

The Midden

Photo by Ron Wooten

Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists

June 2012

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I Saw the Eagle by Diane Humes, President 2012

Driving home, crossing Mud Lake, also known as Armand Bayou, on a beautiful day not long ago, I spotted a very large, dark bird with a white tail and white on the head. He circled Mud Lake as I drove and looked; of course, he was gone when I was safely parked. But, the excitement remains - I saw the eagle!

The training class of 2012 is now complete - 22 new master naturalists - and a lot of chapter members, old and new, have certified for 2012. Our membership is 193 strong on the roster and 110 people attended our April chapter meeting.

Everyone has his or her own likes and dislikes, issues and motivations GBAC members thrive on Food, Fun and Friendship, but what is it that gets us up in the morning? What drives us to keep at it?

Members put in countless hours behind the scenes to make our Chapter work - planning, teaching, organizing, paying bills, recording hours, signing papers, making food, bringing coffee. I encourage everyone to take a turn at some of these tasks; you make great friends and have a lot of fun!

I suspect we work so hard because we enjoy being outside and the opportunities we relish as Master Naturalists - did you do Sea Turtle Patrol or the Hawk Watch or plant prairies and wetlands in your previous life? - and the desire to share our experiences. We want to feel the sun on our faces and the wind, see flowers and trees and the eagle, and have our friends and grandchildren enjoy them also.

Next Chapter Meeting

June 7th

Dickinson Watershed

By

Charriss York
Texas Coastal Watershed
Program

At Carbide Park



I arise in the morning torn between a desire to save the world and a desire to savor the world. That makes it hard to plan the day. E. B. White

Prairie Ponderings by Dick Benoit

Most of our effort with prairie restoration is with the plants of the Coastal Tallgrass Prairies, but ultimately the animals that inhabit them are also our concern. Only when the plant community is balanced and large enough do we have functioning animal communities.

One of our original efforts to evaluate this balance was done during a five year study from 1998 to 2002 at Texas City Prairie Preserve with A Citizen Science: Project for Wintering Grassland Birds called Project Prairie Birds sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Its mission was to determine the wintering distribution of grassland species to identify habitat preferences for these species and utilize these data collected to develop land management recommendations for conservation planning.



Savanna Sparrow from Wikipedia

Initially a training session helped with identifying the birds commonly seen in these grasslands in the winter. A team of 2 to 4 volunteers worked with a leader to set up 10 transects in the Preserve. These were poles set 100 meters apart in various habitats. We had 3 transects along the dike, one in the southern side of Lake Moses, one near the nature center, some in the wetland habitat, and the pastures along the main north/south road. We walked these transects once a month during the winter recording the birds that were flushed. The person walking the main line carried a long bamboo pole about 12 feet long in each side to help better flush birds. One person recorded, the rest helped identify the birds. Over the five year span we had four different leaders: Cecilia Rilley, from the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, and Matt Williams, Dan Brooks and Brandon Crawford from the Nature Conservancy. We had a variety of helpers: Gib Larson, Mitch Philpot, Bob Sobotik, C.J. Blessing, Sandra Linton, Fran Ryan, and Joy Hester.

Because of the diverse habitats studied the bird species varied, but the most common birds flushed were Savanna Sparrows with Sedge Wrens a close second. Other species in order of decrease were LeConte's Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, Seaside Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Common Snipe. In the five year study we never encountered Prairie Chickens in the transects, but twice while traveling from transect to transect we flushed a flock of more than 12 Prairie Chickens.

Since this study we have been working at habitat restoration at TCPP and continued monitoring of the Prairie Chickens as well as having teams conducting weekly bird surveys. These projects are long range in nature, but well worth the effort to insure restoration of the plant and animal communities.

Wetland Wanderings by Diane Humes

The 2011 Drought - the most intense drought since 1895 when record-keeping began in Texas - encompassed the entire state from October 2010 to September 2011. Low rainfall actually helps raise temperatures. According to the Office of the State Climatologist, each inch of rainfall below normal in Texas is associated with summertime temperatures at least half a degree warmer and in Drought 2011 average rainfall amounts were 16" below normal. You don't have to do the math to remember it was hot.

The seemingly endless hot, dry weather, evaporating reservoirs, lakes, and streams, terrifying wildfires, saddening tree death, closure of fisheries and oyster

beds, frustrating and expensive water line breaks - precious water wasted - caused worry everywhere. Would the drought never end?

The good news is that the global patterns causing the drought do tend to reverse themselves over time, probably leading to an extended period of wetter weather for Texas, though this may not happen for another three to fifteen years. Although currently lessening, drought may linger through at least summer 2012.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Clean Rivers Program, our area's Texas Stream Team administrator, recently issued a report on the drought

called, "How's Where's the Water?". Losses were huge - 500 million trees killed, 4 million acres lost to wildfire, and billions of dollars spent in recovery - and water monitoring was often impossible due to low (or lack of) water flow. Every black cloud has its silver lining; this did save money since fewer samples were sent to a lab for analysis, and the City of Houston was able to remove great quantities of usually inaccessible debris, like old cars, from lakes.



At sites where monitoring was possible, the data showed greatly increased salinity and conductivity readings and drastically reduced bacterial counts - a wonderful thing, but proof only that runoff carries bacteria, not that the contamination was gone, since counts increased again after rains. Monitors noted low dissolved oxygen readings, along with higher water temperatures, conditions promoting algal blooms and fish kills.

Wetland organisms are adapted to environmental conditions on the edge between land and water and can withstand extremes of either drought or flood remarkably better than non-wetland organisms. Wetland plants, unfazed by Hurricane Ike's floodwaters, sprang back up; water lilies at Sheldon Lake are now blooming after baking in the hot, dry ground from April 2011 until December 2011. All ponds are now holding water ranging 3.5 to 11.5 inches deep. However, even the most resilient organisms need water at some stage of life.

Looking into the distant future, the safest bet is that global temperatures will continue to increase, causing Texas droughts to be warmer and more strongly affected by evaporation. Seems like now is a good time to begin planning for the future. The best method to survive without water is not to be placed in that situation in the first place.

Estuarine Smorgasbord by Nathan Veatch

On Saturday, April 28, 26 eager botanists attended an Advanced Training workshop presented by Dr. Steve Alexander at the Nature Center of Galveston Island State Park. The group arrived early and stocked up on coffee and "goodies" furnished by Sharon Daniel-Pels, Brenda Gonzales, Cindy Liening, Jenny Shuffield and coffee by Rita Smith. At nine am sharp we crowded into the side room to best view the PowerPoint on the center's large TV screen.



For the next hour and a quarter, everyone listened to Steve not only discuss plants that we would see in the field, but also how the focus of biology had changed as he had gotten his PhD at LSU. The "Estuarine Smorgasbord" workshop was designed to familiarize Master Naturalists with the major producers of Galveston Island State Park.

The field trip portion identified the 15 common marsh plants along the bay shoreline and discussed marsh plant adaptations and productivity. We had gotten only a few feet from the road when Steve began pointing out plants and we observed various ways the plants eliminate salt by observing with magnifying glasses and tasting or chewing these plants. The hour and a half of field observation flew by and a few remained to question Steve on finer points.

We want to thank Steve for enthusiastically sharing his knowledge with our chapter and the Friends of Galveston Island volunteers. The workshop went smoothly with the help of Bill and Jaime Ashby, Frank Budny, Emmeline Dodd and Shirley Foster. Nathan Veatch was Project Lead.

If you're interested in volunteering in the Nature Center, or as an interpretive guide on beach or bay walks, please contact Nathan Veatch at nveatch@swbell.net



Information on submerged plants is available at <http://txmarspecies.tamug.edu/index.cfm>.

Salt marsh plants of West Galveston Bay

Smooth cordgrass *Spartina alterniflora*
 Saltmeadow (marshhay) cordgrass *Spartina patens*
 Gulf cordgrass *Spartina spartinae*
 Saltwort *Batis maritima*
 Salt-flat grass *Monanthochloe littoralis*
 Sea ox-eye daisy *Borrchia frutescens*
 Annual glasswort *Salicornia bigelovii*
 Saltgrass *Distichlis spicata*
 Coastal (Virginia) dropseed *Sporobolus virginicus*
 Sea-lavender *Limonium nashii*
 Sea-blite *Suaeda linearis*
 Marsh elder *Iva frutescens*
 Blackrush (needlerush) *Juncus roemarianus*
 Carolina wolfberry *Lycium carolinianum*
 Perennial glasswort *Salicornia virginica*

Sea grasses of West Galveston Bay

Shoal grass *Halodule wrightii*
 Widgeon grass *Ruppia maritima*

Great Start to 2012 Sea Turtle Patrols by Steve Alexander

Sea turtle patrols on Galveston Island began again April 1, and results from the first month indicate another record-breaking year for Kemp's ridley nesting on the Upper Texas coast.

In the six years our chapter has participated in sea turtle patrols, volunteer participation has grown significantly, from a handful of volunteers in 2007 to approximately 30 this year. And the nesting activity of Kemp's ridley sea turtles on the Upper Texas coast has increased significantly as well.

In the first month of the nesting season, seven Kemp's ridley sea turtles have come ashore to nest on Galveston Island and on areas of Surfside.

The first nester came ashore at Galveston Island State Park on the morning of April 13. She deposited 112 eggs in her nest dug on the upper beach. She went back into the water undetected, leaving behind only tracks and a load of eggs buried in the sand.

Later that morning another nester came ashore on East Beach. She was spotted by a visitor (Jim) and after covering 115 eggs in her nest, was fitted with a satellite tag before release. She was named Mij (Jim backwards) and can be seen on her nest in the accompanying photo.

The next day, another nester came ashore west of Jamaica Beach. She was discovered by a young girl and,

after depositing 95 eggs, was satellite tagged and released. This nester was named Ana in honor of the young girl who was on Galveston Island celebrating her birthday.



All 322 eggs deposited by these three ladies were excavated and transported for safe incubation at a facility on Padre Island.

During the last week in April, another four nesters came ashore. One of these was a return nester named Missy who came ashore on the west end near the Escapes

condominium. She was detected by patrollers, and after depositing 103 eggs, was taken for examination. It was then she was identified as a returning nester who had been tagged before. She was fitted with a new satellite tag and released.

Mij, Ana, Missy and other satellite tagged sea turtles can be followed on <http://www.seaturtle.org>. Just go to "Track

a Sea Turtle" on the web site, and then scroll down to the bottom to find "TAMUG/NPS/NRDA Kemp's ridley nesters 2012".

Sea turtle patrols will continue through mid-July, so anyone interested in patrolling still has plenty of time to get involved after taking some training. If interested, contact Jessica DiGiulio at jessicadigiulio@gmail.com.

Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program by Vic Madamba

Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP) is a program coordinated by the Texas Sea Grant College Program, to educate the public about problems caused by monofilament line left in the environment, and to encourage recycling of fishing line. Did you know that monofilament line can last 600 years in the aquatic environment?



Monofilament is single-strand, high-density nylon fishing line used on fishing reels. When used fishing line is

carelessly discarded into the environment, it can and does kill wildlife! It can also tangle boat propellers and injure boaters. You may already be recycling paper, plastic, and aluminum, but I'd rather save a bird, fish, seal and many other animals from being killed slowly by fishing line.

I would like to thank Mary and Todd Hoepfner, owners and managers of Seabrook's Marburger's Sporting Goods, who have volunteered their time to save unused and used monofilament line for recycling. I would also like to thank the City of Seabrook for installing posts at several locations, making it possible for recycling bin placement. We also have new MRRP volunteers, John and Lynn Wright, from our recent Master Naturalist Class, along with four others waiting for equipment and supplies for bin construction.

If you want to be a "Reel" recycler, contact me at: vik-n-rumi@att.net and I'll make sure you get the necessary information and handout to have a real effect on the environment.

Master Naturalist Ramblings and Connections by Diane Humes

This is the "Year of the Bat", the TMN 2012 certification pin is a Mexican free-tail bat, and the topic at our April chapter meeting was "Bats", presented wonderfully by Diana Foss, TPWD urban biologist. Our meeting was well attended, including spouses, which often has unexpected consequences, herein described.

When Diana described Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bat, *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*, the spouse sitting beside me perked up his ears. He later professed more familiarity with an Ordovician brachiopod fossil, *Rafinesquina sp.* than a Texas bat with large ears, but, knowing that the genus and species names for these creatures had to be Latinized forms of a name, we wondered who this

Rafinesque person was. Since the internet offers almost instant gratification, we got to work.

Constantine Samuel Rafinesque, perhaps the greatest of all early naturalists, was born in Constantinople - now Istanbul - in 1783 to a French merchant father and German merchant's daughter and lived in France and Italy. He was a prodigy and genius, mostly self-educated. At age 12 he was collecting plants for a herbarium and by age 14 had taught himself perfect Greek and Latin in order to decipher the footnotes in books.

Rafinesque never attended university; instead, he traveled to America at age 19 to apprentice at the Clifford

House mercantile firm in Philadelphia. For two years he roamed the woods between Virginia and Pennsylvania, collecting plants and animals and corresponding with other naturalists. He returned to Europe and lived in Sicily, working as secretary to the U.S. Consul, trading in commodities, while exploring for plants and identifying scientifically unrecorded fishes in the Palermo market. During his ten years in Sicily, he published his first of his 220 essays and scientific publications.



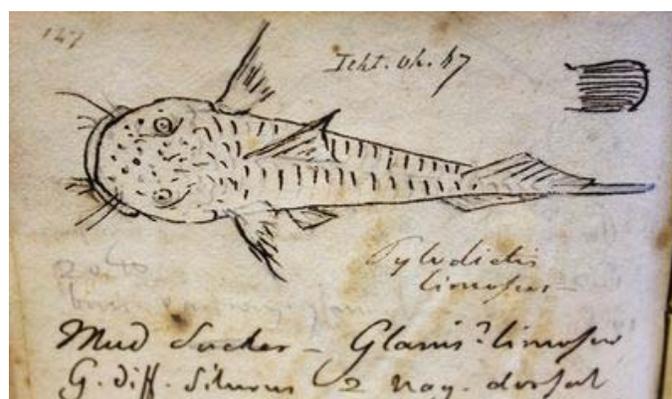
Rafinesque returned to America in 1815 and remained until his death in 1840. Shipwrecked upon arrival, he lost everything - books, specimens, including 60,000 shells and unpublished manuscripts - and had to start over. Brilliant, but disorderly in mind and habit, he constantly delved into and wrote copiously on such varied fields of knowledge as botany, fish and other aquatic life, chemistry, medicine, astronomy, Indian languages and mounds, the Bible and poetry. He had a mania for discovering and naming new forms of plant and animal life; he named specimens from the Lewis and Clark Expedition, including Mule Deer, *Odocoileus hemionus*, Black-tailed prairie dog, *Cynomys ludovicianus*, and White-footed mouse, *Peromyscus leucopus*, gave binomial names to 6700 plants, and catalogued fishes of the Ohio River.

He worked prodigiously at whatever he did and flooded the taxonomic literature with reports, which seemed incomplete, confusing, and excessive to other naturalists. Considered eccentric, he offended many of his contemporaries, who later dismissed his findings and excluded them from the biological literature, treating him

with pity and contempt, yet his meticulous field notes show beautiful landscape drawings, sketches of specimens with thorough descriptions, measurements and many hand-drawn maps.

In his autobiography, "A Life of Travels", he says, "*Versatility of talents and of profession, is not uncommon in America; but those which I have exhibited in these few pages, may appear to exceed belief: and yet it is a positive fact that in knowledge I have been a Botanist, Naturalist, Geologist, Geographer, Historian, Poet, Philosopher, Philologist, Economist, Philanthropist...by profession a Traveller, Merchant, Manufacturer, Collector, Improver, Professor, Teacher, Surveyor, Draftsman, Architect, Engineer, Pulmist, Author, Editor, Bookseller, Librarian, Secretary and I hardly know myself what I may not become as yet: since whenever I apply myself to any thing, which I like, I never fail to succeed, if depending on me alone, unless impeded and prevented by lack of means, or the hostility of the foes of mankind.*"

Rafinesque discovered America in its youth, hardly imaginable to us today; he knew Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, and John James Audubon. Traveling, mostly on foot, the better to "herborize", he "*was enabled to detect a great number of New Species, and examine many plants alive in full bloom in their native wilds.*" He advised the practical botanist to "*be fully prepared to meet dangers of all sorts in the wild groves and mountains of America. The mere fatigue of a pedestrian journey is nothing compared to the gloom of solitary forests, when not a human being is met for many miles, and if met he may be mistrusted; when the food and collections must be carried in your pocket or knapsack from day to day; when the fare is not only scanty but sometimes worse; when you must live on corn bread and salt pork, be burnt and steamed by a hot sun at noon, or drenched by rain, even with an umbrella in hand, as I always had.*" He spoke of mosquitoes, flies, ants, wasps, but "*ticks the worst of all are unavoidable...spiders...hateful snakes...rough, muddy roads and blind paths.*"



Again, in his words, "*I think to have already gone over nearly 25,000 miles, on the surface of the earth, half by sea, and half by land, or on rivers, canals, etc. Nearly the fourth or 6,000 miles have been pedestrian journeys, the most arduous,*

but the most useful of all. These travels have not been performed by racing; but at leisure, always observing, collecting, surveying, mapping, drawing, and accumulating treasures of knowledge if not of metals. I have travelled by nearly all the possible manners, except by Camels and in Balloons. By land I have travelled on foot and on horseback, with mules and asses, in stages, coaches, carts, waggons, litters, sedan chairs, sledges, railroad cars, etc. and even on men's back...By water I have tried canoes, boats, felucas, tartans, sloops, schooners, brigs, ships, ships of war, rafts, barges, tow boats, canal boats, steam boats, keel boats, arks, scow, etc. These travels have costed me between \$8,000 to \$10,000, which with the interest would now be a fortune. Since I have seldom travelled except at my own expence, altho' sometimes on business. I have never been sent nor paid by amateurs, societies or governments, like so many other learned travellers."

Rafinesque had insight about plant geography, plant succession, fossil stratigraphy and impermanence of species. "Many botanists mistake real botanical species for varieties or viceversa. In fact all species might have been varieties once, and many varieties are gradually becoming species by assuming constant and peculiar characters", he wrote, anticipating Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. He knew he was ahead of his time, "If I have often "gone beyond the actual state of knowledge in my views and opinions, or anticipated on future knowledge, it was with the noble aim of adding my mite to the mental improvement of mankind."

Rafinesque reckoned that he had surveyed plant species in more states than any other botanist, perhaps with the exception of Thomas Nuttall, who named the genus *Rafinesquia* for him in 1841 - the genus now having two

species - California plumeseed, *R. californica* Nutt. and New Mexico plumeseed, *R. neomexicana* A. Gray. In addition, he is honored with, *Rafinesquina* sp., the brachiopod fossil, and its family *Rafinesquinidae*, named for him in 1892. Knowing how often scientific names change, more of Rafinesque's nomenclature still stands than that of any other taxonomist.

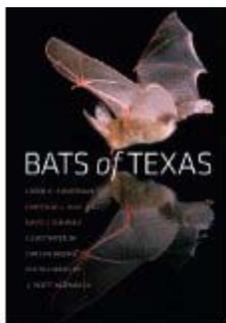


Although I still do not know why a big-eared bat bears his name, Constantine Samuel Rafinesque, who died one hundred years before most of us were born, still can teach curious naturalists. In closing his autobiography, he said, "May this inspire youthful minds with a wish to do as well; and the friends of sciences with the wish to know me, or patronize the labors of my old age: permit me at last to produce under their shield, those works, fruits of my travel and researches, which I desire to leave as monuments of my life and exertions."

Heritage Book Study Group by Nelda Tuthill

June marks the finishing discussion of *A Naturalist's Guide to Aransas Wildlife Refuge* and July will mark the start of discussion of *Bats of Texas*.

Texas is home to all four families of bats that occur in the United States, including thirty-three species of these important yet increasingly threatened mammals. No other state has a bat fauna more diverse, from the state's most common species, the Brazilian free-tailed bat, to the rare hairy-legged vampire. The introductory chapter of *Bats of Texas* surveys bats in general—their appearance,



distribution, classification, evolution, biology, and life history—and discusses public health and bat conservation.

An account for each species follows, with pictures by an outstanding nature photographer, distribution maps, and a thorough bibliography.

In April, the chapter enjoyed Diana Foss's presentation on bats. The Book Study Group will now delve more deeply to learn more about these Texas mammals.

The Group meets the first Monday of each month at Texas City Prairie Preserve 10 AM to 12 Noon. For more information contact Elsie Smith at 409-945-4731 or esmith2488@aol.com. Two (2) hours of advanced training credit are earned at each meeting.

Guppies from Julie

Camp Wild

Summer is upon us and that means Camp Wild! If you have not had the opportunity to volunteer with Camp Wild, don't miss this out this year! Camp Wild is held from June 4 to 8, 2012 at Galveston Island State Park.

Camp Wild is a blast and there are all sorts of volunteer opportunities! If you would like to be a Camp Wild volunteer, please contact Tawy Muehe at tawymuehe@earthlink.net. Hope to see you at camp!

Treasures of the Bay Educators Workshop

June is also the month for the Treasures of the Bay Educators Workshop! This mini-Master Naturalist course for teachers is a great way to help teachers bring the wonders of our area to their classrooms and their students. The workshop will be held from June 12-15, 2012. Educators can receive a \$50 stipend - thanks to the Hillcrest Foundation! Help us spread the word to the teachers you may know!

New Pilot Project!

Four Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists are working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct sea turtle tours for the public! This new project will open the doors of the sea turtle facility to the public! Master Naturalists will conduct tours two Thursdays each month as a part of this pilot project. Many thanks to our volunteers - Chris Boodley, Carlos Rios, Bebe Rizo and Maureen Nolan-Wilde!



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

July 6th

If you have Advanced Training or Volunteer Opportunities, please submit information to Verva Densmore, rhdensmore@yahoo.com.



Texas AgriLife Extension Service 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.

June and July Activities

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter Meeting - June 7th

Presenter: Charriss York from Texas Coastal Watershed Program on Dickinson Watershed
6:30 Social, 7:00 Presentation, 8:00 business meeting
Carbide Park 1 Hour AT

The Joy of Recycling/Willow Waterhole - July 10th

10 am - 12:30pm 2.5 Hours AT
Waste Management Houston
Fieldtrip to recycling center and Willow Waterhole
Presenters-WM Staff and Becky Edmondson
Register with Emmeline Dodd txdodd@aol.com

Wetland Plants - July 25th

9 am - Noon 3 Hours AT
Sheldon Lake State Park
First of five plant id workshops. Each workshop will be different. You can attend each workshop individually.
Presenters-Marissa and Andy Sipocz
Register with Marissa Sipocz m-sipocz@tamu.edu

Ongoing

Galveston Island State Park
10 am at the Welcome Center
Every Saturday- Beach Explorations
Every Sunday- Bay Explorations
Tours 1 to 1 ½ hours long. Bring water and family.

Heritage Book Study Group

First Monday of every month. Texas City Prairie Preserve
10am-Noon 2 hours AT
Contact: Elsie Smith (409)945-4731
We are currently reading: *Bats of Texas* by Ammerman, Hice, Schmidly and Brown

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

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, 9 - Noon, Contact: Dick Benoit RBenoitTEX@aol.com

EDUCATION-OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Wild - June 4-8th

GISP, 8am-2pm
Nature camp for 4th and 5th grades from Galveston county schools
Register with Tawy Muehe, tawymuehe@earthlink.net

Treasures of the Bay - June 12-15th

Various locations, 9am-3:30pm
Mini-master naturalist training for teachers
Carpools will be available
Register with Julie Massey jmassey@ag.tamu.edu

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 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 - June 26th, July 31st
2-4 at the Extension Office

Committee Meetings

Communication - July 9th
9-Noon at Extension office
Advanced Training - June 18th
10-Noon at Extension office
Education/Outreach - No meetings scheduled.
Stewardship - Meets quarterly
Next meeting to be determined