The fall and winter seasons bring a variety of tasks to the forefront of the Nature Center’s to-do list. The cooler weather causes most of our plants to go dormant until spring, allowing us to spend significantly less time trimming trails and roadsides and more time tackling a backlog of projects as well as working on a number of ongoing projects.

**Bison Vet Visit**

Our long-time veterinarian, Dr. Dene Herbel of the Millsap Vet Clinic, recently completed his annual visit to provide veterinary services for the bison herd. The 16-head herd was run through the handling system by a crew of staff and volunteers, including Roy Liedtke, president of the Texas Bison Association. As each animal reached the squeeze chute at the end of the system, Dr. Herbel and his veterinary technicians vaccinated them for a variety of bovine diseases, dewormed them, and inserted a microchip in this year’s calves. Neither bison nor humans were hurt, despite the inherent risks involved in handling bison.

**Wildlife Monitoring Study**

Refuge Intern Jimmy Greene, a junior environmental science major at TCU, continues to conduct a wildlife monitoring program, using 30 game cameras employed in a random rotation through 89 cells across the Nature Center. Jimmy’s study began in May and will continue indefinitely. Each month, Jimmy pulls SD cards from the 30 cameras and moves them to new, randomly chosen locations. Each card yields, on average, around 500 photos, or approximately 15,000 photos each month. Jimmy then sorts the photos by species. To date, no real surprises have appeared on camera, but we are collecting solid data that, in time, will provide us with trends in wildlife populations. This study is funded through a grant from the Fort Worth Audubon Society.

**iNaturalist Project**

In May 2013, Nature Center staff initiated a project utilizing iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org), an internet-based venue for tracking flora and fauna observations. Project members can log their plant and animal observations from throughout the Nature Center onto the site by uploading a photo and basic location data. The project now continued on page 4
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.

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
Pat Hyer, Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary (vacancy)

Directors:
Lon Burnam Kari Landry
Michelle Clark Sally McCoy
Lynda Gearheart Bob O’Kennon
Sue Harvison Elaine Petrus
Dagmar Higgins William R. Richerson
Murray James Dale Roberts

Staff:
Laura Wood, Executive Director
Casey Cunningham, Intern
Lucinda Lewis, Bookkeeper

PACSD Advisory Board Rep.:
Chase Dustin, ex officio

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

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

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 Guest Services
Nina Francis Customer Service Assistants
Susie Harrison
DeeAnn McGinnis

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER:
www.fwnaturecenter.org
As 2014 drew to a close and the 50th Anniversary year of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge came to an end, the Friends of the Nature Center’s last major celebratory fundraising event, Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature, was held at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center over three weeks in November. The formative art show committee, chaired by Nature Center Natural Resource Specialist Michelle Villafranca, consisted of artists Susie Harrison, Vincent Villafranca and Doug Clark, and Rick Shepherd. The committee was ultimately joined by Michelle Clark, Billy Hassell, Marsha McLaughlin, Kari Landry, William Richerson, Chris Smith, Emily Steele, Laura Wood, and Friends of the Nature Center Intern Casey Cunningham, each of whom brought ideas, insights, technical skills, professional experience, and connections to the successful staging of this event. In addition, Nature Center staff members Anne Hamman, Cathy Elizondo, and Nina Francis were involved in various developmental aspects of the art show catalog. Final program design and layout were the creation of Cat Hutzler of Purrsnickitty Design.

Sixty artists of known repute submitted high-resolution examples of their work to be considered for inclusion in the exhibit/sale. The art was to focus on native flora, fauna, and typical landscapes representative of North Central Texas. A three-member jury met on July 16 to review the entries and selected 44* artists to submit their work for installation. Artists who participated in the plein aire show during the April 26 Fort Worth Wild gala celebration were granted automatic entry. [Gallery wall space limitations and spacing considerations necessitated this maximum number of entrants.]

Judges Pam and Bill Campbell of William Campbell Contemporary Art, Inc. deliberated on the artistic merit of each piece, and the committee members were notified of the prize winners. The art committee expresses its gratitude to Pam and Bill for their generous donations of time, talent, and experience in serving as the show’s judges.

After many months of work by Michelle Villafranca and her committee, the Broadview: A Spectrum of Nature Art 

continued on page 6
Around The Nature Center…
continued from page 1

has 36 members who have made 194 observations of 104 different species. One of the best features of iNaturalist is the identification assistance quickly offered from experts from around the world in the event a member does not have a solid identification of the plant or animal observed. If you would like to join this project, sign up at the website above and search for the project under “Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.” If you do not want to participate, you can also simply browse the observations to see what other people are finding at the Nature Center.

Johnsongrass vs. Native Prairie
TCU senior Caitlin Hart has spent the past six months performing vegetation surveys in the prairie area adjacent to the Greer Island gate in an effort to better understand the zone of demarcation that lies between the native little bluestem that is dominant in the prairie southern portion of the area and the exotic invasive Johnsongrass found in the northern reaches of the area. Using quadrats and transects, Caitlin has been documenting the limits of the Johnsongrass and its impact on the native grasses and forbs as well as determining the exact boundary between the two areas so that future management practices can be assessed for effectiveness.

Gravel Pit Seeding
The old gravel pits located just west of the Lotus Marsh Boardwalk parking lot have been the center of activity over the past decade through an agreement between the Nature Center and the City of Fort Worth Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW). The agreement calls for filling the former pits with clean fill from TPW road construction projects. Several small areas have been completely filled and covered with top soil and are ready to be seeded to native vegetation. The Nature Center will be using its Truax Seed Drill, a specialized mechanical planter, to plant several hundred pounds of native grass and wildflower seeds to the areas this fall and winter. A winter cover of annual rye grass will also be planted to limit soil erosion. Along some slopes, we may utilize some of our native grass hay as a muck layer to further stabilize the soil. Thanks to the Friends of the Nature Center, which provided the funding for haying equipment several years ago, we have a surplus of hay despite the drought.

Seed Rain Study
Many prairie grasses and forbs spread through wind-borne seeds. UTA graduate student Heather Bass is seeking to quantify the amount of seed transported via wind-blow dispersal and to determine how far these seeds can actually be blown. Heather has been placing meter-square mats in some Nature Center prairie sites and in areas of varying distances from the prairie sites. These mats passively collect “seed rain,” or wind-blown seeds, that fall to earth on the mats. Heather is analyzing the species and the amount of seed rain and correlating it with the nearest prairie site to determine if remnant prairies actually do help in the creation of new or reclaimed prairies. Heather will also be looking at the reverse phenomenon by examining whether or not non-prairie seeds are wind-blown into prairie sites. Heather’s research is particularly pertinent to the Nature Center’s gravel pit reclamation project.

Planned Fires
As of early November, the Nature Center has two prescribed burns planned for January 2015 as a part of the Fort Worth Fire Department’s (FWFD) wildland fire training program. The exact locations of the planned

continued on page 5
Around The Nature Center…
continued from page 4

burns have not yet been identified, but they will be current grassland sites suitable for training exercises. The partnership between the Nature Center and the FWFD provides great value to both organizations as fire is an important facet of the Nature Center’s land management program but requires more manpower than the Nature Center can provide to be conducted in a safe manner. The FWFD benefits through the opportunity for “live fire” exercises where the firefighters have the opportunity to experience how different fuel loads, fuel types, and subtle weather changes affect a fire. In addition, Fort Worth residents benefit by having a better-trained and experienced FWFD.

Projects around Town
Just as the Nature Center’s fire management program serves to benefit citizens beyond our boundaries, Nature Center staff has also been consulting with other divisions of the Fort Worth’s Parks and Community Services and Stormwater Management departments to better manage the natural resources found on other City-owned properties. The Nature Center has had a longstanding relationship with Tandy Hills Natural Area, and Michelle Villafranca and the crew recently assisted with installing the site’s first official trail. Nature Center staff also provided the equipment and expertise to hydromulch native plantings in Overton Park and provided consulting services in maintaining the prairie at Chisholm Trail Park and ecological stream function at Saratoga Park. In addition, the staff has provided planting and erosion control recommendations on several sites as a part of a new initiative within the Stormwater Management Department. We applaud the efforts of our fellow City of Fort Worth employees who see the value of improving and maintaining the natural qualities of our land.

Rob Denkhaus
Natural Resource Manager

Volunteers Needed
SPONSORS Needed
Vendors/Exhibitors Needed

for Buffalo Boogie 2015!!!

Contact Kari at 3landry@gmail.com

Vendors/Exhibitors should contact Rick Shepherd at 817-320-6383 or rickshepherd46@att.net
From the Board...continued from page 3

Exhibition and Sale opened on November 5 with the Go Wild with the Artists by-invitation-only reception. Attendees were greeted with pleasant refrains from the harp of Gloria Estes. The wine and hors d’oeuvres event, arranged by Board Director Kari Landry, was catered by Central Market, with service assistance provided by May We Serve You. More than 100 invitees filled the gallery to examine the magnificent art represented by 116 entries (98 paintings/drawings/lithographs, 7 bronze castings, 5 recycled metal assemblage creations, 5 ceramics, and a pair of fire-glazed clay animal figurines). Artists’ prices valued the displayed collection at $109,915.00. First-night sales of 14 pieces totaled $5,555.00. FONC President Marty Leonard announced the winning artists and their respective submissions, as follows:

1st Place: The Earth Day Texas Award—$1,000.00
John Cook: Patiently Waiting

2nd Place: The Friends of the Nature Center Award—$750.00
Linnea McKenney: In Fine Feather

3rd Place: The Wild Bird Center Award—$500.00
Charles Wallis: Great Blue Heron Fishing the Backwater

Honorable Mention: The Fort Worth Art Dealers Association Award—$250.00
Ted Clemens: Hilltop View

First Place: The Earth Day Texas Award—$1,000.00
Artist: John Cook for Patiently Waiting
Photo by: JPG image courtesy of the artist

Second Place: The Friends of the Nature Center Award—$750.00
Artist: Linnea McKenney for In Fine Feather
Photo by: JPG image courtesy of the artist

Third Place: The Wild Bird Center Award—$500.00
Artist: Charles Wallis for Great Blue Heron Fishing the Backwater
Photo by: JPG image courtesy of the artist

continued on page 7
From the Board…continued from page 6

At the public reception two days later, Broadview attracted an additional 125 art enthusiasts. Sales during the event were documented by Shannon Bull, Casey Cunningham, Kari Landry, Emily Steele, Michelle Villafranca, and Laura Wood. The final sales total will be reported in the 2nd Quarter issue of Bluestem News.

Thanks to all who visited the art show, especially those who made purchases benefitting the Fort Worth Nature Center via the Friends of the Nature Center, as well as the very talented artists who participated. The FONC Board wishes to express its special appreciation to the artists for agreeing to donate 25% of their revenue from sales to the Friends of the Nature Center in support of the Nature Center’s planned reconstruction of the 1930’s Civilian Conservation Corps’ creation, Broadview Park. In alphabetical order, the artists are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chase Almond</th>
<th>Ann Hardy</th>
<th>Mary Rabien</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Beck</td>
<td>Sarah Graham Harman</td>
<td>Linda Reedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina Bohlman</td>
<td>Susie Harrison</td>
<td>T.K. Riddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Bozeman</td>
<td>Billy Hassell</td>
<td>Ann Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Brewer</td>
<td>Olivette Hubler</td>
<td>Dan Spangler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryann Brummer</td>
<td>Shannon Jones</td>
<td>Travis Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Chastain</td>
<td>Sheri Jones</td>
<td>Joyce Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clark</td>
<td>Roger Krueger</td>
<td>Cecy Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted Clemens</td>
<td>Linnea McKenney</td>
<td>Vincent Villafranca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candy Clynch</td>
<td>Randy Meador</td>
<td>Charles Wallis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cook</td>
<td>Steve Miller</td>
<td>Sara Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Cook</td>
<td>Wendy M. Moore</td>
<td>Janice Weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wes Culwell</td>
<td>Jeff Ott</td>
<td>Beatriz Welch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia Davis</td>
<td>Stormie Parker</td>
<td>Scott Winterrowd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Griffin</td>
<td>Sonja Quarles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honorable Mention: The Fort Worth Art Dealers Association Award—$250.00

Artist: Ted Clemens for Hilltop View

Photo by: JPG image courtesy of the artist

Kindest regards,

Rick Shepherd
FONC Past President
In the game of Monopoly, Boardwalk is the most expensive property on the board and commands the highest rent. While not the most expensive structure on the Nature Center’s 3,621 acres, the iconic Lotus Marsh Boardwalk has certainly commanded its fair share of “rent” in terms of construction, maintenance, and repairs since original construction.

“The Boardwalk was built in two phases – the first in 1973 with only the shelter structure and connecting run,” notes Nature Center Director Suzanne Tuttle. “A second phase, the lower run and platform, was built by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1980.”

The price was worth it, visitors say. Having the ability to walk so far out onto a natural, marshy area of the Trinity, be surrounded by canopy trees and water plants, and view egrets, blue herons, and other aquatic wildlife thriving among the lotus has provided a one-of-a-kind experience for many decades.

With natural river dynamics and heavy rainfall, at times the Boardwalk appeared to be surrounded by a deep lake. At other times, water levels would naturally rise and fall. However, even with extreme drought in recent years, Nature Center Natural Resource Manager Rob Denkhaus says that the marsh remains a marsh despite the lack of water.

“Wetlands are defined not by the presence of water but by the hydric soils and vegetation that will continue to be located there,” Denkhaus says. “The drought and the short-term changes in vegetation are simply a perfect example of the dynamic quality of nature.”

A Retired Resource?
With passage of time and lack of funds needed to maintain this magnificent facility, staffers were forced to close a portion of the Boardwalk this year. Loose and missing planks, unstable handrails, and other issues eventually caused the structure to become a potential safety hazard. Some even wondered if this beautiful walkway would have to be demolished.

Thanks to the vision and tireless efforts of Nature Center staffers, FONC board members, and city council members, however, plans are currently underway for a complete Boardwalk redevelopment.

In summer 2013, the Fort Worth City Council voted to sell Certificates of Obligation to fund a number of necessary projects, including $500,000 for reconstruction of the Lotus Marsh Boardwalk. With $600,580 from various sources – certificates of obligation, capital improvement program, and park mitigation/license fees – the Nature

continued on page 9
Center entered the consultant selection and design phase during the last quarter of 2014, and the project is scheduled for completion in September 2015.

Stay tuned to future Bluestem News issues (and the Nature Center’s website) to learn more about construction progress and eventual launch of the new and improved Lotus Marsh Boardwalk.

Chris Smith
FONC Board Member

A second phase of the Boardwalk, the lower run and platform, was built by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1980.

Photo by: FWNCR Staff

Lotus Marsh Boardwalk Home to Significant Habitats

The Lotus Marsh Boardwalk area features a number of significant habitats within a close proximity that are important to both scientists and Nature Center visitors alike. For example, the cross-timbers and bottomland hardwood forest located on Todd Island exhibits long-term successional changes in ecotones that require advanced knowledge in ecology and frequent visitation to the site to observe the subtle, natural processes. In addition, marsh areas contain healthy bird, beaver, and emergent wetland plant communities. Seasonal changes in the water level result in noticeable aquatic-terrestrial habitat changes and successional changes in plant communities that are best observed through frequent visits. As testament to the area’s ecological significance, educational topics of interest to be found in the marsh range from animal identification and species management to water quality and nutrient recycling, flood dynamics and successional plant communities, upland plant communities, wetland and riparian edges, aquatic-terrestrial habitat transects, and wildlife corridors.

[Source: ‘Preserving Native Texas: A Master Plan for the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.”]

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/

The Friends of FWNCR hosted Go Wild with the Artists reception at the gallery. (More information can be found on page 3). It was a smashing success. Take a moment and view all the paintings entered and find out more about their wonderful artists. You can find the information at: www.broadviewartshow.org
A Partnership for the Cross Timbers and Prairies: Designing the UNT Native Garden

The summers of 2011 and 2012 were pivotal in my development as a young ecologist. As an undergraduate student of ecology at the University of North Texas (UNT), I was offered an internship at the Nature Center and was immersed in refuge management and scientific methods, ranging from invasive species control to bird and plant transects. In addition to the internship, the experience allowed a partnership to be forged between UNT and the Nature Center. One of the flagship operations at the Nature Center is the native plant greenhouse, managed by Michelle Villafranca and numerous generous volunteers. This expanding greenhouse aims to grow large quantities of native plant species from local seed sources. The plants are then planted in field sites for restoration that will improve habitat quality, erosion control, and natural water filtration.

As an intern, I learned the importance of native species to the future of Texas landscaping and restoration. Urban landscapes consisting of native species can connect fragmented habitats for pollinators, birds, and other city-dwelling creatures. One of the more notable aspects has been the plants' reputation for saving tremendous volumes of water due to lessened need for irrigation. During my internship, I looked for ways to promote native landscaping in a public environment so more people could learn about the need for urban biological diversity in addition to admiring its beauty.

In spring 2014, two science organizations at UNT decided to collaborate in designing a strictly native garden adjacent to the Environmental Science Building on campus. Due to the support of the Nature Center’s native greenhouse operation and the UNT landscaping department, we were able to successfully install a garden with 40 species of Texas plants. More than 20 volunteers helped, and many more have inquired about the benefits of our project to the local ecosystem. What makes this native garden particularly unique is that plants that originated within 30 miles of UNT were incorporated into the plot. This was made possible by the efforts of Michelle’s greenhouse operation at the Nature Center and has contributed to the population connectivity of several local species as well.

I encourage everyone to learn more about native plants and how they can bring biodiversity to a wide variety of urban ecosystems. A great way to learn more is by volunteering with the greenhouse and Nature Center’s Natural Guard, both life-changing experiences for me and the development of my career.

Justin Fischer
2011-12 FW/NCR Intern
In early summer 2014 while working at our entrance gatehouse, I had the pleasure of watching our resident roadrunners frequent Buffalo Road. When traffic was minimal, the Greater Roadrunner (cuckoo family, Geococcyx californianus) could be seen zipping quickly down the pavement scouting for insects, lizards, and snakes. Its lean body was pointed almost parallel to the ground, and its long tail looked like a rudder. Curious to learn more, I began to diligently observe the weekly sightings.

Once after a morning rain, my guest stood still in the middle of the road to preen and dry its feathers. Pointing its back to the sun, dark rounded wings were held out and slightly pointed to the ground. From my perspective, the bird appeared to be wearing a pair of black trousers. Posed rock-still, the roadrunner’s feathers were fluffed out, and the long tail was flared to take advantage of a warm south wind. Every time a vehicle would approach, however, the roadrunner would try to fly back into the wet grass next to the road. Roadrunners are not noted as accomplished flyers, and this particular one demonstrated this with an awkward dive over the fence. Undaunted, the roadrunner returned and continued its drying stance on the pavement. That persistence made me smile.

You may recall the cartoon with the comical roadrunner and coyote. The Warner Brothers cartoon animated the quickness of these amusing birds by a blur of circular spinning legs. A similar scene would treat me when my visitor would suddenly dart across the road to deftly catch an insect. An old saying, “Hate to eat and run!” does not apply to this cuckoo because one way it survives is by running and foraging for food. The agile roadrunners can run up to speeds of 15 mph.

When a roadrunner would stop near the gatehouse, I could observe more details. Its bushy head crest of black feathers raises and lowers like Groucho Marx’s eyebrow. Another interesting feature is its zygodactyl feet, which means that two toes point forward and two toes point backward on each foot, similar to an “X.” The actual track, however, looks like a “K,” with the straight bar indicating the outside and the “<” showing the inside of the foot. This helps you decipher the direction of travel.

Each week, I continued to learn more about this interesting species. Both male and female birds, which look similar, take turns hatching the eggs. They continually trade places to guard and forage until the hatchlings can fend for themselves. I was relieved to learn two cuckoos were tending to their roadside errands because I felt exhausted observing how many times a day the birds ran back and forth!

Next time you visit the Nature Center, watch for this year-round resident. Though you won’t hear “Beep-beep!” you may get to see a very interesting cuckoo.

Susie Harrison
Customer Service Assistant
Volunteers at the Nature Center

In 2013, Azle High School’s Structured Learning class began an annual field trip tradition to the Nature Center’s Restoration Greenhouse. The students in the class, led by Jessica Bailey, are in a special educational program called Structured Learning, whereby students take six field trips a year as part of their curriculum. When they visit the Nature Center, they volunteer as well!

In 2013, students planted native plants in the greenhouse entrance beds and are now helping with maintenance of the project. This past November, students and their teachers enriched the soil by adding mulch to the beds.

Michelle Villafranca
Natural Resource Specialist

Azle High School’s Structured Learning class helps out at the greenhouse.

Photo by: Jessica Bailey
New Red-Shouldered Hawk Makes its Appearance at the Nature Center

On Thursday, November 6, the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge welcomed a new red-shouldered hawk as a valuable addition to its education and exhibit animals. The hawk fell from his nest when he was a couple of days old and sustained nerve damage to one of his legs. Because of this injury and the fact that he was never taught by his parents how to hunt, he is non-releasable. Rescued by a local wildlife rehabilitator in Weatherford, Texas, the hawk has been cared for by humans from a very young age, making him totally imprinted (i.e., not afraid of people). Fortunately, he is easy to handle.

The hawk is a juvenile and does not yet have his adult plumage. When he reaches adulthood, he will display a beautiful reddish-brown coloration on the upper portion of each wing, which is where this species gets its name.

He is currently becoming more acclimated to his new surroundings and can be seen in the exhibit adjacent to the great horned owl, which is found at the rear of the Hardwicke Interpretive Center. Eventually, the plan is for the hawk to be used in education programs at both the Nature Center and offsite locations.

Next time you visit the Nature Center, be certain to make a trip to the Hardwicke Interpretive Center to see our new addition. He is a unique animal which many are not able to see up close.

FWNCR Staff
SAVE THE DATE

23rd ANNUAL

BUFFALO BOOGIE

Saturday, May 9, 2015

We need VOLUNTEERS to HELP plan this annual event!!!

What can you do to help?

• Design advertising brochure and t-shirt logo
  • Contact entertainers and logistics
• Mailings to sponsors and previous attendees
  • Assist vendor/exhibitor chair
  • Pass out flyers at other events
  • Place brochures at stores, etc.
• Set up and maintain registrant database
• Work registration May 7 & 8
  • Work setup Friday, May 8
  • Help onsite Saturday, May 9
• Many more short-term commitments

For more info: 817-392-7410 / Kari at 3landry@gmail.com
Spring Break at the Nature Center…..

With spring just around the corner, we wanted to remind you of several exciting programs that will be held at the Nature Center the week of Spring Break (March 9-13).

Our offerings will include Bison Feeding Hayrides, Canoe Fest (a self-guided canoe experience run by staff), family activities for all ages, and opportunities to see some of our animal ambassadors!

Plan to make the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge one of your Spring Break stops! You can learn the particulars by picking up a copy of our quarterly calendar of events, Phenology, at the Hardwicke Interpretive Center or by visiting our website, www.fwnaturecenter.org.

FWNCR Staff

Visitors to the Nature Center from March 9 – 13 (Spring Break) this year can participate in the popular Canoe Fest program. Photo by: FWNCR Staff

FWNCR Staff

The Bison Feeding Hayride is one of the many activities to be enjoyed at the Nature Center during Spring Break. Photo by: FWNCR Staff
Thank You To Our Generous Donors

Ms. Lani Aker
Neil Alcorn
Mark Alexander
Tim Allums
Kevin Amstein
Mr. Gregory Anderson
Joseph Anderson
Eden Barker
Mimi Benoist
Michael Benoist
Jeff Brignac
Maryann Brummer
Sandra Brunello
Mr. Matthew Caldwell
Bill Campbell
Ken Campbell
Sherry Cardona
Mr. & Mrs. Marlo Casabar
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Charette
Mr. Gary Christensen
Douglas Clark
Joseph Clayton
Judith Coberly
Stephanie Corbitt
Mark Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Art Crum
Clarence Culwell
Wes Culwell
Ms. Claudia Davis
Ms. Kathryn Davitt
Mr. Brian Dayton
Mr. & Mrs. John Degroat
Mr. Jason Delso
Mr. Jeffrey Dooley
Steve Downing
Mr. Jim Elliott
Lynn Fortenberry
Royce Fountain & Family
Frances Fox
Guy Frazier & Family
Chanum Fuller
Kenneth Fulton
Mr. Chris Garrett
Ms. Lynda Gearheart
Lisa Goode
Duane Gorman
Tolbert Greenwood
Chris Guyer
Ms. Gailon Hardin
Fred Harrison
Pat Harrison
Scott Hathaway
Ms. Karen Hedrick
Mr. Peter Heilmayr
John Hightower
Ms. Sheila Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Hofford
Tammy Howes
Ms. Olivette Hubler
Scott Hudson
Mr. Sean Huff
Joel Hunt
Ms. Patricia Hyer
Mohit Jain
Ms. Simone Jenion
Michelle Johnson
Ms. Sheri Jones
Rob Keyes
Kari Kirkham
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Landry
Daniel Langston
Mr. William Lankford
Gilmore Lauderdale
Amanda League
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Leibrock
Ms. Martha Leonard
Mr. Dennis A Littlefield
Adam Loviseck
Scott Lucado
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Lutes
Don Lutes
Joseph Marchione
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Martin
Jose Martinez
Don McAnally
Calene McDonald
Ms. Kay Mcdonald
Julicann Mcnamee
Jason Mills
Mr. Wallace Mitchell
Wendy Moore
David Mosely
Joni Mote
Matthew Mullins
Brandon Mulvaney
Ms. Joy Neal
Jim Nickason
Mr. David Nortman
Ms. Kristy Odom
Mr. Koby Osowski
Ms. Marilyn Parker
James Payne
Clif Pickard
Jerry Pickard
Ruby Pixler
James Potts
Peter Prachan
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Pride
Debbie Quitugua
Ms. Cathryn Record-Horn
Shirley Redl
Colin Reed
Ms. Sharon Reinhard
Mr. & Mrs. William Richerson
Carol Roark
Dale Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Ropa
Eric Rose
Mr. Peter Russell
Ms. Kathy Saenz
Timothy Sawtelle
Mike Scott
Ron Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Shaw
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Shepherd
Mrs. Chris Smith
Kevin Smith
Russell Smith
Emily Strong
Mr. & Mrs. Brit Swift

continued on page 17
Trails & Treats 2014

This year’s Trails & Treats event proved to one of the largest in recent years, allowing 446 participants the opportunity to enjoy the Nature Center in the evening hours. This popular Halloween alternative was held at a new venue this year – Broadview Park. By holding Trails & Treats at this location, attendees were able to park more easily and have a larger area in which to collect treats and enjoy face painting, live animal presentations, games, and spooky crafts. Great fun was had by kids and adults alike in the brisk night air.

We were fortunate to have great weather the night of the event, narrowly missing stray showers to the south of the Nature Center.

Thank you to the more than 35 volunteers who manned the booths. Special recognition goes to our Natural Resource staff, who assisted with parking and logistics. Without these two groups, the event would not have been the success it was.

We hope you plan to make Trails & Treats an annual visit to the Nature Center. If we missed you this year, we would love to see you and your family next year!

FWNCR Staff
The Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge is thrilled to announce the receipt of a major gift from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Employees’ Reaching Out (AERO) Club. We received a grant of $55,000 just in time for Santa to bring us a critically important vehicle that will provide a necessary transportation service to underserved youth and mobility-impaired residents of the community. With this new vehicle, we can provide a safe, low-cost, and reliable travel option to transport local school children and special needs visitors to/from and within the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge for recreational and educational programming. Nature Center education staff will also utilize the vehicle to bring the Nature Center’s message into their greater service area. The community outreach benefits to be derived from this program are an essential piece of fulfilling the Friend’s mission to preserve, protect, and conserve the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Many, many thanks to Lockheed’s Reaching Out (Aero) Club for its generous gift!

Laura Wood
Executive Director
Texas Wild Ambassadors

The Lone Star State is famous for its BBQ, cowboys, and the slogan “Everything is bigger in Texas.” Texas is the 2nd largest state in the United States and is home to a diversity of plants and wildlife. Several of its wild inhabitants have been adopted to represent Texas as the state’s symbol. Do you know which animals serve as our Texas wild ambassadors?

The state bird of Texas is the Northern Mockingbird, a common visitor to our backyards that carries a repertoire of unusual bird songs. Mockingbirds are known for their vocal abilities, including the songs of other birds, insects, and even car alarms. The state’s large mammal is not originally native to Texas but was introduced by the early Spaniards. The Texas Longhorn has been part of the state’s early history and is known for its endurance to survive the Texas weather. The Nine-Banded Armadillo represents Texas as the state’s small mammal. Originally from Central and South America, this species of armadillo migrated north naturally and has adapted to living in this region. Texas has also adopted a flying mammal, the Mexican Free-Tailed Bat, whose colonies are known to be the largest congregation of mammals in the world! Bracken Cave north of San Antonio is home to the largest colony of Mexican free-tailed bats in the state, with estimates of about 20 million bats. We must not forget the Monarch Butterfly as the state’s insect. This colorful orange and black butterfly makes a nearly 2,000-mile journey through Texas during the fall and spring. The remarkable fact about this butterfly is that the fall migrants head to specific sites in the state of Michoacán, Mexico, to which they have never flown before. Found only in Texas, the Guadalupe Bass has been named the official state fish. Generally green in color, Guadalupe Bass are found in streams and rivers in Central Texas. The state reptile might be known as the Horny Toad, but this “toad” is not an amphibian but a lizard. The Texas Horned Lizard has numerous spikes along its head and, when frightened, can squirt out blood from the corner of its eye to ward off possible predators.

These Texas wild ambassadors are just a glimpse of the diversity of wildlife that can be found in this state. During your next outdoor adventure, stop and take a closer look at these representatives in their natural habitat.

Unscramble the words below to obtain the letters that will reveal what the state grass of Texas is. (Hint: Need help unscrambling the words, read the passage above.)

TRONENRH KDBMIGRONIC

UPDULGEAA SABS

HRCAMNO TEBRYFTUL

SETXangoHOLRN

ENIN DBENDA RDILAOILM

XIMANCE EREF LEDTIA TAB

XETSA ENHRDO ZRDAIR

The State Grass of Texas is…
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).