Near 400 people gathered under the stars at Broadview Park on April 26 to celebrate the Fort Worth Nature Center’s 50th anniversary. Special guests included City of Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, City of Lakeside Mayor Pat Jacob, Texas House Representative Lon Burnam, Fort Worth City Councilmen Dennis Shingleton and Junius Jordan, as well as keynote speaker Carter Smith, Executive Director of Texas Parks & Wildlife.

This magical evening included entertainment by Five Second Rule, dinner by Bonnell’s Fine Texas Cuisine, and local DJ and celebrity Hal Jay as Master of Ceremonies. A special feature was the ever-present environmentally inspired art showcased all throughout the event. Lining the wildflower-dotted trail leading up to Broadview Park were 10 artists and their easels, capturing “plein-air,” the magical beauty of the Nature Center, on their canvases. The walk into our natural history at the top of the hill was completed with a live casting of a bronze bison by award-winning sculptor Vincent Villafranca.

Included among the silent auction items were featured pieces by famed artists such as Billy Hassell, Soon Young Warren, and the Gentling brothers.

The evening brought in over $75,000 for conservation of this special Fort Worth jewel. Perhaps more importantly, however, the word is out that the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge is the place to be and go to experience wild nature in an urban environment, learn about our natural history, and enrich our souls in the kind of peaceful setting only nature can provide.

Many thanks to our sponsors, guests, and volunteers for making this a memorable and special evening furthering the Friends’ mission of preserving, protecting, and conserving the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.

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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
May 1st—Sept. 30th.
Mon.—Fri. 7:00AM—5:00PM
Sat.—Sun. 7:00AM—7:00PM
Please call 817-392-7410 with any additional questions.

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.

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER & REFUGE
Suzanne Tuttle  FWNC&R Manager

HARDWICKE INTERPRETIVE CENTER
Will Burch  Education Program Manager
Laura Veloz  Naturalist/Volunteer Coord.
Michael Perez  Naturalist/Outreach Coord.
Chad Etheridge  Water Programs Coordinator
Troy Mullens  Weekend Naturalist
Sheila Johnson  Education Naturalist
Cynthia Robinson  Education Naturalist
Tiffany Gorrell  Education Intern

REFUGE/NATURAL RESOURCE
Rob Denkhaus  Natural Resource Manager
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
Nina Francis  Assistants
Susie Harrison  Assistants

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER:
www.fwnaturecenter.org
Since the last Bluesem News, the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge has successfully planned and staged several 50th Anniversary events with considerable and welcome assistance from the Nature Center staff. We would like to thank the Nature Center staff for all your assistance with the Founders Plaque Dedication Ceremony on March 22, the 50th Anniversary Fort Worth Wild Dinner Celebration on April 26, followed soon after by our annual fundraiser, Buffalo Boogie, on May 10. What a busy, busy time! We also wish to thank our many corporate and individual sponsors, support contractees, and volunteers, without whom these events could not have taken place. Major events next up will be the return of the Goatman at the Lake Worth Monster Bash on October 4 and the 50th Anniversary art exhibition and sale, Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature, which will be held November 7 – 23 at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. A special “by invitation” reception will open this event on November 6, so watch your mailboxes for your invitations as members of the Friends of the Nature Center.

Thanks to all of you who voted for passage of the bond election on May 10. The Nature Center won its requested $350,000 to help fund reconstruction of the Cross Timbers Trail / Todd Island Levee. This endeavor has been declared a Year 1 priority project by the capital projects manager in park planning. The project manager has been assigned, so design planning is set to begin shortly, with construction commencement soon after. We’re beginning to gather some steam on our two major infrastructure projects.

The Friends of the Nature Center’s fiscal year end is June 30. The solicitation for FONC members to submit names of candidates to be nominated to serve on the Board went out some time ago. New officers will be elected by the Board at its 10 a.m. meeting the morning of the Annual Membership Meeting (which will be held at 1:30 p.m.) Saturday, July 12 at the Nature Center’s Hardwicke Interpretive Center.

If you or someone you know would like to serve on a Friends of the Nature Center committee, please contact president-elect Marty Leonard (martyleo@flash.net) or Nature Center Manager Suzanne Tuttle (suzanne.tuttle@fortworthtexas.gov/817.392.7421). Marty will become president on June 30, and I anticipate my new role will be that of past president, with a new set of responsibilities as set out in the bylaws. The president appoints committee members, so if interested, be sure to contact her.

Rick Shepherd
FONC President
No kidding, there I was, somewhere on a river...

Reflecting on what a great day it had been on the river (but, then again, is there really any other kind?), I was paddling back to the takeout with just enough fading light from the rapidly sinking sun, when suddenly it happened...

A flash off to the left. Then another and another, accompanied by several more, rapidly increasing in frequency and intensity. This was not that nitrate-rich, life-giving lightning of which I spoke last time. This was a kinder, gentler type of lightning… the lightning bug!

We all have fond childhood memories of catching these wonderful little critters on a warm summer’s evening, placing them in a Mason jar purloined from canning duties in the kitchen, and closing it with a nail-punched lid to create our very own lightning bug lantern. You may have called them fireflies as well, but actually these amazing little light bearers are neither bugs nor flies. These insects are from the Lampyridae family, which are under the order of Coleoptera, or beetles. Worldwide, around 2,000 species inhabit every continent except Antarctica. They mostly inhabit wooded areas at the margins of marshes, rivers, streams, and ponds where their larvae thrive on the forest floor amongst rotting wood and detritus.

All firefly larvae are luminescent and glow to some extent. For this reason, they are often referred to as glow worms. As adults, these brown, soft-bodied, nocturnal beetles use flashing bioluminescent light signals to communicate with each other. Not all species flash as brightly as others, however, and one species does not flash at all. It uses pheromones to communicate. The flashing, which varies from a steady glow to a series of rapid flashes, is mostly used as signals in mate selection, with the male flying around and the female remaining stationary while returning flash responses. Some species synchronize their flash patterns as well. In the U.S., one of the greatest shows of mass firefly unison blinking occurs annually during the first week of June around Elkmont, Tennessee, in the Smoky Mountains.

Once a suitable mate has been selected, mating occurs, and a few days later, the female deposits her fertilized eggs sometimes on, but usually just below, the surface of the ground. After hatching three to four weeks later, the larvae feed until the end of summer. They then burrow into the ground or find shelter under the bark of trees and hibernate through the winter. They emerge in the spring, feed for several weeks, pupate for one to three weeks, and emerge as adults. Adult life is very short, usually just long enough to mate and lay eggs. One species has an adult life that is so short it does not even have a mouth as there is no need to feed.

Fireflies emit the most energy-efficient light on the planet. One hundred percent of the energy required to produce the light is emitted as light. In comparison, an incandescent light bulb emits only 10 percent light; the rest is heat. A florescent bulb produces 90 percent light and 10 percent heat. Because of this, the firefly’s light is considered “cold” light. This light, which may be green, yellow, or pale red in some species, is produced by a chemical reaction between luciferase, an enzyme that triggers light emission; luciferin, which is heat resistant and glows under the right conditions; and a chemical known as ATP (which is in all living things). The study of the bioluminescence of these insects has led to many discoveries and uses for this material in both the scientific and medical fields. It is also believed that the Baroque painter Caravaggio might have used dried fireflies in a powder form to coat his canvases in order to create a photosensitive surface on which he then projected an image that was to be painted.

Continued on page 5
Though quite visually appealing, the firefly is not a very tasty morsel, and many animals have learned not to have this insect as a midnight snack. Fireflies are very distasteful to most and poisonous to some vertebrate predators due in part to chemical secretions that are similar to those produced by poisonous toads. Reptile owners should be aware that fireflies should never be fed to their lizards or snakes.

Most of you have probably noticed that there do not seem to be as many lightning bugs as there were when we were kids. This isn't just your imagination but is factual and due mostly to two factors...development, which causes loss of habitat, and light pollution, which disturbs mating rituals. How can you help the fireflies stick around for our kids and grandkids to enjoy? A couple of things can be done. Turn off your outside lights at night. Let logs and leaf litter accumulate if feasible. Incorporate water features into your landscape. Avoid pesticides and use natural fertilizers when possible. Plant trees and do not over-mow your yard. Hopefully, these iconic little symbols of summer will remain for future generations to create those wonderful Mason-jar lightning-bug lanterns we all recall so fondly. Whether you call them lightning bugs, fireflies, moon bugs, golden sparklers, or (as they do in Jamaica) blinkies, they all mean the same thing...FUN!!!

So until we meet again, I'll be out as usual,
Somewhere on a river....

Chad Etheridge
Water Programs Coordinator

We would like to welcome Cynthia Robinson as our 2014 Education Intern Naturalist here at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Her passion for the outdoors began when she was young and involved in Scouts. She is a native Texan from Springtown and a recent graduate of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, where she earned a degree in Wildlife Management.

For the past three summers, Cynthia has worked at Scout summer camps, helping participants earn badges in the areas of ecology and conservation. She served as an intern with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in 2012 at Big Bend Ranch State Park and has an undying love for snakes, thanks to her Uncle Scott. She hopes to one day be a herpetologist and research snakes.

Since starting work at the Nature Center, Cynthia has attended a multi-day training workshop in Tulsa with the National Association for Interpretation and is now a Certified Interpretive Guide. She assists with a variety of tasks, including teaching the Kindergarten summer classes, caring for our Animal Ambassadors, and undertaking outreach programs.

Please join us in welcoming Cynthia and encouraging her on her career path!

Suzanne Tuttle
Nature Center Manager
Special thanks to our generous sponsors:

**Bobcat**
Murray James
Marty Leonard
Thomas M., Helen McKee and John P.
Ryan Foundation

**Painted Bunting**
Sue Harvison
Lena Pope Home

**Monarch Butterfly**
Chesapeake Energy
Fort Worth Audubon Society
Morningstar Partners
Tim and Elaine Petrus
Range Resources Corporation
Rick and Karen Shepherd

**Big Bluestem**
Bob O’Kennon
Texas Cowboy Adventure/
Mark and Marion Wood

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Nature Center Natural Resource Specialist Michelle Villafranca brings the bronze buffalo figure to WBAP’s Hal Jay to auction off.

*Photo Credit: David Morgan*

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Attending the event were (left to right) Richard Zavala, Carter Smith, Suzanne Tuttle, Marty Leonard, Dennis Shingleton, Bill Meadows, and Jungus Jordan.

*Photo by David Morgan*
One Wild Night......continued from page 6

Laura Wood, Executive Director of the FONC, thanked all those who helped make the auction a success.

Photo Credit: David Morgan

Little Bluestem
Audubon Texas
Buffalo Gold LLC
The Honorable LonBurnam and Carol Roark
Louise Carvey
Ralph, Philip, and Thomas Duggins
Fred and Laura Harrison
The Huff Family, LP
Billy Hassell
Junior League of Fort Worth
The Honorable Kay Granger
Luther King Capital Management
The Meadows
Rahr & Sons Brewing Company
Rent A Frog Valet
Cross Timbers Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
Steve and Suzanne Tuttle
Ronnie and Linda Wallace

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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/

If you weren’t able to attend Fort Worth Wild in April, below is a link to the Nature Center’s new 50th Anniversary video:
vimeo.com/91534727

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram recently ran a wonderful article on the history of the Nature Center. If you missed the article, follow this link:
http://www.star-telegram.com/2014/04/24/5764774/fort-worth-nature-center-marks.html
On Saturday, March 22, 2014, the Founders Plaque honoring those individuals and organizations most prominent and responsible for convincing the Fort Worth Park Board to set aside 381 acres that became the community’s nature center and for nurturing its earliest development was dedicated on the Broadview Park bluff overlooking Greer Island at the Nature Center.

Among the 70-plus gathering for the ceremony were the Honorable Dennis Shingleton (District 7 Councilmember) and his young grandson; Parks & Community Services Director Richard Zavala; Assistant Director Sandra Youngblood and PACSD Advisory Board Representative Chase Dustin, representing the City of Fort Worth; and many of the Nature Center staff and Friends Board members. Most of the founding organizations were represented: Fort Worth Audubon Society (Scott Hollinger, Michael Francis, and Ann Hoover); Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc. (Kristy Odom and Michelle Marlow); Fort Worth Country Day (Sharon Hamilton and Sherri Reed); Camp Fire (Lynn Lucas and husband Brad w/several Camp Fire members); Girl Scouts (Lindsay Dauer and Lesa Elkins from Troop 1324 and Jul MacLeod and Donna MacLeon from Troop 1322 with several troop members); Boy Scouts of America (Fort Worth Boy Scout Troop 134 Scoutmaster John Sprehe and additional troop leaders and the Troop 134 Color Guard); and Fort Worth Garden Club (Maurie Reynolds and Taddie Hamilton). Others in attendance included Jean Richerson, former Friends Board Member Larry Brunello, Mike Pixler (CCC Legacy Chapter 123 President), Robert E. Crow (Chair Lake Worth Centennial Committee), and Camp Fire or Girl Scouts Debi Sheppard, Anissa Sheppard, Elizabeth Sheppard, and Brooklyn Gant.

Natural Resource Center staff and Natural Guard volunteers prepared the bluff site, including the removal of remnants of the 1930s-era CCC pavilion’s roof, which had been burned twice by vandals. The magnificent vista toward the east from the preserved pavilion was restored, affording a great view of upper Lake Worth and Greer Island.

The Honorable Dennis Shingleton and Richard Zavala addressed the audience, each delivering laudatory comments regarding the founding, development, and importance of the Nature Center to the residents of Fort Worth and North Central Texas. Representing the City of Fort Worth, they ceremoniously undraped the Founders Plaque.

Rick Shepherd then presented a brief review of the history leading up to the founding of what became Greer Island Nature Center & Wildlife Refuge. Friends of the Nature Center Board Member Bill Richerson, who as a Junior Audubon Club member was personally involved in the earliest work to prepare Greer Island, spoke next. He made a heartfelt presentation oriented toward the fledgling Nature Center’s role of exposing many Fort Worth

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schoolchildren to the wonders of nature by bringing them out for hikes. Rob Denkhaus, Natural Resource Manager, then addressed the Fort Worth Nature Center’s unique ability to provide hands-on experience for young biologists interested in careers in environmental science, conservation, ecology, etc. Upon finishing internships here, many have gone on to secure very responsible and influential jobs in their fields of interest. That country-wide dispersion of well-trained biologists and published research has contributed greatly to the Nature Center’s national reputation. Suzanne Tuttle, Nature Center Manager, closed with comments regarding the state of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge and its bright future. Having grown up in North Central Texas, Suzanne recalls having had many memorable experiences at the Nature Center prior to being hired as a park naturalist in 1993.

On behalf of the Board of the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Inc., I would like to express our deepest appreciation to all the attendees who participated in this dedication ceremony. Likewise, we are indebted to the hardworking Nature Center staff who put in so many hours of work to prepare the dedication venue on the Broadview Park bluff. Thank you for helping make this a memorable event in the history of the Fort Worth Nature Center.

Rick Shepherd
President, FONC

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge 50th Anniversary Founders Plaque

Creation of an anniversary plaque to commemorate the creation and longevity of an organization dedicated to a worthwhile mission is a time-honored tradition. Such is the case for the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Creation of the Founders Plaque began with a review of the earliest documents in the Nature Center’s archival collection. The intense desire, rationale, and persistent drive for a community nature center by members of the Fort Worth Audubon Society have been covered in articles published in the 1st and 2nd Quarter 2014 editions of the Bluestem News, and this plaque commemorates that dedication.

Final layout and appropriateness of the text was the result of the collaborative efforts of Rick Shepherd, President, Friends of the Nature Center; Suzanne Tuttle, Manager, Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge; and Richard Zavala, Director, Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.

Founders Plaque Description

- Material—Bronze
- Raised text on black painted recessed field
- Finish—Leatherette w/Satin Surface
- Clear coat—Semi-gloss
- Font style—Griffos Serif (similar to un-identified font style used by the U.S. Department of Interior for National Natural Landmark plaques presented to FWNCR in 1980-81)
- Size—20”w x 32” h
- Weight—63.4 lbs
- Commissioned—Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Inc.
- Pre-cast Layout Artist: Landon
- Casting—Gemini, Inc. (Minnesota) arranged by Northwest Engravers, L.L.C. (Fort Worth)
- Permanent display of the plaque secured to a stone-faced pedestal similar in design to those elsewhere within the Nature Center will be located at an appropriate site to be determined by FWNCR Staff.
At the Fort Worth Nature Center, we see the glass as half full, not half empty. Although three weeks of Summer Natural History Adventures are behind us, five more weeks are coming in July. Enthusiastic naturalists are ready to guide your children around the Nature Center, sharing knowledge of the outdoor world.

Each day is dedicated to a grade level. For example, if your child is entering Kindergarten this upcoming school year, he or she will attend class on Mondays. Tuesday is designated for children entering 1st or 2nd grade, 3rd and 4th grade on Wednesday, and 5th and 6th grade on Thursday. Kindergarten is the only age group that meets for a half day (9 a.m. to noon). The other grade levels meet for a full day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From Kindergarten to 6th grade, children will enjoy lots of topics. Kindergarteners will learn general information about reptiles and insects and how animals use their body coverings to their advantage. Older students will dive into these topics with greater depth and expand their footprint across the Nature Center. Some topics include becoming citizen scientists, investigating animal tracking, and learning about the nocturnal critters we do not get to see very often.

Even with June gone, there are still opportunities for your children to participate. Download a packet online (www.fwnaturecenter.org) or pick one up at the Hardwicke Interpretive Center, fill it out, and mail it, fax it, or drop it off. For questions, please contact us at 817-392-7410. We hope to take your children on an adventure this summer!

Michael Perez
Natural Scientist
The Nature Center bison range consists of five pastures totaling 210 acres. Typical stocking rates for bison are about 10 acres/bison, so the theoretical maximum number of bison that can be housed within the Nature Center’s current infrastructure would be 21. Prior to the 2013 calving season (primarily April-May), the bison herd totaled 19. Five of these were young animals that had been born in the spring of 2012. Typically, we would have sold these calves in the spring of 2013, but the ongoing drought had caused some bison ranchers to reduce their herd sizes, depressing sale prices in the state. Since the Nature Center herd was below capacity, we decided to forego a surplus sale and hold the 2012 calves for a year in hopes of a rebound in sale prices. Early in 2013, we accepted the donation of a hybrid white bison and, during the 2013 calving season, produced a record 11 calves, increasing the herd to 31 bison, or ten more than capacity. This number, coupled with the continuing drought, led Nature Center management staff to conduct a sealed bid auction of our surplus bison this past March.

Seventeen bison were offered at auction, with the goal of reducing the herd size to a level that could be sustained on the drought-stricken pastures without inflicting additional stress on the bison range. Eleven of the animals offered for sale were the five male and six female calves born in 2013. Four of the 2012 calves (two bulls and two heifers) were also included, as was the hybrid white bison. Finally, the decision to include our 10-year-old herd sire, a bull acquired from the Vermejo Park Ranch in 2004, was made to facilitate keeping the herd size at a manageable level for the next few years in the event that drought conditions continue or worsen.

By selling the herd sire this spring, we anticipate a few calves this year (our bison tend to reproduce every other year because we allow the mothers to wean their calves on their own). We kept one of the 2012 bull calves, who has developed into a handsome two-year-old bull, and will raise him as the future herd sire. He will not typically be ready to breed for another two to three years, therefore reducing the possibility of too many calves in the near future and virtually guaranteeing that the Nature Center pastures will survive the drought.

The sale was a success, netting more than $15,000 for the Friends of the Nature Center. Organizing and running the sealed bid auction is easy. Preparing the animals for transport to their new homes is not. The herd was brought in from their winter pasture and sorted in the handling system to separate the sale animals from those being kept. The bison that were remaining at the Nature Center were then moved to the East Pasture across Buffalo Road. Sorting bison is always an adventure involving a lot of adrenaline, fear, and stress...mostly on the part of the staff. The bison don’t seem to think it’s a very big deal.

As of this writing in mid-May, the 14-member bison herd is still in the East Pasture, and our first calf of the year hit the ground on May 6, just in time for Buffalo Boogie. Be sure to stop by and see the herd on your next Nature Center visit.

Rob Denkhaus
Natural Resource Manager
A great big THANK YOU!!!
from the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Inc.
to all the wonderful businesses and individuals who made
Buffalo Boogie 2014
at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
a great success with donations of money, prizes, and HARD work.

Special THANKS to Nature Center Staff and All Our Volunteers

City of Fort Worth Parks & Community Services
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Martha V. Leonard Fund of Community Foundation of North Texas
Moritz Dealerships Chevy
Moritz Dealerships Kia
The Coberlys
Sue and John Harvison
Rick and Karen Shepherd
Marsha McLaughlin
Candlelight Inn - Arlington
Representative Charlie Geren
Jim Walling
Terri Chenoweth
Gale Culp
J&B Erectors
Carol Hall Wood
Weatherford Gardens
Caple-Shaw Industries, Inc
Laura and Fred Harrison
Bill Robertson
William Brackett
Bill and Margaret Shaw
Eddie Owens Trucking
Frankie Robbins State Farm
Marcia Curl
Murray James
Roy Liedtke
Tim and Elaine Petrus
The Varley Family
Bob Smith with Falcon “Akasha”
TShirts1
Lake Worth Marshals
Barbara Taylor
Jerry & Sheryl Kneupper
Emcee Marty Leonard
Emcee Greg Fox
Robert Briggs

Baptist Church of Lakeside
Lakeside Church of God
Dr. Keith Sultemeier, et al.
(Lakeside Animal Hospital)
Vet Tech Ashley Engelhart
(Southside Veterinary Clinic-FW)
Dannon
Starbucks’s Lake Worth
Starbucks’s White Settlement
Starbucks’s Western Center
Advocare
CCC Legacy Chapter 123
Cowtown Loves Animal Shelter Pets
Cookie Lee Jewelry
Cross Timbers Master Naturalists
DFW Herpetological Society
Friends of the FW Nature Center Gift Shop
Green Mountain Energy
Health Source Chiropractic-Saginaw
Jenny Stuart Lynch State Farm
Kold-Rite
Lake Worth Centennial
Anniversary Committee
Lee Ann Taylor’s Frog Cottages
Luke’s Locker
My Lucky Dogz
Native Plant Society of Texas - NC Chapter
North Texas Renewable Energy-Solar
NYR Organics US
Quikey Corks
Russell Feed & Supply
Sanmar Designs
Tail Waggin’ Biscuits & Bones
Texas Bison Association
Trishcat Soaps and Potions
Tarrant Regional Water District
Texas Rangers
FW PACS Golf
Starr Hollow Golf Club
Billy Bob’s of Texas
City of Hurst Aquatics Centers
Spring Creek Companies
Mexican Inn
Spring Creek BBQ
Taco Casa-Saginaw
The Keg
Friends of the FWNC&R
Cabela’s
Movin’ Pictures
MedStar
Rough Cut Band
Edith Owens-Art Teacher from Lake Worth High School and her student face painters
Search One Rescue Team
Suzie Coghlan and Plain Capitol Bank for Mo the Buffalo and handler Bree Chem Can Services
North West Rentals
Runtime Racing Services
Cowtown Pets
The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
Handley Feed Store
Hyena’s Comedy Night Club
Island Breeze Coolers
The Keg Steakhouse & Bar
Mesquite Pro Rodeo
Stockyards Championship Rodeo
Wild Birds Unlimited of Arlington
Wild Birds Center—S. Hulen St.—FW
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, lots of games and family activities, including hayrides, canoeing, monster stories and hikes, music, book signings by local authors, and bison feeding.

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New Revenue
$22,044
as of
June 18, 2014
Meet Will Burch

Staff turnover at the Nature Center is very low, not too surprising when you have such a fantastic place to work! However, we recently had the opportunity to fill the position Ken Seleske vacated when he retired four years ago and are very pleased to welcome our new Education Program Manager, Will Burch, to our ranks. Will began his tenure on May 19 and brings 15 years of widely varied experience to share with us.

Will is a native Texan who grew up in the country, loving the outdoors from the very beginning. He is fortunate to have a mom who was a science teacher and who allowed him to keep as pets a variety of fish and snakes that he collected on his forays. Herpetology (the study of reptiles and amphibians) is his favorite natural history subject, and the various species of hog-nose snakes are his favorite herp.

After graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in Wildlife Fisheries-Aquaculture and working full-time while in college, Will began his professional career as an environmental educator. His first job in the field was as a birthday party teacher at the Houston Zoo, and he credits this experience for developing his personality from shy to outgoing and confident. He also holds a master’s degree in Education-Curriculum and Instruction from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, as well as a teaching certificate.

Will has worked in education positions at the Texas Zoo in Victoria and the Chattanooga (Tennessee) Zoo and has served as Education Coordinator at the Abilene (Texas) Zoo. He also gained natural resource management experience from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department’s Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area in the Panhandle and Cumberland Gap National Park in Kentucky.

In his free time, Will enjoys gardening, hiking, biking, fishing, and target shooting. He wants to learn more about hunting as it relates to game management.

Please stop by and introduce yourself or attend one of Will’s programs soon!  

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

Saturday July 12, 1:30 PM
The Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
....a short “drinks and snacks” meeting to approve the new Board and hear our “State of the Union”

Hardwicke Interpretive Center
9601 Fossil Ridge Road,
Fort Worth, TX 76135

R.S.V.P. to 817-392-7410 by noon July 11

Program:
Sheila Johnson
Education Naturalist

Call for Committee Members
Love the Nature Center?
Do you have a particular talent or just an enthusiasm to pitch in?
Why not consider volunteering on a Friends of the Nature Center Board committee?
We need all walks of life to help make the Nature Center an ongoing success:
- Photographers
- Event planners
- Writers
- Graphic Designers
- Public Relations/Marketing Experts
- Fundraisers

If you or someone you know would like to serve on a Friends of the Nature Center committee, please contact president-elect Marty Leonard at martyleo@flash.net or Nature Center Manager Suzanne Tuttle (suzanne.tuttle@fortworthtexas.gov or 817.392.7421).

Save These Dates

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

November (6*) 7 thru 23
Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature Art Exhibition and Sale
(Fort Worth Community Arts Center)
(* 11/6/14 by invitation)

Free!
Door Prizes!!!
In celebrating the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge’s 50th anniversary, the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge will host a juried art exhibition and sale entitled *Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature*. This exhibition and benefit sale will be open to the public November 7 – 23, 2014, at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. A special “by invitation” reception will open this event on November 6. Local artists are invited to submit their work that reflects the native flora, fauna, and landscapes of North Central Texas ecosystems. Please join us in celebrating the park’s 50 years!

*Watercolor by Susie Harrison*

**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
In Memoriam: Doug Myres

I am sad to report that long-time avid Nature Center volunteer Doug Myres died on April 15, 2014. Doug served on the Friends Board from 1997-2008, and the majority of his board activity was in the capacity of president or vice president. He was instrumental in moving the Friends organization to a level which was recognized and respected by the City of Fort Worth. His volunteer career began as a member of the Nature Center’s Natural Guard. Doug was also very involved in the Friends’ major fundraiser, Buffalo Boogie. Throughout his tenure, he contributed more than 1,000 volunteer hours. Doug is recalled as having been “a very kind man who lived, spoke, and breathed selflessness.” He will be greatly missed by his family and personal friends, and the Friends of the Nature Center Board offers them its condolences.

Rick Shepherd,
FONC President

[With appreciation to Anne Hamman, Nature Center Customer Service Information Specialist for details of Doug’s Nature Center history and permission to quote her special remembrance]

Spring Docent Rally Wrap-Up

On a beautiful Saturday morning in April, several nature enthusiasts gathered at the Hardwicke Interpretive Center for our annual “Spring Docent Rally.” This yearly tradition provides an excellent opportunity for docents to mingle, enhance interpretation skills, and acquire a better understanding of natural history topics. The guest speaker at this year’s get-together was the very knowledgeable Chad Etheridge, who gave a great presentation on the natural and cultural history of the Trinity River.

Throughout the year, docents make it possible to explain the wonders of nature to thousands of children and adults on guided hikes. The Nature Center is grateful to all the docents for their participation and readiness to share their knowledge of the great outdoors to audiences of all ages.

Interested in becoming a docent at the Fort Worth Nature Center? Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Veloz at 817-392-7413.

Laura Veloz
Volunteer Coordinator

Nature enthusiasts attended the “Spring Docent Rally” in April to learn how to explain the wonders of nature on Nature Center guided hikes.

Photo Credit: Laura Veloz
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One Wild Night

Gordon & Louise Appleman
William & George Ann Bahan
Jeffrey Barrow
Charles & Barbara Bearden
Bob & Joani Benda
William Brackett
Arthur & Lynda Brender
Larry & Sandy Brunello
Lon & Carol Burnam
Louise Britt Carvey
Theresa Chenoweth
KU & Laila Choudhry
Cam & Judith Coberly
Alveeta Corbitt
Gale Cupp
Marcia Curl
Benge & Jackie Daniel
Alfred Daniell
Margaret & Jim DeMoss
Mary Foose
John & Jane Freese
Stephen & Janice Fuller
Gavin & Mary Lynn Garrett
Joseph Gearheart
Harry & Terry Haney
Doris Harper
Fred & Laura Harrison
Sue & John Harvison
Sheila Hill

Brian & Theresa Hocker
Michael Honkomp
Ernest Hubbard
Jack & Leanne Huff
John & Kay Huggins
Patricia Hyer
Murray James
Harold & Linda Johnson
Gary Kappes
Joann Karges
Joseph & Kari Kircham
Steve & Susan Kline
Todd & Kari Landry
Charles & Bettye Lebus
Marty Leonard
Virginia Leonard
Roy & Amy Liedtke
Coy & Suzie Martin
Scot & Barbara McClatchy
Doak & Susan Meador
Bill & Patricia Meadows
Michael Mesko
Wallace Mitchell
Judy Needham
Robert O’Kennon
Jodelle Owens
Alan & Bonnie Petchce
Elaine & Tim Petrus
Dean & Jane Peyton

Steve & Julie Piggott
Walter & Joan Posluszny
Paul & Elizabeth Ray
Ronnie & Susan Renfro
Virginia Richards
William & Jean Richerson
Ronald Ricker
Steve & Janice Ritchie
Beverly Ross
Richard Schellhammer
William & Sandra Scholls
Judith & Tim Scarr
Bill & Margaret Shaw
Terry Shaw
Richard & Karen Shepherd
Rhonda Slabaugh
John & Linda Smith
Jack & Stevens
David & Margaret Sykes
Suzanne & Steve Tuttle
Kevin & Deb Ulmann
K. Ronald Vance
Vincent Villafranca
Ronnie & Linda Wallace
David Ward
Janice Weaver
Gary L. White
Richard Zavala

AbiBow Recycling, LLC
Camp Fire First Texas
Cross Timbers Chapter Texas Master Naturalists
Cubertson Revocable Trust
ExxonMobil Matching Gift Program
Fort Worth Audubon Society
Frankie Robbins State Farm Insurance Agency
Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club
Bill Hanna, DDS
James & Kelly Biedenharm of Keller Williams Realty
Lake Country Wild Flower Garden Club
Law Office of Greg Coontz
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP
Morningstar Partners
North Central Chapter
NYR Organic

Plains Capital Bank Wealth Management & Trust
Russell Feed & Supply
Ryan Foundation
Sanmar Designs
St. Agnes Academy
Texas Bison Association
Textron Matching Gift Program
Trishcat Soap & Potions
Weatherford Gardens, Inc.
Wild Bill & The Kids On The Prairie

Laura Wood
FONC Executive Director

Thank You
Summer vacation has arrived, making it the perfect time to lace up hiking boots and hit the trail. One way to have a memorable (and safe) experience is by hiking smart. Make sure to have the essentials: water, food, map, hat/sunscreen, first aid kit, and map. Be aware of the wildlife you may encounter along the way.

One wildlife encounter you may have this summer is a small parasitic arachnid, better known as a tick. Ticks are related to spiders, mites, and scorpions. Able to live in a variety of environments, these blood-feeding organisms, which often feed on deer, birds, and reptiles, may be seen in many different sizes depending on the stage of its life cycle. As stated in the TickApp for the Texas and Southern Region, “The life cycle of ticks consists of four distinct stages: the egg, six-legged larva, eight-legged nymph, and adult. The host provides the necessary nourishment for ticks to molt to the next stage or to produce eggs for the next generation.”

Ticks utilize many different feeding strategies to find a host to enable it to complete its life cycle. Summitpost.org states that “ticks seat themselves at the tip of tall grasses and other plants, waiting for animals to brush by, at which time they fall onto their host. They then crawl in an upward direction, looking for soft underbellies and other tissue which provides the easiest access for them to burrow into the skin. If not found by the host, a tick will feed for 3-7 days before becoming engorged, dropping off the host, and laying eggs in the ground to begin the life cycle again.”

You can lower your chances of acquiring a tick on your hike by wearing long pants, tucking in your shirt, and taking time to spot them and remove them. If a tick attaches, the best way to remove it is with tweezers.

Now, test your skills and see if you have what it takes to identify a tick. Match each tick with the best description. Good luck and have fun!

1.) Lone Star Tick ____
2). Deer Tick ____
3). Larva (6 legs) ____
4). Eggs ____
5). Brown Dog Tick ____
6). Nymph ____

A.  B.  C.  D.  E.  F.

Reminders from F.O.N.C.

NEWS FLASH!!!
A way to save money!

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

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).