

# BNWR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PHOTO SPREAD EXHIBITS AT DISCOVERY CENTER

Photos by Richard Schaffhausen and Neal McLain

## FREEPORT, TEXAS — November 12, 2016.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex today celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. The celebration, located at the refuge, included numerous demonstrations, special children's programs, historical exhibits illustrating the history of the land before the refuge was established.

Several local organizations assisted with the presentation including Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges, the Texas Master Naturalist Program Cradle of Texas Chapter, EarthQuest, Inc., the Brazoria Historical Militia, the Brazosport Archaeological Society, and the Brazos Valley Railroad Society.



◀ Arriving at the Discovery center

▼ TMN-COT Exhibit



**Clockwise: Ruby Lewis with juvenile alligator; Butterfly Encounter; a young visitor meets the juvenile 'gator; a bale of turtles; the Celebratory Cake (one of a dozen cakes)**



# BNWR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PHOTO SPREAD BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAM

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Birds of Prey programs are presented by EarthQuest, a non-profit environmental education organization based in Georgia. EarthQuest is “dedicated to the education of the public as to their impact on the natural world”. EarthQuest director Steve Hoddy presents the programs throughout the year at a variety of venues including zoos, theme parks, academic institutions, service clubs, nature festivals, and Renaissance Festivals.

For several years Hoddy has brought the program to Brazoria County for the annual Migration Celebration. During the months preceding the celebration he presents the program at local elementary and secondary schools. He sometimes brings the program to Brazoria County at other times during the year for special events.

Phil Huxford, a member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, coordinates the programs locally and serves as Master of Ceremonies.



Phil Huxford



Steve Hoddy

**EarthQuest**  
Revealing the Nature of our Environment

<http://www.earthquest.org/>  
[earthquestorg@gmail.com](mailto:earthquestorg@gmail.com)



Steve Hoddy with *Storm*, female Andean condor



EarthQuest apprentice Gaston Carson with *Utah*, female Ferruginous Hawk

More photos here:  
<http://bnwr50.blogspot.com/>



# BNWR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PHOTO SPREAD HISTORY OF THE LAND BEFORE 1966

Photos by Richard Schaffhausen and Neal McLain

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge was founded in 1966, The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration included five exhibits to recognize the people that lived on the land before the founding of the refuge.

## BEFORE 1821: KARANKAWA INDIANS Presented by BRAZOSPORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



**Above:** BAS President Clint Lacy demonstrates a Karankawa bow to visitors. **Above right:** historical artifacts display. **Right:** BAS member Sue Gross meets with a visitor.

## BRAZORIA HISTORICAL MILITIA 1824-1836 Presented by MICHAEL BAILEY, A MEMBER OF THE MILITIA



**Michael Bailey in period dress presented the stories of the six flags which have flown over Texas**



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### AUSTIN COLONY 1821-1836

Presented by  
STANLEY MURRAY as STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

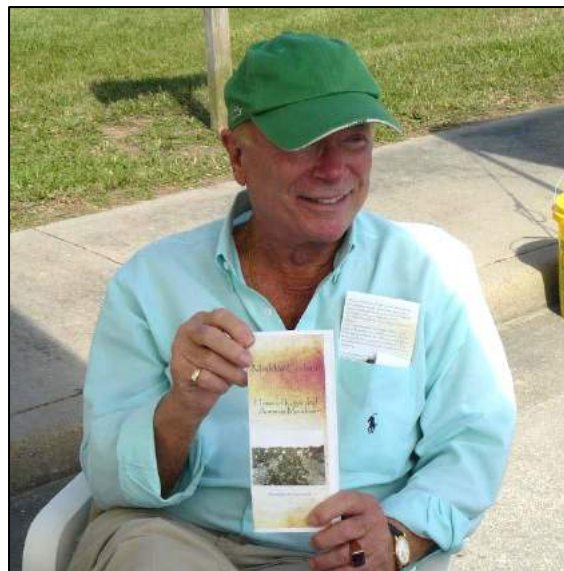


Stanley Murray, as Stephen F. Austin, meets with visitor Richard Hickner. Richard is regarded as the founder of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges.

<http://refugefriends.org/>

### MADDOX CEDARS 1880-1915

Presented by  
PERCY BEACROFT, JR



Percy Beacroft Jr. Holding a Maddox Cedars brochure. Percy is the grandson of the Maddox family.

<http://refugefriends.org/Refuges/Brazoria/Maddox.html>

### RAILROADS and SULFUR MINING in the EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Presented by  
BRAZOS VALLEY RAILROAD SOCIETY



BVRs member Jim Urban discusses the Hoskins Mound exhibit. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century sulfur was mined at Hoskins Mound using the Frasch process. The solidified sulfur was then transported by rail over the Hoskins Mound Spur for shipment to domestic and foreign customers,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frasch\\_process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frasch_process)

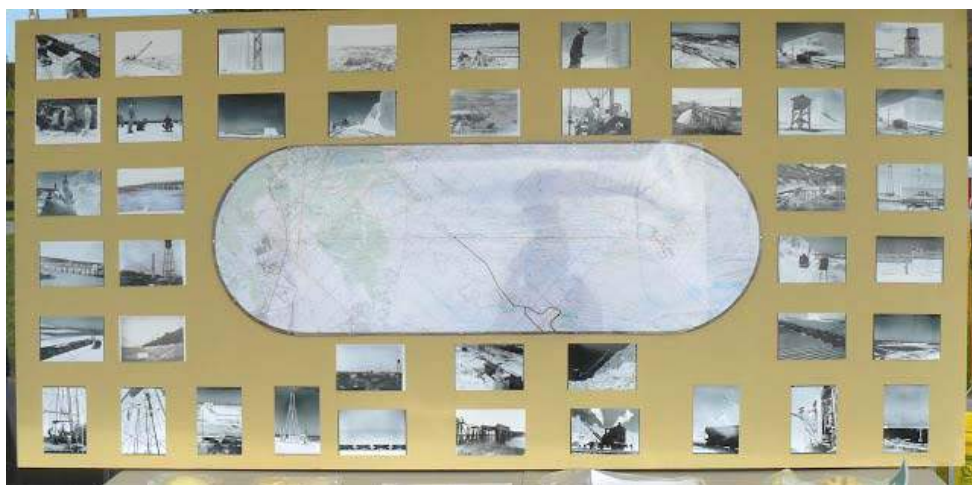


Photo exhibit relating the history of sulfur mining at Hoskins Mound, now an inholding within the refuge. U.S. Geological Survey 1943 map of the Hoskins Mound Railroad Spur connecting Hoskins Mound with the Missouri Pacific Railway (now UPRR). The spur is now abandoned but portions are still visible along the southeast side of County Road 277.

<http://brazosvalleyrail.org/>



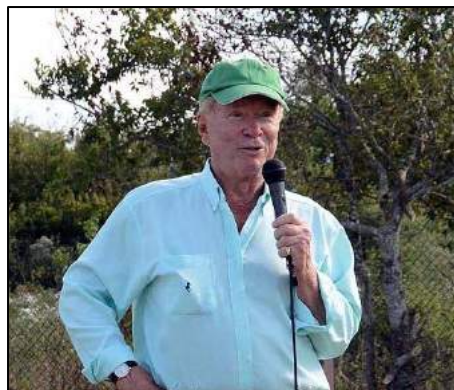
## BNWR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PHOTO SPREAD CONSERVATION PARTNER RECOGNITION CEREMONY

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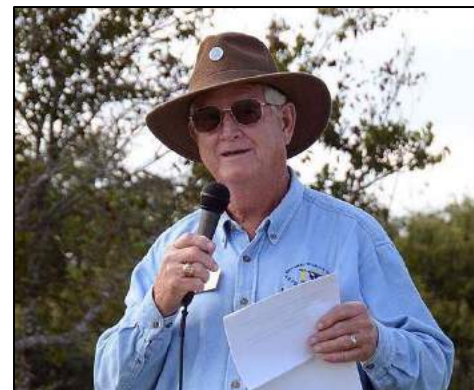
A highlight of the celebration was the *Conservation Partner Recognition Ceremony* recognizing **Ron Bisbee**, a former refuge manager, and **Percy Beacroft, Jr.** representing the Maddox family, grandson of the Maddox family, one of the first European settlers to take up land located within the present boundaries of the refuge.



**Jennifer Sanchez**, Team Leader for the Refuge Complex, welcomed visitors and served as Master of Ceremonies.



**Percy Beacroft, Jr.**, grandson of the Maddox Family, described the lives of of his parents and grandparents as one of the first settlers in the area.



**Ron Bisbee**, a former refuge Manager discussed the early history of the refuge and the people he worked with.



- ▲ Souvenir pin presented to each participant and guest.
- ◀ Jennifer Sanchez with a group of children. Each child had been asked to identify something else that was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

