

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 5

OCT-NOV, 2014

Upcoming Events:

- Sat Dec 13—3:00PM– Budget meeting; 4:00PM—Executive Meeting; 5:30PM-General Meeting
- Sat/Sun Dec 13-14—Brazos Bend 100 trail race-4 volunteers needed 6-9AM. Contact David H
- Saturday Dec 20—Annual Brazos Bend Christmas Bird Count
- Thursday, Dec 25—Nature Center closed; Park is Open
- Thursday, Jan 1— New Year’s Day, TPWD First Day Hikes— Help needed. Hope to have NC open 9-5. 1st Hike: 10AM; Bike ride: 2PM; Night hike: 5:30PM
- Sat Jan 10—3:00PM– Budget meeting; 4:00PM—Executive Meeting; 5:30PM-General Meeting
- Deer Hunt Closures: Nov 17-20; Dec 15-18

TPWD/BBSP news & in the news:

State Parks need public, private funding—Houston Chronicle Oct 11, 2014

Texas to receive Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Restoration Funding—TPWD News Release Oct



Park staff at the ribbon-cutting welcoming BBSP into the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance. See Page 5.

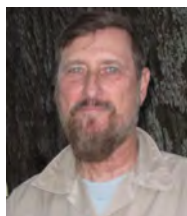
PRESIDENT’S CORNER

BY GLEN KILGORE

One of the really good things about our organization is that we seem to move forward very well without much need for a president.

The natural leaders have already emerged and the person who is holding the position of president doesn’t need to get very deeply involved with the gift shop, maintenance, training, outreach or any of the other functions that we do for the park. In fact, if I chose to do nothing but preside over

the executive committee meetings and chair the monthly general meeting, we would probably get along just fine.



One thing, however, does bother

me, and I would like very much to do something about it. That is the decline of attendance at our general meetings. At the last two

meetings that we had, the meeting itself was almost unnecessary. The executive committee met to decide what would be discussed at the general meeting, and then when the general meeting took place, it was attended almost exclusively by people who had also been at the executive committee meeting.

I understand that at the end of the day, a lot of us are tired and want to get home. I also know that most of us, myself included, didn’t join ([cont pg 4](#))



BBSPVO at the Texian Market Days. Photo courtesy Judy Strauss

BBSPVO CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY!!

BBSPVO celebrated its 25th anniversary at this year’s annual picnic.



Calvin Walker receives Customer Service Award from Sharon Hanzik

The capstone of the evening was the awards presentations and a wonderful 25th anniversary slideshow compiled by volunteer Dasu Baregala.

5 Years of Service Awards:

Belinda DiMarcello, Nancy Dobbs, Christine Kovach, Bob Kowalewski, Mary Lockwood

10 Years of Service

Tom Prentiss

15 Years of Service

Willie Anderson, ([cont pg 4](#))

Inside this issue:

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OUTREACH AT HOME

On September 20, I did my Wildscape and Monarch Waystation presentation for the Special Needs Girl Scout troop. With my 4 certifications of my yard, it was an at home event. This wonderful group of girls was very sweet and they asked many questions. Much to my surprise, there were parents in



attendance too. Everyone went away talking about buying plants for local wildlife, especially for the butterflies.

The four Certifications of the Backyard Habitat are:

- 1) Wildlife Habitat by National Wildlife Federation
 - 2) Backyard Wildlife Habitat by Texas Parks and Wildlife
 - 3) Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch
 - 4) Pollinator Habitat by Xerxes Society
- Diane Welty



Backyard habitat certifications. Photo courtesy Diane Welty

STATE PARK VISITATION CONTINUES TO CLIMB

The number of visit to Texas State Parks continues to climb.

The latest statistics for FY14 (Sept. 1, 2013 through Aug. 31, 2014) show total visits for the year hit 8.26 million, a 1.7 percent increase from the previous year. State park revenues for FY14 totaled \$46.06 million, up 3.1 percent from last year, or 1.4 million.

The Top 10 most visited state parks remained fairly consistent with last year's totals:

1. Garner (406,549),
2. Battleship TEXAS (332,810),
3. Palo Duro Canyon (305,800)
4. Cedar Hill (287,298)
5. Enchanted Rock (270,120)
6. Ray Roberts Lake/Isle du Bois (257,897)
7. **Brazos Bend (252,369)**
8. Huntsville (222,640)
9. Inks Lake (212,061)
10. Lake Casa Blanca (197,243).



Visitation continues to climb at parks including Brazos Bend State Park, shown

DADDY-LONG-LEGS—DEADLY, OR FRAMED?

They are still NOT venomous, but they (or some of them) use an interesting weapon to subdue active prey.

I'm talking about the arachnid called "daddy longlegs", or Harvestman. They are NOT spiders (only one body part, not 2 as in spiders, for one thing), and

they are NOT venomous in any way.

At least some species have been observed trapping active prey (springtails) by using droplets of sticky glue on their pedipalps.

There's an article describing this behavior here:

<http://entomologytoday.org/2014/10/02/harvestmen-use-glue-to-capture-prey>

And they usually look so...passive. One can never tell.

- Rick Dashnau



Harvestman photo from Entomology Today article—see link

EBOLA

There is a lot of information about the Texas Ebola virus cases coming through law enforcement channels right now. The Texas Department of Public Safety State Operations Center has created an incident command structure to respond to potential problems.

Ebola is still not considered to be a significant threat in Texas. This is a precautionary measure. Since we've had so

many discussions about the Ebola virus recently, I thought I would pass along some excellent resources about the virus from the Centers for Disease Control and Texas DPS.

They contain some great information about the signs and symptoms, spread and treatment of the Ebola virus. The links below are some other resources – both Internet and via social media –for keeping tabs on how

this incident progresses.

One of the key points that I would ask you to remember is that Ebola cannot be spread by air, water or food. The virus is only spread by direct physical contact with the blood or bodily fluids of infected people and other animals. In other words, transmission is preventable. Wear your PPE and make exercise good judgment. Look out for yourselves and each other. Please pass along any questions you have

- Chris Bishop

EBOLA INFORMATION LINKS

- [Ebola Info for Water and Wastewater Utilities](#)
- [CDC ebola fact sheet](#)

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

- [News releases and sign up for email updates](#)
- [Twitter \(@TexasDSHS\)](#)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

- [News releases and email updates](#)
- [Facebook](#)

Office of the Governor Rick Perry

- [Ebola updates](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Twitter \(@TexGov\)](#)

Facebook Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- [Ebola home page](#)
- [Email alerts sign up](#)
- [Newsroom](#)

- [Twitter](#)



Image © CDC

Ebola is still not considered to be a significant threat in Texas.

- Chris Bishop via Oct 18 email

CAREFUL—TURTLE CROSSING!

On your way to the park, you approach a slow-moving object in the middle of the road. Being a helpful, kindly person, you want to rescue the creature before it is squashed by a fast-moving car.

However, it seems that the fellow is going in a direction away from a water source.

Is he lost, confused? Should you turn it back to the water? Not so, according to *Think You Know Animals?* author, Diana Oliver. That fellow knows what direction he wants to go and he wouldn't want to start over. Furthermore, he doesn't want to go home with you. His home is in the wild. When you carefully move to help, please place that turtle

on the side of the road in the direction it was headed; carefully, of course, mindful that you wouldn't want to be the one lying in the road. Then, you both can be happily on your way.



The article is based on pp. 149-150.



Harris's Hawk on display at the Oct 25 Earth Quest Program.

BBSPVO 25TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC THANKS

Thank you to all of the following volunteers who helped make the picnic a success this year!

* Jaci Elliott for organizing the volunteer picnic/25th Anniversary celebration.

* Dasu Baregala, wife Magda, and daughters Prakriti and Nikita, for putting together the slide presentation for the 25th Anniversary of BBSPVO at the annual vol-

unteer picnic on October 11. You can also see Dasu's slide show of photos from the picnic [here](#)

* Chuck Duplant for taking the group photo and for coordinating the setup and cleanup of the Dining Hall for the Anniversary picnic.

To everyone else who helped make the picnic a success, and to all of you who attended!



PICNIC SERVICE AWARDS, CONT FROM PG 1

15 Years of Service, cont.:

Rita Copper, Rich and Sandy Jespersen

20 Years of Service

Nelda Gay, Rob Thacker

25 Years of Service

Beth Debenport, Herb Mann, Bruce and Anna Dell Williamson

Emeritus

Ray Anderson, Judy Strauss, Anna Dell Williamson

Education Award

Diane Welty

Conservation Award

Jim Calvert, Ron Morrison, Susan Conitay, Akiko Noma, Janet Clemenson

Teamwork Award

Judy Strauss, Woody Scott

Customer Service Award

Calvin Walker

Leadership Award

Offie Walker

EXCELLENCE AWARD

BBSVO!!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER, CONT. FROM PG 1

this organization to do administrative stuff. We joined to do trail maintenance, to lead hikes and interpretive programs, and to share our knowledge of nature with our park visitors. But for our organization to remain the outstanding organization that it is, the administrative work has to be done. The monthly



meeting is the way that the members take ownership of their organization. That said, I acknowledge that the meetings haven't been very exciting lately. Listening to the treasurer go over his spreadsheet, or someone tell how many bundles of firewood the maintenance crew tied up or how many people attended an outreach program isn't going to get anyone's adrenalin pumping. Not that these things aren't important. They're very important and I don't want to minimize their importance. But it's obviously not enough to get folks to come out on the second Sat-

urday of every month and sit in the meeting for half an hour. It hasn't always been like that. I can remember times when the classroom was packed for the meeting, and I can remember some real Donnybrooks that took place there. I'd really like to see that happen again. So I'm appealing to the membership at large for help. Think about this. How can we change things to make the meetings more interesting? In particular, what would it take to get you to come to the meeting? All suggestions will be appreciated. Email me at hglenkilgore@aol.com.

Bbsp Welcomed to Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance



Bbsp staff and volunteers with members of the CFBCA at the Bbsp ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Bbsp paid and volunteer staff and Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance ambassadors held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Park Headquarters on October 16th.

The ribbon cutting symbolizes our community formally welcoming Brazos Bend to the Chamber.

We are grateful to all of the ambassadors for making the trip out to Brazos Bend, and we look forward to working with you in service to the residents of our community.

-Chris Bishop via Oct 27 email

Native Bees of Brazos Bend State Park

<p>Lasioglossum spp. Sweet Bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground nesting Solitary to social Small Very common 		<p>Xylocopa virginica Carpenter bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground nesting Solitary Large Rare 	
<p>Melissodes bimaculata Digger bees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground nesting Solitary Medium Common 		<p>Xylocopa micans Southern carpenter bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground nesting Solitary Large Rare 	
<p>Melissodes tepaneca Long-horned bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground nesting Solitary-communal Medium Very rare 		<p>Apis mellifera European honey bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavity nesting Social Medium Common Non-native 	

Solitary: One female builds a nest and provisions her young alone

Communal: Several females share a nest but each one provisions her young alone

Social: Multiple females build the nest and provision their young together

Small: ± 10 mm

Medium: ± 13 mm

Large: ± 19 mm

Photo Lab - VET Austin

RESEARCHER IDENTIFIES NATIVE Bbsp BEES

In June, University of Texas graduate student Sarah Cusser completed research on native bee species at Bbsp. The lab collected native bees at ten sites across Central and Southern Texas to identify and map the distribution of native bees across Texas.

Six native species were identified, including the sweat bee *Lasioglossum spp.*, the carpenter bee *Xylocopa virginica*, digger bees *Melissodes bimaculata*, Southern carpenter bee *Xylocopa micans*, Long-horned bee *Melissodes tepaneca*, and European honey bee *Apis mellifera*.

Tips for Improving Native Bee Habitat

Flowering Plants

- Mealy bluebell**
- Bee balm**
- Sunflower**
- Blackberry**

Maintain flowering plant communities like meadows to provide diverse and consistent blooms throughout the season.

Plant native flowering species that provide nectar and pollen for bees from April to August.

Nesting Materials

- Leave wooded areas intact - they provide nesting habitat for cavity-nesting bees
- Encourage leafy growth - native bees often use leaves for nest construction
- Leave areas of bare ground for ground-nesters to occupy
- Keep the ground undisturbed to help the young survive the season to the next spring

Nature Center Report—September and October 2014



Andean Condor at the Oct 25 Earth Quest

September

- Nature Center had 4,297 visitors, **34% of total park visitation**
- 44 programs including school groups with 1,190 attendees
- 1 Outreach with 35 visitors
- 897 Volunteer Hours

October

- Nature Center had 6,413 visitors—**29% of total park visitation**
- 53 programs including school groups with 2,738 attendees
- Outreach had 4 programs with 4,797 attendees
- 935 Volunteer Hours



Eurasian Eagle Owl at the Oct 25 Earth Quest

MAINTENANCE REPORT— SEPT & OCT 2014

<p>No. Volunteers reporting: 140 Hours reported - 508.5</p> <p>Work completed: <u>Wood Yard:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split and bundle wood • Lay trail material at wood yard <p><u>Mowing and Landscaping:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull weeds • Clear blowdowns <p><u>Trail Trimming & Maintenance:</u></p>	<p><u>nance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Creekfield signs • Lay trail material • Trim Creekfield Forest trail <p><u>Equipment Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service wood splitter and chain saw • Install windshield <p><u>General Maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install drain pipe <p><u>Building Maintenance</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Construction Projects</u></p>	<p>None</p> <p><u>Pest Control</u> Treat tallow</p> <p><u>Special Projects</u> Move shelves, Organize tool shed, Build tool racks, Mow and weed Pocket Prairie, Collect and plant plants for Pocket Prairie, Pick and plant seeds Take down water station</p> <p><u>Training</u> Fire Extinguisher training</p>
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Jim Calvert receives training on fire extinguisher use

NOVEMBER STAFF REPORTS

-SUPERINTENDENT CHRIS BISHOP

Personnel :

- BBSP recently welcomed new Additional Safety Duty Officer (ADSO) Bobby Mitchell (Maint Spec II) and new Customer Service Representative Chris Thurston

Recognitions:

- Jim Gilliam received his Ten-year Service Award
- David Heinicke is completing his first batch of master interpreter requirements.

Staff/Vol training opportunities include:

- CPR training
- Fire extinguisher training (completed)
- Incident management training for staff

Funding:

- We are seeking means of alternative funding, including online promotion for the following:
 - I. Automated entrance gate.
 - II. Training and funding for law enforcement equipment, including in-car video systems and body cameras for all Region

IV law officers. Officers need video documentation to win charges and to prove officer contact with offenders.



Other:

We are working on creating a back gate off of Jungman Road to be used by volunteers and emergency responders for a quicker entrance into the park on busy weekends. Hopefully this will be completed Spring Break.

NOVEMBER STAFF REPORTS

-INTERPRETIVE RANGER AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR SHARON HANZIK

- Check your emails about activities going on, and special events coming up.
- You no longer report your hours to me every month. You still need to keep track of your hours but report once a month to TPWD and me once per quarter
- We are planning Simple Christmas (Dec 6) sign up will be on the events calendar
- We are conducting the interviews for next training, which will be February

14, 21, and 28. Deadline for application is November 30. We need to get the colored volunteer brochures printed.

- Volunteers are the best ones to talk to interested people about volunteering. First step to becoming a volunteer is to go online to our website and fill out the application.
- The current VIT class of 9 is doing well, thanks to involvement of their mentors. Four are in Phase II, and 5 are close to finishing Phase I.

- Volunteer Field Trip to Moody Gardens will be Tuesday, January 20. Other suggestions are welcome. One suggestion is a kayak trip.
- Christmas in the Parks brochures are available for distribution. Be sure to share them with our visitors.



NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

November 8, 2014

Presiding Officer: Glen Kilgore, President

Attendance: 10 volunteers and 2 staff.

Minutes of September meeting approved as posted.

Staff reports from Superintendent Chris Bishop and Interpretive Ranger Sharon Hanzik follow meeting notes

Committees:

Budget Committee: Treasurer Woody Scott presented the financial report.

The following **Purchase Requests** were presented and approved:

- Purchase of volunteer patches and caps.

- Deer corn for hunt and hog traps.

- Snake chaps – to prevent snake accidents when doing outdoor work.

- Brake pads for JD Gators and Gator/Mule maintenance

- Windshields - out of donated equipment -

Maintenance: Woody Scott reported that maintenance volunteers are spraying for tallows, removing blow-down trees, and splitting wood. They are keeping up with firewood demand so far. There are no special projects on the list right now.

BBEEC: Offie Walker reported on the progress of the EEC building. He spoke to Brent Leisure about having a big meeting with all parties involved in Austin. The date has been set for November 13 in Austin.

GIFT SHOP: Beth Debenport that we are keeping up with the demand for beverages on the busy weekends. We appreciate all the help from the volunteers, especially with the VITs.

OUTREACH: Judy Strauss reported that at Texian Market Days on Friday, October 24, we had 2114 school kids come to our booth, and on Saturday October 25, we had 1468 visitors. Thanks to Annabelle Redman, Debra Walker, Mary Lockwood, Jerry Carpenter, Melanie Jahn, Chuck Nelson and Christine Kovach for helping.

We did a very special outreach at a SBJSP nursing home in Needville. The residents enjoy our visits, where they can see a baby alligator, skull and egg.

The Needville Harvest Festival was October 18, with 425 visitors.

Prairie Heritage Day on November 1 gave us contact with 1,578 visitors.

Next planned outreach is Kids Unlimited, December 13, which serves kids with cancer.

New Business:

We are looking for designated photographers to take photos at major events for the website and the newsletter.

We are looking at ways to improve meeting attendance by making meetings more interesting. We are considering having continuing education programs at each meeting. Suggestions are welcome.

Glen will not be at the December meeting. Mike Sanderson will preside.

Anna Dell Williamson was appointed Parliamentarian.

Brazos Bend State Park
Texas Parks and Wildlife
21901 FM 762
Needville, TX 77461
<http://www.brazosbend.org/>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Saturday, December 7, 2014: 5:30 PM

Saturday, January 11, 2015: 5:30PM



REGULAR VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Creekfield Hikes Every Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 AM, led by volunteers
Photo Hikes First Saturday of each month
Volunteer meeting Second Saturday of each month at 5:30 PM, supper at 5:00 PM
Bird Hikes See schedule in calendar

BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

President: Glen Kilgore
Vice-President: Mike Sanderson
Secretary: Melanie Jahn
Treasurer: Woody Scott
Past-President: Mary Lockwood
Member-at-Large: Hannah Meddaugh
Member at-Large: Offie Walker
Comptroller: Bob Kowalewski

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editors: Anna Dell Williamson & Hannah Meddaugh
Editorial Assistant: Nelda Gay
Production Assistant: Bruce Williamson
Distribution: Carol Ramsayer
Web Master: Anne Shelton

The **Brazos Bend Bunch Bugle** is the newsletter of the Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization, A.K.A. The Brazos Bend Bunch. It is distributed monthly to volunteers through the BBSPVO web site. For further information on this newsletter or the volunteer program, contact David Heinicke or Sharon Hanzik at Brazos Bend State Park, phone 979-553-5101.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the author of the article and do not necessarily reflect the official position of Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer Organization nor of BBSP administration.



**In the end, we will conserve only what we love,
we will love only what we understand,
we will understand only what we are taught.**

**Baba Dioum, Senegal
African Conservationist**