

Thanks for giving, CNC&F volunteers

We just cannot say it enough. The success of the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm directly correlates to the strength our volunteer base. And thankfully we have a great one. Earlier this month, the CNC&F honored these volunteers with a volunteer appreciation dinner.

“Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do. We have help in every facet including our education programs, our gardens, our visitor experiences, our trail maintenance and so much more, Joely Cifre, CNC&F volunteer coordinator, said. “Some volunteers come to us with years of experience, while others are just starting to dip their toes in the creek. However, all of them have something to share and we have the honor of working side-by-side with them every day. There’s no doubt the nature center exists and thrives because of the love and dedication of our volunteers.”

The evening kicked off with a reception, dinner and dessert prepared by CNC&F staff and Hungry Horse Restaurant in Boerne. CNC&F staff members, including Founder Carolyn Chipman Evans, Director of Education Ben Eldredge, Environmental Scientist Donny Taylor and Cifre gave fervent thanks to all volunteers.

They thanked the many volunteers who work tirelessly



Claire Jenkins

in many areas, including the Inspiration Garden, Citizen Science, Education, Visitor Center and House Hosts, Little Explorers, Cibolo Nature School and Second Saturday.

Evans then presented of the Volunteer of the Year Award to Kathy Ward. Ward is described as a tireless environmental educator, research scientist and advocate. She is currently actively involved in research and education with Albert and Bessie Kronosky State Natural Area (ABK), Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) and Hill Country Master Naturalists.

She is also the volunteer coordinator, organizer and one of the founders of the Nature Box program, CNC&F’s elementary school outreach program where nature comes into the classroom. Under Kathy, the Nature Box program has grown from three to 62 topics, and since 2012 Kathy and the Nature Box ladies have taught 25,352 students!

“Ms. Kathy comes to our summer camps and festivals representing NPSOT to teach the kids about native plants and wildflowers and



Volunteer Kathy Ward, left, was named the 2016 CNC&F Volunteer of the Year, presented by CNC&F Founder Carolyn Chipman Evans.

worms,” Stephanie Colvard, CNC&F Director of Children’s Education, said. “She has more energy, knowledge, stamina and passion for education than anyone I’ve ever met!”

On the subject of meaningful work, many potential volunteers may wonder if volunteering at the nature center can truly make an impact. The answer to that question is a resounding “yes!” In fact, two programs in particular need of volunteers are the Outdoor and Farm Classroom programs.

The award-winning Outdoor Classroom program offers field trips that encourage students to self-discover the principles of science and nature through guided, hands-on activities at the CNC&F.

In partnership with formal educators, Farm Classroom promotes agricultural opportunities and learning experiences for

students to discover how we affect the land and how it affects us, how food is cultivated and harvested, appropriate management of natural resources, and skills for sustainable living. For more information on how you can make an impact as a volunteer at CNC&F, go to www.cibolo.org or email Joely Cifre at volunteer@cibolo.org.

CNC&F Happenings

The CNC&F offices will be closed during the Thanksgiving holidays Wednesday through Friday, November 23 through 25.

The park and trails are open every day from 8 a.m. to dusk.

Our visitor center & gift shop will be open on Saturday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 27, from 1 to 5 p.m.

4 Chargers named to regional orchestra

The Texas Music Educators Association (T.M.E.A.) recently announced four members of the Boerne Samuel V. Champion Orchestra earned a spot in the Region 29 Orchestra.

This honor will culminate in the annual Region 29 Orchestra Concert on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 4:30 p.m. at Warren High School in San Antonio. Admission is free.

Musicians named to the honor orchestra were freshman Ava Blair on cello, sophomore Anna Coulter on violin, senior Maxwell Klaunig on cello and senior Conner Simmons on bass.

They were chosen following auditions with students from 14 different 5A and 6A high schools in the region.



Ava Blair



Max Klaunig



Conner Simmons



Anna Coulter

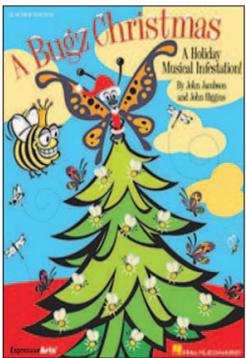
Fabra to stage ‘A Bugz Christmas’

Everyone loves the aroma of a freshly cut Christmas tree. Imagine being a bug hitching a ride on one of those fragrant trees, quietly being transported into the festively decorated home of an unsuspecting family.

Second grade students at Fabra Elementary have considered this idea, making it the focus of their annual seasonal production this year. On Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. the students, under the direction of Don

Piper, will perform “A Bugz Christmas.” The production will be staged in the new Fabra Elementary cafetorium.

The part of the all the “bugz” will be performed by student actors, with their friends singing along to join this Christmas “infestation.” Featured selections will include “We’re Hungry,” “A Tree Without Lights,” “Let Your Best Light Shine” and “The 12 Bugz of Christmas.”



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