New Faces at the Nature Center

Rob Denkhaus, Nature Center Manager

If you have been to the Nature Center lately, you may have seen some staff you do not recognize. The customer service staff is now two employees stronger, allowing for additional help on the weekdays and weekends.

Darlene Mouton graduated from UTA with a degree in biology in December 2016. She loves biology and the environment. She has 4 children and 4 grandchildren that keep her busy. In fact, most, if not all, of them were at the Nature Center during Spring Break enjoying the bison hayride and Canoe Fest activities and raising havoc. She hopes to continue working part time and learn as much as she can.

Edwina Taylor first visited the Nature Center in the mid 1970s. Once she retired in 2014, she decided she wanted a better connection with nature, and what better place to make that connection than at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. After
participating in several early bird hikes with Michael Perez and Charley Amos and weekend hikes with volunteers, she decided to become a volunteer. Edwina attended the spring 2017 docent training, which involved training to lead guided tours for schools and other groups. When she read that a job opportunity had opened here, she jumped at it. Where else can you start your morning with the silence of nature all around?

Join me in welcoming Darlene and Edwina to the customer service staff and the Nature Center. They both got their feet wet during one of the busiest months of the year and had an opportunity to experience Spring Break activities full force. They have passed their initiation and are doing an awesome job for the park!

Speaking of new faces, you might do a double take if you are at the Hardwicke Interpretive Center (HIC). Recently, Cathy Elizondo, customer service representative, who has been at the entry gate full time juggling the hats of many, has relocated to the front desk of the HIC. The part-time customer service staff do an excellent job at the entry gate, so we decided Cathy’s skillset would be better utilized at the visitor center. She still greets visitors into the park, just in a different location. In addition to that, she is the queen of spreadsheets and has helped improve the way we are recording and maintaining the information we already gather. The change, while it is only a mile down the road, is very refreshing for her, and she even got a new front desk out of the deal! Thanks, Cathy, for all you do for the Nature Center.