



## IN THIS ISSUE

Spotlight :  
Regina Lillibridge

### PUBLIC EVENTS:

11-23 TURKEY HIKE

11-24 OPTOUT HIKE

11-24 OPTOUT PADDLE

12-22 TO 12-31

SELF GUIDED TRAIL HIKE

1-1-2024 NEW YEAR HIKE

Thank  you

Ian Thompson &  
Troop #104 volunteers

Prescribed burns

Welcome!!  
Regina Lillibridge  
Interpretive Park Ranger



Regina started her career as a biology student pursuing a career in outdoor medicine when she started working as a seasonal park ranger for the City of New Braunfels where she was able to hone her craft as a professional conservationist and practiced communicator. Regina progressed her career with the City of New Braunfels as the Park Ranger Assistant Superintendent. Regina and her husband jumped at the opportunity to move out to West Texas in 2021, where she joined the Texas Parks and Wildlife team as a seasonal customer service representative and then moved into an interpretation role. They found their way to the Galveston Island area in early 2023, and she will now be stepping into the role as the new interpreter at GISP.



Two hikes that are Moderate terrain- slow pace.  
Meet up at the Observation Tower parking lot.

**Thursday, November 23- Guided Turkey Hike**

**9am to 10:30am-** There has never been a Wild Turkey recorded in the park, but that won't stop us from looking for one! No need to register!  
Let's see if we can stuff the park!!

**Friday, November 24th OPT OUT HIKE**

**9am to 11am** Tell crowds to TAKE A HIKE by getting out to the park and enjoying a 2-mile hike in the Coastal Prairie with a park guide.



**Friday, November 24th OPT OUT PADDLE**

Opt out of Black Friday traditions by getting out of the stores and into a kayak. Space is limited.  
Call the park to book your groups.  
**2 sessions 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm**  
**(409) 737-1222**



**December 22nd through 31st |**

Take a hike on our self-guided Christmas Trail. Pick up an activity sheet at the Nature Center entrance, then head to Heritage Trail for some family fun.

Day use hours are 7 am to 10 pm.

**First Day Hike January 1st 2024**

Give 2023 the boot and get the new year started on the right foot!  
Hike 3 miles of moderate terrain at a relaxed pace, enjoying nature. **9 am to noon.**



**Join us!!**

**You can join Friends of Galveston Island State Park !  
Annual membership is only \$20!  
Scan the code with your smartphone camera  
and start volunteering !!**

# Prairie Restoration News

Contributed by Park Ranger Brenna Ceron

## THANK YOU TROOP #104!!



On October 14th, the day of the eclipse, Ian Thompson, led the nearly 30 volunteers of Troop #104 in an Eagle Scout project to enhance the park Nursery. Ian and his crew replaced all the rotting wood around the "L" shaped nursery bed, leveled out the lower bed, and replaced all the old crumbling sheeting. They helped Nursery volunteer Ted Sarrach dig a trench and install the piping for the next stage of our irrigation system project.

The FoGISP group generously contributed funds to this project, and it looks amazing. This will reduce the number of weeds that we must contend with to grow our native plants for prairie restoration.



## Prescribed Burns

Prescribed or Controlled Burns are done at Galveston Island State Park by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The park is divided into Management Units and each Unit is burned on a 3 to 5-year rotation.



Regular burning clears woody brush, recycles nutrients, stimulates the growth of microbials in the soil, controls some invasive species of plants, and promotes biodiversity (the number of species inhabiting and thriving on the landscape). Fire is a natural part of life on the prairie. In fact, it is the key to maintaining a prairie rather than allowing it to grow into a forest. New plants from the nursery can then be planted.

