to sing/dance or toe tap along to "a Turkey Vulture beat!"

The Turkey Vulture Society

<http://vulturesociety.homestead.com/>

You Tube videos: Vultures Ken Kramm - Scary Scavengers, Turkey Vulture Rap by Joe Reilly

Ten Most Magnificent Vultures on Earth

<http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/news-12-most-magnificent-vultures-world-honest>

Master Naturalists Now Conducting Turtle Barn Tours by Steve Alexander

For a number of years, chapter members have played an integral part in sea turtle patrols on the Upper Texas Coast. In May 2012, our chapter began an additional role in sea turtle conservation: conducting turtle barn tours at NOAA.

Turtle barn tours have been a favorite Galveston Island attraction for years, but federal cutbacks have made it

impossible for remaining staff to continue leading tours, disappointing many turtle fans.

As a result, NOAA turned to our chapter. In response, Julie jumped up and down as she said yes we could help!!!!!!!!!!!!



She then recruited the four members who comprised the first "turtle barn teams". Those four members are Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Carlos Rios, Bebe Rizo, and Chris Boodley.

Since May, these four have reached over 900 turtle barn visitors, educating each on the importance of sea turtles and the need to conserve their dwindling numbers.

Master Naturalist-led tours will continue in 2013, so recruiting new volunteers was one of the primary objectives of the workshop held at NOAA on December 5, 2012. The workshop, coordinated by Maureen and Carlos, included several presentations on sea turtles and an overview of turtle barn tours.

The workshop highlight was a tour of the turtle barn itself. On this cool day, Ben Higgins, a longtime sea turtle biologist at NOAA, welcomed all into the warmth of the barn where he introduced some of the attractions there, including numerous young loggerhead sea turtles.

NOAA is looking for additional guides to lead turtle barn tours in 2013, so if you are interested, please contact either Maureen or Carlos for additional information.



Sea Turtle Patrols 2012 and an Update for 2013 by Steve Alexander

Dozens of chapter members patrolled beaches during our sixth year of participation in sea turtle patrols along the Upper Texas Coast. The sixth season was led by Texas A&M University at Galveston researcher Dr. Kimberly Reich and her graduate students.



Dr. Reich recently provided a summary of the 2012 patrol season and an update for the 2013 season.

In 2012, 209 Kemp's ridley nests were confirmed along the Texas coast, the highest total since record keeping began in the early 1980's. In addition, 5 loggerhead nests as well as 7 green turtle nests were confirmed.

On the Upper Texas Coast, 14 Kemp's ridley nests were confirmed and four turtles were satellite tagged, two of which (Mij and Kahala) are still transmitting.

Plans are underway for the 2013 patrol season, according to Dr. Reich. All training (classroom and ATV) will be held during the week of March 18-23. Makeup sessions will be held that week as well as the following week if needed.

So, our seventh year of participation in sea turtle patrols is just around the corner. And if you're like me, my guess is you're ready to hit the beach too.

For those of you who may wish to join patrols for the first time, please contact Dr. Reich so that she can include you in any updates. Her contact information is: e-mail, reichk@tamug.edu; office phone, 409-740-4718.

Highland Lakes Chapter Visits Galveston Island! by Julie Massey

Thirty-five Highland Lakes Chapter members enjoyed planting, seining, learning about sea turtles and trawling while visiting Galveston Island the week of November 12. Their chapter is located in the Marble Falls area of Texas and they enjoy these types of trips every year.

On Monday, the group planted 601 prairie plants at Galveston Island State Park! They had never restored prairie before and loved digging in the island's sandy soils. (They have granite to deal with at home!) Many thanks to Andy Sipocz (TPWD), Dick Benoit, Larry Brasfield, Root Choyce, Cindy Howard and Rita Smith for making the day great!

Windy, cool weather on Tuesday did not deter the group from marsh and beach explorations at Galveston Island State Park! Bill Ashby, Frank Budny, Mel Measles and Julie braved the cold water to seine while Sara Snell and Nathan Veatch searched for fiddler crabs with the group.

Chili cheese hot dogs were waiting at the Nature Center as the visitors came off the beach! Hot dogs never tasted so good! Many thanks to chefs Tawy Muehe, Cliff Muehe, Bob Snell (Sara's husband), Shirley Foster and Rita Smith for making the lunch and goodies!



Maureen Nolan-Wilde and Carlos Rios greeted the Highland Lakes Chapter on Wednesday with a fun and terrific presentation on the National Marine Fisheries Service's Sea Turtle Program! They played "Stump the Master Naturalist" and enjoyed seeing the hatchling turtles at the facility. Many thanks to Rita Smith and Martha Melcher for bringing goodies to share.

Wednesday afternoon, bundled up and ready for adventure, the group boarded the Harbor Tours vessel and set out for Galveston Bay on a marine biology tour. Trawls and plankton nets were pulled with catches including stingrays, lizard fish, shrimp eels, squid and more. Everyone had a wonderful time!

As the Highland Lakes visitors left the docks of Galveston harbor, they extended an invitation for us to come to the Hill Country for a Master Naturalist visit! How does a visit to see wildflowers next spring sound?

Many thanks to everyone who made the Highland Lakes Chapter visit unforgettable!

Check out the great photos in a wonderful wrap up article by Highland Lakes member Phil Wyde in the Highland Lakes newsletter.

<http://txmn.org/highlandlakes/files/201211-November.pdf>



LOTS OF AT OPPORTUNITIES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. START NOW ON YOUR 2013 HOURS!

2012 Treasures of the Bay Award Winners

Each year our chapter recognizes outstanding contributions to natural resource restoration and education by chapter members and the community with

the Treasures of the Bay Awards. Please congratulate the 2012 award winners listed below! The awards were presented at the December chapter meeting.

Corporate Award

Linda Shead - Shead Conservation Solutions

Non-Profit Award

Galveston Bay Foundation

Chapter Service Award

Bebe Rizo - NMFS Sea Turtle Team
 Carlos Antonio Rios - NMFS Sea Turtle Team
 Christine A. Boodley - NMFS Sea Turtle Team
 Maureen Nolan-Wilde - NMFS Sea Turtle Team
 Larry Brasfield
 Louise Bell
 Madeleine K. Barnes`
 Scott Buckel

Making a Difference Award

Alan Wilde
 Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers
 Chris LaChance
 Dr. Steve K. Alexander
 Ellen Gerloff
 Frank M. Budny
 James Duron
 Kathleen Gardner
 Laura I. Bradley
 Rebekah L. Gano
 Royce Pendergast
 Tom Kartrude

Chuck Buddenhagen Memorial Education Award

Diane Humes
 Stennie Meadours
 Victor H. Madamba

Let the festivities begin! by Diane Humes

The festivities began on December 6, 2012 at the Wayne Johnson Center at Carbide Park. Serenaded by our wandering minstrels, the Bayouphiliacs, our annual meeting began. The crowd of master naturalists, family and friends gathered and enjoyed a sumptuous feast and each other's company.

Regina Rottmann played "Blowing in the Wind" very beautifully for us on her keyboard; many thanks, Regina for helping make the evening special. We were

then led and accompanied in enthusiastic singing from our chapter songbook by the Bayouphiliacs. Next time out on the prairie or in the wetlands, try a rendition of "Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho, It's off to work we go, We work all day and get no pay..."

In a busy evening, we also held elections for next year's officers. Voted in unanimously for 2013 were:

- Sara Snell, President

- Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Vice President
- Cip Romero, Secretary
- Tawy Muehe, Treasurer

Congratulations and thank you for your willingness to lead our chapter.

After announcements and awards, chapter members cleaned up the hall with efficiency and alacrity and

when it was done, you could hardly tell we had been there.

The food was delicious, we had great fun, and the company was superbly congenial, as always. Many thanks to all who contributed so much toward the evening and throughout the year. See you next year!

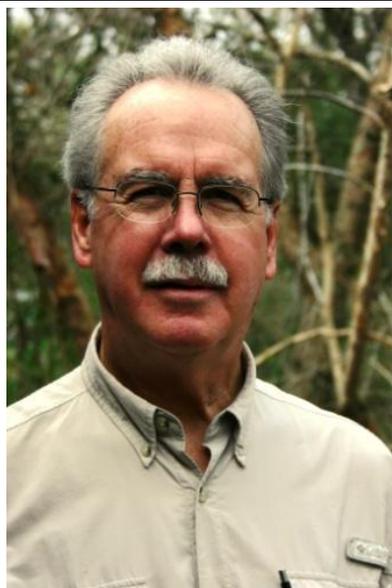
GISP Chapter Project by Diane Humes

Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston Island State Park in 2008, and ever since, Galveston Bay Area Chapter members have worked hard to help restore the park, first with clean up, then with planting efforts on the dunes and prairies.

Join your fellow Master Naturalists as they continue the work, potting up plants in preparation for their eventual installation at the park. Meet from 9 am until noon on February 11 and 25 and March 11 and 25. Future dates are April 8 and April 22, May 6 and May 20. For further information, please contact Dick Benoit: RBenoitTEX@aol.com



In Memory of Dr. John J. Sharp by Sara Snell



As 2012 came to a close, our chapter lost one of our members, Dr. John J. Sharp. John began his Master Naturalist journey in 2009 and quickly began acquiring volunteer hours and advanced training hours. He not only certified that year, but also re-certified and the adventure of discovery began.

The next year he received his 250 hour recognition pin, then in 2011 he received his 500 hour pin and also the Treasure of the Bay Chapter Service Award. Along came 2012 and he received his

1000 hour pin. He did all the above while working full time until 2012 when he began part time winding down to retirement.

John had a wide variety of volunteer activities. He tracked the Attwaters' Prairie Chicken and monitored the oyster catchers and their nests at Texas City Prairie Preserve. He helped, pot, plant and water prairie grasses, monitored water at several locations, served as Photo Liaison for Featherfest and conducted bird counts in many locations.

John was looking forward to participating more in conservation efforts. This warm and interesting man with his ever ready smile and twinkling eyes will be missed.

Contributions in memory of Dr. John J Sharp may be made online to Texas City Prairie Preserve/The Nature Conservancy at:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/placesweprotect/texas-city-prairie-preserve.xml>

Ten Words or How to Pass a Spelling Test by Diane Humes

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." -
William Shakespeare

Back in high school, my English teacher, Miss Ludwig, challenged the class every Monday with a list of about 10 words - probably all good SAT words. We had all week to memorize the list, find the definitions and figure out how to use the word. On Friday we each received a blank sheet of paper and were instructed to write our ten words, each in a meaningful sentence, with proper spelling and usage. Only Latin class was better at sharpening the mind than a Friday spelling test!

Our Master Naturalist world has terms at least as good as SAT words, some used so often as to border on jargon, so I tried to think of which ten words a Master Naturalist most needed to understand and use properly. Here goes; there will NOT be a test on Friday, but slacking off is not allowed!

Top Ten Nature Terms

naturalist	ecology
habitat	species
invasive	endemic
extinction	biodiversity
conservation	wilderness

Natural history, meaning nearly anything connected with nature, includes anthropology, geology, paleontology, astronomy, botany and zoology. A student of natural history is a **naturalist**. Said Howard Gardner, psychologist, "A naturalist demonstrates expertise in the recognition and classification of the numerous species...of his or her environment." Edward O. Wilson, probably the greatest living naturalist, said "To be a naturalist is not just an activity but an honorable state of mind...that those who have...protected living Nature are among America's heroes..."

Ecology, born of natural history, is the scientific study of the relationships that living organisms have with each other and with their natural environment. This includes study of the inorganic components of Earth's biosphere that support them, and the **habitat** - the natural environment in which each organism or species lives, or the physical environment surrounding it.

A **species** is the basic category of biological classification, composed of related individuals that resemble one another, are able to breed among themselves, but are not able to breed with members of

another species. A species is given its own unique binomial Latin name.

Natural barriers - lakes, oceans, rivers, mountains, deserts, ice - normally constrain species to their native habitats. Sometimes those barriers are breached, often through human activities, allowing species to enter new territories. Such misplaced species may become **invasive**, when they are able to supplant native species, as with the Chinese tallow tree, *Triadica sebifera*, on the Texas coastal prairie.

Specialized habitats, often requiring unusual adaptations for survival, may support large numbers of **endemic** species - organisms unique to a defined geographic location or habitat type, and found nowhere else. Texas has the third largest number of endemic species in the country. The 2009 TMN certification pin depicts the Texas Salamander, *Eurycea neotenes*, a species of entirely aquatic, lungless salamander endemic to Bexar and Kendall counties, found only in the immediate vicinity of spring outflows, under rocks and leaves and in gravel substrate.

Endemic species are considered more susceptible to **extinction** than more cosmopolitan species, since their habitats are restricted. They may have smaller ranges or more specific requirements or tolerances. Extinction occurs when the last existing member of a species dies - usually impossible to document. The major causes for species extinction today are: habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution, human overpopulation, and over-harvesting - **HIPPO** - according to Edward O. Wilson.

The World Wildlife Fund's 10 most endangered species

Black Rhino	Giant Panda
Hawksbill Turtle	Beluga Sturgeon
Green Cheeked Parrot	Goldenseal
Alligator Snapping Turtle	Mako Shark
Big Leaf Mahogany	Tiger

Biodiversity evolved from "biological diversity", when Edward O. Wilson shortened the phrase in 1988. Biological diversity, first published in 1968, supplanted "natural diversity" or "natural heritage", an older term that also included geology and landforms.

Biodiversity means the variation of life at all levels of biological organization - molecular, organismic,

population, species and ecosystem. It was defined by the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit as "the variability among living organisms from all sources, including ... terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems". The United Nations has designated this decade, 2011-2020, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.



Coral reef biodiversity

Earth's biodiversity is not evenly distributed; rather it varies around the globe depending on temperature, precipitation, soils, altitude, geography and presence of other species. Tropical regions and lower elevations generally support greater numbers of species than other regions. Biodiversity "hotspots" around the world contain disproportional numbers of endemic species and are often the focus of **conservation** efforts. Surprisingly, most hotspots are near major cities, but, perhaps Rev. Gilbert White said it best in 1768, "All nature is so full, that that district produces the most variety which is the most examined."

Conservation referred, in the late 1800's, to management of natural resources, mainly timber, fish, game, topsoil, pastureland and minerals and the preservation of forests, wildlife, parks, watersheds and wilderness. Today conservation or conservation biology is an inter-disciplinary science studying nature and Earth's biodiversity with the aim of protecting



Great Swamp NWR in New Jersey
First designated wilderness area in the US

species, their habitats, and ecosystems from excessive rates of extinction, using economics, science, and natural resource management.

The desire to preserve **wilderness** or wildness - that not controllable by humans - led to the creation of the great U. S. National Parks and National Forests. Aldo Leopold, co-founder of The Wilderness Society, said it best:

"Wilderness is the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilization. Wilderness was never a homogenous raw material. It was very diverse. The differences in the product are known as cultures. The rich diversity of the world's cultures reflects a corresponding diversity. In the wilds that gave them birth."

A Texas Master naturalist must consider the diversity of life within our state. There are 5,800 species of plants in Texas. According to Barron Rector, 2,000 of them are introduced; 425 plant species are endemic and 26 are invasive. Texas also is home to over 600 bird species, 184 mammal species and 29,000 insects, taking up residence in every conceivable habitat, including rocky outcroppings, pitcher plant bogs and on individual species of plants. From the wilderness to the city, our mission is stewardship of this incredible biodiversity of which we are part. As Thoreau said, "It is in vain to dream of a wildness distant from ourselves", but rather, "to regard man as inhabitant or a part and parcel of Nature, rather than a member of society."



**A LOOK
BACK AT
2012**



Guppies from Julie

Dolphin Challenge Needs You!

Join us on Saturday, February 23, 2013, at Ball High in Galveston for Dolphin Challenge!

"What island forms the eastern shore of Baffin Bay?"
"Fishes that spend most of their lives in freshwater but migrate to saltwater are called . . .?"

Can you hear the clock ticking as you try to answer these questions? Let's put a buzzer in your hand and face you off with a team of enthusiastic, determined high school students! Whew! The pressure is on!

Welcome to the fast paced, fun, exciting world of National Ocean Sciences Bowl! National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) is a nationally recognized and highly acclaimed high school academic competition that provides a forum for students to test their knowledge of the marine sciences including biology, chemistry, geography, physics, geology, social sciences and technology. Texas Sea Grant sponsors the National Ocean Science Bowl competitions in TX.

We need you to make these competitions a success! Training will be provided!

Volunteers are needed in every competition room:

Moderator: essentially in charge of the round; must be able to read aloud clearly and quickly and keep the competition running smoothly; those with a background in the marine sciences are preferred for pronunciation of scientific terms.

Rules Judge: must know all the Competition Rules; ensures quiet during the game and that the rules are consistently and correctly followed by everyone.

Science Judge: must have a technical background (generally a graduate degree) in marine sciences and be prepared to address challenges to content by participating students.

Timekeeper: operates time clock and must know the rules that apply to timing.

Training for Dolphin Challenge will be conducted at the Texas A&M AgriLife Galveston County Extension Office at Carbide Park on the following dates:

January 29 - 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

February 13 - 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

February 18 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dolphin Challenge volunteers will enjoy a great lunch, receive a terrific t-shirt and bask in the admiration of high school students from across Texas!

To learn more about NOSB, visit their website at <http://www.nosb.org/>.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Julie at 281-309-5063 or jmassey@ag.tamu.edu.



The Midden

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For comments on this issue or to suggest content for future issues, please contact **Nathan Veatch at 281-480-6985** or by e-mail at nveatch@swbell.net.

Midden Editorial Team

Steve Alexander, Chair
Nathan Veatch, Editor

Diane Humes
Carolyn Miles

The Midden Deadline for the next issue

March 2nd

If you have Advanced Training or Volunteer Opportunities, please submit information to Maureen Nolan-Wilde, mnwtiki@comcast.net.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas cooperating.

February and March Activities

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter Meeting - February 7th

Presenter: Kelli Haskett from Armand Bayou Nature Center on Freshwater Turtles
6:30 Social, 7:00 Presentation, 8:00 business meeting
Carbide Park - Extension Office 1 Hour AT

Public / Personal Safety 101 - March 2nd

9:00 - 3:30 PM - 6 Hours AT - Fee \$25
Carbide Park - Extension Office
Covers First Aid, Adult CPR, When Help is Delayed
Lunch and morning goodies will be provided.
Presenters - Boy Scouts certified by the Red Cross,
Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Raptor Workshop - March 4th

2-4 pm 2 Hours AT
Carbide Park - Extension Office
Hawk Migration is coming.
Presenter - Dick Benoit
Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Harbor Tour - March 14th

1-3 pm - 2 Hours AT - Fee \$16
Galveston
Topics covered will include: marine biology, and ornithology.
Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Ongoing

Galveston Island State Park
Beach and Bay Explorations will resume in March

Heritage Book Study Group

First Monday of every month. AgriLife Extension Office
10am-Noon 2 hours AT
Contact: Elsie Smith (409)945-4731
We are currently reading: *The Time it Never Rained*
by Elmer Kelton

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Galveston Island State Park Maintenance Area

9am-Noon. Potting plants for future plantings
Feb. 11 & 25. March 11 & 25.
Contact Dick Benoit: RBenoitTEX@aol.com

Ongoing Activities:

Tuesdays -

- Sheldon Lakes State Park, Contact: Tom Solomon crandtr@sbcglobal.net
- Texas City Prairie Preserve, Contact: Jim Duron wishkad@yahoo.com
- Environmental Institute of Houston at UHCL,

Contact : Wendy Reistle reistle@uhcl.edu
Wednesdays - Wetland Restoration Team, Contact:
Marissa Sipocz m-sipocz@tamu.edu

Thursdays -

- Horseshoe Marsh Prairie, third Thursday of each month, 9 - Noon. Contact: Tom Solomon crandtr@sbcglobal.net
- San Jacinto State Park, Contact: Tom Solomon crandtr@sbcglobal.net

Fridays - Prairie Friday, ABNC, 8:30 - 11:30am,
Contact: Dick Benoit RBenoitTEX@aol.com

EDUCATION-OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Spring 2013 Training Class - Begins February 28th every Thursday until May 16th except March 14th. Lots of volunteers are needed to make this class a success.
Contact: Sara Snell snellsw@verizon.net.

Bay & Island Adventures - Volunteers teach six in-class hands-on modules on a once a month basis in Dickinson and Galveston Schools. Presenters and helpers are needed for eleven 4th and 5th grade classes. Contact: Stennie Meadours, Stenmead@aol.com.

Education and Outreach Committee - Lots of work to do and we can use your help developing a speakers bureau; responding to requests for exhibit booths, fieldtrip guides and presenters, planning Camp Wild and Treasures of the Bay; and developing a library of education-outreach materials. Contact Sara Snell snellsw@verizon.net.

Partner and Associate Programs - Many organizations sponsor guided walks and education programs or need volunteers to man their nature center. Go to www.gbamasternaturalist.org click on "Volunteer Opportunities," then click on "Partners, Sponsors and Associates" for the list, then click on their website for information and contact.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board Meetings - February 5th
2-4 at the Extension Office

Committee Meetings

Communication - March 4th
9-Noon at Extension office
Advanced Training - February 18th
10-Noon at Extension office
Education/Outreach - Meets as needed. None currently scheduled.
Stewardship - Meets quarterly. Next meeting to be determined