



# LLELA

- *preservation*
- *restoration*
- *education*
- *research*

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## **View wildlife from a different angle on LLELA's Beaver Pond Paddling Trail—new launch site opens May 13**

As your kayak slips into the shade of a willow tree, you feel the temperature drop a few degrees. A turtle slips off a log ahead of you as you take a few strokes farther in to the cool, forested end of the pond. A beautiful wading bird, one you don't recognize, waits until your kayak drifts quite close to its perch, then lifts off with an unusual alarm call. As you paddle along, you notice a sign which describes some of the typical birds found in the Beaver Pond area...aha! That bird was a Green Heron! Other interpretive signs discovered as you paddle a route through the Beaver Pond reveal information about the plants, insects, and typical wildlife found in a North Texas wetland. This is definitely a great way to "hike" a trail—drifting along in a kayak, taking a slow paddle as you watch fish and turtles wink in and out of the aquatic plants below.

The Beaver Pond Paddling Trail has been open for about two years, but a new parking lot and launch area just off LLELA's main access road will provide access for canoes and kayaks to more easily enter the paddling trail. Until now, paddlers had only been able to access the Beaver Pond from a launch on the east side of the pond, near the log house. This requires staff assistance to access the area through a locked gate, or the willingness to walk about a quarter mile while carrying your boat. The new launch site will definitely improve access.

The development of the new Beaver Pond Paddling Trail launch site has been made possible through a partnership between LLELA, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, REI, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalists, and KayakPower.com.

A complete map and Google Earth guided tour of the paddling trail is available at the Trails of Denton County web site <http://sites.google.com/site/trailsofdentoncounty/Home/trails-at-llela-1>.

Our trail is now an official Texas Paddling Trail. You can learn about other paddling trails at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails/>



Join us for a **Guided Nature Walk on the Cicada Trail**  
10 a.m., Saturday, May 14

Meet at the Cicada Pavilion. All ages welcome. Only \$2/person for LLELA season pass holders. Children 5 & under free.

# What's Happening at LLELA?

**\*\* Schedules are subject to change. Call the LLELA Gatehouse at 972-219-7980 to confirm.\*\***



## Homestead Open House

- April 16, 12–3 p.m.
- May 21, 12–3 p.m.
- June 18, 12–3 p.m.

Walk through LLELA's restored 1870's log home and smokehouse, a replica dugout, and an unrestored barn. Friendly and knowledgeable staff and/or volunteers will be available to answer questions. Currently there is no fee for this program.



## Bison Tours

- April: NO TOUR
- May 29, 2 p.m.
- June 26, 2 p.m.

Learn more about LLELA's bison herd—their natural history, management, and integral role in prairie ecology. As the bison live in a closed area of LLELA, this behind-the-scenes visit is a treat. All ages welcome, \$2 program fee required per person (season pass holders). Reservation required; call 972-219-7980.



## River Trips by Kayak-Power.com

- April 16, 9 am–2 pm
- May 21, 9 am–2 pm
- June 18, 9 am–2 pm

Whether you're got lots of river time under your belt or have never set foot in a kayak, you're welcome here! Kayak Power will provide equipment and instruction followed by a six-mile trip down the Elm Fork to a shuttle vehicle. Contact [info@kayakpower.com](mailto:info@kayakpower.com) or 214-669-1663 for information. Reservation required.



## Bird Walks

- April 9, 7:30 a.m.
- May 14, 7:30 a.m.
- June 11, 7:30 a.m.

Accompany a master birder on a guided hike. Over 275 species of birds have been documented at LLELA, so there's no telling what you might find! Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome, \$2 program fee required per person (season pass holders). Reservation required. Bring your own binoculars.

## Summer 2011 outdoor experiences for children 7 — 12 years old Registration deadline: June 1, 2011

### Session One: June 13-17; Session Two: June 27-July 1

Enroll your child in either a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule or all five days. MWF: \$120 per child. All 5 days: \$185 per child.



Seven to nine year-old camps: 8:30 am—4:00 pm; 6/13—6/17 OR 6/27—7/1

- Pond Investigators (Mon.)
- Little House on the Prairie (Tues.)
- Weird Wildlife (Wed.)
- Winged Wonders (Thurs.)
- Paddle and Stomp (Fri.)

Ten to twelve year-old camps: 8:30 am—4:00 pm; 6/13—6/17 OR 6/27—7/1

- Aquanauts (Mon.)
- Winged Wonders (Tues.)
- Gone Fishin' (Wed.)
- The Natural Guard (Thurs.)—Paddle and Pedal (Fri.)

For registration information, contact Lisa Cole (LLELA Education Coordinator) at 972-219-3930 or [lisacole@unt.edu](mailto:lisacole@unt.edu), or visit [www.ias.unt.edu/llela](http://www.ias.unt.edu/llela) for details & registration forms.