After several years of planning and waiting for water levels to improve, FWNCR staff is pleased to announce the official launch of our Texas Parks & Wildlife Department-sanctioned (TPWD) Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Paddling Trail on Sunday, November 1, 2015, at 1:30 pm.

With several linear miles of the West Fork of the Trinity River and hundreds of acres of associated wetlands located within the park boundaries, paddling is a perfect way to see more of the Nature Center’s remote beauty. The route, as shown on the hand-drawn map that was submitted to TPWD with our application, makes a 7.1-mile shoreline loop from the Big River parking lot to Greer Island and back.

The Nature Center will open the trail with a free Friends members-only community paddling parade beginning at the Big River Trailhead, with a takeout opportunity at the 3.4-mile midpoint at the Greer Island Trailhead for those who do not wish to paddle the entire 7.1-mile loop. We have a few canoes and kayaks that we can share on a first-come, first-served basis, and members are also welcome to bring their own boats and equipment. Staff members will lead the parade and will be on hand at Greer Island to shuttle participants back to their vehicles. Folks who are not paddling are encouraged to line the Riverbottom Trail south of the Big River Trailhead to cheer on the parade.

As the local partner, the City of Fort Worth, through the Nature Center’s staff, will be responsible for developing and maintaining the trailheads and providing educational programming and guided recreation opportunities to our visitors. In preparation for the establishment of the trail, the Friends of the Nature Center obtained a grant in 2012 from the Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation to purchase a composting toilet. The unit was installed at the Big River Trailhead, with associated infrastructure constructed by Nature Center staff, and was dedicated on September 16, 2013.

TPWD sponsors the program and provides these valuable services as listed on its website:

- Work with local community partners
- Promote the paddling trail as part of the Texas Paddling Trails program (TPT)

continued on page 4

~ 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 8:00 AM—5:00 PM
Please call 817-392-7410 with any additional questions.

The Nature Center will be closed November 26th 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
Recording Secretary (vacancy)
Dagmar Higgins, Corresponding Secretary

Directors:
Tom Armstrong Sally McCoy
Denis Benjamin Cathy Mueller
George Bristol Bob O’Kennon
Lon Burnam Elaine Petrus
Lynn Fortenberry William R. Richerson
Lynda Gearheart William Rodgers
Kari Landry Michelle Schneider

Staff:
Laura Wood, Executive Director
Lucinda Lewis, Bookkeeper

PACSD Advisory Board Rep.:
Chase Dustin, ex officio

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER & REFUGE
Suzanne Tuttle FWNCR Manager

HARDWICKE INTERPRETIVE CENTER
Michael Perez Education Program Manager
Laura Veloz Naturalist/Volunteer Coord.
Elizabeth Bittner Naturalist/Education Programming
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
Vacant Natural Resource Technician
Nic Martinez Natural Resource Technician
Nicholas Griffin Natural Resource Intern

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

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER:
www.fwnaturecenter.org
At the annual meeting on July 11, much to her surprise, Murray James was recognized for her many years of support and dedication to the Nature Center. The auditorium in the Hardwicke Center was renamed the Murray A. James Auditorium to recognize her service.

The Friends of the Nature Center board presented her with the lasting honor as she has been a tireless supporter of the FWNCR for more than 40 years. She and her husband, Jack, were charter members of the Friends when the group was organized in 1974. Besides serving as a docent along with her daughter, Georgia, she and Jack volunteered to serve on the organizing committee when the Fort Worth Nature Center’s endowment was established on June 25, 1985. Mrs. James served as the first chair of the new endowment committee and was responsible for raising the initial $100,000 seed money to fund the fledgling endowment, which has had significant growth.

Murray continued to serve almost continuously on the boards of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Conservancy and the Friends as well as on the endowment committee until her retirement. In addition, she has influenced her daughter to follow in her mother’s footsteps. Laura Harrison currently serves on the board and is treasurer for the Friends.

Typically, the City approves naming rights posthumously, but the policy states, “In very limited circumstances, the naming of City-owned facilities after a living individual who has made extraordinary contributions for the betterment of all Fort Worth may be considered.”

Murray is a “living individual” who has always had a long-range view/vision of the FWNCR and a steady hand for guidance. This approval is indicative of how much Murray has meant to the Nature Center and how important it is that her legacy lives on.

The Friends also recognized and honored four other retiring board members with a Certificate of Appreciation as well as a copy of Board Member George Bristol’s book On Politics and Parks.

Pat Hyer served in several positions on the board, most recently as recording secretary. You could always count on her accuracy.

Sue Harvison was originally on the Nature Conservancy Board before the merger and has been very helpful in raising funds and awareness of the FWNCR.

Dale Roberts has been an ardent supporter and advocate for the Nature Center and the Friends for many years and in 2014 stepped up to chair the 2015 Buffalo Boogie when a fellow board member had a family illness. Dale also served as development chair on the Friends board. She is also known for her jewelry-making talent.

Michelle Clark led the PR Committee for two years and played an integral part in helping the Friends gain more community exposure and name recognition.

These five friends of the Friends are already missed, and we know they will continue to be a part of what makes the Nature Center such a special place. We thank them for their service.

Marty Leonard
FONC President
Members Only
Event...continued from page 1

- Provide TPT kiosk design options and estimated costs
- Develop trail map and local interpretive information for use in marketing materials (i.e., kiosk inserts, website)
- Provide river conservation and river ethics information for use in marketing materials
- Provide official TPT marker signage for roadways and put-in/take-out locations
- Provide interpretive vinyl insert for approved community to use in kiosks

More information can be found at [http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails/](http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails/).

Since this is a members-only event, please be prepared to display your membership card when you arrive at the launch site. We hope that you’ll join us for the celebration!

Suzanne Tuttle
Nature Center Manager

The paddling trail route, shown on this hand-drawn map, makes a 7.1-mile shoreline loop from the Big River parking lot to Greer Island and back.

Map prepared by: Chad Etheridge, Water Programs Coordinator
Improvement Projects Update

The flooding we experienced this past spring hampered progress on our two major improvement projects, the reconstruction of the Marsh Boardwalk and the stabilization of the Cross Timbers Trail access. However, now that we have dried out considerably, both projects are moving forward.

Spending several weeks under water proved to be the final undoing of the Boardwalk, and it was closed to public use in early summer when it began to collapse. Fortunately, we had recognized that the current structure was at the end of its useful lifespan, and the reconstruction process was already underway. The services of award-winning local architect Paul Dennehy, whose restoration design for Broadview Park was highlighted in the April – June 2015 issue of this publication, were secured for the Boardwalk project, and the design phase is now complete. At this writing, bids are being solicited for the construction phase, and the work is projected for completion in May 2016. Nature Center staff members have begun to dismantle the old structure in-house, which is saving tens of thousands of dollars on the project’s cost, plus it gives us the opportunity to salvage and stockpile materials for reuse elsewhere at the Nature Center.

Design work on the Cross Timbers Trail access stabilization was halted for a couple of months while the trailhead was actively flooded as the project’s engineering firm, Freese and Nichols, Inc., was unable to complete the initial survey work that forms the basis of the study. The trail is dried out now, and the survey was completed in early August. Once the design is finished, the bidding process for the construction work will begin. The projected completion date as of this writing is July 2016, although we hope to patch the trail and have it open for use again by the time you read this newsletter.

I will continue to provide periodic updates as the work on both projects progresses. The staff is excited to be actively involved in taking the Nature Center into the future!

Suzanne Tuttle
Nature Center Manager

This August 2015 photo of the Cross Timbers Trail shows damage sustained in the spring 2015 flooding.

Photo by: FWNCR Staff

Nature Center staff has begun demolishing the Marsh Boardwalk in preparation for reconstruction.

Photo by: FWNCR Staff
Following the nominating subcommittee’s spring solicitation of the general membership for board membership considerations, five names were received and considered to be excellent candidates. Dr. Denis Benjamin, Lynn Fortenberry, Catherine (Cathy) Mueller, William Rodgers, and Michelle Schneider were elected to serve two-year terms as directors. Their terms will expire in 2017. These five will join two other excellent additions to the board, Tom Armstrong and George Bristol, who were approved by the board earlier this year to fill unexpired vacancies. The terms for these two expire in 2016, and it is anticipated they will stand for re-election in 2016 for two-year terms expiring in 2018.

The new directors were introduced at the annual membership meeting on July 11 by nominating subcommittee member Bill Richerson. Brief biographical sketches are found below:

**Tom Armstrong** brings 30 years of business executive and board experience to the FONC board. He has served at the highest levels of management responsibility and is a member of a number of business societies and foundations. He exhibits a passion for the outdoors, especially conservation of natural resources. “Saving nature for the next generation is important,” he notes.

**George Bristol** is a businessman, fundraiser, politician, conservationist, and author of the well-received book *On Politics and Parks*, 2012, Texas A&M University Press, College Station. He is recently retired from his second term as chairman of Audubon Texas. In addition, he is founder and member of the board of the Glacier National Park Conservancy, founder and president of the Texas Coalition for Conservation, member of the National Park Foundation, and chairman of the Texas State Parks Advisory Committee.

**Dr. Denis Benjamin** is a retired board-certified pathologist now working at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. He has a wide interest in natural history, botanical illustration, and water color painting. An expert mycologist, he has authored two books on the subject, entitled *Mushrooms: Poisons & Panaceas* and *Musings of a Mushroom Hunter*.

**Lynn Fortenberry** is a passionate birding enthusiast who schedules her vacation time around High Island migration dates. She brings professional experience in administration and management to the board, especially involving financial analysis and reporting. In addition to birding, her interests include butterflies, gardening, and hiking.

**Catherine (Cathy) Mueller** has participated as a volunteer with Buffalo Boogie the last several years and is a new Friends member. She brings her communications and...
Welcome 2015 New FONC Board Members...continued from page 6

public relations training, skills, and experience to the board. Her avocational interests include hiking, nature walks, and traveling to natural sites.

William Rodgers and his wife, Abby, own and live on the Edwards Ranch bordering the north shore of upper Lake Worth overlooking the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. He has had years of experience with Nature Center activities, is a member of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Young Professionals, and is active in rangeland management programs as well as wildlife management programs on family properties around Texas.

Michelle Schneider has a deep interest in plant and environmental conservation and loves what the Nature Center has been doing. She has extensive experience with strategic planning for multiple organizations, business development at the Botanic Research Institute of Texas, the Connemara Conservancy, and numerous travel agencies for Sabre. Currently employed by American Airlines, she is also an information technology and operations expert, bringing a wealth of experience to the board.

Rick Shepherd
Past President

Disclaimer: The limited descriptions of these new directors have in great measure been “lifted” from the candidates’ sponsors’ nomination forms, much of it verbatim. They are not intended to be viewed as original text by this article’s author.

Year-End Giving: Jump on the School Bus

Most of us give to our favorite charities at the end of the year, and we ask that you consider an exciting new Friends program this year.

For the 2015 End-of-Year Fundraising Campaign, the Friends is creating a fund to help send school children to the Nature Center. Almost as soon as the Nature Center was founded, 3rd graders from Fort Worth ISD began coming to Greer Island on field trips. Four to five school buses would arrive around 9:00; sometimes, another four to five buses would come at 10:30. These field trips were possible because of a grant obtained by the Junior League. Fort Worth ISD created their own outdoor learning center a few years later, replacing the trips to the Nature Center. Eventually, budget cuts eliminated this program; without that initial grant, no money was available for field trips to the Nature Center.

Most schools want to send their students to the Nature Center. Some schools can provide the transportation costs but need help with the entrance fees. Other school districts will need transportation costs covered as well. With this new fund, a procedure will be established so schools can draw on the money to take students to the Nature Center on field trips. Students will participate in docent-led hikes that are geared to their grade level and the STAAR test. Field trips like these greatly enhance learning because they add kinesthetic (learning by doing) learning to the teacher’s toolkit.

So Jump on the School Bus and let’s get those kids back to the Nature Center!
2015 FONC Annual Meeting

With a standing-room-only crowd, this year’s annual meeting on July 11 captivated and delighted members and their families perhaps like never before. For starters, attendance tripled that of the previous year.

Scrumptious Social
Thanks to Executive Director Laura Wood and Board Member Lynda Gearheart, this year’s pre-meeting ditched the classic auditorium rows and began with a catered, table-cloth-covered light meal, which encouraged friendly discussion and catchup. “We wanted to kick it up a notch with delicious cuisine, lively conversation, and a memorable program,” Laura said. “It was good to see members enjoying a less-rushed social time.” Laura added that planned activities for kids with a Nature Center education specialist enhanced the scene even more.

State of the Friends and Nature Center
Board Director Bill Richerson began the annual meeting with the introduction of new board members and the acknowledgement of outgoing board members, highlighting the longtime service of board members Murray James, Pat Hyer, Sue Harvison, and Dale Roberts. One of the Friends’ founders, Murray was honored with the renaming of Hardwicke Auditorium to the Murray A. James Auditorium. [See more on the Murray James dedication on page 3 of this issue.]

“It was a very good year,” noted President Marty Leonard, whose presentation reflected 2014-15 successes. Those included:
• Increased membership with goals to move those numbers higher next year
• A grant from the Lockheed Aero Club employees giving program that provided to the Friends a 14-passenger, handicap-accessible van, allowing us to transport school children, visitors, etc.
• Implementation of Donor Perfect, a software that enables quick, online donations from the Friends’ website
• The birth of six new bison thanks to the dutiful efforts of Maverick the bull
• Increased PR efforts, which have included more press, a video, redesigned website, and Facebook engagement, with a goal to launch a branding campaign in the coming year teaming with TCU’s ROXO Advertising Agency
• New management of the Friends’ Gift Shop that promises new, fun merchandise ahead (and discounts the day of the annual meeting)
• A good year for Buffalo Boogie, despite inclement weather
• A first-ever juried art show that raised awareness of the Nature Center among citizens in central Fort Worth
• A good financial report, enabling the Friends to proceed with new goals

Nature Center Manager Suzanne Tuttle’s overview included photos of the “Great Flood of 2015” and mention of some of its impacts, one of which was the forced closing of the Boardwalk. “However, all is not lost,” Suzanne said. “We are in the process of beginning reconstruction of a new and improved Boardwalk, so stay tuned for details in the coming year.” Another flood impact was destabilization of the Cross Timbers Trail, which is also being assessed for reconstruction.

continued on page 9
Other highlights from Suzanne’s presentation included:
• This year’s natural resource management and subsequent prescribed burn efforts
• Academic research taking place at the Nature Center and the fascinating night photography of nocturnal wildlife
• Highlights of the annual Hands & Hearts Volunteer Appreciation event
• Ongoing bison herd management
• New staff hires: Education Program Manager Michael Perez and Education Naturalist Elizabeth Bittner. Also summer interns Danielle Gadzala and Nick Griffin
• Summer adventures and Trails & Treats successes

**Featured Speaker**

Members were in for a real treat this year with new Board Member George Bristol, esteemed author and longtime conservationist.

George’s crusade for America’s national parks is summarized in the book *On Politics and Parks*, and Friends members received special insight into his and others’ efforts to rescue the Texas public park system.

He explained his motivation for so many years dedicated to the parks cause. “The reason I have devoted so much of my time and energy to parkland conservation is that I am committed not only to conserving national treasures but also to preserving that crucial relationship of people to the land so they will appreciate the meaning of those treasures and pass it on from generation to generation.”

George outlined the tireless efforts of those who tried raising funds for the 2012-13 state parks budget, only to be stymied by the legislative process. “The end result was that the legislature failed to appropriate any significant amounts for capital repairs,” he said. “We changed all of that this year, though we will still have to keep our guard up.”

After the program, George graciously signed books for those lucky enough to win early registration copies and others who were inspired to buy them. The Friends’ Board of Directors will continue to benefit from George’s expertise as he was elected to the 2015-16 board.
Summer has come and gone and so has Danielle Gadzala, our fabulous summer intern. Danielle is a recent graduate of Auburn University and traveled all the way from Alabama to learn more about Texas ecology and how to educate the public about native flora and fauna. She took charge of our kindergarten Summer Natural History Adventures, and she had a great time coming up with interactive games to introduce the children to our resident animals. Danielle also filled in teaching other age groups and was always willing to lend a helping hand with animal care, exhibits, and other tasks. She frequently worked alongside our resource staff and learned about plant propagation, wildlife monitoring, and all the behind-the-scenes work that keeps our “outdoor classroom” healthy. Danielle and I often had long discussions about how to develop a meaningful message for a program and make sure that message is conveyed effectively. I was always impressed by her creativity and her ability to make connections between concepts that others might have overlooked. We will miss seeing that Alabama license plate in the parking lot, but we are sure she will have great success in her future career.

In animal care news, frequent visitors will notice that we have been moving some of our education animals around, most notably our turtles. As animals grow, their space needs change, so we have been playing musical chairs to give the animals the breathing room they need. You may even see a few new ambassadors in the coming months as some of our larger reptiles move on to more appropriate facilities. Plans for a new temporary exhibit are underway, continued on page 11
What’s New...continued from page 10

and by the time you read this article, you should be able to view this exhibit and learn about a native bee study that was recently conducted at the Nature Center and how you can help native pollinators. Dr. Shalene Jha and the invertebrate lab at the University of Texas at Austin found 40 different bee species at the Nature Center, including some rare finds.

Bird lovers, be on the lookout for the return of our migratory species. The number of birds visiting our courtyard feeding area dropped during the summer months. This is typical as many birds move to their breeding grounds during warm months and make more use of wild foods, though a few still dropped by for the occasional drink from the courtyard water feature. Species that were often spotted over the summer included Painted and Indigo Buntings, White-winged and Mourning Doves, Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and the occasional Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, or Carolina Chickadee. As the weather cools, we should start spotting our winter residents at the feeders. When will the first American Goldfinch arrive or the first Dark-eyed Junco? How many towhees will we host this year? We’ll find out soon!

Elizabeth Bittner
Education Naturalist

Another bird that makes an appearance at the Nature Center during cooler months is the Spotted Towhee.

Photo by: L. Sallee

Save the Date
2016 Hands & Heart Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

February 13, 2016
Hardwicke Interpretive Center
As the adage reads, “All good things must come to an end.” This is true about our Summer Natural History Adventures (SNHA). In late July, we concluded another successful summer of adventures. This summer was no different than past summers in that we welcomed back adventure seekers and learners from past years as well as newcomers. For our repeat campers, they look forward to the day they get to come out and connect with nature and reacquaint themselves with their summer nature friends. For our newcomers, they are ready to start their legacy of learning about our natural world.

Classes are divided by grade levels in order to provide age-appropriate lessons and activities. Camp levels consisted of kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders, 3rd and 4th graders, and 5th and 6th graders. For the first time, we opened up additional classes for the 1st and 2nd graders. This tends to be a popular age group, and we did not want to turn anyone away that might have been interested in our adventures. This proved to be a great decision and allowed us the opportunity to reach out to more kids. Kindergarten campers stayed with us until midday, and the rest of the groups stayed until mid-afternoon. Ample time was provided for learning and engaging in activities that reinforced our instruction.

Kids that attend SNHA learn about a wide variety of nature-related topics. In kindergarten, our staff lay the foundation for future experiences. It is at this age where curiosity and interest begin to develop and a passion is cultivated for the upper levels. In the upper grade levels, the kids begin to participate in activities to supplement what they are learning. As they get older, they begin to apply their knowledge and explore the Nature Center more, both on land and water. Our older campers get the opportunity to canoe the West Fork of the Trinity River. This year, many were able to paddle for the first time and see new areas of the property. On the water, we were able to see an active beaver lodge and were welcomed by an alligator. These are experiences and adventures you are not going to get on a game console.

Campers are provided with several hands-on experiences. One of our most popular classes is Animal Caretaker Day. This class is the culmination of our summer. The kids get the opportunity to take care of the animals, learn about their diets, and learn about their natural history. Part of this day includes capturing grasshoppers for our insect-eating animals. The kids have a blast combing the prairie for grasshoppers. At the end of the day, you can see they are a little tired. Despite being tired, they learn how important it is to properly care for these animals. You can see the pride they have for caring for our animals.

We love teaching these kids every summer and have loved watching them grow before our eyes. It is so rewarding when they want to come back and work alongside us as volunteers. The success of SNHA is based on these dedicated repeat campers. It is fun to see them interact with the younger students and help nurture a love of nature. It gives me pride when I see them teach concepts they learned to the next generation of young naturalists. For these volunteers, they could be hanging out with friends, playing video games, or just being a kid continued on page 13.
Until Next Summer… Continued from page 12

while enjoying time away from school. However, they choose to volunteer their time to help foster a love of nature. It is an awesome cycle to witness.

If you are reading this and think, “I missed it,” please know there is always next summer. We have started planning and considering SNHA for 2016. Start planning for your child to join us for adventures at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Why wait for summer? Start bringing your children out now and take them on hikes and surround them with the beauty of nature. By the time you turn them over to us in the summer, they will have a positive comfort level and an interest to learn more. We look forward to meeting your child, teaching your child, and learning with your child.

Michael Perez
Natural Scientist Supervisor

Trails & Treats is CREEPING Up on Us

If you were walking down the aisles of your local store, you would think Halloween is here. Decorations and candy are beginning to escape the storage rooms and spill out onto the shelves. In reality, Halloween is around the corner, and putting together a good event takes planning. For that reason, we are getting ready for Trails & Treats 2015. We are planning a fun event for the community this year. We will have speakers discussing our creepy crawlies, “scary” storytelling, games, crafts, and, of course, opportunities to hike for treats. Save the date of October 29, 2015, and join us in this FREE and fun event for your family. If you have not visited the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, this will be a great opportunity to come and check us out. As usual, we want your kids to dress up and show off their costumes. If you are interested in helping out or have questions about our event, please call us at (817) 392-7410.

Michael Perez
Natural Scientist Supervisor

Trails & Treats participants work at the craft table.

Photo by: Brandon and Daryl Marling
Mark your calendars for the 24th annual Buffalo Boogie on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 8:00 am. We are adding a 10K race this year on an attractive flat, shade-covered track within the Nature Center grounds. Proceeds from the 10K, 5K, and one-mile fun run, which features live music and family-friendly activities, benefit the Nature Center.

The USATF-certified race courses follow paved city roads within the Nature Center that are closed to traffic for the races. The route is both stroller- and pet-friendly. For more information, visit www.buffaloboogie.org.

The first 750 people to register will receive a commemorative T-shirt. Registration for Buffalo Boogie also includes entry to the Nature Center, breakfast, arts and crafts, face painting, balloon animals, and eligibility for prize drawings valued at $5,000. Attendees can visit an event expo featuring a variety of wildlife and conservation entities, preservation organizations, food-and-drink vendors, small businesses, educational exhibits, and a Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge pop-up gift shop.

Registration through April 30, 2016, is $20. Late registration fee through May 6, 2016, is $25 per person. Race-day registration is $30. Chip timing is optional for participants registered in the 5K and 10K. Registration for dogs is $5 and includes a bandana. Only leashed dogs are permitted. No other pets are allowed.

Participants will be able to register online, by mail, in person at Luke’s Locker Montgomery Plaza store, and at the event. The Nature Center is located at 9601 Fossil Ridge Road, Fort Worth, 76135.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available. For more information, registration details, or volunteer specifics for Buffalo Boogie, visit www.buffaloboogie.org. Applications will be available soon.
The Warren Pulich Memorial Whooping Crane Trip

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to watch the endangered Whooping Crane. Warren Pulich, Jr. will be our birding guide on the coast.

January 22—24, 2016

FONC Members—$395.00
(per person/double occupancy)

Non–Members—$475.00
(per person/double occupancy)

Price includes: bus transportation, rooming at double occupancy rate, breakfast, boat fare, and entrance to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. To register and pay, go to www.naturecenterfriends.org and follow the link to the trip.

Itinerary:

Friday 7:00 am: Leave. Breakfast stop at McDonald's in north Waco. Lunch stop at Monument Hill State Park in La Grange. Stop at Goose Island State Park. Arrive at lodging in Rockport. Dinner in Rockport.

Saturday 7:00 am: Leave for boat in Rockport Harbor. Lunch in town at noon. Drive Shore Line Road, stopping at various birding spots. Stop in Port Aransas if time allows. Dinner in town.

Sunday 7:00 am: Leave for Aransas Wildlife Refuge. Drive to Victoria through Refugio. Lunch at noon. Leave for Fort Worth with one stop on the way.

Transportation will be provided by Cowtown Bus. The bus will leave from and return to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden parking lot. Arrangements have been made with the Botanic Garden for overnight parking.

For more information, contact: Bill Richerson at 817-235-6524 or wrrich@sbcglobal.net
New Friends Giving Opportunity

You shop. Amazon gives.

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For more information, visit smile.amazon.com.
AN EXCITING NEW WAY TO RAISE FUNDS!

Recyclebank rewards residents for helping to make the City of Fort Worth a cleaner, greener place. That’s why we’re happy to partner with them for a membership drive.

For every person we’re able to get to sign up for their recycling rewards program, Recyclebank will give us $5.

Not a member? Sign up today and then share this link with all your family, friends and neighbors in Fort Worth:

Recyclebank.com/fonc
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Many Thanks to our Corporate Donor
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
We usually perceive nighttime as being silent and dark, but with closer exploration, the evening is alive with many forms of animal communication. Even in the middle of the city, nocturnal wildlife is in contact with one another through chirps, hoots, and howls. Most recognizable are the calls which come from insects, birds, and mammals, whose sounds carry a special meaning to one another.

The arrival of cooler weather means a decrease in insect songs. Their chorus may be the only chance to attract a mate before colder weather arrives. For example, the black and brown field cricket uses sound to attract a female by rubbing its front wings together. On one wing is a sharp ridge called the scraper. On the other wing is a series of wrinkles called the file. As these are drawn across each other, the chirp is created. The females listen to the chirping of the males and pick the best “singer.”

In late fall and early winter, the deep hooting voice of a Great Horned Owl may be heard for long distances, signaling that males are beginning to occupy their breeding territories. Both males and females are sometimes heard singing duets, the male calling the well-known pattern of four to five hoots, “whoo whoo, whoo-hoo, whoo, whoo.” Owls not only hoot but also have a repertoire of squawks, hisses, and bill clacking to publicize their intentions.

The distinctive howls of coyotes are definitely attention-grabbing cacophonies. These small canines’ cries serve various functions. A common reason coyotes start howling is to find one another. As they spread out to hunt individually, the howl can be heard over long distances, and when the pack starts to howl to one another, they can all find each other at the end of a hunt. Another motive for their howling is to advertise their presence to other neighboring packs, warning potential trespassers not to cross territorial boundaries. Even a small pack can sound like a substantial threat to curious coyotes in other territories.

Under a starry night sky, we can eavesdrop on the various vocal repertories from wildlife. Understanding their forms of communications can help us recognize the meaning behind all the melodic tunes.

Around the world, animal sounds are being heard by people in the language of the animal’s country. We create an onomatopoeia, a word that imitates the sound it represents, to learn and mimic their calls. Can you match the onomatopoeias of an owl sound to the country?

1. S. KOREAN
2. SPANISH
3. GERMAN
4. FRENCH

Hou Hou

Uuu Uuu

Booung Booung

Wuwoowu Wuwoowu

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