

# CROSSCUT

A Quarterly Publication of the Texas Forestry Museum

Spring 2012



## Outdoor train exhibit to receive major makeover

Things are about to change at the Texas Forestry Museum thanks to a very generous donation! Black Stone Minerals recently donated \$150,000 to the museum to be used for the restoration of the outdoor train exhibit area.

More than 30 years ago, the Carter family donated the 1908 steam locomotive, tender car and the 1906 wood-burning steam log loader to the museum. These items were part of an equipment graveyard retired in the 1950s by the W.T. Carter & Brothers Lumber Company in Camden, Texas. In recent years, the train began to lean due to deterioration of the roadbed underneath the train. The restoration project will include the rebuilding of the track and roadbed under the railcar exhibit, a new roof over all the railcars, restoration of the log loader and log car and restoration of the museum's MC&SA (Moscow, Camden & San Augustine) Fairmont railcars. In addition to the restoration work, 1,000 feet of simulated logging railroad



*The original outdoor exhibit area includes the 1908 steam locomotive, tender car and the 1906 wood-burning steam log loader (pictured above). Thanks to a very generous donation from Black Stone Minerals, the exhibit will undergo a complete makeover this year, including rebuilding the track and roadbed, a new roof and restoration of the log loader, log car and the Fairmont rail cars (pictured below).*



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

## New hands-on children's exhibits coming soon

In addition to the major outdoor exhibit changes happening at the museum, there are also some changes planned for the indoor exhibit areas. Thanks to a generous donation from the Lufkin Kiwanis Club, a children's tabletop wooden

railway will be constructed in the North Wing near the existing Paper Quest exhibit. This 15-foot-long layout will let children load logs with a log loader in the forest and travel to the sawmill for unloading. The train layout will include a

sawmill, commissary and millpond.

Grant funds received from the Junior League of Lufkin will be used to construct a pretend loggers camp so children can experience home life as

See CHILDREN, page 3



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## COMPANY STORE

### 'Advice from Nature' products now available

The Company Store has some inspirational advice for you straight from nature and offered on an array of products including bookmarks, postcards, posters and T-shirts! T-shirts include "Advice from a Wildflower," "Advice from a Tree" and "Advice from a Woodland." As a bonus, "Advice from a Tree" and "Advice from a Wildflower" T-shirts include a free packet of seeds. The bookmarks, postcards and posters are all printed on recycled and 100 percent replanted paper. Each item has a special message that is sure to keep you inspired. Take our advice and help support the museum by shopping at the



The "Advice from Nature" products include T-shirts, bookmarks, postcards and posters.

Company Store!

The Texas Forestry Museum's gift shop has been designated the Company Store in recognition of the hundreds of commis-

saries that served sawmill towns in East Texas history. For more information about these items or other merchandise, call (936) 632-9535. ▲

## DONOR FOCUS

### Society members help make free admission possible

One of the ways the Texas Forestry Museum is able to keep its doors open without charging admission is from the generous donations of its Society members.

Beginning this year, new and renewing members will receive a decorative cloisonné pin featuring the museum's logo as appreciation for supporting the Texas Forestry Museum. In addition, Society members receive advance notice of museum events, exhibit openings and 10% off items from the Company Store.

The museum offers several levels of membership to accommodate its donors, starting at only \$35.

If you have not renewed your membership or would like to become a new member, please do so today. New individual memberships of \$100 or more receive a \$10 gift certificate to be used in the Company Store. For more information, call the museum or visit us online at [www.treetexas.com](http://www.treetexas.com).

The museum would also like to welcome its newest corporate member, Keechi

.....  
*The museum offers several membership levels to accommodate its donors, starting at only \$35 per year!*  
.....

Partners Ltd. Corporate members are recognized on the museum's Corporate Member plaque in the museum lobby. Thank you also to the Polk County Forest Land Owners Association for their donation toward the museum's operation funds. ▲

EXHIBIT,  
*from page 1*

spur track will be installed in the forest behind the museum.

The repair process will also include adding 200 feet of track to the existing rail, which will allow for moving the train piece-by-piece to the track extension. Once the train is moved, the rail and road-bed will be replaced. The Angelina & Neches River Railroad is donating rail to assist with this part of the project. When the work is finished, the train will be pulled back into its original location next to the



*The 1908 steam locomotive.*

Camden depot. Once the railcars are back in position, the roof over the train exhibit will be replaced with a hurricane-safe roof that will cover the entire length of the train exhibit. (The current cover only shelters the locomotive and tender car.) The new cover will also be slightly taller than the existing cover to

allow for clearance of the steam loader, which will also allow for a better view of the Camden depot.

A.G. Perry and Angelina Steel are currently in the process of rebuilding the boom from the log loader.

To help visitors better understand the relationship between logging and railroads, approximately 1,000 feet of simulated logging railroad spur track will be constructed in the forest area behind the museum. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, tram spurs were built off the main rail lines to the next stand of timber that was ready to be harvested. The existing rail from the train display will

be reused for this project, in addition to some donated rail. The museum's historic Fairmont railcars are in the process of being restored and will operate on these lines during special events and for special groups visiting the museum. Visitors will ride on a trailer car carried behind the railcars.

This is an exciting time at the Texas Forestry Museum, and we hope you will come for a visit and check out the progress of this project. You can also follow the progress on our Facebook page. The project should be completed by this fall. We want to thank all of our generous donors for helping to make this project possible! ▲

## EDUCATION FOCUS

### Take a step back in time on Historic Sites Tour

Believe it or not, spring is here! That means it's time, once again, for our annual Historic Sites Tour.

On Saturday, May 12, come explore the remains of one of the most iconic and talked-about East Texas sawmill towns: Camden, Texas.

Begin your trip at the Texas Forestry Museum in Lufkin, led by retired forester and history buff John Courtenay and Museum Education Coordinator David Young. Participants will have the chance to learn how sawmill towns were set up, as well as hear about life in East Texas during the Sawmill Era.

After the introduction, participants will be in for a special treat as they watch a screening of the 1968 documentary on Camden by filmmaker James Bryan. This will be a great opportunity to see the town as it once was — in stark contrast to its present state.

**What:** Historic Sites Tour: Camden

**When:** Saturday, May 12

**Cost:** \$25

**More info:** (936) 632-9535 or [dyoung@treetexas.com](mailto:dyoung@treetexas.com)

Once arriving at Camden, participants will meet with town natives and hear their stories while walking its forgotten streets. They'll also have the opportunity to venture to the now-abandoned hardwood mill site and see their 1928 Baldwin Steam Engine.

Tickets for the Historic Sites Tour are \$25. Seating is limited, so book your place today! Tour hours will last from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more ticket information, or to reserve your seat on the Historic Sites Tour, contact the Texas Forestry Museum at (936) 632-9535 or send an E-mail to David Young at [dyoung@treetexas.com](mailto:dyoung@treetexas.com). ▲

CHILDREN,  
*from page 1*

a logger in the early days of east Texas. This exhibit will also be located in the North Wing of the museum and will be complete with a fully-furnished cabin. The cabin will be constructed in historic style with board and batten siding and a tin roof. Inside will be household items similar to what would have been used during that time period. Children will be able to try on period-type clothing and pretend cook on a real cast iron stove.

Both of these exhibits will be a great way to teach younger children the history of logging in East Texas while having fun at the same time. ▲



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 20; Noon**

Volunteer Luncheon

**May 12; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Historic Sites Tour

*Travel to Camden, Texas*

**May 24; 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Wet-n-Wild Whistle Time

*Kids' Club members are invited to wash the Museum's train*

**June 4, 5, 7 & 8; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

EEK! Week (Environmental Education Kamp)

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

**July 9, 10, 12, 13; 10 a.m. to Noon**

Timber Tots

*Day camp for kids ages 3 – Kindergarten*

**July 23, 24, 26, 27; 9 a.m. to Noon**

Summer Sylvans

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

## VOLUNTEER FOCUS

### Volunteers unite to make Reading Railroad a success

On March 14, Reading Railroad successfully pulled into the station for its 16th annual stop at the Texas Forestry Museum.

Community leaders and local celebrities got on board by sharing their favorite books with children in 5th grade and below.

This year's readers and volunteers included: Michelle Reynolds, Christie Maddux, John Garbutt, Donna Work, Jade Norris, Joe Pase, Meridith White, Jay Jelinek, Donna Havard, Rick Schiller, Charlotte Henley, Yana Ogletree

and Rev. Bettie Kennedy. Brookshire Brothers helped support every facet of this event by providing volunteer readers and sponsoring the kids' crafts and snack stations.

This event would not succeed without the great members of the community supporting our efforts. Brookshire Brothers has a long-standing history of supporting quality programs, and we cannot thank them enough for their continued commitment to our education programs! ▲