



Thanks again to the volunteers

A great start to 2010 with more volunteers helping to support my coastal community outreach and education programs. Give these folks a pat on the back next time you see them for a job well done:

Lacey Ekberg, Jack LaBarge, Deb Dugan, Shelly Crow, Mike Mitchell, Veva Saylor, Laura Griffith, Teri Austin, Sherrie Krause, and Mrs. Scroggs' **G3 students** Taylor Blakeman, Gabrielle Bonus, Jackalyn Brumfield, Daniel Castillo, Elaina Cuellar, Joseph Fierro, Sage Flores, Emily Hahn, Shaughnessy Howell, Matthew Lerma, Leena Morales, Kara Pfeil, Preston Salinas, Zachary Soliz, Cody Stacy, Jessie Sun, Jessamy Tomlinson, Hunter Vickery, David Williams, Matthew Wood and Rebecca Treaster.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Town Hall Meeting

Bauer Community Center,
February 11th, 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Details inside this newsletter.

OLG Valentine Gala

Dinner, music, mysteries and dancing
Saturday, February 13, 2010 @ 6:00 pm
http://myweb.cableone.net/olg/olgschool11510_009.htm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Grace Episcopal Church, February 16th
2010, serving from 5 p.m. — 7 p.m. Cost
\$5.00 /plate.

2nd Annual Business Showcase

Bauer Community Center, February 18th, 4
p.m. — 7 p.m. **FREE** Public invited to
come learn what services and businesses
are available.

Travis MS Family Science Night

Science with the Stars, February 23rd from
6:00-7:30 p.m.

**International Conference on Sea Level
Rise in the Gulf of Mexico** in Corpus
Christi. March 1-3, 2010.

<http://www.sealevelrise2010.org/index.htm>



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Coastal & Marine Resource News

Calhoun County
February 2010

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!



"Sponge" Crab

"Pregnant" female blue crabs carry fertilized eggs under their abdomen. From a distance these eggs resemble a sponge, hence the term "sponge" crabs. It takes about two weeks for the eggs to "ripen" and be released into the water to hatch.

(<http://www.bluecrab.info/identification.html>)

Photo used with permission. Texas Master Naturalist Norman Hirsch captured this great shot of Willie Younger holding an egg-carrying, female, blue crab aboard the Karma.

From the Hooked on Seafood Cookbook:

CRAB MEAT GUACAMOLE

½ pound blue crab meat
½ tsp. hot pepper sauce
¼ tsp. salt
2 ripe and mashed avocados
2 tbs. each mayonnaise, lemon
juice and grated onion.

Combine all ingredients, mix well and chill. Makes about 2 cups of dip.

Children's Art Contest

WHO: All Texas students (public, private, and home-schooled) in grades K-6 are invited to participate.

WHAT: 14th Annual Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest. Entries must incorporate the slogan, "Trashing Texas Beaches Isn't Cool". Artwork must be displayed on 8 ½" X 11" flat page and can be any medium except computer generated. Three-dimensional art will not be accepted. All entries must include an entry/parental consent/student pledge form attached on the back.

WHEN: All submissions must be **postmarked by Monday, March 1st, 2010** and mailed to the Texas General Land Office. Late submissions will not be accepted. To learn more, visit:
<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach/artcontest.html>

Town Hall Meeting

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 7PM,
BAUER COMMUNITY CENTER

The Chamber of Commerce and the Leadership Advisory Board of Calhoun County is sponsoring a planning meeting for Port Lavaca. Dr. John Jacobs, Community Development Specialist with the Texas Sea Grant College Program, will be our featured speaker.

Community Resources and Economic Development ideas are needed for strategic planning, and we need your input. If downtown redevelopment, tourism, and business attraction are important to you, then please attend and voice your ideas. Creative minds greatly needed! Cookies and punch served.

Crab Trap Removal Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials are gearing up for the 9th Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program, running this year from February 19-28, 2010. During this 10-day period, all Texas bays will be closed to crabbing with crab traps, and any traps left in the bay will be presumed abandoned and considered litter under state law, allowing volunteers to legally remove any crab traps they find.

State game wardens pick up more than 2,500 traps annually, yet there are many more still in the water to foul shrimpers' nets, snag fishermen's lines, ghost fish and create an unsightly view of Texas shores.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the coast-wide effort to remove the numerous wire mesh traps that have been lost or abandoned since last year's cleanup. To facilitate volunteer trap removal efforts this year, TPWD will provide trap drop-off sites at several locations along the coast Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon, weather permitting. Additionally, at most sites, dumpsters marked with banners will be available to receive traps for the duration of the closure. Site locations will be announced in February.

Volunteers can work at their own pace during the closure as time and weather permit, but traps cannot be removed prior to Feb. 19 or after Feb. 28.

For more information about the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program and how you can volunteer, please contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Office in Port O'Connor at 361-983-4425.

Know your knots: Square (reef) knot



This newsletter is available online @
<http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu>

Extension Programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.