DECEMBER 1 2023 FOGISP NEWSLETTER EDITION.3



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 l

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.



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.



Christmas Bird Count
Giving back to State Parks

Beachcomber's corner:
How to find sand dollars

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS
SARA SNELL
TERRY GAUSTAD

Thank You!
Thank You!

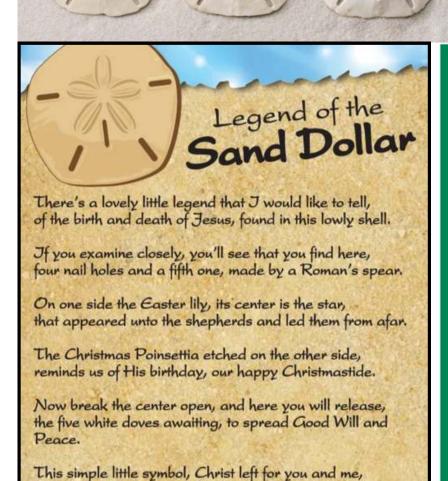
The banding bird report for the Piping Plover spotted during the 2022 West Galveston Christmas Bird Count said: [1Y2 was banded as a 19-day-old chick on a wetland near Westby, Montana in June 2016. It was observed in a similar area (on Galveston Island) in the 2017-2019 summers.

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



to help us spread His Gospel, through all Eternity.



GIVE BACK TO GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK

Centennial Wish: Enhancing the Fish Cleaning Stati
We want to enhance our fish
cleaning station for our park's

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-fordollar! Give back to the park
closest to your heart today!



https://texasparks100.org/galv eston- island-state-park/









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

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!





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

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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.

