



BRAZOS BEND BUNCH BUGLE

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Thank you to those who have made an attempt to learn more about the Creekfield Hike. I will admit, it is not my favorite thing to do. Glen and Tom do such a great job with it. Glen's story about the carpenter bees in the fireplace is so neat. Since training, I have done it twice — turns out, I had the same group both times, exactly a year apart. We have a gift shop chairperson to make sure the shop is covered for each day; perhaps I need to make sure we have leader for this hike on weekends.

Our organization has run so smoothly the past year that I failed to ask the chairpersons of the different committees if they would continue.

Having heard no complaints and with everything being perfectly handled I just believed they would continue. Below are the chairpersons for each of the various committees:

- Comptroller: **Rachelle Watson**
- Gift Shop Representative: **Beth Debenport**
- Interpretation/Education Representative: **Carrie Sample**
- Maintenance Representative: **Bruce Williamson**
- Outreach Representative: **Judy Strauss**
- Gift Shop Coordinator: **Beth Debenport**
- Librarian: **Marilyn Vossler**
- Newsletter Editor: **Anna Dell Williamson**
- New Educational Building: **Charles DuPlant**
- Nature Center: **Teresa Jones**
- Memorial Funds: **Cindy Peterson**

In This Issue:

From the President's Desk . . .	1
<i>By Carrie Sample</i>	
February Meeting Notes . . .	2
Staff Reports	3
Nature Center Report	7
Outreach Report	8
Cares & Concerns	8
Volunteer News & Notes . . .	9
Time Sheets	10
Quarterly Hours	10
Electronic Timesheets . . .	10
Creekfield Hike Needs . . .	10
Spring Break is Here!	11
Field Trip	11
Volunteer Training	11
Meet the VITs	12
Volunteer Library	13
Calendar of Events	13

A big thanks for not only these chairpersons, but to all of you who give your time to make our park a better place!

Before I go, would like to extend another welcome to our new volunteers. I hope that each of you find your favorite niche at the park!

Carrie Sample

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES

Contributed by Eddy Grizzaffi

President **Carrie Sample** called the meeting to order. There were 19 members, 4 VITs and 4 staff members present. We welcomed VITs **Justin Bowers, Pete Hart, Katelyn Childs** and **Jo Ann Davis**. The minutes were approved as posted.

Superintendent **Steve Killian**, Assistant Superintendent **Chris Bishop**, and Interpretive Rangers **David Heinicke** and **Sharon Hanzik** brought their reports. These are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

BUDGET REPORT: Treasurer **Dave Armstrong** presented the January financials and monthly report, which were approved.

The following budget requests were presented and approved:

- **Steve Killian** requested funds for a digital frame, Kodak, plus memory card for Outreach and HQ information. We added a security device.
- **David Heinicke** requested materials to improve the area around the flag pole.
- **Ron Morrison** requested funds to purchase trees to be placed on the Creekfield Forest Trail and identified on the trail.

Dave Armstrong presented the proposed budget for 2010. The proposed budget for 2010 was approved as presented.

In 2009, volunteers recorded 17,269 hours and served 17,000 visitors.

Carrie Sample announced that the chairpersons of the standing committees will remain the same as last year.

GIFT SHOP REPORT: **Beth Debenport** reported on a change in Gift Shop prices. The volunteer discount for drinks will be discontinued. Gatorade will sell for \$1.25 and water will sell for \$1.00 for both volunteers and public. Dr. Pepper prices will not change. Chips went up to \$.75.

OUTREACH REPORT: **Judy Strauss** reported on upcoming outreach programs:

March 27, Ft. Bend Museum Children's Day

April 10, Katy Festival

April 17, Greatwood (tentative)

April 24, Rosenberg Railroad Museum Hobo Day

These outreach opportunities are listed on the events calendar, where you can sign up to help.

NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING: **Anna Dell Williamson** reported on new volunteer training. We had 14 volunteers at orientation this morning. It is a good group and includes two teenagers. Three new

VITs are present at this meeting.

WOOD YARD: **Chuck DuPlant** reported that earlier in January we had lots of help unloading wood, and that is appreciated. Wood sales are doing well. On the really cold, rainy weekends, sales were way down.

EDUCATION BUILDING: **Chuck DuPlant** reported that the education building is not fading away. We will meet on Saturday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the Nature Center to begin discussion. A notice will be sent to all members.

NEW VOLUNTEERS: Sharon presented new volunteer **Justin Bowers** with his cap and patch.

NEWSLETTER: **Anna Dell Williamson** reported that the newsletter mailings will be done by **Carol Ramsayer**.

The meeting was adjourned.

STAFF REPORTS

STEVE KILLIAN, SUPERINTENDENT



We had a good January, but it was not a record month due to so much rain. February has started out similar to January with lots of cold and rain. We are ahead of last year in revenue (Hurricane Ike closed the park for a month last year), and the staff is working on numerous projects.

PROJECTS AND EVENTS:

- We are hooking up electricity, water, and sewer to the FEMA Trailer. The trailer will house a park operations trainee for two years. We will also add two host sites in that area.
- We have a stump grinder and are grinding down 100 stumps (four year's worth of dead trees from wind storms and Hurricane Ike).
- We are working with the Equestrian well. We plan to purchase a gas-powered compressor and use air to lift the water from the well to fill buckets and troughs.
- We are working with civil engineers on the slide on the Horseshoe Levee to form a plan, then we will approach the County for help.
- The Youth In Philanthropy event was very successful. **David Heinicke** did a fantastic job organizing the event. They accomplished a lot, including building a flower bed at HQ and cleaning 75% of the Mile Stretch.
- Trout was stocked in New Horseshoe Lake on January 27. We had a special fishing weekend in February, but it was too cold and no trout were caught.
- Lake management activities include spraying lake banks and vegetation in lakes.
- TxDot will fund culvert and road repair on the hill into the campground area.
- TPWD is considering switching to a new reservation/financial system. The decision will be made next week.
- **Chris Bishop, Suzie Taylor, and Steve Killian** attended a Texas State Parks meeting in Corpus Christi in January. People spoke highly of the volunteers at BBSP.
- Steve and Chris will attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo March 6-7 and talk to people at the show to educate them about the park.

- We are starting an Hispanic outreach. Hispanics will be the majority group in 2050 in Texas. They are not using the park at the rate of population distribution. The program would help educate the population on the value of State Parks. **Suzie Taylor, Tina Ibarra** and **Sylvia Carrillo** have been assigned to that. We will market the park in Spanish with brochures, stickers, etc.
- The digital frame that was approved this evening will be used for Hispanic outreach, and will be available for the Livestock show as well. It will also be used in HQ and available to volunteers.
- Other ideas that came from the annual parks meeting include a “Healthy Parks for Healthy People” program, promoting more exercise, weight control, and calories burned on trails. **Chris Bishop** is in charge.
- An Outdoor Skills Weekend is coming soon.



CHRIS BISHOP, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

We are looking into website, social media, and special opportunities to make the park bigger without spending money.

The Land and Water 2010 Conservation recreation plan, on the TPWD website, is a visionary document to guide the department statewide in all areas. There is an opportunity for volunteers to help us acquire new properties on a small budget. There is a parcel of 60 acres adjoining BBSP on the list for consideration. Purchase of this land would help BBSP expand its boundaries and increase access to and participation in the outdoors. There is limited money available, and we need a voice of support from community organizations. We need a letter from the organization to Walt Dabney by Monday. The organization agreed to send the letter.

TPWD has conducted a survey over the last few years, studying who uses state parks and how they are used (the survey can be found later in this newsletter). There is a Department campaign to increase distribution of information about State Parks. A new Texas State Park Website will launch in March (<http://www.texasstateparks.org/>), to provide current and potential park visitors with useful information. It will link to our website. TPWD recognizes the importance of social media. There is a Brazos Bend Facebook by **Christine Kovach**, and TPWD has a fan page called BBSP. The front office, with support from volunteers, will develop our own account. **Tina Ibarra** will maintain the BBSP fansite at the park level, including a Spanish version.

SHARON HANZIK, INTERPRETIVE RANGER



Sharon thanked the volunteers for keeping the Nature Center open every day. We have served 71,000 visitors (1500 per week), and the vast majority were happy and satisfied.

Thanks for using the electronic time sheets. The sheets from last year are in the lounge. You may pick them up if you need them for reporting volunteer mileage on your taxes. They will be recycled after April.

Spring Break is March 15-19. The Nature Center will be open 9-5 every day. After the Nature Center and Gift Shop are covered, then we will have Creekfield Hike and Water Station. Weekends will be super busy, too. This is our special event for March.

Some of our members have some health problems. **Mozelle Franklin** is in a nursing home. **Buddy** stopped by and reported that their hosting days are over. Send letters or cards to the nursing home or to the address in the volunteer roster. **Jerry Zona** is off the respirator and is at home as of this printing. **Herb Mann** had non-Hotchkins lymphoma, chemotherapy, and hip problems. He is in remission and improving, but can't drive for long. He gets email. **Elmer Aden** had an infection with his pacemaker and is in a nursing home, but it is not permanent. **Eddy Grizzaffi's** brother-in-law passed away.

DAVID HEINICKE, INTERPRETIVE RANGER



Youth in Philanthropy was a big success.

The Elm Lake Platform is rolling. The first step is to have a geo-physical company do soil samples; infrastructure will get prices and go from there. We may start construction in six months.

We are having a special event every month. In February we had Doris Mager's Birds of Prey Program; March will be Spring Break activities, April will have a migratory bird day; and May will have an outdoor skills weekend (outdoor family camping program), including 1-3 hour classes on outdoor skills, equipment, orienteering, Dutch oven cooking, hiking and outdoor safety.

Thanks to everyone for their help.



RICHARD TAYLOR, LEAD RANGER

BBSP rangers leave tomorrow (February 23) for the Annual Region 4 Ranger Conference at Camp Allen, just outside of Navasota. Last year's conference was such a success that it has become an annual event. At the conference BBSP Rangers will be joined by other Region 4 Rangers from Stephen F. Austin S.P., Lake Texana S.P., Galveston Island S.P., Lake Livingston S.P., Sheldon Lake S.P., Martin Dies Jr. S.P., Village Creek S.P., The San Jacinto Monument, The San Jacinto Battle Grounds, and the Battleship Texas. **Jimmy Watson**, Region 4 Maintenance Specialist, is in charge of the conference. In addition to the good agenda for the meeting, the Rangers get to mingle with one another to see what is happening in other parks, discuss issues, and raise questions to our Regional Director, **Justin Rhodes**.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that the Rangers were busy with winter maintenance projects. Finally the sun has given us some much needed warmth to start drying things out. Over the past few weeks we have been busy installing the utilities to the new host sites and trainee mobile home just to the left of the maintenance yard entrance. Even with the sunshine, it has been a challenge dealing with the wet ground. Region 4 has bought a mini-excavator (track hoe) which we can use to get in and out of the wet areas. The Rangers have been diligent and are trying to catch back up on schedule before our mowing season starts next month.

Work is still on track for the Headquarters Administration office expansion. Again, the rainfall has hampered our efforts to progress. Hopefully next week we can get the concrete poured and proceed with the framing and drying of the expansion. Many thanks to Park Host **Leo Arial** for the long hours of back breaking work in installing the form work. Rangers **Jeff Orsak**, **Gary Bialas** and **Jim Gilliam** assisted in getting all the rebar in and tied. Good job.

Park Host **Ben Degarmo** has been diligently painting away at park signs in our new paint shed. The shed was definitely a good thing to have, due to all the bad weather. Ben has got the paint shed set up

and is really turning out some old signs with new paint. **Chris Bishop** went to Austin recently and picked up some much-needed new signs that have been ordered for months, and Ben is hard at work trying to get those out. Some of the new signs will replace temporary signs for the Live Oak Trail and a lot of Park Exit signs.

If you haven't noticed the lakes lately, well, you haven't looked. You can clearly see across them, and they are looking great, thanks to the hard work of our Resource Specialist **Dennis Jones**, and Resource Ranger **JT Kalina**. They have been keeping the lakes sprayed for unwanted vegetation. It won't be long before the green comes back to the grasses and plants along the edges and to the islands. Lately, I've noticed a lot of ducks on 40 Acre Lake and there are numerous species of them to photo.

Park Hosts **Capt. Gene Schwantes**, **George Hanks** and **John Nordin** have been cutting away at the rotten, broken, and unsightly woodwork at Hale Lake, Elm Lake, and 40 Acre Lake restrooms, replacing it with some nice cedar wood. They have changed up the trim some on the posts and worked on the privacy walls. Park Host **Jim Cassidy** has been in the shop servicing equipment and fixing a lot of little things that have broken throughout the year. Our mowers are ready to go, tractors are greased up, the dump truck is ready to roll, and many dents are popped out. And I will give a big thank you to our Hostesses, the wives, for their hard work cleaning out shelters, fire rings and restrooms, and painting, etc., along with their normal duties assigned at the door at HQ.

Ranger **Devin Elster** participated in the recent bird exhibition at the Dining Hall. Devin fills in where he can and is often overlooked in the park. What a lot of people don't realize is that Devin goes to college through the week, comes to work and manages 14 restrooms, keeps the inventory up on the consumables (paper, soap, cleaning supplies), patrols the park, answers calls from HQ, and fills in for the other Rangers when we're gone. He is the Ranger on duty during the weekends. Give Devin a big thank you when you see him.

I am the Scout contact for Brazos Bend State Park. I have been contacted by a lot of Scouts lately for Eagle Scout projects. We have some nice things coming our way. Most recent is the Orienteering Course that was renovated by Scout **Luke Jacobson** at the White Oak Trail head. He went in and refurbished the course markers and built a very nice information panel that sits adjacent to the Park Map stand. When you see it, I think you will be impressed. This was a mighty undertaking for this young man. He has also created some orienteering maps that will be available at the Nature Center.

In closing, I recently attended the State Park Manager's Conference in Corpus Christi along with Steve, Chris, and Susie. This was a nice conference attended by managers from most all the State Parks in the state. Let me leave you with this. There are a lot of nice things happening to State Parks, many of which will be coming to BBSP. Stay tuned and pass the word, "Life's Better at Brazos Bend State Park".

Additional note, Tuesday, 2/23, evening: Just getting in the room here at Camp Allen. We are having snowfall as I write. The Rangers even got out and had a snowball fight before supper tonight. Not something you experience every day in our locale!



NATURE CENTER REPORT

February 2010

Contributed by Anna Dell Williamson

Below are the totals of the various activities and attendance recorded for the Nature Center, hikes, and programs for February 1-28, 2010. We had lots of very cold, rainy weekends.

PROGRAMS	TOTALS
NATURE CENTER ATTENDANCE February 2010 - 4320 (high 726, 2/27) February 2009 - 5950	Saturdays (4) 2149 High, 726, 2/27 Average: 537
	Sundays (4) – 1574 High, 564, 2/28 Average: 393
	Weekdays (20) – 597 High, 151, 2/15 Average, 30
CREEKFIELD HIKES (6 days)	170– High, 48 - 2/28
ALLIGATOR PROGRAMS (4)	161 - High, 100 - 2/6
BIRD PROGRAMS/HIKES (3)	33- High, 15 - 2/20
SNAKE PROGRAMS (3)	115 – High, 63 - 2/20
CHILDREN’S STORY TIME (3)	48– High, 17 - 2/13 & 27
OUTREACH (4)	222
BIRDS OF PREY (4)	310
OTHER PROGRAMS (7) includes pond life, reptiles, photography, videos, insects, animal tracks and spotting scope	92
TOTAL VISITORS SERVED IN HIKES AND PROGRAMS	1157
VOLUNTEER HOURS	739

OUTREACH REPORT

Contributed by Judy Strauss



Cynthia Morales & Elizabeth Villanueva

Our first Outreach of the season was Saturday, February 27, at Sea Center Texas in Texas City. We saw a total of 648 visitors and had a wonderful time! We were able to reach a lot of visitors; some who had never been to Brazos Bend, some who had not been out in quite some time, and some who were pretty much "regulars" at the Park.

I again managed to bring the corn snake that was starting to shed, but we took it very easy on him and he behaved quite well. Christine got to again experience the warm (and wet) feeling of one of the baby alligators. Cynthia was about the best promoter of the Park that I have ever seen, and drew a lot of interest in the visitors.



Nelda Gay & Friends

A very big THANK YOU to my crew: **Cynthia Morales, Elizabeth Villanueva, Nelda** and **Marty Gay, Ron Dearman, Jerry Carpenter,** and **Christine Kovach.** You all did a great job, and I really appreciated your help! Could not have done it without you!

A quick reminder: Please remember our upcoming Outreach events, all listed on the events calendar. Your travel time and the time you spend in the booth DO count towards your "other" 24 yearly hourly requirements.



Rapt Interest

Thanks, again, to everyone!

CARES AND CONCERNS

We express our sincere sympathy to Eddy Grizzaffi on the death of her brother-in-law.

There are several volunteers who are on the sick list at this time, and we hope that they are back with us soon. Many of them have requested emails or notes to help them keep in touch. See details in Sharon Hanzik's report.

Mozelle Franklin - nursing home

Jerry Zona - home

Herb Mann - improving

Elmer Aden - hospital

VOLUNTEER NEWS & NOTES



. . . to **Judy Strauss** for the Feb dinner.

. . . to **Judy Strauss** for chairing the Outreach activities and reporting on them for the Newsletter.

. . . to **Dave Armstrong** and **Rachelle Watson** for all their work on the financial business of the organization.

. . . to **Diane Carpenter** for her assistance this year with the transition to a new treasurer and other administrative assistance.

. . . to **Diane Carpenter** for help with the electronic time sheet.

. . . to all who helped with new volunteer training: those who helped print and compile the training manuals, members who brought food for the lunch, road tour drivers, mentors, and trainers and all the rest who offer the VIT's their support and friendship. It can't be done without everyone's participation.

CONGRATULATIONS!

. . . to **Justin Bower, Cynthia Morales, Elizabeth Villanueva** and **Ric Rincon** for completing training. Be sure to meet and welcome these new volunteers.

CORRECTION

In the February newsletter, volunteers who logged more than 150 hours in 2009 were recognized. Due to an oversight, **Bill Godley's** name was left off the list of those who logged 150-300 hours. Sorry about the mistake, Bill. Thanks for your hard work.



March Birthdays

Elmer Aden (Emeritus)
Willie Anderson (Emeritus)
Rita Cooper (Emeritus)
Joan Jackson (Emeritus)
Herb Mann (Emeritus)
Jennifer Parent

April Birthdays

Joyce Giese
Richard Taylor (Staff)
Pete Flores, VIT



March Anniversaries

Glen and Maureen Kilgore
Dawn and Oscar Tejero

April Anniversaries

Virginia and Charlie Harrison
Jim and Jacqueline North

TIME SHEETS

Contributed by Sharon Hanzik

The 2009 time sheets are in the lounge. They migrate from one place to another but they are in the lounge. They are held through the first half of April for those who wish to deduct travel expenses on their taxes. They will be recycled after April 15th.

QUARTERLY HOURS REMINDER

Contributed by Sharon Hanzik

For those of you still in need of your quarterly hours (6), you have one month left (March) in the third quarter. You may log hours in ANY of the following areas; nature center (max 3 people per shift), gift shop, leading Creekfield (2 hour credit for anyone who leads a hike) and wood yard (time spent). Water station will not begin until the first weekend in April. Please remember that quarterly hours only make up half of your yearly requirement of 48.

ELECTRONIC TIME SHEETS DUE DATE FOR MARCH

Contributed by Sharon Hanzik



If you are using the electronic time sheets, you will have a little longer to get them to me. You will have a deadline of March 8, because I will be out of the park until that date. Before you send it, PLEASE rename your file with the last name first so that I can save them alphabetically. Example: Hanzik, volunteer hours.xls (you should not have to do anything with the .xls as it already exists).

CREEKFIELD HIKE NEEDS

We have for some time been struggling to find leaders for the Creekfield Hike. As you know this was established long ago as a standard that volunteers are responsible for. We'd hate to have to see this hike fall by the wayside. If we cannot get leaders for it, then we'd rather pull it from the schedule permanently than have to juggle each weekend to find a leader or have to cancel on the visitors due to lack of a leader.



There are quite a few newer members who have lead the hike, expressed an interest, but then have not lead again. We have developed a list of volunteers interested in developing their Creekfield Hike leading skills, and another list of experienced volunteers willing to mentor others. If you would like to be a MENTOR or MENTEE and have not already contacted Sharon, please add your name to the appropriate list. If you need a mentor, refer to the list Sharon sent by email and contact one or more of the mentors on the list.

Spring is around the corner and with it brings large crowds for this hike, mostly on Saturdays when we will need 2-3 leaders.

SPRING BREAK IS HERE!

Spring Break is March 15-19 for most nearby Texas school districts, so it will be a very busy week. Help is needed, and we can plan better if you sign up for the Nature Center, Gift Shop or Creekfield hike on the web calendar as soon as possible.

VITs are welcome to sign up. For Spring Break, there will be someone present to train you in the Gift Shop during the week, so you can sign up even if there is no name on the shift. (Normally on weekdays, there must be a volunteer signed up in the Gift Shop before a VIT can sign up.) We can train a maximum of one VIT per shift in the Gift Shop, and a maximum of two VITs per shift in the Nature Center. You will need to put "VIT 1" next to your name when you sign up.

Come out and enjoy the great visitors we have during Spring Break. This is one of the most active seasons at the park, and you will see Nature at its best.

FIELD TRIP

Contributed by Sharon Hanzik

The next field trip for BBSP volunteers will be to Harris County Park Kleb Woods in Tomball on Wednesday, March 24th.

Plan to arrive by 10:00 for the farm house and barn tour which lasts anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 hour. After lunch on your own (most likely need to bring it) you may tour the nature center and trails on your own. If you are an "early bird", they also have a weekly bird hike on Wednesdays that starts at 8:30. The nature center is open all day.

<http://www.pct3.hctx.net/parks/klebwoodsnaturepres.aspx> for all information.

I need an RSVP by March 19 so that they will have enough guides for the tour. There is no limit.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Twelve VITs finished their classroom training and are now starting on Phase 1. You will be seeing them sign up for Nature Center, Gift Shop and Water Station training shifts, and they will be requesting help with the Wood Yard and the ATV trail tour. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Many, many thanks to all of you who helped with the training program, from drivers to mentors to trainers during the sessions, and everyone in between. All are important and help add to our sense of family as we assist the new VITs to succeed.

Below is an article introducing the VIT's. Unfortunately, some of the VIT's are missing from the pictures, so you will have to come out and meet them when they are working.



MEET THE VITs

Contributed by Carrie Sample

In an effort to introduce all of you to our new volunteers, we asked them to tell us a little about themselves. We all share their common interest of the outdoors, the thread that weaves us altogether. I am sure as they become official volunteers they will realize what makes our organization so special is ... the other volunteers!



Jo Ann Davis, M.A. "Pete" Hart, Pat Mahoney

Kevin Brantley is a teenager attending high school in Pearland. He lives with his mom and sister. He enjoys football and the outdoors.

Sherida Carpenter has four sons - one living in Portland, Oregon; two in Texas medical schools and one that is a senior at Texas State. She is a high school Language Arts Teacher. Her hobbies include golfing, biking, cooking and spending quality time outdoors.



Pete Flores, Sherida Carpenter, Rebecca Sykes, Katy Childs

Katy Childs has been a regular at the park with **Suzie Gann**. She lives with her mother and father. She enjoys dance and Girl Scouts (three guesses who her GS leader is)! She thinks nature is wonderful!

Jo Ann Davis is married with two sons and four grandchildren. She is a retired Public Health Nurse living in Rosenberg. Her hobbies include photography, sailing, watercolor, and stamp and coin collecting. Jo Ann loves the outdoors and cares about the preservation of natural resources.



Carl Franke, Veronique Toussaint-Sweerts, Kevin Brantley

Pete Flores has two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren. He is a retired Process Technician living in Needville. His hobbies include fishing and traveling. He loves nature and the outdoors.

Carl Franke is married with four children and six grandchildren. He is originally from Michigan. His occupation is in computer networks. He loves to travel, play golf and walk outdoors.

M.A. 'Pete' Hart and his wife came from Ohio to Texas to be near their two grandchildren and daughter. He has been a police captain and an attendance counselor. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and working around the home. He enjoys the outdoors observing animals and being around other people.

Mikki Kilgore is from Houston. Her occupation is a 'coffee specialist' and an Archeologist I. She enjoys horseback riding and Brazos Bend. (Does that last name sound familiar...)

Pat Mahoney and his wife are from Ontario, Canada, where his two children are still residing. He was a teacher and enjoys photography. He decided to become a volunteer to give back a little to a place he has enjoyed.

Ric Rincon started training in September, but had to make up one session in the February class. Ric is from Redlands, California and is a retired law enforcement officer. His hobbies are outdoors, camping and hiking. He was attracted to BBSP by the diversity of the environment here, both plant and animal life.

Rebecca Sykes lives in Manvel with her significant other, Jim. She has two grown sons and one grandson. She was employed in the marketing division at Pepsi. She enjoys bird watching, hiking and biking, which has brought her to Brazos Bend.

Veronique Toussaint-Sweerts is a native of Belgium. She is married with two young children (a 4½ year old boy, and an 18 month old girl). She loves traveling, hiking and fitness. She enjoys the Texas wildlife.

VOLUNTEER LIBRARY

Contributed by Marilyn Vossler

One of the great and possibly least-known resources we have is the Volunteer Library. The library is located in the office area of the Nature Center, on the right as you enter the office. The adult books are now all catalogued, and we have made a start on the juvenile books. We have books on many topics; feel free to visit the library and take a look. All you need to do to borrow a book is to sign out on the sheet hanging from the clipboard. It's that easy.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 13	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
March 15-19	Spring Break for many Texas school districts. NC open daily. Busy weekends on either side. Many programs and Creekfield.
March 27	Meeting on new Education Building, 10:00 AM, Nature Center
April 2	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
April 3	Brazos River Pickers, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Amphitheater
April 4	Easter Sunday, very busy day. Come early.
April 9	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building, "Migration Madness"
April 10	Outreach, Katy Festival
	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
April 16	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building, "Migration Madness"
April 17	Outreach, Greatwood Spring Fling
April 18	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
April 23	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building, "Migration Madness"
April 24	Outreach, Rosenberg Railroad Hobo Day
April 30	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building, "Migration Madness"
May 7	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building
May 8	Regular meeting, 5:30 PM
May 16	Bird Hike, 8:00 AM, 40-Acre Lake restroom building

Brazos Bend State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife
21901 FM 762
Needville, TX 77461

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NOTE CHANGE

→ **NEXT MEETING DAY AND TIME** ←
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010, 5:30 PM

☆☆☆☆☆☆



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:	Carrie Sample
Vice-President:	Suzie Gann
Secretary:	Eddy Grizzaffi
Treasurer:	Dave Carpenter

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor	Anna Dell Williamson
Layout	Jenn Mantei
Production Assistants	Bruce Williamson Carol Ramsayer

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. The deadline for Newsletter contributions is the Saturday following the monthly meeting, if mailed to Anna Dell Williamson, or at the meeting if delivered to the park. (E-mail address: awilliamson4@comcast.net). Notify Anna Dell (281-485-2843) well in advance of any events you want announced in the newsletter.