The Midden

Broad-winged Hawks at Sylvan Beach by John Wright

Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists June 2016

Table of Contents

President's Corner by Maureen Nolan-Wilde, President 2016

FeatherFest, hawk watch, Ocean Discovery Day, Beach and Bay - Come Out to Play Day, sea-turtle and shorebird monitoring, prairie restoration and school trips at our prairies and state park are just some of the volunteer opportunities worked during the first five months of this year. Meanwhile, our Advanced Training team continues to offer us diverse and fun learning adventures, including raptor and hawk identification, tepee building 101, and journaling, to name just a few.

It is also time to say thank you to the amazing team of Verva Densmore, Cindy Howard, Beverly Williams, and lead Sara Snell that directed the training of the 2016 Master Naturalist class. When faced with more diversions than normal, including inclement weather and the last-minute non-availability of speakers, these four heroes, who were backed by over fifty additional volunteers, provided an incredible journey for the newly-graduated class.

The board and chapter thank Chris Anastas, Ron Morehead and Debi Shelton for their service as 2015 class representatives. Their enthusiasm and leadership were instrumental in the running of the chapter - and who can forget the themed decorations at our 2015 annual event! We welcome the representatives of the 2016 class: William Breaux, Tim Long and Alice Rodgers.

It is time to take a breath and say thanks to everyone whose service has helped make these events a success for our members, our partners, and our Galveston Bay community. For those of you who had to miss any of these events or just need a smile for the day, go to our image database, which serves as a scrapbook for our community's efforts. Our memories and history are preserved thanks to members' pictures and videos.

The second half of the year promises to be action-packed and full of opportunities for us to enjoy and impact our community and its treasures. Be safe! I'm hoping to see you on the beach, at the bay, in the prairie or in the classroom.

Next Chapter Meeting

June 2nd
6:30 pm

Opportunistic management of Chinese tallow trees

By

Dr. Christopher A. Gabler

University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

At Carbide Park

Prairie Ponderings – Prescribed Burns by George Kyame

Snap, Crackle, and Pop! No, I'm not referring to breakfast cereal, but rather, the sound of fire on our coastal prairies.

In these modern times, fire suppression is the standard norm. An 'out of control' wildfire in our crowded urban and suburban habitats certainly cannot be looked upon as a good thing. In fact, the sight of an approaching fire near our homes and property is the stuff of nightmares. Historically, however, fire played a significant role in the health of natural landscapes. Fire removes dead plant material that has accumulated in the previous growing seasons, and, more importantly, recycles and returns nutrients to the soil.

The somewhat frequent fires of the past were often caused by lightning. However, Native Americans and early settlers were well known to set fires as well, with several goals in mind - reducing brush for hunting, attracting bison, or rejuvenating soil for agriculture. Charred plant remains become a rich fertilizer, encouraging new growth.

For our purposes, prescribed burns are an indispensable tool in the land management of our coastal prairies. They are also applicable to forestry management and interior prairie management, but those are separate chapters that share some commonalities and not all. For our coastal prairies, fire retards the encroachment of invasive woody plants, which are susceptible to burning, whereas, our natives are well adapted.

The season for prescribed burning has just ended! As we work tirelessly to restore and preserve the remaining 1% of our coastal prairie, we must entertain the many options for success. The 'radical' thought of torching 25-100 acres a day of this hardy, yet delicate ecosystem is but one; and a necessary one it is.

Anyone can start a fire. In fact, carelessness causes untold habitat and property damage every year. A prescribed burn is anything but just 'starting a fire'!
In fact, it is serious business! Planning, well, requires a plan! That plan begins with choosing a site to burn. Let us call that site a predetermined unit, with borders, or firebreaks.

Once that is established, many factors come into play. The big three are, in no particular order of importance, mostly because none happen without the others, weather conditions, laws and regulations, and the protocol of the anatomy of a prescribed burn.

A safe and proper burnfire requires certain weather conditions. Let us consider wind velocity, wind direction, and humidity. Velocity must be between 6 and 15 mph. Humidity must be between 40 and 60%. Wind direction is more closely tied to the anatomy, which follows later.

Most of our prescribed burns will share a proximity with a large population consisting of residential neighborhoods, businesses, and industries. Laws and regulations are set by many different governing entities for public safety, not including the general chaos of citizens reporting smoke and fire to authorities.

Herein lies the necessary tedium of a slew of phone calls alerting authorities to the intentions of the Prescribed Burn Team.

For starters, a license and permit must be obtained from the state DEQ. On the day of the burn the city fire marshal and department must be notified. The county Department of Health and Environmental Services must be notified. Several other calls are often made to neighborhoods and adjacent businesses and industries. Needless to say, respect and politeness go a long way!

Lastly, the 'Anatomy of a Burn' defines the parameters of the physical undertaking itself. A brief summation is as follows. A unit of acreage is chosen for the burn. That unit will have natural and people-prepared firebreaks (think mowed swales with little or no vegetative fuel). The wind direction determines where the fire is started and where it, in turn, will go. Terms like headfire, backfire, and blackline are the players in the anatomy.

Basically, one uses the wind direction as a tool, starting the fire against the wind to create a 'blackline' where the fuel is consumed, creating a firebreak on the burn unit itself. Once the blackline is set, perimeters can be safely burned. The final burn is the headfire; with safe perimeters established, the wind pushes fire across the whole unit in an often dramatic and fast, hot driving fire.

Safety is paramount. Strategy is discussed and repeated. The Burn Team tends the smoldering perimeter with flappers to pat out the little fires. A water pump vehicle is always on hand to control unwanted ignitions. This process may take 4-6 hours for 25 acres. Careful management and solid communication make for a perfect prescribed burn.

So sign up for an offered burn class, join the team, and watch your emails. (Armand Bayou Nature Center hosts an annual burn training the first Saturday in December. You must be trained to help with a burn.) One of the best tools in coastal prairie restoration is coming to a prairie near you!

Wetland Wanderings – Where Did All the Rain Go? by Diane Humes

Sitting at my computer, watching the rain - my magnolia tree has sighed with relief and popped out a bouquet of fragrant flowers, the house is high and dry, and my only discomfort is cabin fever - my mind has wandered to trying to calculate just how much water has run down the driveway recently. My house is completely average, sitting on a 10,000 square foot lot, with an impervious footprint of about 5,500 square feet, slightly over half my lot, estimating my combined surface areas of house, garage, patio, driveway, and walkways.

Photo by Diane Humes

I calculated that my home's impervious structures could have shed about 17,000 gallons of water, if we got 5 inches of rain. The water level in the neighborhood swimming pool seemed to be up about 5 inches, so that is confirmation that I agree with the official rain gauges. With 800 homes in my subdivision, that means a 5" rainfall would generate nearly 14,000,000 gallons of water just from all the rooftops and driveways in my neighborhood. That's like emptying the neighborhood pool 56 times! If I assume that the streets winding through the subdivision shed as much rain as the homes, then the total is 28,000,000 gallons of water pouring down the storm drain in a 5" rain.

But, what if we had gotten four times that much rain or 20 inches, as the northwest side of Houston has experienced? Then, my house would have generated about 69,000 gallons of runoff water, the neighborhood 55 million or maybe up to a billion gallons, taking into account streets and sidewalks. That is assuming that all the grassy areas could absorb 20 inches with no runoff - what are the odds? It certainly depends on the rainfall intensity - my 5 inches fell in about 4 hours.

In my neighborhood we are fortunate to be within a short and relatively un-developed watershed - Armand Bayou. We have no downstream neighbors and our closest upstream neighbor is Armand Bayou Nature Center with its 2500 acres of riparian forest and prairie/wetland complex acting as a sponge during rainstorms. To put it into perspective, one acre-foot, which is the amount of water one foot deep across an acre, is 325,851 gallons. Although your lawn and garden might or might not be able to absorb more than the average rainfall amount of 2 inches, a coastal tallgrass prairie/wetland area could. I think back to that day when the prairies of Armand Bayou Nature Center nearly became another phase of my subdivision! We are so glad they did not.


Photo by Lana Berkowitz

"Wetlands act as natural sponges that trap and slowly release water over time. This ability to store water in times of heavy rainfall means that wetlands can help prevent flooding. A one-acre wetland can typically store about one million gallons of water, though the degree of flood control depends on many factors such as location, type of wetland and soil permeability", wrote Richard A. Haeuber and William K. Michener. "Natural Flood Control." *Issues in Science and Technology* 15, no. 1 (Fall 1998).

Beach Patrol - Summer Season is here and so are Rip Currents by Steve Alexander

June signals the beginning of another summer tourist season along Galveston Island's beachfront. The warmth and sunshine will draw throngs of people to our beaches to relax, play, and simply have fun.

But in the midst of fun, we want everyone to be safe. So what is there to warn beach goers about along our beachfront, what are the greatest dangers lurking out there that could ruin their visit to the coast?

If they asked, we would surely think of the obvious, warning them of stinging jellyfish, man-eating sharks, pinching crabs, and harmful bacteria. But are these the greatest dangers to their safety?

The definitive answer is "no" if you ask Peter Davis, the person who heads the lifeguard service along Galveston's beachfront. According to Davis, by far the greatest danger is rip currents, accounting for the majority of lifeguard rescues and the majority of drowning deaths in the United States.

Signs warning of rip currents are posted on Galveston beaches. I saw the same signs recently on a vacation trip to the Pacific Ocean beaches of San Diego, California. The signs are effective, clearly depicting the danger of being pulled away from shore by fast moving water. The signs also explain the preferred course of action if caught in a rip current: stay calm, move with the current until it subsides, and only then, try to swim out of it to return to shore.

For additional information on rip currents and other dangers at the beach, consult the United States Lifesaving Association website at www.usla.org.

Be safe and have a wonderful summer at the beach!

The Early People of Texas by Verva Densmore

The rain stayed away and the tepee went up at Carbide Park. Forty Master Naturalists gathered on April 26, 2016 to learn about the Early Peoples of Texas as T.J. Fox and Mike Wehrman did a tag-team presentation that covered more than 11,000 years of early Texas history.

Many of us remember learning about Maslow's hierarchy of needs pyramid when we were in school and T.J. used this model as an entry into the changing populations of people who were early inhabitants of Texas. How did the earliest people find food and what tools did they use? What shelter was common and how did this change over time? Do we have evidence of religious practices?

During the Archaic period, dated from the demise of the mega fauna, and lasting thousands of years, prehistoric people developed highly localized and successful cultures with a broad range of hunting and gathering techniques and different styles of dart points with the atlatl or spear-thrower. Their social groups increased in size; significantly, they returned to a location when it was seasonally advantageous to do so. They built more comfortable shelters by making stone floors and buried their dead more ritualistically, indicating spiritual understanding and ceremony.

The Clovis people, named for the distinctive fluted point projectiles found in Clovis, New Mexico, were true hunter-gatherers, hunting large mammals like mastodon and ancient bison, *Bison antiquus*, much larger than modern-day bison. Clovis people lived in very small family based communities and took shelter in cave and outcroppings. They may have had spiritual practices, suggested by artifacts found at burial sites at Seminole State Park Sinkhole, dating to 11,048 years ago.

T.J. concluded with a discussion of the Galveston Island Karankawa Indians who lived along the Texas coast. Although the subject of many false myths, including the myth that they were cannibals and bloodthirsty, disgusting savages, no evidence has ever been found to substantiate these claims. The Spanish explorer, Cabeza de Vaca, reported them to be skillful fishermen and the kindest parents he had ever encountered.

Mike Wehrman led the second half of the class with a presentation about the tepee and the Plains Indians. He described "ethnotepeeology", or study of culture of the Southern Plains Indians through the lens of the tepee.

Central to the Plains Indian way of life, tepees were owned by the women of the tribe. The women prepared the buffalo hide covers, had complete control over the

interiors, erected and dismantled the tepees when the tribe moved to a new location, and could refuse entry to anyone they chose to exclude.

Prior to 1680, dogs were the tribe's main transport animals, which limited the load to 40-60 pounds, limited the daily mileage, and limited the size of the tepee. After the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, the horse, specifically the mustang, descended from Iberian horses, was introduced to the plains, dramatically changing the lives of the Plains Indians - both Apache and Comanche.

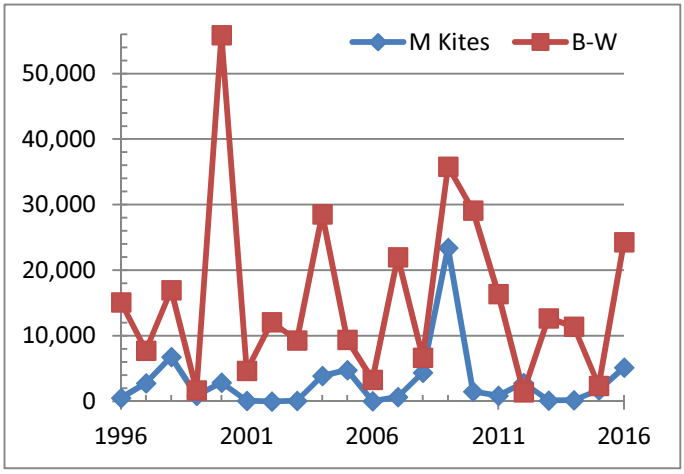
The pre-horse Comanche, for example, were simple hunter/gatherers of the Great Basin and Arkansas River headwaters. The post-horse Comanche became mounted raiders of the southern Great Plains, known for their amazing mobility, and buffalo-hunting prowess. The tepee, proved essential for this nomadic hunting life, allowed tribes to move to greener pastures with their horses - recorded to be as many as 5,000 for a single Comanche village. The Comanche quickly ruled the Southern Plains and controlled an area called Comancheria that was roughly the size of Texas.

Mike demonstrated putting up a model tepee and shared books and artifacts with the class, including a wonderful collection of arrowheads that Sara Snell's father found in Northwest Texas and a beautiful buffalo hide that Mike has for demonstration purposes. Class members viewed the tepee outside on the lawn; to see Chuck Snyder's time-lapse movie of Mike erecting the real tepee at Carbide Park, visit our chapter's Facebook page.

Special thanks to those who brought the delicious food, to Sara Snell for sharing her beautiful arrowheads, and to Chuck Snyder for being our intrepid photographer and ace tech-support.

2016 Sylvan Beach Spring Hawk Watch by Lynn Wright

It has been an outstanding season at the Sylvan Beach Spring Hawk Watch - 30,600 raptors! That is the 5th highest raptor total in the 21 years of the Hawk Watch.



From March 1st to April 30th, hawk watch participants counted 17 species of migrating raptors. Broad-winged Hawks made up about 80% of the hawks counted and Mississippi Kites 17%. Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures were 1.5% of the migrants and Swainson's Hawks another 0.5%. Other raptors seen include Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, American Kestrels, Crested Caracaras, Bald Eagles, White-tailed Kites, and everyone's favorite, Swallow-tailed Kites. Counters often see Red-Shouldered Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks but most of the time, these are local birds living near the watch sites.

This season, the counts were higher than average for many species. The graph shows Broad-winged Hawk and Mississippi Kite totals over the history of the Sylvan Beach Spring Hawk Watch. The 20-year average for Broad-wings is 15,100 birds. This year hawk watchers saw 24,300. Mississippi Kites average 2,900 birds a season, but in 2016, counters documented over 5,100.

In 2016 Swainson's Hawk sightings were three times the 20-year average, Black Vulture counts were twice the average, and this is the first year Crested Caracara have been sighted at the hawk watch. This is consistent with trends showing these birds expanding their territories. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were considerably lower

than average, while their accipiter cousins, the Cooper's Hawk counts were similar to the average.

Almost 50 people participated in the 2016 Sylvan Beach Spring Hawk Watch. Hawk Watchers generally sign up for one day a week between March 1st and April 30th. Each day of the week has a team lead that organizes the count, determines the count location, and reports the data. 2016 Leads were Diane Humes, Ken and Dorothy Russell, Robert and Sarah Patterson, Judy Anderson, and John and Lynn Wright.

So Many Books, So Little Time by Diane Humes

The word "scientist" was first used in the 1830's; prior to that time, people were botanists, chemists, physicists, astronomers, or amateur naturalists. From our perspective, we can safely say that more scientists are alive than have collectively ever lived. Because of science and technology, new discoveries keep coming at a fast pace, and scientists still learn from the past. New books are published and old ones reprinted; we the readers have more options than ever.

So, I find myself on the cusp of summer, with travels planned, and a confession to make: I have a whole stack of un-read books! I have chosen a dozen, "hot off the presses", all published after 2000, two of which I have read, and I would like to recommend them to you. If you read them before me, please tell me what you think.

The first book, which I have read twice, is, *The End of Night. Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light* by Paul Bogard (2013). It is a wonderful account of Bogard's worldwide search for skies dark enough to see stars, historical accounts of what skies were like in Paris and London before electric lights, and what people are doing and can do to preserve our darkness. Take this book with you on your journeys and you will pay closer attention to lighting - guaranteed.

The second selection, in a similar vein, seeks to find the sources of unnatural sound in our world. Gordon Hempton and John Grossmann, in *One Square Inch of Silence: One Man's Search for Natural Silence in a Noisy World* (2010), chronicle their travels in the search for truly quiet places. Do any places exist without man-made sounds? Try it for yourself; read the book

The next four selections fall within the category of natural history. First, *Tree of Rivers: The Story of the Amazon* by John Hemming (2009), is a readable account of the history, ecology, and explorers in the Amazon basin; quite informative, especially wonderful since we have all started going to the Amazon, about which we are mostly ignorant. Hemming has studied and traveled extensively in Amazonia, a region with the world's largest river and a habitat with incredible biodiversity.

Changing pace, *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival* by John Vaillant (2010), a dramatic story of the hunt for a man-eating tiger in Russia's remote Far East, tells of the natural history of a top predator and the people of a land far less known to us than the Brazilian rain forests. Read this true tale of a really cold north woods from the comfort of your beach chair!

The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life by Richard Conniff (2011) recounts the adventures of the collectors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries from Europe who first learned about the amazing plants, animals, and people of the rest of the world and brought them back to the world of science. We owe them much, but do we know their stories?

Tracing some of the consequences of the age of discovery, Christopher Cokinos wrote *Hope is the Thing With Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds* (2009). After moving to Kansas, he witnessed parrots in flight at a local park being chased by a hawk. The parrots were escaped pets, but what if Carolina parakeets still lived in North America? He began researching the lives and deaths of Passenger pigeons, Carolina parakeets, Heath hens, Labrador ducks, Great auks, and Ivory-billed woodpeckers; this book was published on March 24, 2009 to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the shooting of the last wild Passenger pigeon.

An outside point of view is always good, and Robin Wall Kimmerer in her book, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* (2015), contemplates nature from the dual points of view of a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She discusses science and indigenous thinking about what plants and animals can tell us. This looked like a beautiful book.

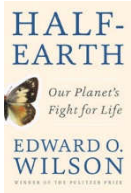
Another book I could not resist was *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel* (2015), by Carl Safina, a scientist with decades of field observations, who has written exquisitely fine books about ocean life and ecosystem ecology. In *Beyond Words* he travels to Amboseli National Park in Kenya, Yellowstone National Park, and the Pacific Northwest, to tell extraordinary stories about the personalities of elephants, wolves, and killer whales - their joys, grief, jealousy, anger, and love. I loved his other books - *Eye of the Albatross*, *Voyage of the Turtle*, *Song for the Blue Ocean*, and *View from Lazy*

Point. Read them in any order; I can't wait to read what he has to say about animal and human consciousness, self-awareness, and empathy.

The next two books consider scientific innovation. In *Biomimicry - Innovation Inspired by Nature* (2002), Janine M. Benyus speaks about the scientists - "biomimics"- who are studying spider silk and prairie grasses, seashells and brain cells, attempting to adapt nature's designs for human use. This approach promises new paradigms in computing, photosynthetic energy, medicine, low-maintenance agriculture, and much more - definitely exciting ideas.

In *The Serengeti Rules: The Quest to Discover How Life Works and Why it Matters* (2016), Sean B. Carroll describes the way life works at all levels, showing the common underlying logic of all life. He recounts how our deep knowledge of the rules and logic of the human body has spurred the advent of revolutionary life-saving medicines, and makes the compelling case that it is now time to use the Serengeti Rules to heal our ailing planet.

Edward Humes (no relation) in 2010 wrote, *EcoBarons: The Dreamers, Schemers, and Millionaires Who Are Saving Our Planet*, to tell dramatic stories of his "eco-barons", those who have devoted their lives and fortunes to saving parts of the world important to them. Including Roxanne Quimby, founder of Burt's Bees, Douglas Tompkins, cofounder of Esprit Clothing, and Carole Allen, founder of HEART, their stories speak of courage, creativity, and passion to do environmental good. We can learn from them.

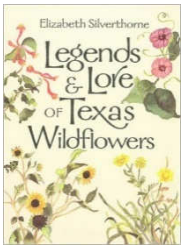


Finally, since his retirement as professor of Entomology at Harvard University, Edward O. Wilson, a man on a mission, has published his thirteenth book in as many years. In *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life* (2016) he describes the status of life on Earth in the Anthropocene. Enumerating the known and unknown species inhabiting our planet, as he is particularly well qualified to do, he then presents his plan to save all life. His plan reserves half the Earth for humans and half for the rest; he explains how it is possible and necessary and that nature could repair itself, to the benefit of all species - plant, animal, human. I read this book as quickly as I could. Dr. Wilson is reasonable and wise; may he write many more books.

Happy reading and please tell me what you think.

Review of *Legends & Lore of Texas Wildflowers* by Madeleine K. Barnes

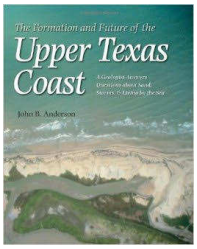
The March and April book selection was about our flowering native plants that can be seen during the spring, summer, and/or fall seasons. This was a timely book for the spring season authored by Elizabeth Silverthorne. While this is not a plant identification guide, it does describe some of the plant details. This is the book if you are interested in learning about the medicinal and/or other uses attributed to forty-four native wildflower families found throughout Texas their history, myths, folklore, and poems.



Going back in time, Ms. Silverthorne explores the origins of plant names such as the “daisy” which is derived from two old Anglo-Saxon words which mean “day’s eye” or “eye of the day” since this flower opens in the morning and closes in the evening. Daisies have been used by Europeans and Native Americans in poultices for the treatment of bruising or swelling as well as the roots and leaves for food. The daisy roots were a good source of yellow dye. Knowing these details adds a greater appreciation of these bright yellow or white flowers bobbing in the prairie wind. In the past, there was folk wisdom about plants that was shared and used. This appears to have been replaced by our current preoccupation with scientific technology, but we are relearning that plants have more unknown benefits for us if we can unlock their secrets.

If you are interested in going beyond plant identification and enhancing your historical plant knowledge, then this is a good selection to start with and makes for easy and fascinating reading. Ms. Silverthorne has done all of the extensive research of facts, folklore, and history for you so that all you have to do is read and enjoy.

We are reading the second half of *Formation and Future of the Upper Texas Coast* by John B. Anderson to be discussed on June 6th. Due to July 4th, we will meet on July 11th to discuss the first half of *Sharing the Common Pool Water Rights in the Everyday Lives of Texans* by Charles R. Porter.



We welcome your participation each month for two hours on the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00a.m.at the Agrilife Extension office. We look forward to seeing you and let us know if you have read any good naturalist books lately! We are looking for books for next.

The 19th GBAC Training Class Has Been Completed by Sara Snell

Wow, 19 classes and 15 years later!!!! Again it takes an army to ensure our training classes are successful. This year was no exception. We had **60+** people help in some way - copying material, putting the materials together, mentoring, making coffee for the classes, bringing morning goodies, smiling and greeting, introducing speakers, coordinating details and sharing talents and being our educators for many of the classes.

We have been challenging our new class members early on to begin their Master Naturalist journey by volunteering and starting their advanced training - and again many of this class has already been certified and RECERTIFIED!!!


Photo by Chuck Snyder

Class representatives who will serve on the board this year are Tim Long and William Breaux with Alice Rodgers as alternate. They will serve for one year and will gain a better understanding of what it takes to ensure the whole chapter stays successful.

I want to thank all those who helped this year. We faced many challenges and somehow Plan B always seemed to come together when needed.

Next year there will be several new faces serving as Class Coordinators with Debi Shelton taking the lead of core coordinators with assistance from Jo Monday, Beverly Lively, and Beth Cooper. Please continue with your support for Debi and the committee.

Sea Grant Texas
Science At Work For Texans
http://TexasSeaGrant.org
Master Naturalist

The Midden

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The Midden is posted on the GBAC-TMN chapter website: www.gbamasternaturalist.org two weeks prior to chapter meetings. Archived issues also on chapter website. If you prefer to receive *The Midden* in hard copy and are not currently receiving it, please contact: Julie Massey, julie.massey@agnet.tamu.edu.

The purpose of *The Midden* is to inform communicate and educate chapter members and the community. If you have an article that contributes this purpose, please submit it to Diane Humes, treimanhumes@earthlink.net

Comments? Suggestions? Want to join the team? Contact: Diane Humes at treimanhumes@earthlink.net.

Midden Editorial Team

Steve Alexander	Comm. Team Chair
Diane Humes	Editor
Carolyn Miles	Production Editor
Chuck Snyder	Photo Editor
Madeleine K. Barnes	Proofreading Editor

The Midden Deadline

for the next issue

July 4th

If you have Advanced Training or Volunteer Opportunities, please submit information to Cindy Howard, howardc@uhcl.edu

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

June and July Activities

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter Meeting - June 2nd; Opportunistic management of Chinese tallow trees by Dr. Christopher A. Gabler
6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting, 7:30 Speaker
AgriLife Extension Office; 1 AT hours

Field Trip to Waste Mgmt Recycling Center - June 30
10a.m. to Noon; 2 hours AT; Car pool available
Location: Waste Management Recycling Center
Presenters - Staff at Waste Management
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 ½ 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
See Pg. 7 for meeting dates and books.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Activities:
Mondays - Galveston Island State Park, Contact: Chatt Smith chattsmith@gmail.com

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 -
- Stormwater Wetland Team, every Thursday, 9 - Noon. Contact: Contact: Mary Carol Edwards mary.edwards@agnet.tamu.edu
- San Jacinto State Park, Contact: Jim Duron wishkad@yahoo.com

Fridays - Prairie Friday, ABNC, 8:30 - 11:30am, Contact: Chatt Smith chattsmith@gmail.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 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 http://txmn.org/gbmn/partners/ for the list, then click on the link to the organization's website..

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(At Extension Office monthly unless specified)

Board Meetings - First Tuesday, 2-4p.m.

Committee Meetings
Communication - July 5th, 9a.m.-Noon
Advanced Training - Third Monday, 10a.m.-Noon
Education/Outreach - Third Wednesday
10 to 11:30a.m.
Stewardship - Meets quarterly.

Spring at Caprock Canyon State Park
The newest addition to the Texas State Bison herd.

(Did you spot the scissor-tailed flycatcher?)