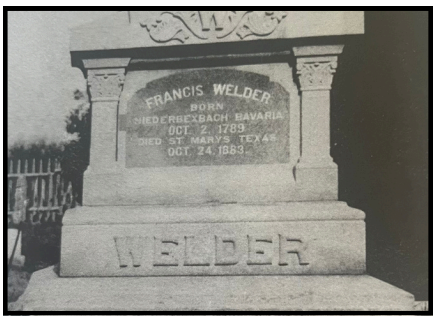
WELDER NOW

MONTHLY WELDER WILDLIFE UPDATES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6, JUNE 2025

WELDER FUN FACT >

HISTORY



"The gravestone of the Welder patriarch at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Refugio, Texas. Despite the terrible hardships of his life, he set a family record for longevity at ninety-four years. Although his Americanized name is found in legal papers and written in stone, he never signed his name 'Francis' or "Welder." His was Franz Welter."

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Empresarios' Children The Welders of Texas

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES >

EDUCATION

- Victoria YMCA Tour (June 19th)
- Youth Arthropods Day Camp (June 25)
- Victoria YMCA Tour (June 26)
- Youth Land Stewardship Camp (July 23rd)

RESEARCH

- MAPS training and events begin in May.

VOLUNTEER MAINTENANCE DAYS

- Tuesday, June 24, 2025
- Wednesday, July 16, 2025

TOURS

- Volunteers are able to lead tours after completing tour training. Fill out an application today!

Welder Team prescribed burn class led by Land Stewardship Manager Ty Higginbotham

PROJECTS >

UPCOMING

- Summer Camps
- Museum Exhibit Update
- Brush Work on Refuge
- Water Trough Replacements

IN PROGRESS

- Administration Building Outside Repairs
- Herb Garden Implementation
- Student Worksheets for PocketLab

JUST COMPLETED

- Residents 2
- All Burn Equipment Has Arrived

OUR VOLUNTEERS >

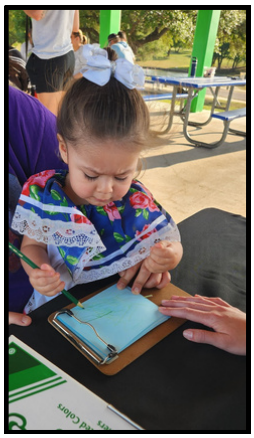
We are deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers who played a crucial role in supporting four successful field days this month, ensuring smooth operations and engaging educational activities throughout our rotations. Their efforts also enabled us to clear two of our trails, providing clearer access and wider walking spaces for our groups. The impact of their contributions is immeasurable, and we recognize that such achievements would not have been possible without their commitment. Thank you to all our volunteers for your invaluable support this month.

THANK YOU TO OUR MAY VOLUNTEERS

Greg Simmons
Sally Scroggs
Reuban Saage
Madison Garvin
Philip Woods
Brittany Arredondo
Jacob Copeland

NUMBERS REACHED THIS MONTH >

EVENTS ATTENDED/HOSTED IN MAY



- May 3rd
  - Mid Coast Master Naturalist Training
- May 3rd
  - Spring Fling Lake Corpus Christi
- May 6th
  - Gregory Portland ISD 5th Grade Field Day
- May 7th-8th
  - Austin Waldorf 7th Grade Overnight Trip
- May 9th
  - Goliad ISD 5th Grade Field Day
- May 13th-14th
  - Sinton ISD 3rd Grade Field Day
- May 16th
  - Kostoryz Elementary STEAM Day 3rd - 5th Grade
- May 20th
  - Volunteer Opportunity Showcase with the South Texas Master Naturalist
- May 30th
  - Farmington High School

TOTAL NUMBERS REACHED IN MAY

- At Outreach Events
  - 270 people
- At the Foundation
  - 367 people

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS >

MAY - JULY

- June 25th
  - Youth Arthropod Day Camp
- July 23rd
  - Youth Land Stewardship Day Camp

EDUCATION EVENTS >

A WORD FROM OUR EDUCATORS -

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure with our amazing educator, Mr. Ron Shulze, at Arthropods Camp this summer! Explore the wild and wonderful world of South Texas' native arthropods—creepy, crawly, and totally cool creatures like insects, spiders, scorpions, and even millipedes. You'll learn what makes arthropods so special, from their hard exoskeletons to how they grow and survive in our unique environment. Use real tools to go on collecting missions, then investigate your finds under microscopes like a real scientist! Plus, dive deep into the secret lives of arachnids—discover how local spiders build webs, how scorpions hunt at night, and how these tiny animals play a big role in nature. Science has never been this exciting!

JUNE - AUGUST

- June 11th
  - Women in the Wild Presentation (Angie)
- June 17th
  - Outreach at the Jone Barnhart Bee County Library
- June 19th
  - Victoria YMCA Tour
- June 25th
  - Youth Day Camp - Arthropods
- June 26th
  - Victoria YMCA Tour
- July 23rd
  - Youth Day Camp - Land Stewardship

GP ISD 5TH GRADE FIELD DAY >

AUSTIN WALDORF CAMPING TRIP >

GOLIAD ISD 5TH GRADE FIELD DAY >

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL >

SINTON 3RD GRADE FIELD DAY >






MID-COAST MASTER NATURALIST >






JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: What's a deer's go-to ice cream flavor?

A: **Cookie-Doe**

SUMMER INTERNS!!

EMMALEE BLACH

STEWARD Intern

JAY LE

Conservation Intern

RESEARCH : SPOTLIGHT ON A WELDER FELLOW >

DAWN R. HOUSTON, PH.D.

Analysis of Upland and Riparian Habitats as Stopover Sites for Migratory Songbirds in Central Texas

Migration may be the most perilous period for migratory birds and has profound effects on breeding success and survivorship. High-quality stopover sites, with abundant food resources, allow for rapid refueling of energy stores enabling a songbird to continue the next portion of its journey. Riparian areas are recognized as important stopover habitats, particularly in the desert Southwest, whereas upland habitats provide adequate stopover sites in other areas, such as the Midwest. Central Texas lies squarely in the Central Flyway, yet no research to date has investigated stopover habitat in this region. I propose to assess the relative stopover habitat quality of riparian and upland habitats by comparing refueling performance, physiological condition, and chronic stress of migratory songbirds. I will also compare fine-scale habitat characteristics using remote sensing methods between habitat types in regard to migratory songbird abundance. Finally, I will evaluate arthropod abundance to identify which habitat type may be more useful as a resource to migrating songbirds. My goal is to acquire knowledge of stopover habitat ecology in Central Texas to identify priority habitat for migratory bird conservation.

Texas State University

Major Advisor: Joseph A. Veech, Ph.D

UNO'S CORNER >

GULF COAST TOAD

The **Gulf Coast Toad** (Incilius nebulifer) is a medium-sized amphibian native to Texas and other Gulf Coast states, thriving in diverse habitats such as coastal marshes, grasslands, forests, and suburban areas. Recognizable by its dark brown to gray back adorned with a light-colored stripe and small bumps, it also features a cream-colored underside. As an opportunistic carnivore, this toad consumes a wide range of prey, including insects, ispiders, worms, and even small vertebrates like other frogs and lizards, playing a crucial role in controlling insect populations. Notably, when threatened, it can secrete toxins from glands behind its eyes and inflate its body to appear larger, serving as effective defense mechanisms against predators.

WELDER CALENDAR >

OFFERED INSIDE

We are now featuring our NEW Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation Calendar. All images inside were taken on the Refuge by Bill and Sharon Draker. Contact us at aarredondo@welderwildlife.org to get ahold of our limited supply!

RON'S INSECT FACT >

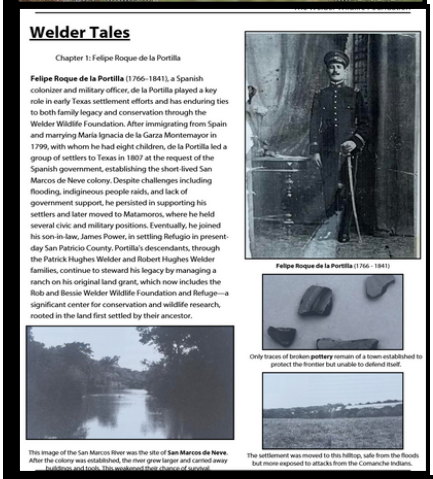
GREEN SCARAB BEETLE

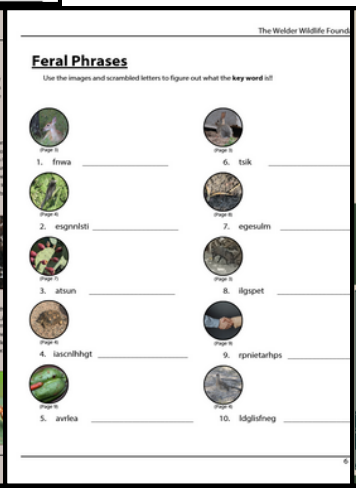
The **green scarab beetle** (Cotinis nitida) is a shiny, emerald-colored insect that buzzes loudly as it flies during the summer months. Found in gardens and fields across the eastern United States, including Texas, these beetles feed on ripe fruits like peaches and grapes. Their larvae, called grubs, live underground and help break down decaying plants, which enriches the soil. While they might seem a bit clumsy in flight, green scarab beetles play an important role in nature by recycling nutrients and supporting healthy ecosystems.

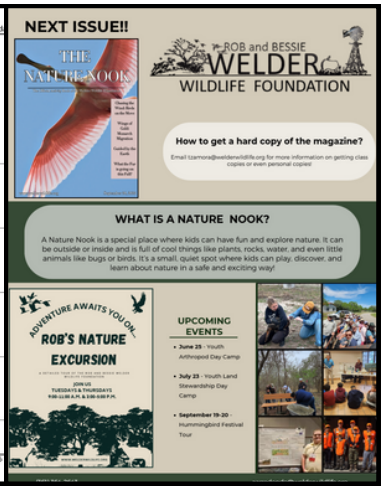
LOOK AT OUR NEW ACTIVITY BOOK >

THE NATURE NOOK

This summer, the Welder Wildlife Foundation proudly presents our activity book themed "Welcoming New Life" focusing on the wonders of reproduction and the emergence of new life during the summer season. Dive into engaging lessons on plants, animals, and mutualism, complemented by interactive activities designed to inspire young minds. Explore the inaugural chapter of "The Welder Tales," highlighting one of the first men who laid the foundation for the Welder legacy and the location for the Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation. Don't miss the sneak peek of our upcoming fall issue on the back cover, offering a glimpse into the exciting content ahead. For inquiries or to obtain your copy of this enriching activity book, please contact tzamora@welderwildlife.org.







CONTACT INFORMATION >

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