

# Out on the BOARDWALK

NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN BUNKER SANDS WETLANDS CENTER | SUMMER 2014

## SUMMER Highlights

**JOHN BUNKER POND TRAIL IS OPEN** Join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month to walk the John Bunker Pond Trail. Learn about the natural and cultural history of the area as we walk this 1.8 mile loop trail.

**TEXAS NATIVE BUTTERFLIES WITH DALE CLARK**  
Saturday, June 7th,  
10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.  
\$10.00 per person  
(includes admission  
fee; Members \$5.00)

**EARLY BIRD HOURS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED**  
The Early Bird hours have been extended to the months of March-October. The Walk & Talk Bird Tour will start at 7 a.m.



## From the Director

WATER is an interwoven part of our everyday lives. We drink it, play in it, clean with it, bathe with it and inhale the gaseous molecules during the humid summer ahead. Take a moment and count how many times you have already used water today...1, 2, 3, 4, 5...times? A unique perspective we otherwise might overlook but it brings into focus how precious water is, especially in North Texas. This issue of "Out on the Boardwalk" is dedicated to water and water conservation and how we all can collectively raise our own awareness and survive the summer ahead.

### Water Conservation Websites & Highlights:

- [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com) – Interactive "how to" guides that reduces the amount of water on landscaping while decreasing the amount of pesticides and herbicides.
- [www.WaterMyYard.org](http://www.WaterMyYard.org) - Sign up for personalized weekly emails on how much to water your lawn based on local weather data.

- [www.NTMWD.com](http://www.NTMWD.com) – North Texas Municipal Water Districts Website with dozens of additional ways to conserve our most valuable resource.
- Urban Water Program – At the back of this newsletter we have included quick reference sheets for indoor and outdoor water efficiency ideas that are inexpensive and can change everyday habits. Supplied by Texas Agri-Life Research & Extension.



- <http://rethinkingtruth.com>
- <http://pda.sciencealert.com.au>

## BEE WATCHING!

In partnership with the Texas Honey Bee Guild, we will be hosting two Bee related events this summer. On Saturday, July 19th, we will be hosting a Bee Symposium for those who already keep hives.

The Symposium will cover the latest news in natural bee keeping and philosophy in keeping bees. The second event, Saturday, August 16th, will be for those who are brand new to bee

keeping or are interested in getting hives themselves. More details are coming, so keep a lookout for further information!



# NOTES *from the field*

by John DeFillipo

Steven Hein, a graduate student working under the guidance of Dr. Neil Ford at the University of Texas at Tyler, has been studying our snakes since early April and will continue to do so until November. He is specifically interested in how the three species of water snakes found here at the Wetland are competing for resources. The Wetland may appear to be a single continuous habitat; however it is actually comprised a large number of slightly different small environments called microhabitats. Steven is interested in how the different water snakes are using the different microhabitats in order to reduce competition for space between species.

In addition to microhabitat separation, Steven is also investigating how the snakes reduce competition for food by determining the dietary patterns of the different water snakes. This is done by harmlessly inducing snakes to regurgitate any meal it has

recently eaten. These types of studies are valuable not only to gain a greater understanding of the biology of the snakes, but also to gain a greater understanding of how manmade ecosystems like the East Fork Wetland impact and benefit the animals that inhabit them.



In addition to studying the water snakes, Steven is cataloging the various snake species found here at the Wetland. Currently, he has found and identified a total of 11 species and expects the find at least a few more.

- Diamond back water snake (*Nerodia rhombifer*)
- Yellow bellied water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster*)
- Broad banded water snake (*Nerodia fasciata*)
- Graham's crayfish snake (*Regina grahamii*)
- Western ribbon snake (*Thamnophis proximus*)
- Texas brown snake (*Storeria dekayi*)
- Texas rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri*)
- Yellow-bellied racer (*Coluber constrictor mormon*)
- Prairie king snake (*Lampropeltis calligaster*)
- Southern Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix*)
- Water moccasin (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*)



## ON THE EDUCATION FRONT

by Linda Dunn

The last of our 4 main programs developed at the Center was 'Wasting Water is Weird' – A Lesson in Water Conservation. When first developing this program we figured it would be mostly requested by the 4th – 6th grade age range. After all, it involved a fun relay and watching really weird/funny videos!

([www.wastingwaterisweird.com](http://www.wastingwaterisweird.com))!

As the drought became more severe in North Texas, we noticed that more and more High Schools coming to visit the Center wanted to attend the Water Conservation class. As with all teaching, adjust-

ments must be made according to the age group; who knew this program would become so popular with high school teachers! Over the course of the last school year, the High School Water Conservation program has seen some major adjustments to fit the older student.

First, a name change: 'Blue Gold, A Path of Conservation.' The title came from the movie *Blue Gold: World Water Wars* (go to:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1a3tjqQ\\_iBI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1a3tjqQ_iBI) to see the full length movie).

Secondly, we wanted to help develop the student's critical thinking skills and analysis capabilities. To round out the advanced Water Conservation program, we discuss issues that will be facing the students in the future: rain/river water

litigation, who owns the water?, the impact of water on the stock market and water disparities within the United States and the World.

The students now take a tour out into the Wetland to discuss the engineering that was needed to make a man-made structure work in harmony with nature and what is done on a management level to assure the wetland is working at its peak capacity.

We strive to make sure that all of our programming is up to date, relevant and as hands-on as possible. We are blessed to have educators who care enough to make sure this happens!



# Water Use vs. Water Values

by Maureen Nitkowski

A cold, clear mountain stream bubbles and sings its way along a gentle slope. Kingfishers dip to catch a meal while Swallows collect insects flying above the water. Lazy pools formed by a meander in the stream's course offer a science lab to any curious child which no classroom can ever replicate. Following this stream to its union with the river, brings a very different description. The water at this junction is still clear but travels over a toxic orange stream bed where no creature can exist; those unfortunate enough to be carried into this water live no more.

The axiom that 'the solution to pollution is dilution' has been dramatically proven false. No child wanders here anymore to casually observe Nature, however, numerous

adults took responsibility to study what had gone so badly wrong, in hopes of correcting the problem for the future. These streams were part of my childhood in Pennsylvania, and both the stream and river are healthy today because they were seen as having value to us which caused changes to be made.

Does water have value to us now? Turn on any faucet, and there will be safe water to use as we wish. Do we ever consider for a second that no water will flow from the tap or that it would be a gamble to drink what does come out? These ideas are not in our collective experience which is a lot like enjoying the stream I described previously-until you look beyond your personal universe you will not see what happens next to you.

Our part of Texas has had a decade long

dance with drought coupled with a rapidly growing human population. These are facts which we cannot dispute, but too many of us choose to look away and not make changes in our lifestyles. As one high school student who visited the Wetland Center recently opined: 'Someone (else) will solve the problem, and anyway there is enough water to last until after I am dead.'

Hopefully, this opinion is held by a very small percentage of people who have visited the Wetland Center, but it is a sad commentary nonetheless. The majority of visitors both young and not-so-young take away information which defines the water situation today and offers suggestions for conservation which all of us can employ. Indeed there is 'someone' working on solutions, but that does not let the rest of us off the hook. Do we value water enough to change how we use it? Either we are a part of the solution or a part of the problem.



## New Bird Sighting - T-Birds!

We want to thank the Big 'D' Little Bird car club for coming to visit the Center in May and taking the time to schedule an overview of the Center and learn about the history of the Wetland Project. If you belong to a group of some sort and would like to set-up a visit to the Center, we would love to work with you. Contact Linda Dunn at [ldunn@wetlandcenter.com](mailto:ldunn@wetlandcenter.com) or call 972-474-9100.



## STEWARD SPOTLIGHT

Watching the Wetland Project from its beginnings to what it is today, Steward Kathy Decker became captivated by the Wetland long before its completion. We consider Kathy our local 'Public Relations' department. Everywhere she goes she has Wetland



flyers, brochures, business cards etc., handing them out to everyone she meets.

If Kathy is at the Center the day you visit, you won't get a warmer welcome than from Kathy. She is quick to get you excited about being a visitor at the Center and will make sure to point you in the right direction to experience the Wetland the best way possible for you. With a smile on your face and an unending enthusiasm for the Wetland Center, Kathy, we appreciate your years of support and thank you for all that you do for the Center!



# EAGLE ROOST SUMMER UPDATE

In the middle of May both Eaglets fledged from the current nest tower and are slowly learning how to fish and hunt with the parent's help. It is amazing that the breeding pair of Eagles have confidently raised their second set of eaglets from this live transmission line tower without any mishaps or interruption of power to Dallas.

Oncor's staff of biologists have been monitoring this Bald Eagle nest on a 345,000 volt transmission tower in Combine, TX for the past two years. Their efforts to relocate the nest during the summer of 2013 were delayed because the Eagles returned to the site earlier in the fall than expected. Oncor has been working with the Wetland Center, Rosewood Ranches, and the US Fish and Wildlife

and is currently under construction. The relocation will take about two days in the month of June.

Once the transition is made, the Eagles will have a safe structure away from the danger of the power transmission lines. Our hope is that next breeding season the adult Eagles will return and have the ability to nest at the new location for life. The Wetland Center will monitor the progress via a tower-mounted camera. Biologists will also track breeding data in this area which has not been recorded since the Bald Eagle

was removed from the endangered species list in the 1980's. We will provide an update mid-summer with our progress and successful relocation.

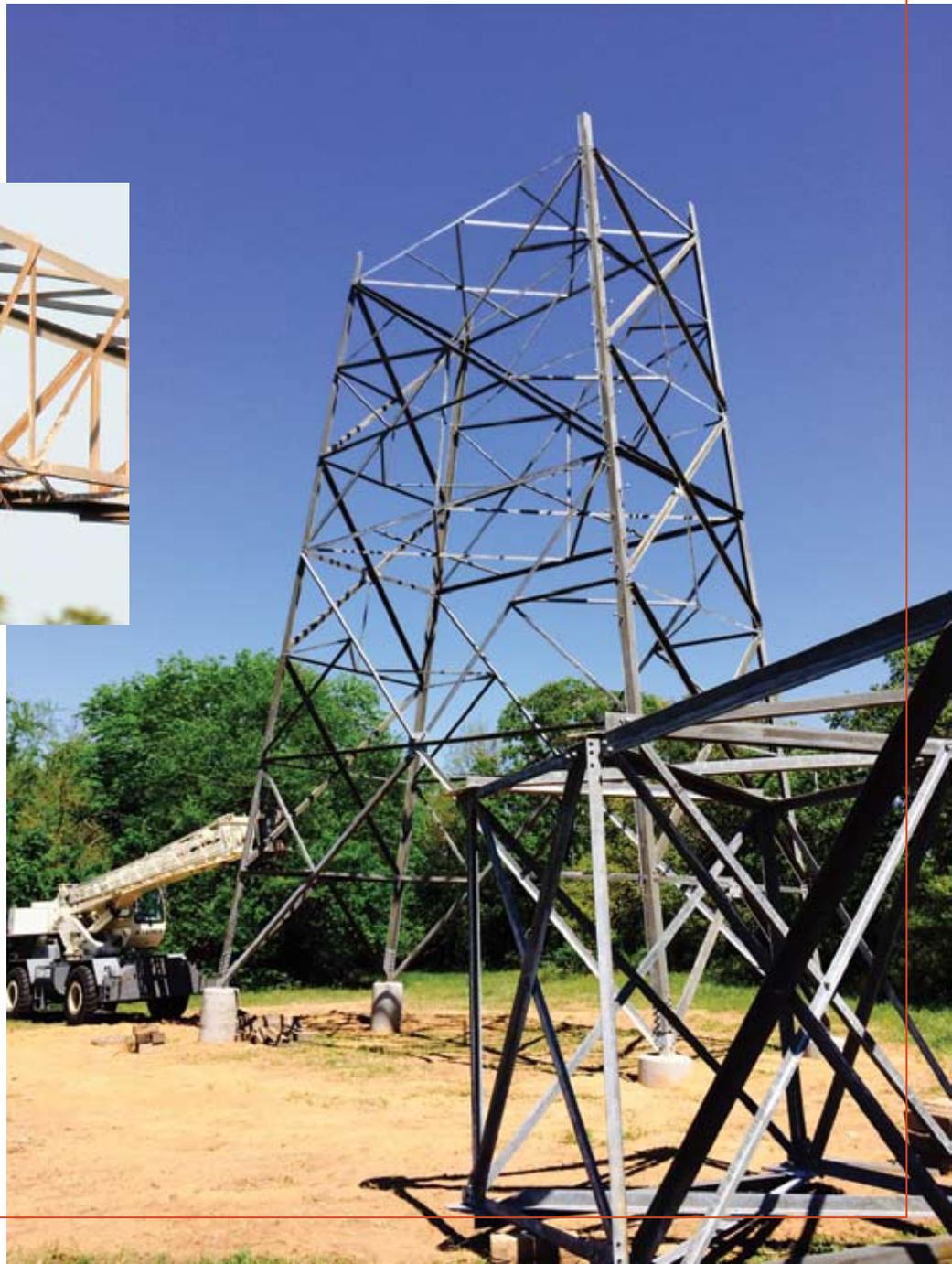
*\*portions of this article were taken from The Communicator and Oncor.*

*– John DeFillipo*



Service while following the National Bald Eagle management guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of the Eagles and to ensure reliable service.

Oncor applied for and was granted an amended USFWS permit that would allow the relocation to be done this summer outside of the breeding season (June-August) and at least 10 consecutive days after the nest is empty and considered inactive. Once relocation begins, the tower cross arm that currently houses the nest will be carefully positioned on a new structure 1,200 feet away. The structure was donated by Falcon Steel specifically for the Eagle nest



# WHERE THE GREAT CARP GROW

## Or how I learned to eat Aliens

by Jacob Gordon

Shining beneath the shallow surface, a flash of grey and yellow darts forward, leaving the wetland bedding in a swirl of muck, water and fish. The instinctual lunge from any and every shadow or vibration seems to distinguish the cowardly Common (or Black) Carp, a fish that is both invasive and annoying!

Understandably you may be thinking 'Jake (cause that's what I go by), it is just a fish. How could it be so bad or annoying?

*1 meter long), juvenile and adult mussels and many species of snails would be vulnerable to predation. Since the life span of the Black Carp is reportedly over 15 years, sterile triploid Black Carp in the wild are expected to persist many years and therefore have the potential to cause harm native mollusks by way of predation. Also, Black Carp juveniles feed on zooplankton and insect larvae while adults feed on benthic invertebrates such as snails and mussels, so many different resources may become exhausted.'*

To say this another way, 'These fish disrupt the entire food chain, defined habitat and directly contribute to a decrease

chocolate milk (yum).

- Increased turbidity can reduce the sunlight's (UV) to penetrate the water's surface and encourage growth of certain algae and wetland plants
- It wrecks the bed coating while searching for Macro-Invertebrates to eat which decreases spawning area/habitat for other, more positive species.

There are, of course, predators out here but not enough to out eat the incredible rate at which these fish-like demons can breed. The Bald Eagles take a few, the coyotes might if there's an injured one around and of course me. With the lack of natural predators I feel the urge, or the calling, no, the NEED to systematically



Photo by Rob Cosgriff  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
Great Rivers Field Station

Friends, Donors, Countrymen, lend me some spears that I might rid this beautiful place of such a foul presence. You see this Carp is not so common to these here parts (I am Texan), thus reiterating its Invasive Species standing. This fish can out compete, out breed and out eat just about any native rival/competition. However you do not have to take my word for it, in fact you can read this text I borrowed from Texasinvasives.org 'Ecological Threat: There is high potential that the Black carp will negatively impact native aquatic communities by feeding on, and reducing, populations of native mussels and snails, many of which are considered endangered or Furthermore, because the Black carp can attain a large size (well over

in an aquatic system's health.' To say it yet another way, 'These fish are messin' up the delicate balance at the Wetlands.'

With the sun hanging high and temps increasing, there are times when we are on the boardwalk and the water seems literally full of breeding carp. Given their size and diet preferences, Black Carp also have the potential to restructure benthic communities by direct predation and removal of algae-grazing snails and native mussels. As I stated before, this swirling mass of fish and wetland soil is problematic for several reasons:

- It increases the turbidity (amount of suspended particles in the water) which causes the water to look 'muddy' or like

remove these prolific beasts. I decided that in order to maintain a less than wasteful means, these fish must be consumed.

Searching the internet revealed a hidden world of Avant Garde, Classic, Southern and High End Chefs taking on these (and many other) invasive species. I found Carp Spring Rolls, Carp Fritters, Carp Cakes, Carpwich, Carp Yakitori, Carp Baja Tacos, the list was endless and endlessly motivating. My recipe was set; for me, a real fish lover, one of the best things is a fresh Tex-Mex style Baja Fish Taco. In the Baja style we will not be frying the fish but grilling it after using some amazing fresh ingredients, oils and spices to marinate it. I have decided to share my recipe with you all, you are welcome.

# THE GREAT CARP RECIPE

## Baja Carp Tacos:

Serves 4-6

You will need the following dry ingredients:

- Coarse Salt / Fresh Cracked Pepper - 2 tsp. each
- Freshly Ground Cumino (Cumin) 1 tbsp.
- Smoked Paprika (Sweet is best) - 2 tsp.
- New Mexico Hatch Chile Powder - 2 tsp.
- Tony Sachere's (Round Can, don't act like you don't know) 1 tbsp.

You will need the following fresh ingredients:

- Cilantro - 1 bunch finely diced
- Green Onion - 1 bunch 1/4" sliced
- Tomatillo - 2 each roasted and rough chopped
- Poblano Pepper - 2 each roasted and diced
- Jalapeno Pepper - 2 each roasted and diced
- Tomatoes - 2 each 1"x 1" chopped
- Buttermilk - 2 to 3 cups
- Corn Tortillas
- White Onion
- Feta Cheese
- Crema Mexicana

You will need the following oils:

- Olive Oil (Not E.V.O.O!! Get something with flavor) or coconut oil - 3 tbsp.

The Fish:

- You will need at least 4 to 7 pound Carp as they are extremely bony and have large scales. Meaning that a 4 pound Carp may only yield around 1.66 lbs of meat. The Carp has an extensive bloodline that should also be removed before consuming because it is gross.

The Preparation:

- 1) Begin by having your Carp filleted for you or watch a YouTube video and do your best.
- 2) Next, get out that Buttermilk and pour it into a large mixing bowl, put all that carp in there and let the lactic acid do its thing (neutralizing the flavor). Let it sit for about 10 to 15 minutes.
- 3) In another mixing bowl combine all dry ingredients and mix up good.
- 4) With all of your roasted peppers and herbs - place into a blender and pulse a few times. You may need to add a liquid at this point, water or chicken stock would do well.
- 5) Now it is time to pull that Carp out of the buttermilk, rinse the meat under running water then pat it dry. Add all the carp meat to the DRY Ingredient Mix and coat thoroughly.

- 6) Get your grill nice and HOT, brush the grill bars with a little olive oil.

Now folks, get that Carp and think to yourself 'Self, am I really this committed? Can I really eat this?' and throw it in the trash!!

- 7) Trash the Carp and use the grill to heat up your tortillas, you already made the salsa!

You're Welcome.

On a slightly serious note - Carp are invasive and originally brought here as a cheap food source but as we all know, they can, will, and have out competed our native fish. So please, if you see a Carp - catch it, eat it or run it out of town.

Several carp were harmed during the making of this article. 🐟



Patrick Kennedy, Eagle Scout with Troop 577, completed one of our new picnic tables for our many guests. We really appreciate all the time, energy and resources it took to complete his Eagle Scout project.

*Save the Date*

## Wings Over the Wetland Benefit

Thursday, October 16, 2014 in the evening

Beyond the Surface – Raising awareness of water conservation through ART!

*Details coming this summer*



# WETLAND PHOTO CONTEST

May 15 - August 16, 2014

© Jim West

With the Center beginning its 5th year in October, you may have noticed that many of the photos in the Center are out-dated, looking a little sun bleached and/or just plain need replacing. What a better opportunity to have some great photos of the Wetland taken by those who go out and search for the perfect photo opportunity! John Bunker Sands was an avid photographer, with his passion for photography being an extension of his love for the earth and those closest to him. With a camera being his constant companion, Bunker captured the people and places he cherished most.

We are excited to be partnering with the McKinney Avenue Contemporary (MAC) as part of a larger exhibition of photographs

taken by Bunker. All 1st Place winners will receive a ribbon and certificate, their picture mounted on foam board to be displayed at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Sept. 17th, and at our Annual Benefit, October 16th. Photographs will be used as a permanent exhibit at the Wetland Center. The recipient along with one guest will be invited to both events.

The photo contest will consist of 4 categories - Landscape, Wildlife, Macros and People in Nature. There will be a division for Adults and Youth, and in each division awards will be given in all categories for 1st - 3rd place. There will also be a best of show chosen from the 1st place winners.

Photographs need to be taken at the

Wetland Center from now until August 16th. For those who have been 'chomping at the bit' to get out here early or stay late. There will be several opportunities to visit the Center at sunrise and sunset to capture the perfect light.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ENTRY PASS

Entry fees into the Wetland Center are \$5.00/adult, \$4.00/senior, \$3.00/youth (6-12 yrs), 4 & Under, Free. You may purchase a Photo Contest Pass for \$20.00, which would allow the photographer entry to the Wetland during the period of the contest. For complete information and entry form, go to [www.wetlandcenter.com](http://www.wetlandcenter.com) or call 972-474-9100.



# THANK THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

In conjunction with the photography contest and to give the photographers an opportunity to take pictures when the natural light is at its best, the Wetland Center will be offering extended open hours for the public. During the months of June and July, the Wetland Center will be open the following hours:

Saturday, June 7th & July 5th, 2014, 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 21st & July 19, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Come and watch the sunrise or enjoy the setting sun as we extend our hours for our photography contest.

# Wetland Wishes

Everyone has a wish list in their life and it is no different here at the Wetland Center. As we head into our 4th teaching year, we have had plenty of time to figure out what does and doesn't work when it comes to education. The staff of the Center have come up with a wish list of our own. We see this list as benefiting not only us, but the many teachers and students that visit the Center, and the possibility of being able to do more outreach to those who are unable to come to us. After reading the list below, if one or more of these items inspires or motivates you in any way, please consider donating or contributing towards that item. Thank you from all of us here at the Center!

- 1 1 Birding Scope - to be used in the Birding class and our new Wildlife Management Class
- 2 2 Boot Scrapers
- 3 20 Pair Binoculars - to be used in the Birding class and our new Wildlife Management Class
- 4 Polaris/Mule/ATV - To be used for emergencies in the field, for setting up outdoor classrooms away from Center
- 5 1 Small Pick-up Truck - to be used for transportation to outreach events, meeting with school districts, to bring materials to outreach events.
- 6 \$200 in Animal skins and skulls to be used for our new Wildlife Management Class

7 iPads, Tablets etc... to be used to record data collected in the field during class in real time onto the net so teachers have real time access to data collected by students.

8 4 New pair durable Chest High Waders to use for aquatic sampling in the Wetland Ecology Class.

9 Funds to purchase a large 20' x 20' "party tent" to put up in the Wetland to be used for an outdoor classroom. This will also help us decide whether or not we should get a permanent structure in the future.

10 2 Wild cam cameras to be placed at different points in the Wetland to monitor wildlife.

Please contact Linda Dunn at ldunn@wetlandcenter.com or call 972-474-9100 for questions or information regarding the Wish List items.

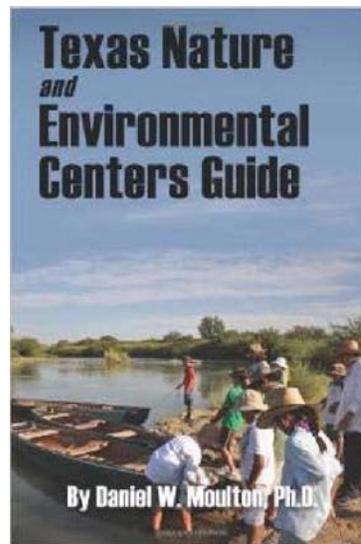


## *The Book You have Been Waiting For— A Guide to Texas Nature Centers*

If you look for nature related sites to visit when you travel across Texas, this is the book for you. The 96 facilities described in this book offer a wide range of environmental and outdoor programs for people of all ages. Some examples of programs are summer day camps, handicapped-accessible trails, children's story time, guided hikes and activities, nature arts and crafts, outreach programs, family programs,

courses for teachers, and a many more.

The descriptions are enhanced by 224 color photos and 9 color maps. This resources also includes an Environmental Primer, familiarizing you with the major environmental issues facing us all today and direct you to various websites where you can learn more about specific environmental problems



and potential solutions. It's a virtual short course on environmental science for non-scientists.

This great resource can be purchased below the retail cover price at our very own small, but quaint store. This book makes a perfect gift for those who travel across Texas, looking for those unique destinations in which to enjoy nature at its finest!

## JUNE

### Saturday, 7th

Open, 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Birding Walk

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

#### Butterflies with Dale Clark

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Saturday, 21st

#### Bunker's Pond Trail Walk

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Open, 9:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## JULY

### Saturday, 5th

Open 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Birding Walk

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### Saturday, 19th

Open 9:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

#### Bunker's Pond Trail Walk

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### Bee Symposium

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## AUGUST

### Saturday, 6th

Open 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Birding Walk

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### Saturday, 16th

Open 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Bunker's Pond Trail Walk

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### Bees for Beginners

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.





## URBAN WATER PROGRAM

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE RESEARCH | EXTENSION

## OUTDOOR WATER EFFICIENCY

Many water conservation methods can be accomplished by modifying just a few everyday habits and using inexpensive upgrades to technologies in your home landscape.

### Landscape Watering:

- Water your landscape early in the morning (before 10:00am) or late in the evening (after 6:00pm). If you water in the heat of the day, most of your water is lost to evaporation.
- Do not over water your lawn. During the summer months, only apply one inch of water on your lawn every 7 days. Doing this will encourage a deep root system and a healthier lawn. Also, during the winter months, reduce your watering frequency to once every 15 to 20 days.
- Remember, rain water counts. If it rains, you do not have to water your lawn. To better track rainfall, buy a rain gauge.
- Water your landscape by hand or run sprinklers in manual mode.
- If you have an automatic sprinkler system, adjust the heads to water the landscape and not the pavement, and be sure to check your system regularly for leaks or misdirected spray heads.
- Install and maintain rain/freeze sensors.
- If possible, replace overhead sprayers with soaker hoses or drip irrigation.

### Landscaping:

- Use native and adapted plants that are more suited to the climate in which we live. Native plants use less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- To water shrub beds, ground cover gardens, and trees, use a drip irrigation system and soaker hoses that apply water to the roots where it does the most good.
- To hold moisture and limit weed growth, keep a 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch on flower beds, around trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
- Plant during the fall or early spring when water requirements are lowest.
- Taller grass blades hold moisture and slows down evaporation so cut your grass at a higher setting and leave the clippings on the ground, as they will return nutrients to the soil.
- Before fertilizing your lawn, conduct a soil test. The wrong amount and type of fertilizer can increase water usage.

### Pool:

- Install a pool cover to reduce evaporation.
- Fill your pool manually.

### Cleaning:

- Sweep your sidewalk or driveway; do not hose it down.
- Wash your car on the lawn, and use a bucket instead of a hose, or better yet, use a commercial car wash that uses recycled water.
- Bathe your pets outdoors in an area that needs to be watered.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research  
and Extension Center at Dallas  
17360 Coit Rd, Dallas, TX 75252  
(972) 952-9671 Office  
(972) 952-9216 Fax  
Email: [urbanwater@tamu.edu](mailto:urbanwater@tamu.edu)  
<http://dallas.tamu.edu>



## INDOOR WATER EFFICIENCY

### URBAN WATER PROGRAM

Many water conservation methods can be accomplished by modifying just a few everyday habits and using inexpensive upgrades to fixtures in your home.

#### Laundry:

- If possible, replace older units with newer, high efficient models.
- By only washing full loads of laundry, you will conserve both water and energy.
- Use the water level setting, if your washer is equipped with one.
- Rinse with cold water and only use hot water when necessary.

#### Kitchen:

- Install aerators in all home faucets. By doing this, you will be able to increase spray velocity while reducing splash, water and energy use.
- If you wash dishes by hand, do not let the water run while you rinse. Fill one sink with soapy water and the other with clean rinsing water.
- Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape and scrub.
- Instead of using the garbage disposal, try composting your organic material.
- Scrape food off of dirty dishes instead of rinsing them. Newer models of dishwashers are able to handle some leftovers and pre-rinsing is not necessary.
- Only run your dishwasher when it has a full load in it.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. This not only is a waste of water, but it can increase the potential for a food borne illnesses. Instead, defrost them in the refrigerator overnight.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap every time you want a drink.
- Wash your produce in a partially filled pan instead of running the faucet, and use the left over water to water your household plants.

#### Bathroom:

- Like aerators, by installing low flow showerheads, you will be able to conserve water and energy.
- Try and limit your showers time to 5 minutes.
- Baths use more water than showers so try not to fill the tub more than halfway, and plug the bathtub before turning the water on and then adjust for temperature.
- Turn the faucet off while you shave and brush your teeth.
- If your home has older toilets, replace them with newer more water efficient models, or consider using a dual flush toilet.
- Do not use your toilet as a trash can.
- Check your faucets and toilets for leaks.