

# The Midden

Cumulus Clouds by Diane Humes

Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists

August 2016

## Table of Contents

Prairie Ponderings	2
Wetland Wanderings	2
Beach Patrol	3
Happy Birthday, National Park Service!	4
Technology and Nature	5
Review of The <i>Formation and Future of the Upper Texas Coast</i>	6
Congratulations to Tom Solomon	7
Guppies from Julie	8
Hymn to America	8
Insert:	
August/September Activities	
Camp Wild	

## Next Chapter Meeting

August 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m.

Talking Trash 2.0

By

Diane Humes  
Chapter Member

At Carbide Park

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

It has been an amazing year and we have only reached August. Our chapter is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary; we awarded our fourth annual college scholarship to Cameron Folsie; and Tom Solomon has achieved and surpassed the 15,000 volunteer service hour milestone. Tom and Dick Benoit are two of only three TXMN who have reached this pinnacle of service and we are so proud to have them as members of our community.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in Camp Wild. It was another successful year of fun and education for both participants and volunteers. Also, congratulations to the San Jacinto State Park planting team on installing a new greenhouse.

Our monitoring activities on behalf of the endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle have come to a close for another year. The impact of this outreach has been truly appreciated.

As we look forward to 2017, the GBAC Board is working on a transition plan, which includes recruiting future chapter leaders. To learn more about roles and responsibilities for board members, go to the website and click on the Resource tab. If you are interested in a leadership opportunity, please contact a current board member.

The annual TXMN state conference is October 21 - 23 in Montgomery, Texas. This conference provides opportunities to attend a diverse menu of advance training sessions, meet other TXMN community members, learn more about the organization, and have fun with like-minded people.

Be safe! I am looking forward to seeing you on the beach, at the bay, in the prairie, or in the classroom.



## Prairie Ponderings - Prairie Falcons by Diane Humes

The Houston-Galveston Area is home to a great number of species, but not all. Our beloved coastal tallgrass prairies host American kestrels, occasional Merlins, and sometimes Peregrine falcons, but the Prairie falcon prefers the drier shortgrass prairies, with high cliffs for nesting. We can hope to see them during migration, but it is not likely. So, to have a chance at seeing this falcon, you need to go to them; I recently looked for them in New Mexico, but, well, better luck next time.



Photo from Wikipedia.org

Prairie falcons rule the skies above arid grasslands from British Columbia to Mexico and east to the northern and western parts of Texas. Scientifically known as *Falco mexicanus*, they are about the size of a peregrine, with similar facial markings. Prairie falcons are brown on the back, with dark patches under the wings. Weighing between 1 and 3.5 pounds, their pointed wings span 3.5 feet, with body length between 14-20 inches. Females are twice the size of males, hence the wide size range.

Reportedly exciting to watch, Prairie falcons are fast and maneuverable, hunting their prey in a fast low-angle

descent from on high, followed by a low to the ground chase, stealthily sneaking behind cover, until the last moment. They may hunt from a post, so it might pay to check out utility poles - just not here! Prairie falcons prefer small mammals - ground squirrels - and birds, when squirrels can't be found - meadowlarks and horned larks and whatever else they can find, if these are unavailable.

Nesting on rock cliffs - overhanging, south-facing cliffs up to 500 feet high, to be specific, which are in short supply around here - they are quite irascible. That is to say, they do not play nice with other creatures near their nests and require quite a bit of space around their nest, although if they can't see around a barrier, they do peacefully co-exist with others. An example of good fences making good neighbors, perhaps.

Prairie falcon population numbers are currently stable; as a species they were mostly unaffected by the DDT poisoning that nearly caused the extinction of eagles, ospreys, and peregrines - probably because of their largely mammalian diet. However, their numbers may be declining in California, Texas, and Alberta and habitat loss, the perennial problem, is most likely the cause.

But - good news - on February 12, 2016, Abraham Lincoln's 207th birthday, President Barack Obama preserved 1.8 million acres of prime desert and grassland habitat in California by designating three new national monuments - Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains - that will also connect to the San Bernardino National Forest, Joshua Tree National Park, and the Mojave Desert National Preserve.

Great day for nesting Prairie falcons, Elf owls, and Golden eagles, plus migrating Swainson's hawks, and many, many other species, including the humans who care about them!

## Wetland Wanderings – Exploration Green by Daniel Walton

In 2011, the Clear Lake City Water Authority purchased a former golf course with big plans in the offing—to turn the 178 acres of forgotten fairways into a model of storm water management that not only addresses the dilemma of flooding, but also provides for a variety of wildlife habitat and recreational spaces to be enjoyed by the citizens of Clear Lake. Like much of the greater Houston area, development in Clear Lake has exploded, and new development has increased impermeable surfaces that result in greater runoff, taxing an area that has already

seen its fair share of flooding. Since 1976, Clear Lake has had seven 100-year flooding events (13.5 inches of rain in a 24-hour period), and three 500-year flooding events since 1979 (19 inches in a 24-hour period). By repurposing the golf course into Exploration Green, the CLCWA and Exploration Green Conservancy is working towards its goal of “preventing increased rainwater runoff due to new development and reducing current flooding where possible through effective and proven methods such as detention.”

From that ambitious purchase in 2011, the Exploration Green project has evolved into a five-phased, community driven enterprise. Texas A&M's Texas Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP) has taken part in designing the storm water basins to accommodate a variety of wetland species. Through grants, a wetland nursery was established on site to grow and propagate 30,000 plants that will be installed in Exploration Green's detention areas on shallow shelves in the excavations. Texas Master Naturalists from Clear Lake and beyond work every week to collect, pot, and grow these plants. Species range from the deep water floating blooms of water lilies, to the pokey but exceptional habitat forming gulf cordgrass. It will take thousands of hours to grow these 30,000 plants, but the result will be invaluable diversity and aesthetic beauty.

This vegetation will not only create habitat for wading birds, ducks, amphibians, turtles, fish, and dragonflies, but also provide ecological benefits. Runoff from the surrounding neighborhoods flows into tributaries of Horsepen Bayou, Armand Bayou, and Clear Lake, before eventually reaching the Galveston Bay. The runoff carries with it pollutants from lawn fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, and oil from our cars. Wetlands act as a natural filter for these pollutants as plants take up and transform these compounds or as the wetland soils trap others. Contributions to clean runoff like those of Exploration Green have a huge impact in the aggregate for the regional effort to keep the Galveston Bay a healthy ecosystem.

By the project's end, Exploration Green will have 39 acres of wetlands, with another 38 acres of open water, teeming with wildlife, and will be a beautiful, as well as utilitarian, green ribbon for all to enjoy. This past June saw some of the first tangible returns from the years of diligent work and careful planning, with the inaugural

planting of the storm water basins excavated this past winter.



Photo by Alex Page

Over two weekends, nearly 100 volunteers from various organizations as well as the community braved the heat, the mud, and an early morning start to help realize the vision of Exploration Green. Teams placed lizard's tail, button bush, and gulf cordgrass in muddy wetland margins; planted pickerel weed, blue flag iris, soft rush, and square stem spikerush along the wetland banks; and anchored yellow and white water lilies in water up to 4 feet deep.

After planting, children released mosquito fish into the detention pond, and a great egret took advantage of the new habitat while it speared fish, as whistling ducks called their approval from above. All during the planting events, the sounds of excavation in other phases of the project could be heard, reminding, but not daunting, the participants of the scope of our shared endeavor, and the work to come.

## Beach Patrol - Natural and unnatural additions to our summertime beaches

by Steve Alexander

When we think of our local beaches, we picture waves breaking on sandy shores littered with seashells, not the once-in-awhile additions to our shores, both natural and unnatural.

The recent heavy rains of April and May brought to our beaches a heavy dose of freshwater and trees, both natural additions. In fact, freshwater input was so great it significantly lowered salinity in the surf to 14 ppt, way below the usual readings of 30-35 ppt.

These same floodwaters scoured riverbanks as water ran downstream, causing tree-lined shores to collapse. Trees were then carried seaward in the flow, eventually stranding along our beachfront. After the April and May



Photo by Steve Alexander

floods, trees littered west end beaches, another gift to our shores, a gift to help build and stabilize the beach by trapping and storing sand.

During summertime, especially on holiday weekends, countless visitors contribute yet another addition to our shores, in this case, unnatural. Their addition is one we see all too often across our landscape: litter in the form of

glass bottles, plastic bags, aluminum cans, Styrofoam plates, and even soiled diapers.

Perhaps like me, you find it hard to understand this type of human behavior. Not only is litter unsightly, but it also drains budgets and is harmful to wildlife through ingestion and entanglement. We likely can't change others, but we can make proper disposal of waste a priority for our families and ourselves.

## Happy Birthday, National Park Service! by Diane Humes

It is said that an Englishman considers one hundred miles a long distance, while an American thinks one hundred years a long time. This summer, 2016, the United States National Park Service celebrates its 100-year birthday. As an aside, it is also the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty. We should be very proud of these accomplishments - saving the best of our national and environmental heritage - and grateful to those who made them possible.



A few U.S. national parks are actually more than one hundred years old. Yellowstone, in 1872 was the first park directly managed by the federal government. Others are brand new; Pinnacles National Park, opened in 2013, preserves the formations of an ancient eroded volcanic landscape, is inhabited by California condors, wildflowers, and 400 species of bees.

Henry David Thoreau, in an article in the *Atlantic Monthly*, first advocated the concept of national preserves in 1858 and Yosemite set the precedent when President Abraham Lincoln approved the Yosemite Grant in 1864 for a park, preserving the land from development and for public use. But the federal land was ceded to California, so Yosemite first became a state park. Later, in 1906, urged by John Muir, President Theodore Roosevelt brought Yosemite back to federal control.

The nineteenth century, especially after the Civil War, saw a great slaughter of wildlife for sport and profit. Game laws, mostly unknown west and south of the Mason-Dixon Line, could not prevent the killing of bison, antelope, jaguars, Carolina parakeets, passenger pigeons, and ivory-billed woodpeckers. When women's fashions turned to hats with feather plumes and dead birds, Florida egrets became targets for plume hunters. All a hunter needed was a shotgun or a semiautomatic

rifle, invented in the 1880's. At its peak, market hunters killed five million birds in one year.

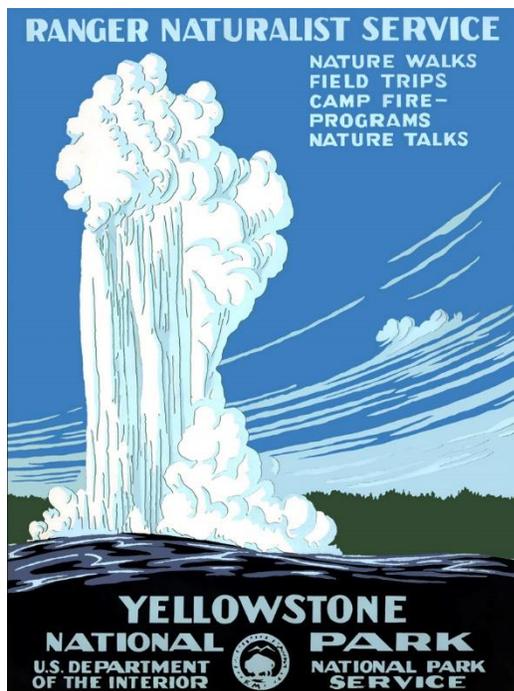
Hunting was big business: Roseate spoonbill and egret (Great and Snowy) plumes, pound for pound were worth more than gold. Hunters also killed plovers, curlew, and turnstones, packing them in barrels for New York to become delicacies in fine Manhattan restaurants. Hats were big business too; the millinery trade employed 83,000 American workers putting feathers on hats.

In 1886, at the height of the bird slaughter, George Bird Grinnell founded the Audubon Society to save the birds. President Theodore Roosevelt - avid birder, outdoorsman, explorer, and big game hunter - gave a huge boost to the national park land inventory; between 1901 and 1909 he was able to preserve 18 national monuments, 4 game preserves, 6 national parks, 51 federal bird reservations (now wildlife refuges) and 150 national forests.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed two historic agreements for birds and parks. On August 16 he penned the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds with King George of Great Britain, which also included Canada. Then, on August 25, in order to consolidate the management of all the nation's preserved lands, President Wilson signed the bill creating the National Park Service "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The National Park Service, expanded and reorganized a few times, as of this February has responsibility for 415 preserved areas found in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These include: national memorials; monuments; battlefields; military, battlefield, and historical parks; lakeshores; rivers; parkways; preserves and reserves; recreation areas; trails; wild and scenic rivers; seashores; other sites such as the White House; one international historic site; and 59 national parks. The

National Park Service is an agency within the Department of the Interior and manages the nation's 84 million acres of public lands with their 247 endangered or threatened plant and animal species, 18,000 trail miles, and 75,000 archaeological sites.



This seems like a big task; like the Texas Master Naturalist program, the National Park Service is pleased to have volunteer help. Its Volunteers-In-Park program may actually have inspired the Master Naturalist program, since the V-I-P program was begun in 1969. Currently, 221,000 park volunteers perform 6.4 million hours of service to the parks, at a value of \$135.5 million each year. Is it time to start making plans about where you would like to help?

We are fortunate in Texas to have many National Parks which we may most easily visit: Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Amistad National Recreation Area,

Big Bend National Park, Big Thicket National Preserve, Chamizal National Memorial, Fort Davis National Historical Site, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Lyndon B. Johnson Historical Park, Padre Island National Seashore, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, which is also a World Heritage Site. In a wonderful partnership, the Wildflower Center is helping prepare native vegetation maps and management plans for the Texas national parks, which should make park visits even more wonderful. Anyone ready for a road trip?

What can you do to help celebrate your parks? Like the First Family, you could visit a park - they are open to everyone. With over 307 million visitors each year, you will not be alone. If you happen to be 62 years of age or older, a permanent park pass, good at over 2,000 sites, costs \$10, although there is an additional \$10 processing fee. At the NPS website, you can find out about park passes, volunteering, and anything else park-related. See: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

Can't leave home? Visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science and enjoy America's wonders vicariously at the IMAX, viewing the beautiful *National Parks Adventure 3D*, in air-conditioned comfort. Narrated by Robert Redford, this film is described as the "ultimate off-trail adventure" and an awe-inspiring journey into our great natural heritage.

Many people consider the idea of the National Park Service to be America's best gift to the world; writer and historian Wallace Stegner called national parks "the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." The idea caught on; worldwide there are now at least 161,000 protected areas on land and sea, with more created every day. Thank you to everyone who had the forethought and determination to act on these great ideas. Now it is our turn to think about the next one hundred years.

## Technology and Nature by Verva Densmore

Two recent stories on NPR describing how technology and animal tracking are changing our understanding of the animal world in dramatic ways spiked my interest. In one story, NPR reported that Snowy Owls, usually Arctic dwellers, were trapped and tagged when visiting much further south than previously observed. The owls were seen in North Carolina, Georgia and Florida, puzzling biologists and inspiring Dave Brinker, an ecologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and bird biologist Scott Weidensaul, to track the birds to see

precisely where they were traveling. According to the story, the birds were trapped and fitted with impressively accurate transmitters. "These transmitters are capable of recording exact latitude, longitude and altitude, to an accuracy of a couple of feet. That means we know the exact trees, homes, piers, silos and skyscrapers these owls rested on as they traversed the country." Such detailed information has helped biologists to better understand the movements of these wide-ranging owls -

their hunting patterns, breeding behavior and migration routes - as the birds returned to the frozen north.

In the second story, NPR reported on the work of ornithologist Henri Weimerskirch, who has been gathering information about the Magnificent Frigatebird. Because of tracking technology, Weimerskirch discovered that the birds were flying up to 12,000 feet above the surface of the ocean and staying aloft for up to two months without ever landing. How can they reach these impressive altitudes? "It's the only bird that is known to intentionally enter into a cloud," Weimerskirch says. And not just any cloud - a fluffy, white cumulus cloud. Over the ocean, these clouds tend to form in places where warm air rises from the sea surface. The birds hitch a ride on the updraft, all the way up to the top of the cloud."



Photo from Wikipedia.org

These two stories are just a small part of an exciting mountain of information that scientists are gathering. Alexander Pschera, author of a new book, *Animal Internet: Nature and the Digital Revolution*, tells that "about 50,000 creatures, from whales and leopards to bats and snails, are being fitted with tracking devices that will show precisely where and how they migrate from breeding grounds to winter homes. The animal internet

will change nature," he says. "More wild animals are being fitted with sensors every day and a huge store of data is coming together. We can already foresee its revolutionary effects on our awareness and knowledge of nature."

In a June article in the *Guardian* on this subject, John Vidal says that, "the information is helping marine scientists and policymakers better estimate numbers and degrees of danger. The Tagging of Pacific Pelagics (Topp) project has followed fish, turtles, birds, seals, whales and squid as they crisscross the Pacific. A spokesman said: "Humans have pursued sea creatures for thousands of years, but our understanding of their lives remains fragmentary. Recent advances will soon provide near real-time narrative visualizations of these animals' lives."

Birds, sea animals, mammals and snails - as we understand them we can make more informed policy and habitat improvements. David Wilcove, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton University, says that animal migration is increasingly endangered. "In virtually every corner of the globe, migratory animals face a growing array of threats, including habitat destruction, over-exploitation, disease and climate change. Saving the great migrations will be one of the biggest conservation challenges of the 21st century. But if we fail, we will pay a heavy price, aesthetically, ecologically and economically."

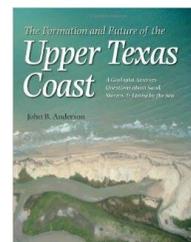
Perhaps we can make decisions about action now that would have been impossible in our pre-technology days. I can only hope our new store of information will make those decisions even more effective.

For more information, see: "How the 'animal internet' sheds light on the secrets of migration" June 11, 2016, *The Guardian*, and *Animal Internet: Nature and the Digital Revolution* by Alexander Pschera.

## Review of *The Formation and Future of the Upper Texas Coast* by Madeleine K. Barnes

What do we know about the geologic processes that formed the upper Texas coast focusing on the area between Sabine Pass and the Brazos River? Does the answer help us understand what is happening now with sea level changes and beach erosion? These are some of the questions along with detailed explanations that the book study group read and discussed from John B. Anderson's *The Formation and Future of the Upper Texas Coast*. Rice University's Professor Anderson, specializing in sedimentology, marine geology, and cryosphere studies, has spent over two decades studying the Texas coastline and continental shelf. According to

Dr. Anderson "This part of our coast is the most populated and the most threatened by coastal subsidence and overdevelopment." This is occurring in our "backyard" and affects all of us in the area and our efforts as master naturalist to conserve and protect local natural resources.

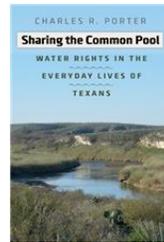


The author describes the natural processes of ocean waves and currents, beach formation and erosion, barrier island evolution, and hurricanes. The dynamic natural operation of these forces interplays with and is impacted

by human development. Professor Anderson includes historical maps, aerial photos, graphs, illustrations, and satellite imagery to aid in understanding a very complex system that is constantly in a state of change. The shoreline is continuously advancing inland affecting the beaches, wetlands, and human development. Bolivar Island, as an example, started forming 2,000 years ago from a small sand spit. So this very recent island in geologic time illustrates how barrier islands are formed. We have all played in the sand at the beach, but do we know where it came from or where it goes to? Can we prevent beaches from eroding? Should we even try to do this and what are the forces at work that maintain the movement of the beach? The book explores the various methods that have been tried to nourish/stabilize the beaches, the ramifications, and the lessons learned.

The take away from this book for me is a better understanding of what is going on at what we consider our beach playground. We are drawn to go there and be mesmerized by the waves and hear the surf. While these are simple pleasures that delight us, there are natural and man-made forces taking place that impact not only ourselves, but the natural order of things. When we strive to control natural occurring phenomena, we find that we are opposing greater forces that have evolved and played out through time. This is the age old question of how do we co-exist in harmony that benefits both, rather than opposition with the natural order. Even the natural

force of hurricanes creates damage to natural resources and then provides positive impacts by creating wetlands. This was a great book, reader friendly, and filled with factual information for us to use and apply ourselves and to have as a ready reference in educating others about our natural environment.



Our current reading selection for August 1st is the second half, pages 94-178, of *Sharing the Common Pool, Water Rights in the Everyday Lives of Texans* by Charles R. Porter. Due to the Labor Day holiday, we will meet on September 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the first third of *A Journey through Texas* by Frederick Law Olmstead. We will be reading this book

for September, October, and November. We welcome your participation each month for two hours on the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.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! Happy trails!



“I think of life as a good book. The further you get into it, the more it begins to make sense.” Harold Kushner

## Congratulations to Tom Solomon by Maureen Nolan-Wilde

Tom Solomon has reached 15,000 hour milestone! The State does not even have a pin to recognize this level of service.

Tom is one of three TX Master Naturalist to achieve this 15,000 volunteer hour pinnacle of service. He joins Dick Benoit of our chapter in this achievement.

Tom Solomon is a 2005 GBAC-TXMN graduate. His love and dedication to the restoration and maintain of the prairie is known throughout the area. He can be found harvesting, planting and creating prairies throughout the Galveston and Harris county region. Tom is also lead workshops and is featured in videos focusing on his prairie work.



Photo by Chuck Snyder

## Guppies from Julie

Hello, friends! I have missed seeing all of you this year. 2016 has been a tough ride and unique experience for me and my family. I have been out of the office most of the year helping my mom recover from a viral infection in her spinal column. The good news (and short version) is that Mom is doing much better! She is returning to her old self - independent and telling us what to do and how to do it. Yay!

In the midst of being away, I have learned just how much I love and appreciate you! Mom and I followed your activities on the website from the spring training class, Camp Wild, ATs, *The Midden* and more. Mom was very worried about me missing work. The pictures assured her that the Texas Master Naturalists were carrying on just fine without me.

Thank you for your continued dedication, leadership and can-do spirit! You bring your individual gifts, ideas, talents, prospective and sweat equity to achieve the goals of the chapter and the Texas Master Naturalist organization. You make our chapter great!

Many thanks to the Board for providing leadership this year to carry on! Our chapter is strong thanks to you.

I have appreciated your phone calls, cards and hugs. It really helped in dark times. I am very fortunate to have you all as friends!

Many thanks and I look forward to seeing you soon! Julie

### *The Midden* Deadline for the next issue

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**

If you have Advanced Training or Volunteer Opportunities, please submit information to Cindy Howard, [howardc@uhcl.edu](mailto:howardc@uhcl.edu)

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas cooperating.



## *The Midden*

Published bimonthly by the Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists. 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 or want to join the team, please contact Diane Humes, [treimanhumes@earthlink.net](mailto:treimanhumes@earthlink.net)

Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
4102 B Main (FM 519) Carbide Park  
La Marque, TX 77568

*The Midden* is posted on the GBAC-TMN chapter website: [www.gbamasternaturalist.org](http://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](mailto:julie.massey@agnet.tamu.edu).

### Midden Editorial Team

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

## Hymn for America by Michael Dennis Browne

We have loved you for your rivers,  
We have loved you for your shores;  
Every treasure you have shown us,  
Every seed that you have sown;  
We have loved you for your mountains,  
For your prairies, for your fields,  
All these gifts we have been given,  
All these glories that we share;  
Now we thank you for these blessings,  
We, your people, everywhere.

Many are the stars of heaven,  
Many are the hopes of earth;  
All around us, worlds unfolding,  
All around these dreams to grow;  
From the moment of our rising  
Till we rest when day is done,  
May we tell our hearts' own story,  
Hearts that honor and believe,  
Through our care for one another,  
For this life and land we love.

## August and September Activities

### ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Chapter Meeting** - August 4<sup>th</sup>; Talking Trash 2.0  
Presenter: Diane Humes  
6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting, 7:30 Speaker  
AgriLife Extension Office; 1 AT hours

**National Weather Service** - August 24  
9:30 - 11:30 am; 2 hours AT; Limit 20  
Location: National Weather Service in League City  
Presenters - National Weather Service staff  
Register with Emmeline Dodd [txdodd@aol.com](mailto:txdodd@aol.com)

**Monarchs and More** - August 13  
9:00 am - 12:30 pm; 3.5 hours AT; Limit: 24. \$5 fee  
Location: Environmental Institute of Houston at UHCL  
Presenters - Vic Madamba  
Register with Vic Madamba [waverider\\_ru2@libertea.us](mailto:waverider_ru2@libertea.us)

#### 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. 6 for meeting dates and books.

### STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### Ongoing Activities:

Mondays - Galveston Island State Park, Contact: Chatt Smith [chattsmith@gmail.com](mailto:chattsmith@gmail.com)

#### Tuesdays -

- Sheldon Lakes State Park, Contact: Tom Solomon [crandtr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crandtr@sbcglobal.net)
- Texas City Prairie Preserve, Contact: Jim Duron [wishkad@yahoo.com](mailto:wishkad@yahoo.com)
- Environmental Institute of Houston at UHCL, Contact: Wendy Reistle [reistle@uhcl.edu](mailto:reistle@uhcl.edu)

Wednesdays - Wetland Restoration Team, Contact: Marissa Sipocz [m-sipocz@tamu.edu](mailto:m-sipocz@tamu.edu)

#### Thursdays -

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

Fridays - Prairie Friday, ABNC, 8:30 - 11:30am, Contact: Chatt Smith [chattsmith@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:snellsw@verizon.net)

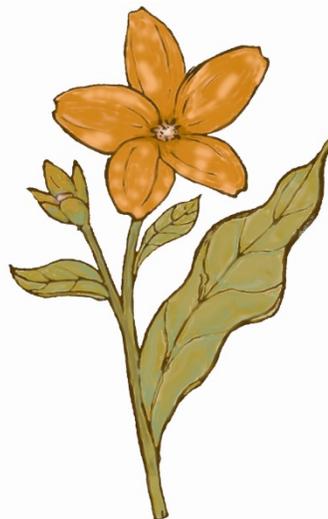
Partner and Associate Programs - Many organizations sponsor guided walks and education programs or need volunteers to man their nature center. Go to <http://txmn.org/gbmn/partners/> for the list, then click on the link to the organization's website..

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

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

#### Committee Meetings

Communication - Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1-4p.m.  
Advanced Training - Third Monday, 10-Noon  
Education/Outreach - Third Wednesday  
10 to 11:30a.m.  
Stewardship - Meets quarterly.



## Camp Wild 2016 by Beth Cooper

On June 6, 2016 the sun was shining, the sky a beautiful azure blue and there was a cool breeze coming off the Gulf. The staff of 67 enthusiastic GBAC Master Naturalist and youth counselors was ready to welcome a group of 58 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders from 5 Galveston schools.

The MN were ready to share their knowledge and their love of the beach and bay ecosystems. In the next 5 days the campers would dissect owl pellets, design their own watersheds, make fish prints, learn about local birds, go seining, kayaking and that was only the first 3 days! The campers played a fun new game called Frisbee golf, identified small animals by their skulls and skins, designed a print and placed it on a tile, and learned about marine life in a touch tank. On the beach side, they learned the importance of the upper beach and the sea turtles, crabs, and fish on the beach. They even built sand castles in their teams. They recorded all these memories in their nature journal.

Without the support of Trey Goodman and his staff from GISP and the financial support from FoGISP this camp could not happen. Heartfelt thanks to all who worked at the camp and also those who supported behind the scenes.

In the spirit of "a picture is worth 1,000 words" here are some memories of this wonderful event



Please volunteer next year and join the fun!!