

# CROSSCUT

A Quarterly Publication of the Texas Forestry Museum

Spring 2011



## Classroom, caboose and walkway projects finished

From a new classroom to an old caboose, exciting projects are happening at the Texas Forestry Museum!

Besides being available for school tours and educational programs, the new classroom is available to rent for your next special occasion. You can have your next birthday party in the new Classroom/Learning Lab! The room comfortably seats 25 people at tables, and includes a sink, mini fridge and microwave. The space rents for only \$100 for two hours. (Please call the museum for more information, including prices for educational programs that can be added to make your event even more fun and special!)

Outside of the museum



*The 110-year-old caboose has received some much-needed TLC.*

building, the caboose at the end of the logging train has received some much-needed loving care. Weather had taken its toll and the 110-year-old caboose had several rotten places in its siding, ceiling and framework. Everything has been repaired now and the ca-

boose would be ready to hit the rails again if it wasn't landlocked as part of the museum's outdoor railroad display.

While you're checking out the caboose, take a look at the new walkway in front

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*Preserving the  
legacy of the  
people, places  
and products of  
the forests  
of east Texas.*

### EDUCATION FOCUS

## 15th annual 'Reading Railroad' a spring break success

Reading Railroad successfully pulled into the station for its 15th annual stop at the Texas Forestry Museum on March 16, 2011. Community leaders and local celebrities got on board by sharing some of their favorite books with children in the fifth grade and younger.

This year's readers and volunteers in-

cluded: David "Dr. Bug" Kulhavy, Rick Schiller, Amanda Anderson, John Garbutt, The Rev. Bettie Kennedy, Joe and Nancy Pase, Christie Maddux, Mary Grider, Alissa Booth, Shell Lockhart, Laura Bobbitt, Caitlin Marshall, Michaela Knipp, Donna Havard and Tara Watson-Watkins.

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## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

# Do you know where we could find a boxcar house?

BY RICK BRAY  
*Director*

I'm looking for a boxcar house. Now, before you get the wrong idea, I'm not a boxcar child and I don't really want to live in one. The thing is that boxcar houses were an important part of East Texas logging camps in the early 1900s.

The boxcar houses served as mobile living quarters for logging crewmembers and their families. There doesn't seem to be much written about them, but they came in two basic types. The first type were just small portable buildings without wheels that were lifted by steam loaders on to regular railroad log cars for transport. The second type were standard wooden railroad freight boxcars that were repurposed into mobile homes. Either way, it made



PHOTO: THE HISTORY CENTER, DIBOLL

*Pictured above is a boxcar camp in Trinity County, known at the time as "Camp 1." The photo was taken in November 1907.*

it relatively easy for the camp to relocate to a new timber stand.

The purpose of my quest is twofold. Because there is so little information available about them, I'd like to document any surviving examples, regardless of their conditions or modifications, with measurements and photographs. And, I'd eventually like to acquire one to display at the Texas Forestry Museum.

Now here's where you come in, gentle readers.

Please call the museum or send an E-mail if you know the location of a surviving boxcar house. The location can be in the form of an address or directions. It's even better if you know who owns it and if you have the owner's contact information.

By learning more about the boxcar houses, and especially if we obtain one, the museum will be better able to tell the stories of early loggers and early logging in East Texas. ▲

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## COMPANY STORE

# Two items back by popular demand in the gift shop!

The Company Store is pleased to announce that two popular items have returned to the gift shop!

"Backwoodsmen, Stockmen and Hunters along a Big Thicket River Valley," by Thad Sitton, is back in paperback form. The book details how the settlers of the Neches Valley hunted, trapped, and fished as they lived off the land. Their way of life survived into the 1960s but ended with the coming of new game laws, stock laws and the posting and fencing of land in East Texas.

Also back is, "By the Muddy Angelina, Stories & Musical Wanderings in Search of the Old Pioneer Spirit of East Texas," by Steve Hartz. Previously released as a CD and book, it is now available as a CD and digital book. The digital book, which is easy to read on a computer screen, and CD contain collections of songs and stories from the early days in East Texas.

For more information about these items or other merchandise, please call the museum at (936) 632-9535. ▲



With us since the beginning, the Rev. Bettie Kennedy has participated in every Reading Railroad for the past 15 years.

## READING, from page 1

As they have for many years, Brookshire Brothers lent their support to every facet of this great event by providing volunteer readers, as well as sponsoring our kid's crafts station and our much-needed snack station. Try as we might, we could never put on an event such as this without great members of our community supporting our efforts. Brookshire Brothers certainly maintained their

exemplary record of supporting quality community-wide programs, and we cannot thank them enough for their continued commitment to our education programs!

Without these amazing volunteers and sponsors, this event could not be possible, and we would like to thank them all for taking time out of their busy schedules to give children something fun and worthwhile to do over their spring break. ▲

## CLASSROOM OPENING



The Texas Forestry Museum cut the ribbon on its new classroom and learning lab on Wednesday, March 2. The room is now available for birthday parties and other special private events; Call the museum at (936) 632-9535 to reserve it for your next get-together!

## PROJECTS, from page 1

of the logging train. The old and broken concrete sidewalk has been replaced with red pavers. The new walkway resembles many of the train platforms at old train stations across our country.

All of these wonderful projects couldn't be completed without help from our amazing donors. The classroom

project was funded as part of an educational grant from the Ernest L. Kurth, Jr., Charitable Foundation. The caboos repairs were partly funded by the Union Pacific Foundation. Also, the walkway was funded as part of a grant from the I.D. & Marguerite Fairchild Foundation.

More projects are on the way. Stay tuned, or, better yet, drop in to see what's happening next at the Texas Forestry Museum! ▲

## SPRING & SUMMER 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**APRIL 30**

**Something to Shoot For**

9 a.m.

*Clay shoot tournament fundraiser*

**MAY 7**

**Historic Sites Tour**

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Trip around East Texas to visit historic sites*

**MAY 26**

**Wet-n-Wild Whistle Time**

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

*Kids' Club members get to wash the Museum's train!*

**JUNE 6, 7, 9, 10**

**EEK! Week (Environmental Education Kamp)**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Day camp for kids entering the 5th, 6th or 7th grades in the fall*

**JULY 11, 12, 14, 15**

**Timber Tots**

10 a.m. – Noon

*Day camp for kids ages 3 – kindergarten*

**JULY 25, 26, 28, 29**

**Summer Sylvans**

9 a.m. – Noon

*Day camp for kids entering 1st – 4th grades in the fall*



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## DONOR FOCUS

### We're so thankful for our Texas Hold'em donors!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Texas Forestry Museum on March 4th for our Texas Hold'em Tournament! The first tournament this year was held at Behannon's Fourth Street Warehouse. Mark Hicks generously donated use of the building, which is a renovated historic warehouse near downtown Lufkin.

The prize table was filled with great items for the top 10 players, thanks to our in-kind donors: ABC Auto Parts, Academy, Beard Fine Jewelers, Bodies-n-Balance, Brookshire Brothers, Cook's Corner, Crown Colony Country Club, Dupree Tire, La Quinta Inn, Morrison Supply, Tangerine Salon, Dorothy Wilson, Wright Buick/GMC and Yates Broadcasting. Also we couldn't have run the tournament without our volunteer pit bosses: Thomas Bell, Jon Mastin and Jim Tierney. Board member Bill Tetley

worked with museum staff members at the registration table and gladly exchanged poker chips for money! Also, the following players walked away with great prizes: Jeff Boyd, Jack Yeates, Jim Shofner, Nathan Terrell, Phillip Parker, James Sims, Scott Davis, Chris Handley, Joe McDowell and Joel Yeates. Save the date for another tournament coming later this year!

#### **Other noteworthy donations:**

- Timber Pro Forest Service donated \$300 toward our Kids' Club event (*Fun in the Forest After Dark*);
- Brookshire Brothers donated \$550 for the "Reading Railroad" program;
- JM Management joined our corporate donors with a donation of \$500;
- Thank you to everyone who renewed their museum membership dues; and
- Life Membership donations from J.C & Venorah McSwain and Lynne Littrell. ▲

## BECOME A DOCENT

The Museum will hold a training session for anyone interested in helping with museum tours on **Sat., May 21, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** During this session, we will discuss effective ways to conduct fun and age-appropriate tours of our individual exhibit pieces; we'll also talk about group management and presentation skills. Plus, we'll provide lunch for everyone in attendance!

For more info about becoming a docent, or to RSVP for the docent training session, please call Education Coordinator David Young at (936) 632-9535. ▲