



THE BATTLE REPORT

San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site

"The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the site's day-to-day natural and cultural resource management activities. Our goal is to inform and educate our staff, partners, and friends – and those we have yet to meet – Welcome!"



3 DECEMBER 2007 - 9 DECEMBER 2007



Carter Smith Named TPWD Executive Director

Photo by Lynn McBride

Carter Smith was named executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on Dec. 5 at a special meeting of the TPW Commission in San Antonio. Smith will be leaving the helm at The Nature Conservancy of Texas to take the top job at TPWD.

Smith has been with The Nature Conservancy of Texas since 1998 and has been the state director since 2004. Prior to his promotion to state director, Smith served as Director of Conservation Programs where he was responsible for conservation, external affairs and science programs. Before working at the Nature Conservancy, he was the first executive director of the Katy Prairie Conservancy and continues to serve on their Advisory Board.

Smith is a native of Central Texas and began his career in 1992 at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a management intern, assisting in the Private Lands and Public Hunting programs. He has a wildlife management degree from Texas Tech and a master's degree in conservation biology from Yale University.

Smith has served on numerous science, conservation, land trust and advisory councils. Besides the Katy Prairie Conservancy, he has served on the Texas Land Trust Council and advisory boards for Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Texas State University. Most recently, he served on TPWD's State Parks Advisory Committee.

"I am deeply honored to accept this new challenge," said Smith. "I was very fortunate to begin my professional career at Texas Parks and Wildlife, and have had much contact with the professionals at the agency through the years. I look forward to working with people I admire and respect to further TPWD's conservation mission."

Smith will replace Robert L. Cook, who retired on August 31, 2007. Cook has been executive director since February 2002 and is serving as interim executive director until Smith takes the helm in late January

Reveille



Herbicide Treatment Areas Selected at San Jacinto

Photos by Grant Nibel

As part of the ongoing restoration of the San Jacinto Battlefield, herbicide treatment will be applied to sections of the park in an attempt to control invasive species. All

spraying is to be done on the open prairie and will target young saplings. Among the targeted plants are Chinese Tallow, Persimmon, Pecan, Water Oak, and Arizona Ash. The herbicide treatment will utilize a portion of money donated by Shell Oil Company.



Deer Park High School Orchestra Performs on Battleship TEXAS

Photo by Abbie Salyers

Visitors to the Battleship TEXAS got a surprise this week. Members of the Deer Park High School Orchestra greeted them with the sweet sounds of Christmas as part of the month-long “Yuletide TEXAS” celebration. Under the

direction of Frank Woodruff, the orchestra performed a medley of Holiday music for the enjoyment of both visitors and staff. The orchestra will return to perform on Dec. 22nd at “Santa’s Singin’ 40s Christmas”.



Morning Maneuvers

Bunker Lights Repaired

Photos by Grant Nibel

The San Jacinto Monument is shining brightly again, thanks to Pfeiffer Electric. One of the lights that illuminate the Monument went down due to wiring problems. Pfeiffer Electric was contracted to come out and make repairs on the lights. As it turns out, the electrical panels for the bunker lights had never even had a cover on it since their original installation in 1986. Thanks for the great work!



San Jacinto Makes Good on Environmental Project

Photo by Barbara Graf

With final approval from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, San Jacinto has satisfied the conditions for the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), which was a result of 2005 violations with our wastewater treatment plant. The project included the planting of 7,000 trees along the shoreline of the San Jacinto River. The trees will serve to stabilize the shoreline and will provide excellent habitat for birds, mammals and other species.



Scuttlebutt



The Army Invades San Jacinto

Photo by Capt. Matt Festa

Some of America’s finest made a visit to our park this week. Members of the Army’s 1st Legal Support Organization were given a tour of the San Jacinto Battleground and Monument by Volunteer Services Coordinator Kenneth Grubb.



San Jacinto Gets Ready for Archeology

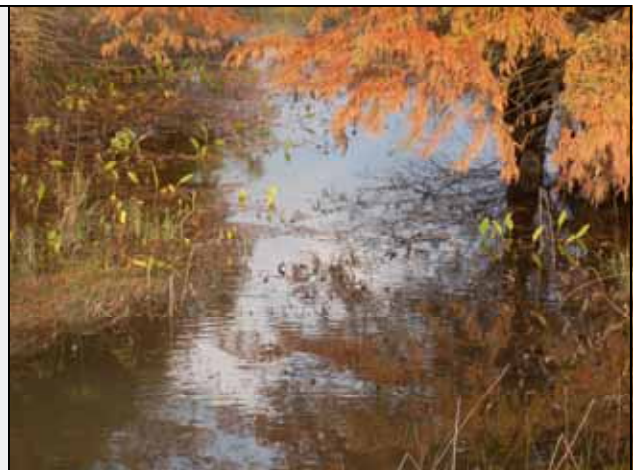
Photo by Russ Kuykendall

Battleground Park Rangers prepare for the arrival of archeologists at the Mexican camp. The survey will be conducted by Texas A&M and will begin on Dec. 14th.

Sumpweed Project set to Begin

Photo by Russ Kuykendall

Sumpweed is a relative of the ragweed plant and is considered a nuisance in the local environment. It is toxic to wildlife and has an objectionable smell when blooming. With the help of a prairie plant nursery at Sheldon Lake State Park, native plants will be transplanted into the swale area at San Jacinto. Scheduled for February, the transplantation should return the area to it’s original condition



Meet the Staff

Park Store Manager:
Jerry Moak

Every ship needs a good captain to lead his crew to victory. Jerry is at the helm of our park store and does a great job guiding his crew toward their goals.

He is a graduate of Sam Houston High School and calls Crosby home. He's been married for 40 years and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren. He has been with TPWD for almost 7 years. When he's not hard at work, Jerry enjoys riding his Harley and playing his guitar.



Ship's Store Showcase



More for your
Christmas Tree

Texas Parks
Ornament

\$7.99

On the Horizon...



Upcoming Events

Dec. 13 - Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground Board Meeting at The Houston Club. 11:30am.

Dec. 13 - San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board Meeting. 2:00pm

Dec. 22 - Santa's Swingin' 40s Christmas aboard BB35.

Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!!!!!!

This Week in History

Dec. 3

1854 - 100 Polish families arrive in Galveston, marking the start of major Polish immigration

Dec. 4

1835 - Texas Volunteers storm San Antonio against the orders of officers

1945 - BB-35 arrived and departed Pearl Harbor on third "Magic Carpet" mission

Dec. 5

1931 - BB-35 basketball team defeated BB-37 (*USS OKLAHOMA*)

1931 - BB-35 football team beats BB-36 (*USS NEVADA*)

Dec. 6

1898 - Ben Boynton the first native Texan to achieve All-American football status is born in Waco, Texas

Dec. 7

1835 - Ben Milam of the TX Revolution is killed storming Bexar to drive out the Mexican Army

1941 - The bombing of Pearl Harbor plunges the U.S. into WWII

Dec. 8

1872 - Architect Nicholas Clayton comes to Galveston and builds it into a city of beautiful homes

Dec. 9

1844 - Anson Jones takes oath as last president of the Republic of Texas

Words of Wisdom

“ A healthy adult male bore consumes each year one and a half times his own weight in other people's patience.”

- John Updike
American
Author



Parting Shot

A Look back at Cherbourg

Story by Rusty Bloxom, BB-35 Ship Historian
Photo from TEXAS archives

On 25 June 1944 *Texas* was part of a force that attacked a German artillery position called Battery Hamburg east of Cherbourg, France as the US Army moved in to capture the port city. The Navy's mission was to keep the German shore battery firing at the sea while the Army got close enough to overrun the area.

The battle started just after noon and lasted until 3:00 PM. Over 65 shells were fired at *Texas*; two of them were hits. One of the shells hit the hull and failed to go off, but a second 240mm projectile hit on the top of the ship's conning tower and exploded. The conning tower's thick armor caused the main force of the blast upwards and destroyed the pilot house above. The ship's helmsman, QM3c Christen Christiansen, was killed and several other Sailors were wounded. Before the battle was over *Texas*' scored a direct hit on one of Battery Hamburg's cannons, reducing it to scrap metal. After the ship returned to Portland, England, Bomb Disposal experts removed the unexploded German shell and made it safe. The shell that a hard-pressed German crew loaded into their

240mm gun, aimed at *Texas*, and that tore through her steel 63 years ago can be seen today when you visit her at San Jacinto. It serves as a reminder that, as fortunate as our ship was in all of her battles, on a June day in 1944, she bled.

