



Many thanks to last month's volunteers

As we look towards the end of the year 2012, I give thanks for many things but none more so than my dedicated volunteers. I simply could not do my job without help from the following people:

Charlie Jones, Mike Mitchell, Karen Lyssy, Stephanie Shelly, Joe Surovik, Theresa Dent, Jim Munro, Bill Cordell, and Tom Andrews.

A special thank you this month goes out to Mrs. Gayln Franke and all the students at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School that helped relocate the 408 pots of black mangrove trees from the backyard at St. Matthew to the parking lot by St. Jude Hall on the Friday before the Thanksgiving break.



Upcoming Events

Extension Office Holiday Open House will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12. Come join us for refreshments and learn about what your county agents do for you and the community.

113th Christmas Bird Count will begin on December 14, 2012. Details <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx?MenuItemID=827&MenuGroup=CBC&&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Texas Aquaculture Association 42nd Annual Conference & Trade Show, *Bay City Civic Center* January 23-25, 2013. Details at: <http://www.texasaquaculture.org/Conference-2013/default.html>



AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Coastal & Marine Resource News

Calhoun County
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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Reddish Egret

An inhabitant of the saltwater marshes and lagoons skirting the Gulf of Mexico, the Reddish Egret is the rarest and least well-known of the North American herons. Unlike slower-moving hunters in its family, this egret is notable for its spirited foraging techniques. At the turn of the 20th century, Reddish Egrets were nearly extirpated from the United States by plume hunters. In Florida, none were seen between 1927 and 1937. Overall, their numbers have been gradually rising since enactment of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which protected the species from hunting. Most Reddish Egrets are now located in Texas. <http://birds.audubon.org/species/redegr>

From the Hooked on Seafood Cookbook:

CALAMARI (SQUID) RINGS

3 pounds squid, cleaned and cut into rings

1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper

Oil for frying

2 cups flour

Dry the squid with absorbent towels. Combine flour, salt and pepper. Coat squid with flour mixture. Heat peanut or canola oil to 365 degrees. Deep fry a few rings at a time until golden brown, about 2 minutes. Do not overcook. Drain on absorbent towels. Serve hot with horseradish, sweet and sour sauce or a teriyaki sauce. Makes 4 servings.

Become a Whooper Watcher

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department seeks the help of citizen scientists in identifying Whooping Crane migration stopover sites and non-traditional wintering areas, in assessing whether any hazards exist to whoopers at these sites, and in learning more about behavior and habitat use at these sites. While the traditional wintering grounds on and near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge are well-known, biologists have much less information about locations used by Whooping Cranes in migration. In addition, as the Whooping Crane population continues to grow, whoopers are beginning to explore new wintering

habitat away from traditional areas. Get involved by visiting

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_br_w7000_2703.pdf to learn more about this new program and how you can help.

Coastal User Conflicts

An advisory group of fishing, boating and conservation interests has made nine recommendations to protect seagrass and five to reduce user conflicts along the Texas coast to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioners. User conflicts are likely to escalate as more people come to the Texas coast. Texas now has about 800,000 saltwater anglers, approximately 600,000 registered boats, and more than 74,000 duck hunters. These three user groups, and others, enjoy the coast in an increasing variety of ways. Wildlife watching in Texas has increased from just over 4 million people in 2006 to more than 6 million in 2011. Other activities such as kayaking, windsurfing, and shell collecting are also increasingly popular. As these numbers grow, the amount of recreation space available in Texas's bays and estuaries remains finite, increasing the likelihood of user conflicts.

Read the rest of the story and access the group's report at

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/releases/?req=20121109b&nrtpe=all&nrsan=2012&nrsrch>

Please watch for Burn Bans

Despite some recent rain, our area is still in drought conditions and I urge you to be aware of burn bans posted by your county's commissioner's court. It is especially critical this time of year with all the yard work the cooler weather motivates us to do thus creating lots of brush and burn piles. Please watch for the signs that are posted or call the sheriff's department or a precinct office to ask before setting off any outdoor fires. Your neighbors will appreciate the effort and remember, the house you save may be your own.

Fire prevention tips from the United States Fire Administration include: Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace - It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion. Find more tips at http://answers.usa.gov/system/selfservice/controller?CONFIGURATION=1000&PARTITION_ID=1&CMD=VIEW_ARTICLE&USERTYPE=1&LANGUAGE=en&COUNTRY=US&ARTICLE_ID=10367

This newsletter is available online @ <http://calhoun.agrilife.org/newsletters/coastal-and-marine-resources/>

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 Commissioner's Courts of Texas Cooperating.