

CROSSCUT

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Summer 2011



New ramp makes history accessible for everyone!

Imagine this: A grandson climbs up into the museum's 1908 Baldwin steam locomotive cab. His grandfather doesn't climb very well these days and has to shout stories from the days of steam up to his grandson.

Or picture this: A school group tours the museum. As most of the children climb into the locomotive cab, a child in a wheelchair is left out of the experience and fun. Thanks to the museum's new ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramp, these scenarios are a thing of the past!

"History is for everyone," Director Rick Bray said. "The ramp is just another way we can better serve our visitors and local friends."

In fact, the Texas Forestry Museum might now have the only steam locomotive cab in East Texas that is accessible for people with disabilities. The ramp, which was funded by a grant from the Lufkin Kiwanis Club along with funding from other sources, also provides access to the Camden railroad depot.



The new ADA ramp makes a smooth transition from ground to depot floor and on up to the locomotive cab.

The ramp is constructed of treated lumber and is another upgrade to the museum's outdoor equipment displays. The ramp makes a smooth transition from the ground to the depot floor and on up to the locomotive cab. Although the ramp is open and functional now, the carpenters are waiting for parts to complete the approved handrails. Check it out during your next visit to the museum! ▲

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

EDUCATION FOCUS

Summer camps offer a fun week of forestry activities

Another summer is upon us, and that means only one thing: Summer camps!

We've just completed our first summer camp, EEK! Week for 5th – 7th graders, and we're gearing up for two more camps. Camp participants attended programs at the Pineywoods Conservation Center, SFA Planetarium, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Davy Crockett National Forest,

as well as a behind the scenes tour of the Lufkin Zoo by Educator Alissa Booth.

Timber Tots camp is designed for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds. Children will come to the museum from 10 a.m. to noon on July 11, 12, 14 and 15. The cost is only \$35 for the week, or \$30 for current Kid's Club mem-

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Wildfires play a big part in Texas forestry history

BY RICK BRAY
Director

As I write this, the Bearing Fire in Trinity County is still burning. It is the largest wildfire in East Texas history and has burned well over 20,000 acres. As it has since the beginning, fire continues to play a significant role in the story of Texas forestry.

As a trained wildland firefighter and a firefighter/EMT with the Hudson Volunteer Fire Department, I got to experience the fire first-hand. I served a good part of two days on Hudson's Tanker 1; my job was to be positioned close enough to the fire so that brush trucks could rush over to be refilled with water. We spent most of our time going from one spot fire to another.

As I watched the brush trucks, bulldozers and helicopters work on the blaze, it invited a comparison with some of the wildland fire-



A Texas Forest Service Jeep, which is designed to pull a fire plow.

fighting equipment at the Texas Forestry Museum.

The museum has two fire plows that create firebreaks around wildfires. Unlike the fire plows I watched at the Bearing Fire (which attach to dozers), one of our fire plows attaches to the back of an old Jeep and the other is designed to be pulled behind a tractor or dozer.

The museum's largest artifact also is a piece of fire-fighting equipment. I like to tease visitors and tell them that we have two fire towers at the museum: The one outside is 100 feet tall while the one inside is only two feet off the ground! Museum

guests are welcome to explore the cab of the shorter tower. Rather than looking for fires from towers, modern fire spotters use aircraft and satellites.

The museum also has a looped U.S. Forest Service wildland firefighter training video playing next to the fire jeep. Also, educators and group leaders can check out a traveling trunk about wildland firefighting.

Additionally, the museum is planning a new exhibit about wildland firefighting to be included in our building at this year's Texas Forest Festival at the Lufkin Expo Center Sept. 21 - 25. ▲

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DONOR FOCUS

Community events, programs a reality thanks to donors

Special events and programs would not be possible without support from our local business community. **Brookshire Brothers** helped make *Reading Railroad* a success by donating \$300 and a \$250 gift card. **Forestry Supply Service** generously donated \$150 toward the *Wet n Wild Whistle Time Kids' Club* event.

Buffalo Wild Wings in Lufkin is our newest sponsor. Since March, they have helped raise funds for the museum by offering "Eat Wings. Raise Funds." The museum receives 10 percent of all foods sales from diners who present our flier on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

A special thanks goes to **George Bill Perry of A.G. Perry & Son** for volunteering to rotate the steam log loader to make way for the construction of the new ADA ramp in the train exhibit area.

Thank you to all **Texas Forestry Association members** who made contributions to the museum when they renewed their dues. The museum received a Life Membership from **Bill Tucker**. Life member funds are invested in the Museum's endowment fund, with only interest income being used for operations. We also would like to welcome our newest museum society members, **Solomon Barrow** and **Charles Reynolds**. ▲

VOLUNTEER FOCUS

We couldn't do this without you!

On April 21, museum staff welcomed volunteers to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

This year we created a special award to recognize an individual who, for the past few years, has done an incredible job decorating our annual TREEmendous Gala. Since 2009, JoAnn Tatum has assisted with everything from planning and formulating the theme to making sure the decorations look great and help tell a story. JoAnn works tirelessly to make each year unique. We couldn't pull off TREEmendous without her!

The 2011 Volunteer with the Most Hours Award went to Mary Carroll, with more than 500 hours! Mary has been volunteering with the museum for more than three years, and we can't say enough about what she brings to the museum. As the museum's registrar, she heads up the organization of our collection and also assists with special events. This is her third year to win the award.

The 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award went to an organization that has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist the museum. Over the years, the Campbell Group has been instrumental in moving our museum forward through event sponsorships, allow-

ing employees to serve and lead our board of directors and assisting in countless special events. This past year, the organization contributed both monetary assistance and a terrific group of volunteers to re-vamp our landscaping.

Campbell employees helped clean our museum's facade and lay all new, easily-maintained areas of sod. They also helped reconstruct and refurbish the wooden bridges along our Urban Wildscape Trail.

Along with giving thanks to all of our individual volunteers, the museum also would like to thank some additional organizations that have gone above and beyond to assist the museum over the past year: Angelina Beautiful Clean, Brookshire Brothers, Society of American Foresters, our local Boy Scouts, Junior League of Lufkin, Texas Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service and the faculty, staff and students from the Stephen F. Austin College of Forestry.

We want everyone who volunteered with the museum this past year to know that they are appreciated. Each moment spared working with us at the museum takes us one step closer toward achieving our goal of educating visitors about our rich heritage and preserving our history for generations to come. ▲



Participants for EEK! Week got to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Lufkin Zoo. Two more summer camps will take place this month!

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bers. Each day a different children's book about wildlife, forestry and other ecological topics will be read to our campers. Activities and crafts related to each topic will make for plenty of fun each day.

Registration for Timber Tots is limited, so sign up now.

Summer Sylvans will take place from 9 a.m. to

noon on July 25, 26, 28, and 29. This program is designed for students entering 1st through 4th grades in the fall. We have had a tremendous outpouring of support for this camp, and have maxed out our registration spots! Each day, our participants will learn about a different forestry- or history-related topic, while taking part in games, crafts and various other activities. ▲

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 11, 12, 14, 15

Timber Tots

10 a.m. to Noon

Ages 3 – Kindergarten

July 25, 26, 28, 29

Summer Sylvans

9 a.m. to Noon

Day camp for kids entering

1st – 4th grades in the fall

August 12

Texas Hold'em Tournament at Behannon's Warehouse

6 p.m.

*Join us for our "Celebrity
Poker" tournament fundraiser*

August 25

Back to School Party

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

*Kid's Club members are invited
to celebrate going back to school*

September 3

Grand Day

10 a.m. to Noon

*Come celebrate National
Grandparents Day with us!*

September 15

TREEmendous Celebration at the Lufkin Civic Center

5 p.m.

*Annual fundraiser & Texas
Forestry Hall of Fame ceremony*



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COMPANY STORE

Local artists' hand-crafted items featured in gift shop this summer

The Texas Forestry Museum is pleased to offer the wares of two talented local artists in the Company Store.

Larry Cawley has been skinning and stretching animal hides for more than 50 years. He handcrafts a variety of pioneer and Indian crafts from his animal products. Just like years ago, Larry uses as much from the animal as he can, such as bones, claws and feathers. He has crafted drums, hatchets, war clubs, necklaces, and horn rattles, just to name a few. Each item is decorated with claws, feathers, sinew laces, beads, bells, etc.

Bobby Young is a wood turner and makes a variety of wood items, including duck calls. Having been raised in a hunting family, he was exposed to hunting at an early age. His father used duck calls and he was always fascinated at how they worked.

“What I appreciate most these days is the wood from which they are made. I try to use a lot of different species and, when you are using wood, you can be sure that every duck call will be unique,” Bobby said.

All of the items that Bobby and Larry make are truly one-of-kind items. When you purchase items that they



This summer, the Company Store is offering items from two talented local artists. Larry Cawley handcrafts pioneer and Indian products (pictured at right); Wood turner Bobby Young creates a variety of wood items (left).

have made, you are helping the museum too!

The Texas Forestry Museum's gift shop has been designated the Company Store in recognition of the hundreds of commissaries that served sawmill towns in East Texas history. For more information about these items or other merchandise, please call (936) 632-9535. ▲