

DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS THROUGH MARINE SCIENCE

The National Association of Black Scuba Divers

In conjunction with

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Presents the 9th Youth Educational Summit

Houston and Galveston, Texas

June 3, 2012—June 9, 2012



“Exploring Our Earth and Oceans Through the Eyes of Texas”

DESCRIPTION OF PLACES AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2012 NABS/YES

NOAA: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is a federal agency focused on the condition of the oceans and the atmosphere. It plays several distinct roles within the Department of Commerce with a broad mission. Some of NOAA's more widely-known divisions include the National Weather Service, The National Hurricane Center, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

NOAA's vision is to create "...an informed society that uses a comprehensive understanding of the role of the oceans, coasts and atmosphere in the global ecosystem to make the best social and economic decisions." The mission of NOAA is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social and environmental needs.

FGBNMS: The acronym for NOAA's **Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary**. The FGBNMS office is located in **Galveston, Texas**. The three spectacular reefs that make up the FGBNMS, Stetson Bank, East Flower Garden Bank and West Flower Garden Banks are located 70 to 100 nautical miles offshore of Galveston.

BAYTOWN NATURE CENTER: The Arkokisa Indians hunted, fished and gathered shell fish from the marshes and bays on the land that is now the Baytown Nature Center. Many artifact of their existence have been found along the shores of the bays. By mid-1830 these native Indians had all died out. Sections of the land were purchased to raise cattle and over the years parcels of land were sold to build homes. The area began to flood during seasonal high tides, hurricanes and tropical storms. The area was devastated by Hurricane Alicia, August 1983. Storm tides over 10 feet swept over the peninsula and subdivisions were demolished and were uninhabitable. The area lay in ruins for years. The city eventually brought most of the lots and others were abandoned. The nature center was formed in 1995. The land was returned to a mix of wetlands, fresh and brackish water pools and forested islands. Additional Habitat Restoration Projects have expanded the wetlands area. A section of the site was developed into a recreational area with fishing piers, picnic tables, walking trails and observation platforms and a Children's Nature Discovery Area.

BRAZORIA WILDLIFE REFUGE: This 44,414-acre wildlife conservation area lies along the coast of Texas, east of the towns of Angleton and Lake Jackson. It borders a bay on the Intracoastal Waterway, behind a barrier island at the Gulf of Mexico. Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1969 and provides quality habitat for wintering migratory waterfowl and other bird life. The refuge contains a freshwater slough which winds through salt marshes.

Brazoria is a vital complex of coastal wetlands and prairie harboring more than 300 bird species. The refuge serves as an end point of the Central Flyway for waterfowl in winter, and an entry point for migratory songbirds tired from a 600-mile Gulf crossing from Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula

Since 1994, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have hosted field trips throughout the school year for students at local elementary and intermediate schools. Formally known as **Discovery Environmental Program (DEEP)**, this program introduces active environmental educational activities which are adjusted to fit the needs of the students. This experience should result in dirty hands and a new and better understanding of the Texas Mid-Coast Refuges and their inhabitants.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN: Often referred to as the Father of Texas, for the hundreds of families he brought into this state due to the relatively poor economic conditions in the United States at the time, Stephen F. Austin was very successful in recruiting families to move to Texas. On the death (1821) of his father, Moses Austin, he took over a grant to bring U.S. settlers into Spanish Texas. He was responsible for the settlement of more than 1,200 American families in Mexican Texas. **In 1835**, following a period of imprisonment in Mexico City, Austin urged Texans to join federalists in Mexico in revolt against the centralist dictatorship of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. During the Texas Revolution (1835-36), Austin briefly commanded Texas volunteers and then went to the United States to gain support for the Texan cause. He served as secretary of state of the republic.

Stephen F. Austin State University, "AXE EM JACKS", located in Nacogdoches, Texas, enrolls approximately 13,000 students annually, offers 83 undergraduate majors and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

ONE SHELL PLAZA: This 50 floor skyscraper is located at 910 Louisiana Street in **Downtown Houston**. At its completion in 1971, One Shell Plaza was the tallest building in the city standing 715 feet tall. Including the antenna tower on its top, the height is 1,000 feet.

OCEANWORKS INTERNATIONAL: A world leader in the design, fabrication and maintenance of atmospheric deep sea diving suit systems, submarine rescue systems, ROV tooling and specialized sub-sea equipment. OceanWorks Remotely Operated Rescue Vehicles (RORV) and Submarine Rescue Vehicles (SRV) can descend to a depth of 650 meters and can accommodate 16 rescuees in a single dive.

MOODY GARDENS: A tourist complex in Galveston, Texas. There will be a behind the scenes tour and an opportunity to pilot a mini-ROV in the South Pacific Aquarium Exhibit during the NABSYES.

TEXAS SEAPORT MUSEUM: Share the adventure of the high seas at the Texas Seaport Museum, home of the celebrated 1877 tall ship *Elissa*. Explore the decks of this floating National Historic Landmark which has also been designated one of America's Treasures by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Walk *Elissa*'s decks and imagine the days when daring sailors challenged the world's oceans. In the adjacent museum and theater, witness the story of *Elissa*'s dramatic rescue from the scrapyard and her meticulous restoration. Look for ancestors with a one-of-a-kind computer database containing the names of more than 133,000 immigrants who entered the United States through Galveston, "The Ellis Island of the West".

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY GALVESTON (TAMUG): Texas A&M University at Galveston is a special-purpose institution of higher education for undergraduate and graduate instruction in marine and maritime studies in science, engineering and business and for research and public service related to the general field of marine resources. The institution is under the management and control of the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System, with degrees offered under the name and authority of Texas A&M University at College Station. Texas A&M University at Galveston offers educational outreach programs to people of all ages.

OCEAN STAR OFFSHORE ENERGY CENTER: The Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum and Education Center is located on Galveston Island, Texas, less than an hour from downtown Houston, the world's petroleum capital. Visitors board the retired jackup drilling rig and view a video about the offshore industry. The museum features three floors of models and interactive displays illustrating the story of offshore oil and gas from seismic technology to exploration and production. Scale models of production platforms, actual drill bits and remotely-operated vehicles (ROVs) as well as videos and exhibits explain drilling, geology, seismic, well servicing and production. Following a leisurely tour inside the museum, visitors can take the skywalk out onto the drill floor of the rig, or visit the exhibits on the pipe deck from the first floor of the museum.

SPACE CENTER HOUSTON (NASA): Space Center Houston features a multitude of permanent exhibits, attractions, theatres and exhibits. In addition, the venue presents an amazing array of traveling exhibits and astounding events created exclusively by SCH's own creative exhibit team. SCH always has a new exhibit or attraction to enjoy.

BATTLESHIP TEXAS: In 1948, the Battleship TEXAS became the first battleship memorial museum in the U.S. That same year, on the anniversary of Texas Independence, the Texas was presented to the State of Texas and commissioned as the flagship of the Texas Navy. In 1983, the TEXAS was placed under the stewardship of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is permanently anchored on the Buffalo Bayou and the busy Houston Ship Channel. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's 1,200-acre San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site consists of the **Battleground, Monument** and Battleship TEXAS. These sites are located within minutes of downtown Houston and a short distance to the beaches of Galveston Island.

NOAA RV MANTA: A state-of-the-art research vessel that enhances the study and protection of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico. The 83-foot R/V *Manta* operates out of Galveston, Texas, where the sanctuary is headquartered.