

El Llanero

the newsletter of the Sibley Nature Center

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

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To know our bioregion – know the habitats!

Have you checked out the Sibley website recently? Check out the new tab on the left side of the home page entitled “Habitats.” Over the next four years, we will focus on one habitat at a time for a six month period.

During each six months we will post essays, photoessays, and other instructional material on each of the eight major habitats of West Texas in succession. The sanddunes of West Texas is our focus for the remainder of 2006.

We have several volunteer photographers helping us — Dave Swenson, Sharon Jones, and Justin O’Neill. Staff members Richard Galle

and Burr Williams are also adding photos. We would love to have more folks helping us!

Our programming also follows the habitat scheme. We focus on the physical and behavioral adaptations of plants and animals to each habitat. This meets the 5th grade TEKS requirements. Although 5th grades are one of our major target audiences, the stories of how organisms adapt to our rugged environment is fascinating for everyone!

Staff member Michael Nickell created thirteen wonderful mounted posters of the sanddune habitat. Seven are on the area’s

specific history, and six focus on selected organisms of the habitat for the Llano Estacado room.

Michael, Burr, and volunteer students from Lee High School (Rebecca Arenivas and Devin Price) have prepared instructional material for this fall’s programs on the sanddunes, ranging from laminated plant material to questions about the material on the website.

A grant from the Prairie Foundation for eight computers allows students to access the habitat information on the website during visits. The website is also part of the post-visit and pre-visit instruction for students.

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Living History at the Sibley Nature Center

Plans are well underway for this year’s living history event on October 27th and 28th.

Burr is speaking to the elementary school principals in late August to arrange for up to 1200 students to come on the

education day on Friday the 27th. Jim Collett of Region 18 Educational Service Center is helping to encourage students from the smaller towns of the region to come on the 28th.

Darrel Rhea and the local chapter of the

Sons of Confederate Veterans are hard at work creating the props and script for two skirmishes on Saturday representing the Confederate campaign in 1861 to conquer New Mexico.

Come join us!

Special points of interest:

- *Learning the Habitats of West Texas*
- *Living History Event*
- *Challenge Grant*
- *Expanded Membership benefits*
- *Permian Basin Outing Club*

Expanded Membership Benefits

As you may remember from last quarter's newsletter, the board and staff of the Sibley Nature Center has been working on new and innovative membership privileges and services. We have researched nature centers in the country to find the most appealing privileges offered by each, and have incorporated almost all of those in your Sibley membership. This is much more than any other center researched. We feel that your membership should be supported by the finest programs and services that we can provide. A full 99% of the following list has been put in place and has been approved by the board to be installed by September. We appreciate our membership!

Sibley Nature Center Membership Categories

General Memberships

\$10	Correcamino (Roadrunner) – Student
\$20	Tecolote (Owl) – Senior
\$25	Lobo (Wolf) - Individual
\$30 to \$99	Chupaflor (Hummingbird) – Family

All **General Membership** level members will receive:
20% discount on all purchases at the Sibley Nature Center Store
10% discount at Ski Skeller Sports in Midland, Texas
Discounts on nature publications, i.e. *Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine*, *Ranger Rick Magazine*
Free Sibley Nature Center Automobile Sticker
Free admissions to 130 Nature Centers in U.S.
Multi-Year Membership rates discounts
Discounts on purchases at pre-selected garden centers and nurseries
Quarterly issues of "El Llanero", the Sibley Nature Center Newsletter
Free membership in the Permian Basin Outing

Club and monthly e-newsletter
Discounted rentals of camping gear
30% discounts on all outdoor "Skills Classes"
Discounts on any classes offered at Sibley
Special Members-Only events

Supporting Memberships

\$100 to \$249 **Tortuga** (Box Turtle)
Tortuga Members receive all privileges above plus:
A Sibley Nature Center cap
Special discount orders for nature related merchandise
Members only field trips (to be announced)

\$250 to \$499 **Tejon** (Badger)
Tejon Members receive all of the privileges above plus:
A Sibley Nature Center t-shirt
One free "Birthday Hosting" at the Sibley Nature Center
Admission to the Sibley Nature Center "Annual Dinner" (yet to be named)

\$500 to \$999 **Cibolo** (American Bison)
Cibolo Members receive all privileges above plus:
Xeriscape consultation off-site (1 per year)

\$1,000 to \$4,999 **Grulla** (Sandhill Crane)
Grulla Members receive all of the privileges above plus:
Sibley facility use discounts
Major donor name added to plaque at the Sibley Nature Center

\$5,000 + **Aquila** (Golden Eagle)
Aquila Members receive all privileges above plus:
Individual recognition plaque at the Sibley Nature Center

5000+ **Special Corporate Membership**
Members (membership must be head of company or assigned representative) receive all privileges above plus:
Free talks, lectures to employee groups
Three consultations on Xeriscape landscaping
Company or President/Owner name on plaque

Volunteer Corner — Our Volunteers are great!!!



Bailee Hennis (l) is a senior at Midland Christian School. She enjoys car racing and horseback riding. Lacey Stanfill (r) is at Lee Freshman School. She enjoys horseback riding and art.

Bailee, Lacey, and Lauren are students working on a mural project funded by Midland Arts Assembly.



Rebecca Arenivus will be a senior at Lee High School this coming semester. She came to volunteer at Sibley through enjoyable memories of coming here as a student. Rebecca enjoys playing the violin (classical), art, writing, photography, as well as a variety of other pursuits. **Rebecca is a Texas Scholars volunteer.**



Lauren Maddox is a senior at Midland High School, and is interested in art, volleyball, Girl Scouts, reading, and knitting.

If you have Microsoft Publisher would you like your newsletter to come electronically? And if you would like to receive email notification of any Sibley Nature Center activities — Please send your email address to; richard@sibleynaturecenter.org So he can add it to our database.

The Permian Basin Outing Club “As a member of the Sibley Nature Center, you are already a member!”

The Permian Basin Outing Club was created in 1984, taking hundreds of “high adventure” trips over a 17 year period. The Sibley Nature Center has resurrected the program. Two trips have already occurred, a canoe trip on the South Fork of the Llano River, and a rappelling trip to Point of Rocks in the Davis Mountains.

As part of your Sibley membership, you are automatically considered a member of the club. If you are interested in receiving a monthly “e-newsletter, please call the Sibley Nature Center at 684-6827 and ask for Richard Galle. Join the fun!



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