

THE TRAIL BLAZER

LOUISIANA HIKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER | JANUARY-MARCH 2020



EDITOR'S NOTES

I'm sure you're all reading this issue from home, mourning those spring trips that have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. State and national parks have been closed, flights are being refunded, and some state borders were even screening travellers. It's odd times for us all.

That being said, hiking is one activity that can still be done in a shut down. If you can find a trail,

such as the Wild Azalea Trail in the Kisatchie Forest, that is not housed within a closed park, and remain socially distant from fellow hikers, you can still enjoy the springtime weather and the beautiful flowers in bloom.

In fact, sunlight, fresh air, and exercise will keep us healthy during this time (and always). I look forward to when we can gather again as a group, and until then, happy trails friends.

-Corinne

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Wildflowers galore:
spring is a colorful time
in Louisiana

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A National Preserve
site in southeast Texas
provides biodiverse
hiking trails

PAGE 5

Big Bend timeline—a
week in this majestic
place that keeps LHC
members returning
year after year

SPRINGTIME IN LOUISIANA OUT ON THE TRAIL

By: Mike VanEtten

March and April are a great time of the year to go hiking in Louisiana. Mild temperatures, flowers blooming, birds are active, very few biting bugs, vivid green leaves on trees, etc. You may hike at a slower pace when there is so much to see out on the trail. Wild Azaleas, Flowering Dogwoods, and Louisiana Iris are just some of the eye-catching flowers you can see. Keep a look out for a snake or two that may come out to warm up in the sun. These recent pics were taken along the Wild Azalea Trail near Woodworth, Bayou Teche NWR in St. Mary Parish, and at the North Tract trails by Acadiana Park in Lafayette Parish.





A SATURDAY AT BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE

By: Nick Duplan

On March 7, my wife and I went to Big Thicket National Preserve in the town of Kountze in east Texas. We watched a video at the visitor center telling us about the history of the area and how they made Big Thicket a national preserve due to its diverse ecosystem. There were a lot of exhibits detailing the types of flora and fauna in the area such as alligators and pitcher plants.



We went on the Kirby Nature Trail, which was about 2 miles long. We would have gone even farther to the Turkey Creek Trail, but it was closed due to controlled burns going on. We took our two dogs on the trail with us, and they enjoyed it. Later we drove down a long dirt road, attempting to try to hike the Pitcher Plant Trail. There was a lot of smoke in the area, and we found out as we got there that they were doing controlled burns over there, too, so that trail was closed as well.

“Trails of varying lengths, from 0.3 miles to 18 miles round-trip, lead through diverse plant communities, from bogs of carnivorous plants to stands of towering longleaf pines.”

-National Park Service, Hiking in the Big Thicket

HIKE WITH US

WEBSITE

hikelouisiana.org

FACEBOOK

“Like” us @ Hike Louisiana

MEETINGS

1st Thursday of every month at the Baton Rouge Bluebonnet Library

EMAIL

louisianahikingclub@googlegroups.com



Left:
Photo
from Big
branch
marsh
Boy Scout
road hike
January
2020.



CAMPFEST 2020

Campfest was held at Chicot State park this spring, and included the following activities and more:

- Compass class
- Compass course
- Paddling on Lake Chicot
- Members cooking yummy

Sunday breakfast!

- Camping
- Hiking
- Arboretum
- Knot tying
- Learning phone apps



BIG BEND TRIP 2020

By: Debbie Hodges

Big bend national park trip this year was awesome. Here's a day-by-day recap of the trip:

Sunday: We hiked Lost Mine and Grapevine trails

Monday: Some hiked Upper Burro Mesa trail, while others hiked Burro Mesa Pour off and Burro springs trails. All enjoyed relaxing and dinner at Terlingua



Tuesday: Half the group hiked the Window trail (and saw a bear) while the others were conquering Emory Peak

Wednesday: Woke up to snow. But then the sun came out and we explored Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive and Maverick Road

Thursday: Enjoyed the beautiful Rio Grande Canyon trail followed by John's delicious gumbo

Friday: We hiked Mule Ear, Santa Elena Canyon, and Sam Nail Ranch trails

Saturday: Stopped at the Fossil Discovery Center and said goodbye to this beautiful place

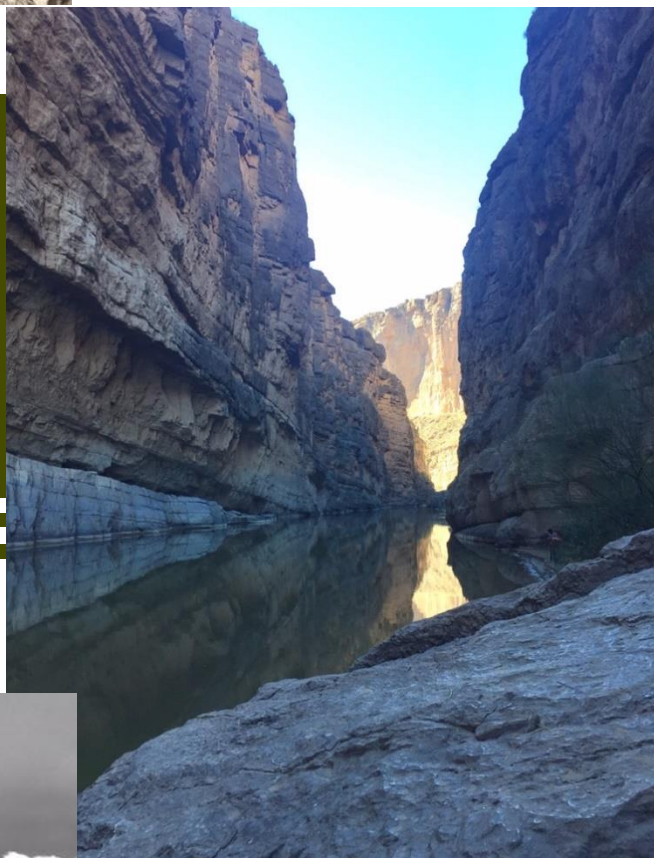




Left and below: Photos from
Santa Elena Canyon.

Big Bend 2020 Photo Gallery

Photos by LHC members



Right: The group at Terlingua.

Below: Upper Burro Mesa trail.



Left: Sunshine Wednesday afternoon.

Below: Black bear sighting!

