

# El Llanero

the newsletter of the Sibley Nature Center

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

January 27, 2006

## Major progress at the Sibley Nature Center

At the end of 2005 the Sibley Nature Center received specific grants that have the board and staff of the Center excited.

Dr. Steve Schafersman has come on board as a contract Educational Technology Specialist. An anonymous grant has supplied the money for him to spend 20 hours a week to develop computer modules for the new Llano Estacado room.

The Llano Estacado room focuses on the seven natural habitats of the region, and the man-made habitat of the urban forest. By summer the dis-

plays and computer modules will be ready.

Mark Webb has also joined the Sibley Nature Center as a contract educator. The Dora Roberts Foundation gave the Sibley Center money to have Saturday programming in alliance with the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program, whose garden is just to the northeast of the building. On February 13th, at 9 a.m. he will hold a class on drip irrigation

Mark is also wearing a second hat — he will maintain the Aubrey and Jean Reid native plant gar-

den in front of the building, maintain the trails, and do other outside beautification projects.

Richard Galle, who has served with non-profit organizations from Midland to Plainview, has been doing some clerical work for the Sibley Nature Center. He has been give Executive Director Burr Williams an education in non-profit management, freely giving advice and creative ideas.

The City of Midland gave the Sibley Center a grant for construction of a new boardwalk at the pond to be built soon.

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### Special points of interest:

- *Progress at Sibley*
- *Website Development*
- *Gift Store Development*

## New books in the library

The Midland Naturalists donated 1400 dollars to house the Frances Williams Memorial Library. Board of Directors member Travis Durham has arranged to have built-in bookcases constructed for the collection.

Sibley Nature Center member (and retired teacher) Charles “Dick” Harris donated money to begin a collection of books on Hispanic history and culture. “With around 50 percent of the audience of the Sibley Center being

Hispanic, this will help the staff develop relevant programming,” Mr. Harris stated. A number of books have been collected. Using ASU historian Arnoldo de Leon’s bibliography, journal article reprints have been identified to collect.

## Major progress on the Sibley Nature Center website

Sibley Nature Center volunteer and member Eric Seigmund, who maintains the websites for Keep Midland Beautiful and the Non-Profit Management Center as well, has done a superb job of creating our new website.

“It is easy to navigate, and the graphics layout is professional,” is a comment that staff and the board have heard many times.

More work remains to be done. Over 300 of the Sibley Nature

Center’s essays published by the Midland Reporter Telegram are now online. A search feature for easy retrieval of any mention of a selected subject not only accesses the essays, but the rest of the website as well.

The Image Gallery feature is designed to eventually be an encyclopedia of the organisms of the region, as well as a place to post photos of events at the Center.

Other features include; Frequently asked questions, top ten lists,

question of the week, suggested day trips, links, landscape interpretation, animal behavior, and a calendar (of all the programs presented by the Center, and all of the programs presented by the “user” groups of Sibley (Archaeology, Gem and Mineral, Woodcarvers, Midland Naturalists, and JMG.)

It is also the members’ website — please send us suggestions for further development!

## Gift store taking shape

In the large entry room the gift store is beginning to take shape. T-shirts, caps, window decals and stickers bearing the Sibley Logo are available. Sibley volunteer Ernie Showalter made 6 walking sticks out of the sotol bloomstalks in the Sibley landscaping for sale.

Several West Texas authors have given the Sibley Nature Center books for us to sell on consignment.

Don McGookey’s great book on West Texas geology, six of Patrick Dearen’s titles, and three of Suzanne O’Bryan’s reflective books on rural West Texas living, and Donald Devore’s memoir of growing up in Midland with polio are available at present.

More titles will be added as West Texas authors are contacted, and as money is budgeted for pur-

chase of some of the books.

Our intended focus is strictly West Texas. We plan on having some basic identification books on regional flora and fauna as well.

We would welcome suggestions for other items for sale. Members receive discounts at the gift store; basic level memberships receive 10% off, and supporting donors receive 20% off.

## Thank you, supporting donors!

### **Aquila Level:**

Anonymous

Potts-Sibley Foundation

Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust

Chuck and Nancy Henderson

### **Grulla Level:**

Tom and Jeanie Johnson

BP America

Mike and Denise Brown

H.L. Brown

Roxane and Ben Strickling

Chevron Oil

Bill and Mary Anne Dingus

Charles “Dick” Harris

Marathon Oil

Jim and Liz Henderson

Forest Oil Corporation

James A. “Buddy” Davidson Foundation

Anne and C.W. Duncan Foundation

Chaparral Foundation

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# Get out and enjoy West Texas

Part of the mission of the Sibley Nature Center is to encourage West Texans to explore their home bioregion.

We hope that the members of the Sibley Nature Center will do so — and we would love to post your notes and photos on our website, in the section entitled “Recommended Day Trips.” For those that would like quick notification about special sightings, send your email address to [bwiliams@sibleynaturecenter.org](mailto:bwiliams@sibleynaturecenter.org).

Anything and everything that catches your attention we would like to know about — inter-

esting stores, fun festivals, wildflower and wildlife sightings, murals and metal art and other artistic expressions of life, interesting bed and breakfast ranches or houses in West Texas — the list is endless!.

When you discover a wildflower or see a creature you would like to know more about, please post your question to the Sibley Nature Center Message Board on the website. Also use the message board to organize spontaneous field trips!.

It is fun to go out and mosey around — a person never knows what they will see or what will happen.

**HAVE FUN!!!**

On January 9th, 2006, at the Haley Memorial Library and History Center, the Colonel Theunis Dey Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution presented Burr Williams, Executive Director of the Sibley Nature Center, the 2005 National DAR Conservation Medal in recognition of Outstanding Achievement for Environmental Awareness.

The Sibley Nature Center welcomes a new member of the board of directors; Bill Loos, CEO of Texas Independent Energy of Odessa, Texas!

## Thank you, supporting donors!

### **Cibolo Level**

Dr. Vincent Bash  
Frank Cahoon  
David Eyler  
Rhotenberry-Wellen Architects  
David and Mitzi Thomas  
Burr and Deborah Williams  
Yarborough Ranches L.P.  
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### **Tortuga Level:**

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**The Sibley Nature Center Celebrates  
the southern Llano Estacado.**