



DAY USE PARK HOURS ARE 7 AM TO 10 PM.



Park Office-409-737-1222

Holiday Hikes!



Thursday, November 23- Guided Turkey Hike

9 am to 10:30 am- We've never seen a wild turkey in the park, but that won't stop us from looking for one! Meet up at the Observation Tower.

Self-guided Hike December 22nd through 31st |

Pick up an activity sheet at the Nature Center entrance, then head to Heritage Trail for some family fun.

First Day Hike January 1st 9 am to noon.

Give 2023 the boot and get the new year started on the right foot. 3 miles of moderate terrain at a relaxed pace. Meet the guide at the observation tower.

Five volunteers needed 8am to 1pm for the First Day Hike to help with set up and take down of stations, and manning stations along the trails that will teach visitors about prairie insects, plants, birds, and more! Contact Regina Lillibridge in advance at Regina.Lillibridge@tpwd.texas.gov or call 409-737-1222.

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REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS
SARA SNELL
TERRY GAUSTAD

Thank You!

Sand Hill Cranes



Linda Zeller

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Galveston Island State Park will host the annual Christmas Bird Count of the West End of Galveston. Sand Hill Cranes and Piping Plovers are just two of the many species counted by the group.

Piping Plover



Linda Kuhn

The banding bird report for the Piping Plover spotted during the 2022 West Galveston Christmas Bird Count said: [1Y2 was banded as a 19-day-old chick on a wetland near Westby, Montana in June 2016. It was observed in a similar area (on Galveston Island) in the 2017-2019 summers.

In Jan 2023, 1Y2 would be 6 1/2 years old. With the average lifespan being about 6 years for Piping Plovers in the wild, fingers crossed it is seen again during the Jan 2, 2024 Christmas Bird Count.

Beachcombing Corner


How to find sand dollars



Sand dollars are the skeletal remains of keyhole urchins. When the weather gets cold, many keyhole urchins die and the skeletal "tests" wash up on the beach. This means Winter is the best time to find them. Bundle up, grab your cup of coffee, and get to the beach after a cold spell! You will have a great chance of finding sand dollars!

See you on the beach!!

Kat



Legend of the Sand Dollar

There's a lovely little legend that I would like to tell, of the birth and death of Jesus, found in this lowly shell.

If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here, four nail holes and a fifth one, made by a Roman's spear.

On one side the Easter lily, its center is the star, that appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar.

The Christmas Poinsettia etched on the other side, reminds us of His birthday, our happy Christmastide.

Now break the center open, and here you will release, the five white doves awaiting, to spread Good Will and Peace.

This simple little symbol, Christ left for you and me, to help us spread His Gospel, through all Eternity.



GIVE BACK TO GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK

Centennial Wish: Enhancing the Fish Cleaning Station
We want to enhance our fish cleaning station for our park's anglers. With your support, we will replace the roof and pump, add motion lighting, and a freshwater rinse-off area.



Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is raising funds for projects at all Texas State Parks, and our generous Centennial Champions are matching all gifts dollar-for-dollar! Give back to the park closest to your heart today!

<https://texasparks100.org/galveston-island-state-park/>



Stuff the stockings with the gift that gives all year long!

Annual membership is only \$20 and makes a great gift!
Scan the code with your smartphone camera for details





Remembering our Friends Sara Snell & Terry Gaustad

Everyone who knew Sara will remember her beautiful smile. I never saw her without it. Her zest for being part of the Texas Master Naturalists never wavered up until her last days. She also had a passion for the State Park and was a past FoGISP board member and volunteering enthusiast.

Happy heavenly travels Sara!

*Heaven gained some wonderful souls.
You'll never be far from our thoughts
as we continue honoring your legacies.*



Sara Snell

Terry Gausted



This photo reflects how much Terry enjoyed Camp Wild and how he will be remembered. His enthusiasm brought smiles to kids as well as the volunteers who put on the event. He had infectious energy to make sure every child had a memorable experience at the State Park. As a FoGISP board member, a teacher, and a dedicated planning director, he was thinking of next year's event as soon as the 2023 Camp Wild was over and how to make it better. He will be missed but his presence will be felt at the event.

Photo by Cynthia Hughes

Friends of Galveston Island State Park would not exist without the support and volunteering of our Friends. Thank you members, donors, and all of the volunteers who have made a difference in 2023.

thank
you

We ♥ our
Volunteers