



*Mission: To preserve and enhance the State Park System for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.*

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## Texans for State Parks

*Citizens working to preserve and enhance our great state park system*

### The Voice

April 2011

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- **THANK YOU – Employee Relief Fund Makes Distributions**
  - **Wildfire Update**
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#### From the President:

Site Manager Dennis Smith and his Staff at Monument Hill and



Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites are shown with a new digital frame provided by Texans for State Parks as part of their being named "Featured Park" of the quarter.

TfSP provides each Park a Power Point presentation, a Video, and raw photographs of their Park. Those Parks not having a Digital Frame are provided one by TfSP. This is one way Texans for State Parks supports our State Parks and Historic Sites by letting potential visitors see what the site has to offer."

*John Cobb, President*

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the TPWD Employee Relief efforts for the employees who lost their homes to the fires at Fort Davis and Possum Kingdom. At last count your generous donations totaled more than \$11,000!

Disbursements have been made to the Davis Mountains and Possum Kingdom employees affected by the recent fires on those areas. ). This is an example of the impact you are all having on our friends who have lost everything they owned. Unfortunately, Scott Parrish, Park Ranger at Possum Kingdom State Park is the most recent employees added the list of those who have lost their homes to wildfire, and Carolyn Mallory, Assistant Office Manager at Possum Kingdom SP, also sustained damage to her home. The extent of the damage isn't known at this time. Keep these folks, and the firefighters, in your thoughts.

In addition to the relief fund managed by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation, a **WILDFIRE BENEFIT BBQ is being held Wednesday May 11<sup>TH</sup>**. 11 AM – 1:30 PM at the Parks & Wildlife Headquarters on Smith School Road in Austin.

Tickets must be purchased before May 11<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in attending the Benefit BBQ, or can't attend but would like to make a donation, contact Marian Edwards, (512) 389 4866 office, [marian.edwards@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:marian.edwards@tpwd.state.tx.us).

## -Wildfire Update



Possum Kingdom State Park Fire: Up to 90% of the Possum Kingdom SP has burned. The park residence, maintenance facility and 4 nearby restrooms remain were threatened but the staff had done enough burning out of juniper and underbrush around buildings before the fire arrived to save the facilities in Possum Kingdom SP and the Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery. it will probably be some time before things like power lines, etc. are repaired and the sites are back on operation..

Three fully staffed State Parks fire engines worked in tandem with crews in the park and in the Caddo Bay residential area adjacent to the park. Numerous air resources fought the fire, including black hawks, C130s, seats, ad Type 3 helicopters. Firefighters on site not assigned to an engine spent the day with park rangers clearing juniper away from these threatened structures. Greg Creacy, the Park Division staff member responsible for managing fire operations within the park, and the entire staff did an outstanding job in difficult circumstances. Approximately 20 firefighters were on this fire with numerous P&W Law Enforcement and maintenance support. Those remaining at PK had to abandon the park in boats,

Davis Mts and Indian Lodge are still closed. They are serving as the base camp for crews or a

couple of hundred people still working the fire in that area.

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## Legislative Update

At this point the legislative process is for the most part 'in negotiations' between the members of House and Senate. The budget still undermined. The Senate has not yet passed its budget bill. When the Senate does pass a budget, the work will begin between the House and Senate versions.

Other Issues: HB1301 would add a donation to the purchase of license plates, but details regarding the amount that would go to parks, and whether it will supplement or replace other funding sources, as well as whether it will be an 'opt in' or 'opt out' program are still unresolved

SB1905, requiring \$1 from the entry fee at 12 parks to be given to local emergency service providers will be heard on Monday in Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee.

HB1628, requiring appropriation of funds generated by Sporting Goods Sales taxes to THC and TPWD was left pending in the House Ways and Means Committee. Its companion, SB1345 has not been scheduled for a hearing in Senate Finance.

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## State Parks News:

### Volunteers Vital for Wildlife, Parks, Outdoor Education

April is National Volunteer Month, and folks who love state parks, hunting and fishing in Texas have plenty to celebrate. In 2010, volunteers provided close to 955,000 hours of service worth an estimated \$16.9 million to the Texas Parks

and Wildlife Department. See more at [[Permalink – Plain Text](#)]

## Galveston Island State Park Master Plan to be Unveiled at Open House

The last of three scheduled public meetings on the master plan design for redeveloping hurricane-damaged Galveston Island State Park will be held Thursday, May 5, on the Texas A&M Galveston campus.

## Galveston Island State Park Master Plan to be Unveiled at Open House

**Camp Thicket Open for Business at Estero Llano Grande State Park — Popular Retreat Camp Now Operated by State Park in Rio Grande Valley**

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## Ground broken for new pavilion at Palo Duro State Park

After years of detailed planning, TPWD officials and dozens of Amarillo-area dignitaries met last Friday at Palo Duro Canyon State Park to break ground for the new Mack Dick Group Pavilion.

Made possible by the Amarillo Area Foundation Palo Duro Canyon Park Fund, established by Mack Dick—a prominent Amarillo-area businessman—the new stone-clad facility will feature 5,200-square-feet of meeting and/or dining hall space, restrooms and a commercial kitchen. All these amenities have been designed specifically to accommodate park visitor demand for receptions, parties, weddings, family reunions, RV groups and other multipurpose uses.

The pavilion, which will incorporate local rock and native materials to blend in with its

rugged and scenic surroundings in the bottom of the canyon, will be a balance of enclosed indoor space and generous outdoor porch space. The state-of-the-art group facility will have a seating capacity of 150 and be enhanced with multi-media technology

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#### **State Park Events:**

#### **May 1: Motorcycle Ride and Rally – Fort Richardson SP & HS/Lost Creek Reservoir State Trail Way:**

Cruise in and meet your friends for a scenic, 100-mile ride through the wildflower-covered back roads around the Jack County area. The ride will depart at 10 AM and return by 12:00 PM for a delicious lunch.

Park entry fees are waived for participants. Please call for lunch reservations. Fort Richardson State Park 940.567.3506

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#### **May 6 & 7 - 15th Annual Spring Open House and Youth Outdoor Day: Lake Brownwood SP**

Friday is youth day with TPWD and other outdoor education exhibits for area school youth, but facilities are open for viewing both days. Representatives from the Texas Buffalo Soldiers/ Frontier Life/ History, Inland Fisheries, Law Enforcement Division (Game Wardens), Wildlife Division, and others will be on hand. Exhibits are held at the Group Camp area. 8:30 AM-3:30 PM each day. Park entry fees waived for this event.

Exhibitors interested in participating and bringing the outdoors to youth are encouraged to contact John Holland at (325) 784-5223

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#### **May 13 - Buffalo Soldier Encampment Lake Arrowhead SP:**

Learn about a day in the life of a Buffalo Soldier from the 1800s. There will also be Pioneer Women, Medical Practices, Cooking Techniques and more. Friday is for school groups, who are asked to RSVP by 5:00 PM on May 6, 2011. Accessible for the mobility, visually and hearing impaired. 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day (940) 528-2211

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#### **May 14 - Penn Farm Challenge Cedar Hill State Park:**

Come experience Penn Farm in through this self -guided geocache tour of this centennial family farm. This is a come and go as you please event. See event listing at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for starting coordinates and more details. Beginning geocachers are welcome, but a personal GPS unit is required to participate. Park geocache manager and volunteers will be available to assist. The event will be held near the Penn Farm restroom. Call 972.291.5940 for more information.

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#### **May 28-29 - Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS**

Join us for a day in the garden at vegetables; relax on the porch, the farm beginning at 10:00 AM

to 04:30 PM. See our heirloom learn about seed saving and hearth cooking. Discover the uses of plants and animals in dyeing a variety of fabrics.

Accessible for the mobility impaired. 936) 878-2214. <http://beta-www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/history/a-day-in-the-garden-2>.

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For other Texas Parks \* & Wildlife Events, visit <http://beta-www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/>

News items from various sources are edited and forwarded by Texans for State Parks. If you have news or an event you would like to include, send it to [leevans@texas.net](mailto:leevans@texas.net).

#### **TEXANS FOR STATE PARKS**

invites you to join with us in protecting our Texas treasures. Whether you are an individual, organization, school group or represent a business, membership categories provide a way for you to become involved.

Click on *About Us* and you will find a link to a membership application. For more information see [www.texasstateparks.org](http://www.texasstateparks.org) or e-mail [leevans@texas.net](mailto:leevans@texas.net).

Don't forget to send e-mail or other address changes to [leevans@texas.net](mailto:leevans@texas.net) so you will continue to receive news and information about the State Parks.

If you have news or an event you would like to include, send it to [leevans@texas.net](mailto:leevans@texas.net).