



Photo by Diane Furnes

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Setting Directions by Sara Snell, President 2013

Again "*Setting Directions*" is the focus for 2013 as we pursue restoration/preservation and education about our natural resources. Our goals document, which can be found on the website, has been updated to include activities we will continue to build and expand upon.

We will continue our many ongoing Stewardship activities with our partners and work to reestablish the Project of the Month concept. Education Outreach will again focus on teachers and work with school programs when requested.

The board has reviewed the By-laws and Chapter Operating Handbook. The Compendium has been updated and these documents will be on the web site.



We have a full year ahead of us - just look at the calendar. Several years ago the goal was to have a six-month rolling schedule of events and now we almost have a yearlong rolling schedule. On-going volunteer opportunities are now established across the county and a variety of activities are available for members.

Our challenge this year is to accomplish all we have embarked upon. To do so we will need leadership and help. All of us have talents to bring to the table - along with a positive, can-do attitude. Working together we can accomplish all we set out to do.

Next Chapter Meeting

April 4th

Galveston Bay Plan

By

Bob Stokes
Galveston Bay
Foundation

At Carbide Park



I look forward to seeing you at the prairie, marsh, and beach, or wherever we may be working.

Prairie Ponderings by Dick Benoit

Thought I would share with you what I would consider the top 10 books that I have in my collection that would aid in knowing more about and wanting to restore prairies, in particular the most endangered ecosystem in North America, the coastal tall grass prairies.

Grasses of the Texas Gulf Prairies and Marshes by Stephan L. Hatch, Joseph L. Schuster, and D. Lynn Drawe is my preference from about six books on mainly grass identification.

Wildflowers of Texas by Geyata Ajilvsqi is an excellent book for the many wildflowers found throughout the year. This book is divided by the colors of the mature flowers.

Southwestern and Texas Wildflowers by Niehaus, Ripper, and Savage, a Peterson Field Guide, that also divides the mature flowers by color. This copy I had rebound for better field use as suggested by Dr. Newhouse.

The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook by Stephen Packard and Cornelia F. Mutel is a book that I reread yearly and focus on the highlighted sections done on a flight to Michigan.

Last Stand of the Tallgrass Prairie by Aimee Larrabee and John Altman is a coffee table size book with beautiful pictures. It is a companion to the acclaimed PBS Documentary of the same name.

The Cajun Prairie: A Natural History by Malcolm F. Vidrine, the Louisiana section of the Gulf Coast Prairie. I met Malcolm at a Coastal Prairie Partnership conference in 2011. His book has 26 appendixes that develop the natural history side of the prairies.

Prairie Time, A Blackland Portrait by Matt White focuses on the prairie type just north of our coastal prairie with many of the same plants. It is very interesting and current.

Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers: A Field Guide from the Nature Conservancy Book series by Doug Ladd that has excellent photographs of mature wildflowers.

Native Plant Propagation, by Jan A. W. Midgley is an excellent source on how to gather, grow, and plant seeds. It is written for Alabama, but applies in most cases to our area. jwildflwr@aol.com

Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Western Gulf Coast by Stutzenbaker, many of the plants are found in wet or bordering prairie areas. I like the line drawing format and full page spread on each plant.

Rather a random selection, not in a preference order, but books that I have found are my favorites. There are more specialty books that fill in gaps that develop as knowledge is expanded.

Wetland Wanderings by Diane Humes

The Clean Water Act (CWA) passed by Congress in 1972 was a direct response to public outrage about oil spills, sewage and pollution in "waters of the United States, including the territorial seas." Its goals were to eliminate release of toxic pollutants into water, eliminate additional water pollution by 1985 and ensure that surface waters would meet standards necessary for human sports and recreation by 1983.

The CWA authorized funding for building municipal sewage treatment plants - who knew that we maybe didn't always treat our sewage? The CWA required states to set up water quality standards (WQS) using best available science and technology and issue permits to be able to track and regulate all point sources of pollution.

For waters deemed "impaired", the states were to come up with a TMDL - "total maximum daily load" - a calculation based on characteristics of the water body in



question to determine how much pollutant loading could be added and remain within the standard. Following that, an implementation plan - "I-Plan" - must be formulated to show a pathway to improve water quality to meet standards.

We will all become very familiar with these terms; all Houston-Galveston regional bayous are "impaired" waters and must be cleaned up. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is studying and writing TMDL and I-Plans for nearly all our waters. Citizen participation at

meetings is requested, required, and very much welcomed. Check the website, to learn more: www.h-gac.com.

We are not alone: as of 2007, approximately half of the rivers, lakes, and bays under EPA oversight were not safe enough for fishing and swimming and over 60,000 TMDLs are proposed or in development for U.S. waters. This is a time-consuming process, but we were supposed to have clean water 30 years ago. Maybe now would be a good time?

The Wildlife Center of Texas by Mary Vogas

Galveston Bay Area-Texas Master Naturalists had heard of the new wildlife center in Houston, but most of us had never seen it. That changed on January 26, 2013 when 30 enthusiastic naturalists traveled to the northwest part of Houston to visit the new Wildlife Center of Texas.

Our own Margaret Pickell, one of the Operational Managers at the center, treated us to an informative slide program. She is responsible for the training and coordination of all volunteers. She also oversees feeding, medication and housing needs of all wildlife at the center.



The center, one of the largest rehabilitation centers in the United States, gives medical care for all injured, ill, orphaned and oiled native wildlife in a twelve-county area on the upper Texas coast. Exotic species like hedgehogs, iguanas and constrictors are not taken in, since they are non-native.

The Wildlife Center provides help to over 9,000 animals per year, consisting of 225 species of mammals, birds and reptiles. They also have provided help during 60 oil spill events and provide environmental education to over

12,000 children and adults each year. And in the first 10 days after Hurricane Ike, they took in over 1,200 baby squirrels.

The center takes care of a wide variety of mammals, including about 1,000 opossums per year. The opossum is the only marsupial in Texas and is not a carrier of rabies. The center does not take in foxes or coyotes due to a statewide rabies ban.

Skunks, bats, and raccoons are checked by a veterinarian and then sent to an off-site permitted rehabilitator since they are a high-risk rabies-vector species. Bobcats are taken in and released as quickly as possible since they imprint very easily on humans.

The Wildlife Center has observed some recent trends in local-area wildlife. For example, they have seen an increase in larger doves and a decrease with the smaller ones. They have also seen an increase in black-bellied whistling ducks and a decrease in wood ducks. Because of the lack of habitat, the pileated woodpeckers are having a problem.

We had the opportunity to visit both inside and outside stations and saw such things as the water-bird area, the raptor run and the small mammal area. A very qualified volunteer informed us of the animals in their section. It was very interesting to see wildlife up-close!

The Wildlife Center could not function without the dedication of over 300 volunteers, some of which are local veterinarians that volunteer their time and expertise.

If you would like to help, please contact the Wildlife Center of Texas at 713-861-9453 (WILD) or visit www.WildlifeCenterofTexas.org. If you shop at Kroger, you can link your Kroger Plus card to the Wildlife Center of Texas.

CAMP OUT 2013 by Madeleine K. Barnes

Surrounded by trees festooned in Spanish moss and resurrection fern, the Gulf Coast Master Naturalists hosted "CAMP OUT 2013" February 8th -10th at Brazos Bend State Park.

An international potluck dinner kicked off the event on a beautiful Friday evening, followed by a short session with Vic Madamba on tagging and parasite testing of Monarch butterflies.



Afterward, under a starry night sky, master naturalists from at least three Texas chapters sat around the warm campfire to enjoy the evening and socialize.

Have you ever been "Lost in the Woods" or disoriented and/or confused on the trail? Saturday's events included Kenneth Kramm's talk and group activity on that topic, demonstrating techniques and uses for common items that can help adults and children "STOP" (acronym) and be found.

After a hearty lunch, the afternoon session included Scott Buckel's photo presentation on "Birds of the Gulf Coast" in combination with Stennie Meadors presentation on

"Birding in Winter". This was capped off with a birding tour with both experts along 40-Acre Lake.



We shared another great dinner along with the roasting of marshmallows around the campfire.

On Sunday, after a tasty breakfast, Dennis Jones from TPWD reviewed different aspects of bird groups and focused on bird behavior adding personal anecdotes and observations.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the presentations, good food, fun activities, and shared opportunities to learn about our fine-feathered friends and related topics.

The online links/book below are from Ken Kramm's presentation:

- You Tube videos by Kenneth Kramm - "How to Survive Getting Lost in the Woods." and "Make a Flint and Firesteel Neck Lanyard."
- Book: Lost in the Woods by Colleen Politano

Public and Personal Safety Training 101 AT by Maureen Nolan-Wilde

It was a "hands-on" training day for 34 participants in the Public and Personal Safety Training 101 workshop led by the NOB Scout Training team.

The class consisted of GBA-TMN members and families, boy scouts, and scout leaders. Instructors asked for volunteers and were amazed to find everyone getting down on the floor to learn what to do. The instructors laughed and commented that they knew then that this group was ready to learn.

We had the opportunity to practice CPR on dummies at least three different times and when it came to working



with the AED (automated external defibrillator) devices, the instructor's couldn't get everyone to stop. The group also did some "hands-on" practice on dealing with choking victims as well as "bandaging" wounds. The enthusiasm and focus of all was recognized by the instructors and those who sponsored the event.

A special thank you goes out to the Advanced Training team for their support of this type of training. Thanks also to the rest of the planning team, Julie Massey and Chatt Smith who helped support and make this event happen.



The cost of the training was \$25 of which \$10 was reimbursed upon completion. Many members donated their reimbursement to the Red Cross to help further educate both scouts and the public in these invaluable skills. At the end of the training, all left with additional tools to help us work with the public and others in our lives.

Diurnal Raptors 2013 by Diane Humes

Held in the afternoon this year, GBAC-TMN hosted the annual Raptor Workshop on March 4, 2013 at the extension office, attended by more than 50 intrepid potential hawk watchers. Our speaker was Dick Benoit who has observed and counted raptors during migration for 38 years in Michigan and Texas.



In 1972, bird watchers noted the complete absence of peregrine falcons east of the Mississippi - absent due to multiple causes including use of DDT. Dick became interested to help count raptors; since then bird numbers

have increased, as organizations and individuals have made it their business to count all raptors, track population trends, and preserve and restore habitat.

Dick described the diurnal (active in daytime) raptors of Galveston Bay to prepare prospective and returning hawk watchers for the spring migration count. He spoke of identification tips and challenges of counting raptors during migration. Migration begins now; birds are "all dressed up and ready to go" after the vernal equinox. The hawks take advantage of rising thermals and avoid going over bodies of water.

Dick described the most common diurnal raptors in our area and showed examples of how to count them. Remember: OMG is over 500! He presented results of six Winter Raptor surveys that he, Bob and Sarah Patterson have completed between Galveston Bay and Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge each winter.

Hawk watch sites are Sylvan Beach, for a north wind, and Little Cedar Bayou Park, for a southerly wind, both in La Porte. For the eighteenth year, we will count hawks during March and April. Be there, prepared for sun, wind, cold, hot, and, perhaps, a great day with thousands of hawks overhead!

Meet the New Class by Sara Snell

Please welcome the new class at our April 4th Chapter meeting. We have 22 eager and enthusiastic new trainees who are anxious to start their Master Naturalist journey. Several have already been volunteering with us and are ready to start counting volunteer hours!!! The

April 4th class will start at 3:30 at the AgiLife building with Emmeline Dodd presenting Insects and S'More. Then the class will be introduced to a variety of our monitoring activities before the chapter meeting. So come on out, meet the class, enjoy the food and our speaker.



Carey Battle



Rick Becker



Suzanne Becker



Lana Berkowitz



Nicole Bonicamp



Ange Busceme



Joyce Jinnette Davis



Sharon Duray



Dianne Forthman



David Hanson



Jan Hanson

Class of 2013
Galveston Bay Area Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist

T E X A S



Master Naturalist



Diana Harrell



John Harrell



Susan Hightower



Stacy Holcomb



Marilyn Lanser



Rhonda Marshall



Jo Monday



Diane Neustadter



Frances Pham



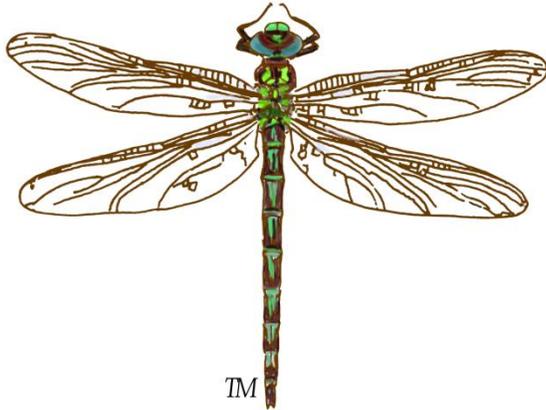
Beth Schroeder



Tyson Vodochodsky

2012 – The First Year by Madeleine K. Barnes

I wrote a short poem about my first year as an GBAC-TMN member and would like to dedicate it to all of those who made the 2012 class possible as a small token of appreciation.



Embarking on a journey, something brand new,
A different impact, an encompassing view,
So much to explore, windows to nature,
Like minds to share, discover, and nurture,
To learn with mentors, supporters, and guides,
Provoking, inspiring, and encouraging at our side.

So many choices to help others see,
The wonder and connection of animal, insect, grass, and
tree,
A shared quest and commitment, empowering mind and
hands,
Focusing our efforts, giving back to the land,
Earth and sea, bird and bee,
Proud and happy, a member of GBAC.

Know Your Board by Sara Snell

At our February meeting I was asked to do a short introduction of the 2013 Board members. I realized that we have many newer members who do not know some of the seasoned Board members and many of the seasoned members do not know the newer members of the Board. So let me introduce you to the Board.



Back Row: Jim Duron, Martha Melcher, Cindy Howard, Shirley Foster, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Diane Humes, Cipriano Romero

Front row: Tawy Muehe, Sara Snell, Julie Massey

President - Sara Snell

Sara was a member of the Spring 2004 class and has been involved with the chapter serving in various positions. She spends her stewardship time at Texas City Prairie Preserve, conducts school field trips at both the prairie and GISP, coordinates the training class volunteers and does whatever else that might come up and where help is needed.

Vice President - Maureen Nolan-Wilde

Maureen is a member of the Class of 2011 and is currently serving as Vice-President. For her MN adventures, the focus has been on Galveston Island. She is a member of the Beach/Bay walk guides at Galveston Island State Park and focuses a lot of time volunteering with NOAA leading turtle tours twice a month (and more lately) with her MN partner Carlos Rios at Fort Crockett. Maureen's husband is also a Master Naturalist (Alan Wilde - the email guy) and yes he does exist.

Secretary - Cipriano Romero

Cip was a member of the Spring Class of 2012 and has served as his class representative until accepting the nomination as Secretary of the Board. He also participates in the Beach/Bay walks and helped with the Dolphin Challenge Ocean Science Bowl.

Treasurer - Tawy Muehe

Tawy was a member of the first Spring 2001 class and has never stopped serving the chapter. She has served as Membership Chairperson and developed the present method of recording volunteer and advanced training hours, then served as Treasurer, promotes our food, fun & fellowship within the chapter by providing food for special events (shrimp boil, chili supper, etc.). Tawy is coordinator for the Camp Wild event in June, board member of FoGISP and volunteers with the FeatherFest event and helps these organizations behind the scenes with computer work.

Membership - Jim Duron

Jim was a member of the 2008 class and also served as his class representative. Jim is quite active with prairie restoration efforts all across the Bay. He serves as the

lead on prairie restoration activities at Texas City Prairie Preserve and also was our Chapter Membership chairperson. He currently is filling that position temporarily until a permanent replacement is identified.

Volunteer Services Director - Diane Humes

Diane joined the Gulf Coast chapter in class of 2000; she transferred to Galveston Bay as soon as she could. She works on the Wetland Restoration Team, Texas Stream Team, Turtle Patrol, the AT Team, the Communications Team, and served as chapter President and Vice President. She is a Prairie Friday volunteer, member of the Burn Team, the transect team, and is a deckhand on the Bayou Ranger. She loves to give tours around the solar system - ask about the planetarium sometime!

Class Training Director - Shirley Foster

Shirley was a member of the Spring Class of 2004 and immediately joined the AT Team and has been with it ever since. Many previous activities have been in Wetlands, prairie, etc. but have been narrowed down to Galveston Island, mostly with Friends of Galveston Island State Park (FoGISP).

2012 Class Representatives -**Martha Melcher and Cindy Howard**

Martha is a rep from last year's class who has enjoyed volunteering on a variety of projects, such as potting at TCPP and helping Rita Smith teach fish printing at Camp Wild. Martha is also a mentor for the upcoming Training Class.

Cindy was in the 2012 training class, and was the alternate, but got moved up when Cip became board secretary. For her MN adventures she is working with the FoGISP group on bay and beach walks and field trips for school groups at GISP. She also assisted with the Dick Benoit group at GISP planting dune grasses. Currently Cindy is working with the Education Outreach Committee and assisting with the upcoming Training Class.

A little side note on Cindy - she leads trips down the Amazon for UHCL.

Falling Stars by Diane Humes

*Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Never let it fade away.*

*Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Save it for a rainy day.* Perry Como

On February 15, 2013, a "falling star" blazed across Russia with a blinding fireball that shattered windows with its sonic blast, injuring over a thousand people. A

"falling star" or "shooting star" is a meteor - the streak of light in the night sky caused by heating of a meteoroid entering Earth's atmosphere and the glowing particles it sheds as it disintegrates. A meteoroid is a space object from an asteroid or comet - smaller than 1 meter and larger than 10 μm in diameter. Anything smaller is a micrometeoroid or dust. Most meteoroids that cause meteors are about the size of a pebble.



Meteors may occur in showers, occurring at consistent times during the year, which arise when the Earth passes through a stream of debris left by a comet, or as "random" or "sporadic" meteors, not associated with a specific stream of space debris. Found largely by members of the public and by accident, a number of specific meteors have been observed with enough detail that orbits could be calculated for the meteoroids producing them. All of the orbits passed through the asteroid belt.

Millions of meteors enter the Earth's atmosphere daily, amounting to around 15,000 metric tons of meteoroids, micrometeoroids and different forms of space dust each year. Asteroids are larger than 1 meter in diameter. Objects larger than several meters can explode in the air and cause great damage; some skip out of the atmosphere and return to space. When a meteoroid, comet, or asteroid lands on the ground it is called a meteorite.



Until the 1800's, meteors were thought to be atmospheric phenomena, unrelated to astronomical events. People have reported stones falling from the sky throughout history, but learned men had discounted these notions as impossible. In 1807, two professors from Yale University investigating a meteorite fall in Weston, CT concluded that the stones had come from the sky. Upon hearing the news, President Thomas Jefferson remarked, that he

"would more easily believe that two Yankee professors would lie than that stones would fall from heaven."

Showing how much we have learned in 200 years, on October 6, 2008, a small asteroid - about 4 meters in diameter, weighing 80 metric tons or 80,000 kilograms - was observed in space on a collision course with Earth. The asteroid, 2008 TC3, entered the Earth's atmosphere the next day as a fireball, exploding at an estimated 37 kilometers elevation above the Nubian Desert in Sudan. A ground search in December 2008, led by scientists from SETI Institute and the University of Khartoum, turned up 10.5 kilograms of meteorites in 600 fragments.

Named Almahata Sitta, for the location in the which they were found, the name referring to the train station - "Station Six" in Arabic - between Wadi Halfa and Khartoum, these meteorites are very unusual and rare ureilite meteorites, which contain graphite and nanodiamonds and, in this case, amino acids. Although fragments have been recovered from other fireballs streaking across the sky, this was the first time a meteoroid or asteroid had ever been tracked from outer space to the ground and pieces of it recovered.



Presently, collections worldwide contain over 10,000 authenticated meteorites. The three main classes of meteorites are iron, stone, and stony/iron meteorites. Iron meteorites are very strong structurally, the most commonly found, often making it to the ground in one large body - the largest documented about 30 metric tons. They are composed of alloys of iron, nickel, cobalt and precious metals with about 1% of impurities. Stony meteorites are composed of mostly silicate materials, containing some metals and stony/iron meteorites contain about 50% silicate material and 50% metal. The stony meteorites are much weaker - may be as strong as a clod of mud - falling as a shower of small fragments. Some meteorites carry large amounts of water, bound up chemically, and organic compounds.

Meteorites carry an atomic signature from exposure to cosmic rays in space, which can distinguish them from earth rocks. All meteorites contain larger quantities of

sulfur than terrestrial rocks and give off a strong sulfur odor when heated. Brimstone, anybody? Meteorites can land anywhere on earth, although most particles burn up in the atmosphere; since dense vegetation hinders a search and 72% of the world is ocean, most are found in desert regions or Antarctica, generally about 1 recovered meteorite per year per million square kilometers of ground area.

Of course, as witnessed in Chelyabinsk, Russia on February 15, 2013, rocks falling through the atmosphere from outer space can do a lot of damage. This recent event, recorded by cell phone cameras and posted on YouTube, involved a 7000 - 10,000 ton asteroid, about 17 meters in diameter, entering the atmosphere at 20 kilometers per second, which exploded in the lower atmosphere above Russia, releasing 500 kilotons of energy. An incident of this magnitude is relatively rare, expected to occur only about once in 100 years.

The Chelyabinsk asteroid streaked to Earth in the daytime, when it was difficult or impossible to track. Coincidentally, another asteroid, 2012 DA14, was being tracked, flew past Earth as scheduled, with no incident, also on February 15, 2013; both came from the asteroid belt, beyond Mars. Comets and asteroids have bombarded Earth and all planetary bodies in our solar system since before history. Impacts with the atmosphere, ground or ocean can have devastating consequences - fires, sonic blasts, craters, tsunamis leading to devastation, possibly worldwide, as evidenced by the Chicxulub Crater in the Yucatan, which is the mass extinction event of 65 million years ago.

What is the evidence for fireballs or craters in Texas? A fireball streaked past Houston on December 7, 2012, to name one. The Meteoritical Society has recorded 1910 meteorites either collected or observed to fall in the United States in the last 205 years, of which 294 are from Texas. And, the Meteor Crater at Odessa at 500 feet in diameter (152.4 meters), and the Sierra Madera Crater near Fort Stockton at 13 kilometers diameter, are clear evidence that huge impacts have happened in the past.

To learn more about the history, science, and scary possibilities, get a copy of "Rain of Iron and Ice: the very real threat of comet and asteroid bombardment" by John S. Lewis, Helix Books, 1996. Spacewatch, <http://spacewatch.lpl.arizona.edu/index.html>, says that, "there are no known asteroids or comets that are on a collision course with the Earth in the predictable future. There are several potentially hazardous asteroids with orbits that could make them dangerous sometime in the future. However, currently none of these objects poses a danger much above the background chance that the Earth is hit by something not yet discovered." Check for potentially hazardous asteroids (PHA's): <http://www.minorplanetcenter.net/iau/lists/PHACloseApp.html>.

"There are as many comets in the sky as fishes in the sea." Johannes Kepler.

On Making Certain Anything has Happened

By Robert Frost

*I could be worse employed
Than as a watcher of the void
Whose part should be to tell
What star if any fell*

*Suppose some seed-pearl sun
Should be the only one;
Yet still I must report
Some cluster one star short.*

*I should justly hesitate
To frighten church or state
By announcing a star down
From say the Cross or Crown.*

*To make sure what star I missed
I should have to check on my list
Every star in sight
It might take me all night.*

Fun on the beach at Galveston Island State Park during the Dolphin Challenge field trip!

See "Guppies from Julie" for the full story.



Guppies from Julie

Thank You from Dolphin Challenge!

Fourteen teams from across the nation rolled into Galveston for Dolphin Challenge in late February. These high school students had been preparing for the ocean sciences quiz bowl for months and the time had arrived!

But wait a minute! Just because these kids are some of the brightest in the state, they still wanted to have fun on the Texas coast! So, many headed to Galveston Island State Park to experience a beach and bay field trip with Master Naturalists Nathan Veatch, Frank Budny and me. Logan Resps and Jim Hiney from Texas Sea Grant also joined us.

The students participating in the field trip came from Arkansas and Texas (Coppell and New Caney). One student from Arkansas had never seen the ocean before and was thrilled! She actually wore her dress shoes into the marsh because she was determined not to miss a thing.

Early Saturday morning, 20 Master Naturalists arrived at Ball High School ready to volunteer for the competition. Rita Smith provided the morning elixir of coffee and volunteers set up rooms with buzzers, timers, computers, and score sheets.

The students showed up ready to go! Many of the students wore team t-shirts and my favorite, geeky glasses held together with tape in the middle!

Students, with buzzers in hand, were nervous as were volunteers. After a practice round, everyone settled in for a long brain teaser of a day. Finally Dolphin Challenge was off and running!

Texas Master Naturalist volunteers served as officials during the competition: moderators, science judges, rules judges, score keepers and time keepers. Dolphin Challenge could not have happened without Texas Master Naturalists!

The Galveston Bay Area Chapter also sponsored snacks and goodies for the students. Thank you!

The score was close and the final question determined the winner - Village School Team B! The winner will go on to the national competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in April! As awards were handed out at the end of the day, the students let out a huge cheer for the Texas Master Naturalists!

Thank you, Texas Master Naturalists, for making Dolphin Challenge a great success and so memorable for the students!



The Midden

Published by **Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists.**

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For comments on this issue or to suggest content for future issues, please contact **Nathan Veatch** 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

May 5th

If you have Advanced Training or Volunteer Opportunities, please submit information to Maureen Nolan-Wilde, [mnwtiki@comcast.net](mailto:mnwitiki@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.

April and May Activities

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter Meeting - April 4th

Galveston Bay Plan

Presenter: Bob Stokes, Galveston Bay Foundation

6:30 Social, 7:00 Presentation, 8:00 business meeting

AgriLife Extension Office 1 Hour AT

Paddling Along the Bayou - Mar 30, Apr 20, May 25

Time TBA - 3 1/2 Hours AT - locations vary

Each paddle trip will cover; paddling techniques and tips, invasive plants, and setting actual traps for the invasive cactus moth.

Presenter - Vic Madamba

Register with Vic Madamba vik-n-rumi@att.net

Dune Plants - April 27th

9-Noon - 3 Hours AT - GISP

For information contact Nathan Veatch. (Class is full at time of printing.)

Presenter - Steve Alexander, GBA TMN

Insect Collection - April 30th

Time TBA - hours TBA - Texas City Prairie Preserve

Class size will be very limited. If you take the class, you will be expected to create an insect collection for a chapter partner.

Presenter - TBA

Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Master Naturalist Skills - May 23rd

9-Noon - 3 Hours AT - AgriLife Extension Office

Journaling, binoculars, spotting scopes and fields guides

Presenter - TBA

Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Ongoing

Galveston Island State Park

10 am at the Welcome Center

Every Saturday- Beach Explorations

Every Sunday- Bay Explorations

Tours 1 to 1 1/2 hours long. Bring water and family.

Heritage Book Study Group

First Monday of every month. AgriLife Extension Office

10am-Noon 2 hours AT

Contact: Elsie Smith (409)945-4731

April 1st we will start reading: *Goodbye to a River* by John Graves

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

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: Sara Snell snellsw@verizon.net.

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 Stennie Meadors Stenmead@aol.com

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 - April 2nd and May 7th
2-4 at the Extension Office

Committee Meetings

Communication - May 6th

9-Noon at Extension office

Advanced Training - April 15th and May 20th

10-Noon at Extension office

Education/Outreach - Meets as needed. None currently scheduled.

Stewardship - Meets quarterly. Next meeting to be determined