

BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM



of Natural History



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Director's Leadership Letter

Dear Friends,

We have had an extremely busy and productive season!

Our beautiful website was launched in January, (way to go, Brandi!) and it is up to date and loaded with information. If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out: www.brazosvalleymuseum.org.

Phase one of our gallery renovations is complete, and what an amazing difference! The walls were repaired and textured and painted a gorgeous warm beige. The exhibit cases were painted a deep bronze, displays were redesigned, and the lighting in the gallery was completely redone.

Many thanks to Ken Gardner (KJG Contractors) for the fantastic gallery wall work, and the many other jobs he and his crew did for us. Thanks to Jan and Bob Fechhelm for the fabulous job they did painting our exhibit cases and pedestal stands. Thanks also to Kevin George, who designed our new gallery lighting scheme and singlehandedly placed all the spots (while on a 12 ft. ladder!). And thanks to Bess, our exhibit curator for her well thought out designs & hard work, and to Maria, our Associate Director, to our part-time staff and volunteers, and

to our wonderful board for all their support and hard work during this difficult process!

Many museums close their doors while they undertake such renovations, but we managed to have 8 traveling exhibits this past year. We also had exciting receptions, events, lectures, educational programs, and fundraisers!

Our newly revised membership categories and benefits have encouraged more folks to join our Museum family. It is exciting to watch our community support grow and know that people want to be a part of our quality programs and exhibits. Pat yourself on the back for joining your friends and neighbors in supporting your Museum!

We work hard to keep our community from losing its cultural and natural heritage, and its informal science education opportunities.

Please let us know if you would like to help us with our outreach at booth events around the city. We would also like to get a docent program up and running this year and are

currently looking for a "volunteer" volunteer coordinator. (And if you have a nice brown leather love seat you don't want...we have just the spot for it in our hallway!)

This season saw a new baby added to our staff, Tanner Rex, Andrea's son. (T-Rex for short!) Megan is expecting a girl and so we will soon hear the happy sounds of two babies in the Museum from time to time.

We are losing two of our amazing interns in August, Mallory and Kristen. We will miss them. They recently graduated from TAMU and we wish them both the best of luck!

Lastly, we hope to work hard upgrading the Discovery Room this fall. Please let me know if you would like to contribute funds for its new look.

And thanks again for supporting your Museum!

Best wishes,

**Dr. Deborah Cowman
Executive Director**

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Temporary and Touring Exhibitions: *The Caddo: Traditions and Heritage*
- ◆ SUMMER NATURE CAMP is back!
- ◆ Save the Date: BOONVILLE DAYS returns with First Annual Buffalo Stampede 5 K Race Saturday, October 3



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The CADDO: Traditions and Heritage

June 18-August 30, 2009

TOURING
EXHIBITIONS
SUMMER
& FALL
2009

This exhibit carefully considers the Caddo tribe's long and distinguished history, both ancient and living Caddo traditions, and the tribe's many contributions to the cultural heritage of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Displays will explain who the Caddo are, who they were, where they came from, and what Caddo life was like at different points in history. Archival and



modern photographs, artwork, documents, and maps will accompany interpretive panels provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The display will be further enhanced with items representative of Caddo material culture from the Museum's own collections and original art representing Native American tribal culture by Dr. Robert Schiffhauer and Dr. Donald Clark, local artists.

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



Lone Star Lizards

September 11-November 2, 2009



Developed in cooperation with Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections, this exhibit will feature live specimens of native Texas herpetofauna, emphasizing the regional lizard population and the Texas horned lizard. Live specimens will be displayed in an array of terrariums each featuring native vegetation simulating natural habitats. Exhibit components will include photographic displays, wet specimens of rare and venomous lizards, examples of the types of scientific equipment associated with laboratory-

based study of amphibians and reptiles. Additional displays will feature artistic and symbolic use of lizards in Native American and other aboriginal cultures alongside of the more technical interpretations offered by scientific illustrations. The exhibit offers visitors the opportunity to see many unusual species, most of which are only briefly spotted in the wild.

From Earth to the Universe

November 11, 2009-January 31, 2010



Credit: Image made in infrared, visible and ultraviolet light by the Cassini imaging team at NASA / JPL / Space Science Institute.

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy as the world commemorates the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's use of a telescope to study the skies, and Johannes Kepler's publication of *Astronomia Nova*. In acknowledgement of modern astronomy's quadricentennial and in cooperation with TAMU's George Mitchell Institute, the Museum will offer this exceptional exhibition of fantastic images of the Universe captured by ground and space-based telescopes. Popular images of the cosmos can engage the general public not only in the aesthetics of the

visual realm, but also in the science of the knowledge and understanding behind them. The **From Earth to the Universe** project is an exhibition arranged by the IYA2009 that will bring these images to a wider audience in through venues like BVMNH.



Children's Programs



Summer Nature Camp 2009

Adventure and discovery await your child at the Museum's acclaimed Summer Nature Camp. Ten weeks of fantastic exploratory classes feature exciting, immersive learning opportunities. Campers ages 4-12 explore science, animal behavior, history, and their local environment using interactive lessons and educational activities, games and

crafts. Weeklong sessions are weekdays from 9 to 3, with before and after-care available. Sessions begin June 8 and conclude with our special Summer Extension Day Camps the week of August 17. To learn more about topics and fees, call the Museum or check out our website at www.brazosvalleymuseum.org.

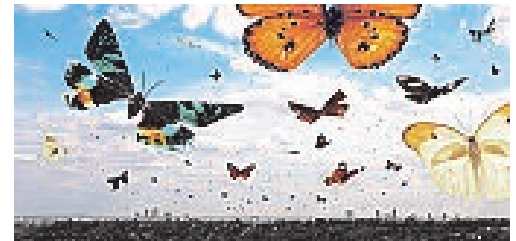
SNC 2009 WEEKLY TOPICS

- ◆ Buggin' Out
- ◆ Microscopic Mayhem
- ◆ Texas Tribes
- ◆ Aquatic Adventures
- ◆ Cold Blooded Buddies
- ◆ Dynamic Dinos
- ◆ Super Builders
- ◆ 3... 2... 1... Lift Off
- ◆ Wild About Wildlife
- ◆ Keep It Clean

Teacher Workshops

Project Wild and Project Flying Wild, Summer 2009

This summer, the Museum will partner with Heather Prestridge of the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections, Texas A&M University, to offer Project Wild and Project Flying Wild workshops for teachers. Among the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs for teachers of students in elementary through high school. Project Flying Wild has a bird conservation emphasis including "standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects." Enrollment is limited. Please call the Museum for more details or visit www.projectwild.org and www.flyingwild.org.



Boonville Days

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Join the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History for the 4th annual BOONVILLE DAYS HERITAGE FAIR! Bring the entire family to enjoy this celebration of our heritage from 10 am to 5 pm. Activities will take place both inside the Museum and on the Brazos Center grounds. Learn about Brazos County's pioneer history: visit with characters in period costume, observe demonstrations of frontier skills and trades, see an authentic stagecoach, hear from a cowboy-poet, and much more. Our activity area will keep children busy learning to make pinch pots and other period crafts. Visitors can also browse through the Museum's exhibition gallery, exploring Ice Age and dinosaur fossil displays! To learn more about this and other Museum events, activities and exhibitions call 979/776-2195.



1 ST ANNUAL BUFFALO STAMPEDE



5K RACE/3K WALK

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 8:00 AM

ENTRY FEE \$15 TO PREREGISTER;
\$20 ON RACE DAY.

USTF CERTIFIED 5 K WITH AWARDS
TO THE TOP THREE FINISHERS IN
EACH AGE GROUP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OUR
WEBSITE,
WWW.BRAZOSVALLEYMUSEUM.ORG

BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM



of Natural
History

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Email: info@brazosvalleymuseum.org
www.brazosvalleymuseum.org

Your Help Makes A Difference

The T-Rex Roundup Dinner & Dance

was a great success
thanks to

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Volunteers Make It Happen

Volunteers are an essential part of our organization. You will gain great experience and much appreciation! Call us today at 979-776-2195 or visit our website to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Museum Wish List

It is an ongoing challenge to keep the Museum supplied with all the materials needed to carry out our mission. Please visit our website to learn more about what you can do to help!

BROADEN
YOUR
HORIZONS
AT THE
BRAZOS
VALLEY
MUSEUM OF
NATURAL
HISTORY

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