As you read this, we will be closing out our 50th anniversary celebration year with two highly anticipated events. On October 4, we will try to persuade the Lake Worth Monster/Goatman to come out of hiding for a few hours during this special year to celebrate the Lake Worth Monster Bash. This year marks the 45th anniversary of his establishing residency on the Nature Center’s property. All types of activities are planned, including hayride tours of his habitat and the opportunity to compare your strength to the Monster’s with the popular Tire Hurl.

In November, we will explore the relationship between nature and art with the “Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature” art show and sale at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center in the Cultural District. Forty-four local artists will be represented, each of whom has captured a moment in the natural world from his or her own perspective in order to share it with others. A portion of sales will benefit the Nature Center. Please see Michelle Villafranca’s article, “Artists Answer the Call,” elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

I hope you will be able to join us for one or both of these special celebrations and help us close out the year right. Please remember that, with your support, the special place that is the Nature Center can continue for the next 50 years and beyond, providing water quality protection and habitat for wildlife as well as serving as an urban wilderness to be discovered and appreciated by all who seek its wisdom and solace.

Suzanne Tuttle
Nature Center Manager

~ FONC MISSION STATEMENT ~

“To preserve, protect, and conserve in perpetuity the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.”
LOCATION:
Four miles west of loop I-820 on Jacksboro Highway (Texas 199).

HOURS:
HARDWICKE INTERPRETIVE CENTER:
Daily: 9 AM—4:30 PM

REFUGE:
Refuge hours
Oct. 1st—April 30th
Daily 8:00AM—5:00PM
Please call 817-392-7410 with any additional questions.

The Nature Center will be closed November 27th for Thanksgiving and December 25th for Christmas.

GATE FEES:
Non-members:
Adults (13-64) - $5
Seniors (65+) - $3
Children (3-12 yrs) - $2
Under 3 years—Free
Active/retired military with valid ID and their families—$1 discount per person.

BLUESTEM NEWS:
Sharon McKone Editor-in-Chief
Rosemarie Hayward Layout & Graphics

FONC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Marty Leonard, President
Chris Smith, VP/President-Elect
Rick Shepherd, Past President
Laura Harrison, Treasurer
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Lucinda Lewis, Bookkeeper

PACSD Advisory Board Rep.:
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FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER & REFUGE
Suzanne Tuttle FWNC&R Manager

HARDWICKE INTERPRETIVE CENTER
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Laura Veloz Naturalist/Volunteer Coord.
Chad Etheridge Water Programs Coordinator
Troy Mullens Weekend Naturalist
Sheila Johnson Education Naturalist

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Michelle Villafranca Natural Resource Specialist
Russell Lasiter Natural Resource Technician
Nic Martinez Natural Resource Technician
Jimmy Greene Natural Resource Intern

CUSTOMER SERVICE/GATE
Anne Hamman Office Manager
Evelyn Calvert Customer Service Assistants
Nina Francis
Susie Harrison
DeeAnn McGinnis

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER:
www.fwnaturecenter.org

October—December 2014
4th Quarter Edition
On August 26, the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ program held the first of 13 training sessions for the class of 2014. Training for this program includes nine classroom sessions and four field trips over the course of nine weeks. The Texas Master Naturalist™ program’s mission is “to create a well-informed group of volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.”

Soon after the Greer Island Nature Center and Wildlife Refuge opened on February 12, 1964, the founders began planning an education program for grade school children and adult nature enthusiasts. Volunteers from several of the founding groups prepared the island by removing trash and clearing vegetation in order to mark the trails. Those who were experts of local flora and fauna became tour leaders, assuming the position of self-taught docent. They soon received formal docent training by Nature Center naturalists.

It would take another 33 years, however, until a formal program would be established. The concept of creating “a corps of trained volunteers to assist local parks and natural areas” was envisioned by San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) representatives Debbie Reid and Rufus Stephens, respectively. By 1997, the Texas Master Naturalist™ program was born, and word of the success of the Alamo Area Master Naturalist Chapter’s training of volunteers began to spread. That same year, Texas Agricultural Extension Services (TAE) volunteer Susan Batterbee, who was among the first Alamo Chapter trainees, enlisted additional natural resource agencies and organizations, including TAE, TPWD, Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR), Nature Conservancy, BRIT, Dallas Horticultural Center, Texas Forest Service, Institute of Applied Sciences at UNT, Society for Ecological Restoration, Dallas and Tarrant counties master gardener programs, and Native Plant Society of Texas, as collaborators in initiating a Dallas-Fort Worth-area chapter. The training manual for this chapter was authored by Rob Denkhaus, Suzanne Tuttle, and Wayne Clark, representing FWNCR; and Louis Verner, PhD, Rufus Stephens, and John M. Davis, representing TPWD.*

The first of the North Central Texas Chapter’s classes were taught in the spring of 1998 in Dallas, followed by classes during the fall at the Nature Center. The Cross Timbers Chapter, third in the state, was formed the summer of 1999 by a group of people living on the west side of the DFW area who needed a chapter closer to home. The Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge became its home and partner.

This relationship represents one of the most significant investments made by Nature Center staff in the history of the Nature Center. The 3,000-acre expansion of the Nature Center in 1967 created a vast outdoor laboratory for the study and enjoyment of nature, and the founding of the Friends of the Nature Center in 1974 provided a welcome source of fundraising and volunteers. Today, the Friends of the Nature Center continues to mature. Likewise, the Cross Timbers Chapter has become a valuable source for public education about natural resources and as a volunteer base for the Nature Center. Volunteer activity reported by 42 members of the Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter in 2013 amounted to 2,181 hours valued at $49,182 (per Independent Sector’s estimated value of volunteer time).

continued on page 12

[*Note: For this article, a rephrased founding history of the Texas Master Naturalist™ program and its first three chapters are courtesy of the original DFW Chapter’s Training Manual’s cited authors.*]
What’s Happening at Hardwicke?

With Summer Natural History Adventures behind us, the education staff has switched gears to work on some projects that have been on the back burner for a while. We are reorganizing closet space, sifting through education supplies and collections, and completing some major fall cleaning.

Will Burch, Education Program Manager, has discovered all the hiding places and is determined to leave nothing unturned. He has had to move offices twice already during his short tenure due to Michael Perez’s departure for a supervisor position at Greenbriar Community Center.

The interior exhibit areas of the Hardwicke Interpretive Center are being refreshed and updated. Soon, a Kids Corner will be located here so adults and children can relax and read a book or enjoy the sights and sounds of nature.

Around the exterior, the interpretive signs for the teaching animals have been framed and mounted. They look fantastic and blend seamlessly with the existing decor. Thank you to the Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation for providing funding for this interpretive signage via a grant to the Friends.

In addition, the rain barrels located around the building are being refurbished so they can be used for watering the plants in the courtyard. Because of the hot summer, we have had to modify parts of the exhibit for the opossum and skunk due to fire ants. The changes made should have corrected the problem so they can sleep in peace.

Next time you are out at the Nature Center, stop by and check out the updates!

Anne Hamman
Office Manager

Holiday Party to be Discontinued

The Board has accepted the Development Committee’s recommendation that the annual December membership holiday party be discontinued.
Regional artists have answered the call for entries for the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center’s inaugural art exhibition and sale, *Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature*. The exhibition will feature the work of 44 artists that reflects the native flora, fauna, and landscape of North Central Texas ecosystems. Art in the exhibition ranges from oil and watercolor to bronze sculpture, recycled material sculpture, pottery, and much more.

**Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature**  
**November (5*) 7-23, 2014**  
*Fort Worth Community Arts Center*

The exhibition will be held from November (5*) 7 – 23, 2014, at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center at 1300 Gendy Street. For each sale, the artist will retain 50% of the sales price. Twenty-five percent will be donated to the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center to fund critical programs and capital improvements at the Nature Center, including restoration of Broadview Park, a historic overlook that was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The remaining 25% will benefit the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. Cash prizes will be awarded for First Place ($1,000), Second Place ($750), and Third Place ($500).

To find out more, please visit [www.broadviewartshow.org](http://www.broadviewartshow.org).

(* 11/5/14 by invitation)

Michelle Villafranca  
Natural Resource Specialist
The New Herd Sire Has a Name!

On April 26 at the Fort Worth Wild 50th anniversary gala event, the naming rights for the Nature Center’s new bison herd sire was auctioned to the highest bidder in what evolved into a rather rowdy competition. When the dust settled, the winner proved to be the Friends’ new president, Marty Leonard, assisted by her sister, Madelon Bradshaw. Marty has given careful consideration to her decision over the summer, soliciting suggestions and making the entire process very inclusive. She is pleased to announce the winning name: Maverick.

As a fan of the old TV show by the same name, I am thrilled with this choice! We have never had a bull with his own theme song before!

Who is the tall, dark stranger there?  
Maverick is his name.  
Riding the trail to who knows where...  
Luck is his companion, gamblin’ is his game.  
(Theme song from Maverick)

Maverick still has some growing up to do, so for now he will be hanging out in the bison range, mugging for photos and getting to know his future girlfriends better. Stop by to see him this fall as he grows into his big, shaggy winter coat!

Rob Denkhaus
Natural Resource Manager
Artcles appearing in issues of the Bluestem News this 50th anniversary year have referenced the Nature Center’s significant national awards. The most recent of the Nature Center’s bronze plaques, the Founders Plaque, was dedicated on March 22. As timing was an issue, selection of the plaque’s permanent display site remained open; thereby, construction of an appropriate stone pedestal was delayed. Weighing a hefty 63.4 lb, the plaque required a substantial easel for display. Natural Resource Manager Rob Denkhaus quickly created one for the ceremony. The flat-black painted pipe construction was perfect, with understated elegance in appearance and function. The plaque made its second appearance at the Fort Worth Wild gala on April 26.

Several sites were considered for the plaque’s permanent display. The trailhead at the Greer Island Levee Trail, where the Nature Center’s founders and all subsequent visitors have accessed the area first set aside to become Fort Worth’s community nature center, was selected as the most appropriate location.

The first of the Nature Center’s bronze plaques, received in 1980 from the Department of the Interior, recognized the Nature Center as a National Natural Landmark by Secretary Cecil D. Andrus. This plaque was ultimately mounted on a pedestal of Texas Red Oak and positioned next to the newly built gatehouse, circa 2006, for display to arriving visitors. Exposed to the elements over the years, the plaque lost the original glossy black lacquer field which accentuated the raised bronze lettering, and the oak trunk was collapsing. In the spirit of the 50th anniversary, restoration of this honorific plaque appeared warranted. The Nature Center/Natural Resources staff agreed to take on the challenge once sources for the proper special products were identified. The successful restoration of the 1980 NNL plaque and the mounting of both it and the new Founders Plaque were the result of a considerable team effort by the Nature Center’s very talented and innovative staff. The stone pedestals, faced with Granbury Limestone consistent with others at the Nature Center, were constructed by Texas Star Masonry. Mounting was accomplished in late August by the Nature Center/Natural Resources staff.

The Friends of the Nature Center expresses its appreciation for this and all the rest of the fine work the Nature Center/Natural Resource staff has accomplished this anniversary year and in years past. There is a wonderful artistic quality about all you have created in addition to the reliable functionality we have come to know you deliver.

Rick Shepherd
FONC Past President
As temperatures gradually become cooler, we realize that Halloween is just around the corner. With that in mind, please join us for our 4th Annual Trails and Treats event on Thursday, October 30, 2014, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm!

FREE EVENT!
Thursday, October 30, 2014
5:00 – 7:00 pm

This is a family-friendly event, filled with games, animal encounters, and lots of candy! We look forward to this event every year and enjoy meeting new “ghouls” and “goblins.”

We are also looking for volunteers interested in helping with hospitality, fun costumes, and handing out candy at the event. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact William Burch at william.burch@fortworthtexas.gov.

Be sure to bring your children and grandchildren on Thursday, October 30th. We love to see all the different costumes that are worn, and a great part of the event is that it is completely FREE!

William Burch
Education Programs Manager

FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS ONLY!!!!
Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
10th Annual Chili Cook-Off
Cooks and Critics Needed!!!
Saturday, October 4, 3:30 - 6:30 pm
Show off your culinary skills! Bring a pot of your best recipe chili and compete with other chefs for “Best in Show.” 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded. To be judged by an impartial panel (you and all your friends!). You bring chili; all else is provided (electricity, tables, bowls, spoons, drinks, etc.) - including a program. Not a cook? That’s OK! We need lots of judges!
Please RSVP if you are bringing chili: 817-392-7410

Chad Etheridge helps at a Trails and Treats event.
Photo Credit: Daryl Marling
Greetings from the Entry Gate

If you have noticed a new face lately at the entry gate, that is our newest gate staff member, DeeAnn McGinnis. ‘Dee’ moved to Texas from Illinois last year and is excited to be a part of the Nature Center team. She loves to learn new things, is an avid reader, and used to grow roses up north. She is determined to continue that tradition in Texas, where her goal is to grow some of the most beautiful roses seen! She lives with her husband and grown daughter. Dee will be working Sundays at the entry gate. Nature Center staff members, especially her fellow gate staffers, wish her a warm welcome!

Anne Hamman
Office Manager

Please welcome DeeAnn McGinnis, Customer Service Assistant, pictured here at the entry gate.

Photo Credit: Anne Hamman

Nature Center Online News

Here’s a look at what’s new in the online world of the Nature Center…

In honor of the Nature Center’s 50th anniversary, we have a new and redesigned website. Check it out here: http://www.naturecenterfriends.org/

Congratulations to Paul Dennehy AIA, the local architect who produced our plan to restore the CCC picnic area at Broadview Park. He is the 2014 winner of the Holland Prize from the National Park Service for his single-sheet drawing of the Broadview Park Shelter. Read more about the competition here: http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/competitions/holland.htm

The Fort Worth Magazine recently ran a wonderful article on the 50th Anniversary of the Nature Center. If you missed the article, follow this link: http://fwtx.com/articles/nature-center-celebrates-golden-anniversary
Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center Gather for Annual Meeting

The state of the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center “remains in good condition” and “is poised better than ever to preserve the Nature Center in perpetuity,” said outgoing FONC President Rick Shepherd at this year’s 2014 Annual Meeting in July.

Rick commended all who have played a part in making the 50th anniversary year a success thus far and then introduced incoming President Marty Leonard, who will begin her two-year term.

After welcoming two new FONC board members – Lynda Gearheart and Sally McCoy – Marty presented a lifetime membership with framed certificate to Sandy Brunello, who dedicated more than 10 years of service to the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center. Sally will be taking over as chair of the Gift Shop from Sandy. Marty also presented Rick with a framed painting of Broadview Park for his service as president as well as his work to generate funding to restore the park.

Treasurer Laura Harrison presented the financial report, stating that the Friends are “in very good shape” and highlighted expenses, income, and net revenue for the year.

Nature Center Manager Suzanne Tuttle summarized major staff activities and achievements for the year, including updates on the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program, Trails and Treats, Natural Resource Management, research, Greenhouse Program and Stormwater Management projects, Hands and Hearts Volunteer Appreciation, 50th Anniversary events, Buffalo Boogie, Bison Herd Management, community outreach, Kids on the Prairie at Tandy Hills Natural Area, Will Burch (Education Program Manager), and Summer Natural History Adventures.

continued on page 11

2014 FONC Board Members.

Photo Credit: Chris Smith

October—December 2014
4th Quarter Edition
This year’s featured speaker was Education Naturalist Sheila Johnson, who works with the Nature Center’s Ambassador Animals. These animals are transported to various public events to help educate the public about Nature Center wildlife. All attendees were treated to close-ups of a snake, turtle, alligator, opossum, and skunk. Fearless Board Member Bob O’Kennon fed the opossum, and retiring Board Member Sandy Brunello let a tarantula crawl up her arm!

Chris Smith
FONC Board Member
Teen Volunteers Make Their Mark on Summer Classes

The Nature Center completed another successful series of Summer Natural History Adventures (SNHA), thanks in part to an awesome group of teen volunteers. This group of young naturalists-in-training assisted the professional naturalist instructors in making sure the young day campers had a safe and fun experience exploring the great outdoors. The volunteers’ enthusiasm for the natural world was contagious to the day campers who observed them. We would like to thank Rodrigo Aguilar, Marshall Arnwine, Olivia Aviles, Josh Crow, and Julia Torres for being great summer adventurers and to their respective parents, who brought them weekly.

If you are interested in becoming a teen volunteer for next year’s SNHA or would like to volunteer at the Nature Center, please contact Laura Veloz, Natural Scientist/Volunteer Coordinator at 817.392.7413.

Laura Veloz
Natural Scientist

From the Board……continued from page 3

If you want to learn in depth about the Cross Timbers ecosystem and help others to learn the lessons nature has to offer, this a great place to do it. The Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter has one training class each fall. Interested members of the Friends of the Nature Center are invited to consider becoming members by participating in the classes which begin in late August. Held in the Nature Center’s Hardwicke Interpretive Center auditorium, classes are taught by Nature Center staff instructors and biologists from Texas Parks and Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Class size is usually limited to 25 trainees.

Kindest regards,
Rick Shepherd
FONC Past President & Chair, Records Committee Cross Timbers Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist Program
October—December 2014
4th Quarter Edition

50th Anniversary
Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
2014 Events Calendar

SAVE THESE DATES

October 4
Lake Worth Monster Bash
Back by popular demand
Meet the Monster

October 4
10th Annual
Chili Cook-Off
Have you signed up yet?
More details on page 8!

October 30
4th Annual
Trails and Treats
Free Event!
Have the kids dress in their costumes and join us for a fun night!

November (5*) 7 thru 23
Broadview:
A Spectrum of Nature Art Exhibition and Sale
(Fort Worth Community Arts Center)
(* 11/5/14 by invitation)

Lake Worth Monster Bash

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
9601 Fossil Ridge Road
www.fwnaturecenter.org
817/392-7410
$5-adult, $3-seniors, $2-kids, Under 3 years old- FREE!
Activities will be free; except hayrides & canoe tours ($5).

Saturday, October 4 from 10am—2pm

Join us for Lake Worth Monster Bash at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Forty-five years ago, Fort Worth was abuzz with reported sightings of the Lake Worth Monster—described as a hairy, scaly 7-foot-tall man-goat-beast. The Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge is celebrating this legend at the Lake Worth Monster Bash.

Join us for a festival with food, music, and lots of games and family activities, including hayrides, canoeing, monster stories and hikes, music, book signings by local authors, and bison feeding.
Thank You To Our Generous Donors

Tamara Allen  
Max Applegate  
Josue Badillo  
Mr. & Mrs. Denis Benjamin  
Steven Black  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bowman  
Arthur Brodie  
Ronald Brown  
Tanya Bryant  
Lon Burnam  
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Caroline Collins  
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Dara Smith  
Susan Thornburgh  
Kindle Tuin  
David Van  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Vasel  
Fort Worth Audubon Society

The Tax Man Cometh

As the end of the year – and the time for making those last charitable contributions – approaches, please remember the Nature Center and make one of those donations to the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Inc. Your contributions over the past two years have started some wonderful projects to improve your visit to the Nature Center. You will see construction begin on one, and possibly two, of these projects next year. And even bigger plans are in store for the future. The Fort Worth Nature Center can become a world-class facility with your continued help (plus you get a tax deduction). Please include the Friends in your year-end donations by mailing your contribution to our address or going online to www.naturecenterfriends.org and clicking on the “Donate” button.

Bill Richerson  
FONC Board Member
What comes to mind when you think of a bird of prey? A hawk? An eagle? How about an owl? Owls have very recognizable physical characteristics: large forward-facing eyes, sharp talons, soft feathers, and strong wings. More than 180 species of owls are known throughout the world, ranging in size from a sparrow to an eagle.

Contrary to popular belief, not all owls hunt at night. Some are crepuscular, which means they prefer to search for food during dusk and dawn. As with other birds of prey, owls have a remarkable hunting ability. Their well-developed vision allows them to judge the distance of their prey to a remarkable accuracy. Their hunting ability is increased with their excellent sense of hearing, four-clawed talons, powerful beak, and ability to fly silently due to their comb-like primary feathers. Owls hunt a wide variety of prey, ranging from birds and lizards to insects and small mammals. They eat their prey whole, if possible, including feathers, fur, bones, and tails. The indigestible parts are compressed into a pellet that the owl coughs up several hours after eating its prey.

Four species of owls live in our area. The most common and often-heard is the Great Horned Owl. Its 5-foot wingspan and tufted feathers on the top of its head make the Great Horned Owl easy to recognize. Similar in appearance but noticeably smaller in size is the Eastern Screech Owl. The Barred Owl, with its round head and dark eyes, has a particular call, which sounds something like, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?” The fourth owl has many common names, from Ghost Owl to Monkey-face Owl but is better known as the Barn Owl. This is not your typical “hoot” owl; instead, the call of a Barn Owl is an unforgettable long screech.

Word Search: The owls below prefer to stay year-around in Texas. Can you find them all in the puzzle? Search only for the underlined words.

Great Horned Owl
Eastern Screech Owl
Western Screech Owl
Burrowing Owl

Barn Owl
Barred Owl
Spotted Owl

H Z I T A C U A R O M I D C
E C H O C A N D Z A C E A T
E C E A S F E R E S T N I L
E L O E C R H A P T U L T E
R P E C R C U A O T R O C A
C M I A N C O P S X O C H I
S M B I L C S O B R O B R N
N E R A C O L N O N I A D R
R O C T O R E S R Z O C A A
E D E N R O H T A E R G L B
T O G A R I B A L D T I U N
S A M L A M E R C E D S C O
A L O N I A R O M A N A E U
E C A B U R R O W I N G L W

Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Eastern Screech Owl
Barn Owl

October—December 2014
4th Quarter Edition
~ 15 ~
Reminders from F.O.N.C.

NEWS FLASH!!!
A way to save money!

Help us earn money at Tom Thumb and Kroger

These two grocery stores give us a percentage of what our members spend there.

The next time you're shopping at Tom Thumb, pick up a Reward Card application at the courtesy booth, fill it out, then link the card to our Friends Reward Account (#10930, Friends of Nature Center).

For Kroger, go on-line to www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com and sign up for an account. Then link your account to the Friends (#83215).

Remember, your donation to the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center is completely tax deductible. Please send your tax-free donation to: “FONC”
9601 Fossil Ridge Road, Fort Worth, TX 76135