



Museum News ♦ Fall 2010

Email letters of support to: BVSP@rocketmail.com



BringtheShuttle.com

The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History is involved in a campaign to bring one of the retired shuttle orbiters to the Brazos Valley. Bryan/College Station is one of two locations under consideration in the state. The Museum's dream is to display the magnificent shuttle in a new Museum of Science and History (an expansion of the existing BVMNH) located near the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. President George H.W. Bush is "very excited" about the possibility of housing a shuttle in Bryan/College Station. Texas A&M University is a world renowned research center with outstanding science, and engineering programs and is a leader in developing and finding practical applications for new technologies. The addition of a research museum here would promote multi-disciplinary research and provide a center to enhance science & history literacy for

the general public. The Brazos Valley is an ideal home for a retired space shuttle thanks to its central location, within a comfortable drive for millions of people. A project of this magnitude will create jobs and opportunities while stimulating the local economy. The decision about the shuttle's ultimate location will be made soon by NASA's Administrator, Charles Bolden. Please check the Museum's website (www.brazosvalleymuseum.org) and our Facebook page for links on how to send letters of support. For more information or to learn how to contribute, contact the Museum's Executive Director, Dr. Deborah Cowman, at 979-776-2195 or the Shuttle Project Director, Zach Cummings at 956-251-3812.

WHERE YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

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FALL CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIRECTOR'S LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe that the summer is already over. We had a wonderfully successful summer nature camp season! Much deserved kudos go to **Maria Lazo** and her fabulous team of camp instructors. We also had an outstanding **Lee and Grant Exhibit**, along with our Brazos Civil War display. Many thanks go to **Bess Manning, Jason Hancock, & Kevin George** for the gallery design and lighting. **Bess** also did a spectacular job as coordinating curator & designer for the Brazos Civil War display, & we owe special thanks to **Mervyn Peters, George Marshall Peters, John Blair, Weldon Svoboda, Dave Burdett, Steven Corey, Floyd Jones, & Francis Manning** for the loan of materials. We had a tremendous opening, complete with black powder demos, music, and drama. The Brazos Valley Civil War display will remain in the gallery through **Boonville Days on October 2nd**....so don't miss it!

We are excited about plans underway to restore our observation bee hive in the Discovery Room, & we have made arrangements with the **Audubon Society** & the **Master Naturalists** to begin meeting here at the Museum. Please extend a warm welcome to them; we'd like for them to think of the Museum as their new home. Please also welcome **June Jackson**, our new (volunteer) volunteer coordinator. She comes to us with lots of experience from the Alley Theater in Houston.

September will find **Maria Lazo** on a large research ship (the **JOIDES Resolution**), where she will be learning all about geoscience research at the **IODP-USIO School of Rock**. We are proud of her to be selected for this all-expense-paid honor. She will be gone from Sept 4-21. How will we survive?!

Our new exhibit about the **Rarámuri** is

exciting & we are proud of it. Please tell everyone you know about this beautiful exhibit that tells the story of these fascinating native runners. **Brandi George** has been working hard designing amazing new banners & pages for our website including information about this new exhibit....many thanks, **Brandi!**

The Museum has been in the national news concerning our efforts to help bring one of the retired **space shuttles** to our community. If successful, our Museum would likely relocate to a new building near the George Bush Presidential Library & Museum. It is an exciting dream & you can read more about it on our website & in this newsletter. You can be proud of the leadership role that our Museum plays in our community. Many thanks to our **Board, Staff, & Volunteers** for all their hard work & devotion & to you, our **Friends**, for all your support!

Our **Buffalo Stampede Race** & our **Boonville Days Heritage Fair** are going to be bigger & better this year! If you like to run (& even if you don't), come on out & join in the fun. **Boonville Days** is Brazos County's only living history fair - it is truly a community celebration. The race is a "fun" raiser for the Museum and it is an important one. Now, more than ever, we need your support. Traditional sources of grant funds have been drastically reduced, so we (like many other non-profits) are scrambling to cover our operating costs.

Museums offer a way for art, history, and science to be integrated in ways that stimulate and inspire visitors. Some of our greatest minds recall being motivated by a childhood museum experience. So, give a gift that strengthens your quality of life & preserves our rich heritage in the Brazos Valley - support your Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History today.

FALL CALENDAR

- ◆ **Temporary & Traveling Exhibitions:**
Fall: Rarámuri: Runners of the Sierra Madre & see the **Memory and History** exhibit focusing on local contributions to the Civil War through October 2.
Winter: The Bison: American Icon
- ◆ **Boonville Days Heritage Fair & The 2nd Annual Buffalo Stampede** return Saturday, October 2

MUSEUM WELCOMES AUDUBON SOCIETY & YOU



Beginning in September, the Rio Brazos Chapter of the National Audubon Society will hold its monthly meetings in BVMNH's own Discovery Room. The group meets the second Tuesday each month; meetings are open to the general public and include lectures on selected topics.

Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm
 Mark Klym presents
Hummingbirds of Texas



WINTER & SPRING TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

RARÁMURI: RUNNERS OF THE SIERRA MADRE

*Join us for the opening lecture and reception for the Rarámuri exhibit on
Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 5:30 pm*



August 26-December 26, 2010

The Rarámuri (Tarahumara), a tribe of long-distance runners, are one of the last semi-intact native cultures in North America. An estimated 60,000 reclusive Rarámuri live within the canyons of the Sierra Madre in Chihuahua, Mexico, approximately 350 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border. Limited to entry by foot or hoof until recent times, the Sierra Madre mountains have sustained the Rarámuri since the late 1600's, when their ancestors first fled to the region for its inaccessibility. For over a decade, photographer Diana Molina has documented the Sierra and its people. A collection of her photographs and artifacts provide a

comprehensive, contemporary rendering of Rarámuri life and culture within the expanse of the canyon environment. Images focus on a lifestyle and ritual unique in its limited exposure to modern developments while illustrating the impact of increased contact with outsiders.

This program was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional funding was provided by the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and the William Knox Holt Foundation.

THE BISON: AMERICAN ICON

January 28-March 16, 2011

Wild and fundamental, the North American bison is a familiar part of our shared heritage. Few animals conjure the power and symbolic presence of the bison. Whether painted on a tipi or an artist's canvas, minted on a nickel, or seen grazing in Yellowstone National Park, the image of the bison stirs deep reflections on the history of human and natural interaction in North America. **The Bison** explores the meaning and significance of this iconic creature from the Plains Indian culture of the 1800s through the commercial and national symbol of the present. The exhibition charts the dramatic changes wrought on the creature and its habitat, illuminating the threat of its extinction and the response that eventually led to the bison's preservation as a species and symbol in the 20th century.

This exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is brought to you by Mid-America Arts Alliance. Additional funding was provided by the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and the William Knox Holt Foundation.



The BVMNH Exhibits Program
is underwritten in part by the
William Knox Holt Foundation



This program made possible in part through Hotel
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Station through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley.





SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

BOONVILLE DAYS & THE BUFFALO STAMPEDE

Saturday, October 2, 2009, 10 am-4 pm

Join the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History for the **5TH ANNUAL BOONVILLE DAYS HERITAGE FAIR!** Bring the entire family to enjoy this celebration of our heritage. 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.



2ND ANNUAL BUFFALO STAMPEDE 5K & 10 MILE RACE SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 7:30 AM

ENTRY FEES
5K: \$25 BEFORE SEPT. 1/\$30 UNTIL SEPT. 28;
10 MILER: \$35 BEFORE AUG. 1/
\$45 AUG.1-31/\$55 SEPT.1-28

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
RACE CHAIR DON CLARK AT
INFO@BRAZOSVALLEYMUSEUM.ORG
OR CALL 979/776-2195

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT BVMNH

HUMAN VALUES AND THE ECOSYSTEM

Come enjoy your lunch while learning about the Earth!

This new brown bag lunch course for adults examines the biological realities of life on Earth and the impact of human activity on nature. The course is taught by Dr. Lynn Lamoreux, a retired Texas A&M scientist specializing in ecology and genetics. The ***Bare Bones Ecology Energy Workbook*** will be included in the price of the course.

Tuesdays, Noon-2 pm, September 14-October 19

Two hours per week for six weeks.
Enrollment is limited to 16; Cost is \$30
Call the Museum to register or for more information.

