



Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Gator Tails Spring 2026

“On The Spot” Guides



During March and April, the Friends will have “On the Spot” Guides located at Refuge hot spots to help visitors with the what, where, why, and when of wildlife, especially migrating birds.

Please check in at the Visitor Station to find out the location of the Guide for the day. Locations will change according to where sightings have been. You may find the guides out and about wearing “Volunteer” vests and they will have a “Volunteer” magnet on their vehicle. Please ask them your questions, they will be happy to share information about the refuge and the wildlife that live there.

Volunteer Shout Out

(This is the first in a periodic series about our amazing volunteers.)

Gene Campbell

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the more than 25 years of dedicated service Gene has donated. His commitment, wisdom, and steady leadership have been a tremendous gift to our Friends group and his support through the years is very appreciated. Through thoughtful guidance and deep appreciation for our mission, he has helped shape not only the work we do, but the spirit in which we do it.

His contributions have made a lasting impact, strengthening our organization, inspiring those around him, and helping us move forward with confidence and



purpose. He has generously shared his time, expertise, and encouragement, and we are truly better because of his involvement. We are sincerely grateful for the legacy he leaves and the example he has set for all of us.

Thank you, Gene, for your years of service, your friendship, and your unwavering support for our mission.

Doug Haass



Doug Haass has enjoyed our refuge for many years and is well known for his photography skills. His specialty is capturing glimpses of nature and wildlife through the camera lens. Doug has joined our volunteer group recently to help in the Visitor Station on the refuge. He usually works on Sunday and is a wealth of knowledge about the wildlife of our refuge. Stop in to say hello!

The following article by Doug is about his first experience with habitat maintenance.

My First Habitat Maintenance

My name is Doug Haass and this is the story of my first time to volunteer outside of the Visitor Station. Everyone should spend a day working with these guys as they tend to the refuge. What they do is immeasurable in its impact on the success of the refuge.

We cleaned up the viewing area for the Willows drip and repaired several components to get it working. It took all four of us working together to make it happen.

From there we moved on to the Woodlot drip. Similar thing...two of us cleaned out the sump for the drip and reworked the pump. The other two planted several native trees for the birds outside of the mowing areas. Then we met up and continued planting those trees.





A long day and no stopping for lunch. The youngest was 61; the rest of us were 72 (me), 73 and 78 years old. The two older guys outworked me.

The knowledge the other 3 had about trees was phenomenal. They all had a passion for how the trees contributed to the refuge's health and long-term viability.

Spring is here...and so are School Field Trips

Busloads of children come from local schools for a day of exploring and learning about nature. FWS staff and volunteers set up learning stations around the pond. Children are organized into groups that walk from station to station learning a different topic at each one. Topics according to grade level are taught about insects, metamorphosis, birds, seeds, wetlands, adaptations, reptiles, habitats, and more.



Learning is FUN and EXCITING when the students are exposed to the great outdoors! We love the opportunity to bridge the gap between book learning and the hands-on experiences available outdoors.



Volunteers are needed to help with the School Field Trips. If you would like to join us, please contact Stephanie Martinez, USFWS Volunteer Coordinator at stephanie.martinez@fws.gov or Kay Lovelace with the Friends of Jocelyn Nungaray NWR at friendsofjocelynnungaraynwr@gmail.com.

Spring Education Series



Spring Birding, Saturday April 4

Once again David Sarkozi will be sharing his extensive knowledge of birds and how to find them with an emphasis on spring migration. His presentation will be on April 4 at 2pm in the Visitor Center Education Center at 4017 FM 563, Anahuac, TX 77514.

Fireflies, May (date to be determined)

Watch for the announcement for a Firefly brief presentation and exploration behind the Visitor Center. We had a Firefly presentation last year by Armond Bayou volunteers, and it was a BIG HIT. We hope to offer it again in May and you won't want to miss it. We were absolutely thrilled last year by the huge numbers of fireflies we witnessed on the Cypress Trail.



Nature Store Clearance Sale



Many terrific bargains including customized Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge items as well as numerous miscellaneous gift items.

Many are 50% off. Don't delay!

Come by the Visitor Center at 4017 FM 563, Anahuac (open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) or the Visitor Station on the Refuge (open most days throughout springtime).

Springtime is the perfect time of year to get outside to enjoy nature. Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge is one of the spectacular spots along the Upper Texas Coast to observe and enjoy the spring migration of hundreds of beautiful songbirds.

See you on the Refuge!!!