

BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM



of Natural History



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Director's Leadership Letter

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to be your new executive director and my great pleasure to get to know many of you. We have had many exciting changes and developments in the months since my arrival. These have included the extensive renovation of the staff office space and a host of minor but meaningful transformations throughout the Museum's public spaces. A much-anticipated renovation is also underway in the Museum's traveling exhibit gallery in the month of November and our exhibits team is hard at work on a plan for a major gallery reorganization. Please stop by to see the exciting changes underway for yourself.

It doesn't stop there. We now have 6 new computers with wireless internet access in the entire Museum! Museum friend and volunteer Kevin George has done all of the wiring computer setup, computer selection, and program installation,

among MANY other helpful projects. His wife, Brandi, is currently designing a new look for our website, business cards, and ads. We are very thankful for all of their help.

Our Trustees are working hard, too. Major priorities for the Board this year include fundraising, relationship-building in the community, and adult programming. The Board successfully matched a challenge grant with new Friend contributions. The Board also had a "cleaning day" at the Museum and helped Bob and Jan Fechhelm paint the front entrance, hallway, and mineral room. The County has helped with landscaping, plumbing, lighting, and air conditioning repairs. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work. All this happened in the midst of end of year field trips followed by **Summer Nature Camp**. Current Board-driven projects include planning for a **Salute to Tom Turbiville**, a fundraising dinner at Miramont

Country Club on January 8, 2009, sponsored by David Gardner's Big Give.

The staff have been hard at work involving the Museum in many outreach activities in the community, most notable among these was **Polar Palooza** at TAMU. Fall programming is in full swing with **Game Day** and **Puggle Pal** programs filling the Museum with excited children on a regular basis. As all of this is ongoing, I would like to remind you that the Museum is here to preserve and protect your cultural and natural history for future generations. Now, more than ever, we need your help. Please share your knowledge of our programs, exhibits, and events and encourage those you know to become a Friend of the Museum!

Best wishes,

Deborah Cowman, PhD
Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Touring Exhibition: *Neches Journeys: Land, River and People*
Dec. 4 - Jan. 16
- ◆ *Salute to Tom Turbiville*
Jan. 8, 2009 at 6 pm
Miramont Country Club, Bryan
- ◆ Educators Showcase
Jan. 19 - 30, 2009
- ◆ Touring Exhibition: *Texas Writers and J. Frank Dobie: Texan Legend*
Feb. 9 - Mar. 31



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TOURING
EXHIBITIONS
WINTER &
SPRING
2008-2009

This program made possible in part through Hotel
Tax Revenue funded from the City of College
Station through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley.



Neches Journeys: Land, River and People



SANDBAR AT BILLIAM'S CREEK BY ADRIAN F. VAN DELLEN

Neches Journeys: Land River and People

December 4, 2008-January 16, 2009

Created by Humanities Texas in collaboration with The History Center in Diboll, this exhibit features information about the river, the flora and fauna, and the people and communities that share the rich cultural and natural environs of the Neches River Basin. Analogous to the relationship between our own Brazos River and its associated communities, this fascinating exhibition will help visitors to connect with river-oriented life.

Texas Writers and J. Frank Dobie: Texan Legend

Texas Writers

and

J. Frank Dobie: Texan Legend

February 9-March 31, 2009



Texas Writers, another fine exhibition of Humanities Texas, surveys creative writing in Texas, featuring portraits of authors, books, workplaces, narrative settings, and evocative quotations. The exhibit also explores the life of legendary Texan folklorist, J. Frank Dobie. Materials collected in archaeological surveys of Fort Ramirez, located on Dobie's family ranch in Live Oak County, will be displayed in conjunction with **Texas Writers**. Such reminders of times past were significant sources of inspiration for Dobie, among the most famous of native Texan writers.

The Shogun Age in Japan and The Brogdon Hotei



The Shogun Age in Japan, 1603-1853

April 6-June 5, 2009

The exotic splendor of feudal Japan is embodied in this international exhibition of treasures from the Tokugawa Art Museum in Japan courtesy of Humanities Texas. Images of ferocity and delicate beauty come in color posters and prints, while armor, swords, folding screens, and robes convey the strong ceremonial and military character of a society that also highly valued the arts.

The Brogdon Hotei

April 6-June 5, 2009



Hotei is one of the *Shichifukujin*, the seven Japanese gods of good fortune. Hotei is often depicted in artwork featuring a large belly and contented expression and has been an important aspect of Japanese culture for over 100 years. The BVMNH's Brogdon Collection comprises over 150 individual Hotei statuettes fashioned of diverse and often exotic materials like soapstone, lapis, and onyx.



Special Events: Tribute to Tom Turbiville

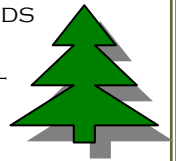
Thanks to sponsorship by David Gardner's Big Give, on Thursday, January 8, 2009, the Museum will roast Tom Turbiville for his dedication to this community at Miramont Country Club, cocktails 6pm, dinner 7pm. The program will generate much-needed general operating funds for the Museum. We hope you will join us in honoring Tom and our veterans by attending. Tables may be sponsored for \$1000 per 10 guests. Individual tickets are

available for \$60. Tom has been a member of our community for 24 years and has made valuable contributions to the Brazos Valley in many ways. As a former member of the Museum's Board, Tom has long supported our mission to preserve and protect cultural and natural history. He also knows that it costs \$20,000 a month for the Museum to maintain its current programs and exhibits, an obligation that cannot be fulfilled without the support of



the citizens of our great community. We guarantee you laughter, great music, good food, and the chance to support your Brazos Valley, your Museum!

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT? VISIT THE MUSEUM STORE FOR FUN AND UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!



Special Programs

Educators Showcase January 19-30, 2009

This showcase, a cooperative project developed with the City of Bryan, features displays and free materials for teachers interested in educational programs and curriculum supplements available both in the community and nearby to enhance classroom teaching.



Winter Mini Camp 2008 Ancient Storytellers: Tales from Artifacts & Fossils

Artifacts and fossils tell us so much about ancient peoples and ancient times. What can we learn from a single fossil? What story does a single artifact have to share with us? Join us this winter as we study artifacts and fossils and learn more about history on Earth.

Dates: December 22, 23, 29, 30, 31

Camp will run from 9am-3pm, Children ages 4-12 are invited

Cost: \$35/day for members
\$40/day for non-members

SUBMIT YOUR DINOSAUR DRAWING TO OUR **T REX ART CHALLENGE** BY APRIL 15 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE YEAR! CALL US TO LEARN MORE...

T Rex Roundup Coming in May

SAVE THE DATE! The Museum's BIG annual GALA fundraising event, the **T REX ROUNDUP**, is coming **MAY 16, 2009**. More details will be available soon... In the meantime, if you are interested in getting involved with this most important event, give us a call!



BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM



of Natural
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**NOT A MUSEUM MEMBER? CALL
TODAY TO LEARN HOW TO GET FREE
ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM'S
GALLERY ALL YEAR LONG.**

BROADEN
YOUR
HORIZONS
AT THE
BRAZOS
VALLEY
MUSEUM OF
NATURAL
HISTORY

How You Can Help!

Volunteers Needed!

Did you know that the Museum accomplishes all that it does with only TWO full time employees. This is possible ONLY with the help and support of a host of willing volunteers. You can help too!

If you have an interest in...

Fundraising
Special event planning
Animal care
Reception & Museum Store
Docents
Marketing & Promotion

...please contact us. Volunteers are an essential part of our organization. You will gain great experience and much appreciation! Call us today at 979-776-2195.

Museum Wish List

It is an ongoing challenge to keep the Museum supplied with all the materials needed to carry out our mission. Please consider making a gift. Any of the following items will be put to good use.

- Khaki rolling pilot cases
- Dirt Devil hand-held vacuum
- Terrarium moss
- Aspen shavings
- Clear plastic storage containers
- Large Kritter Keeper
- Large First Aid Kit
- Chargeable walkie talkies (12)

Many of the supplies used by the Museum every day come from area stores you may visit often. You might consider giving us a gift card as a way to help us purchase much needed supplies. Places we frequent for supplies include Target, Wal-Mart, Sam's, and Petco.