

# a little birdie told me...!

Matagorda County Birding Nature Center

Donna A. Younger – Director/Editor

Fall 2011



Photos by Arlene and Bob Draper

*Kids are back at school...! Now what?*

The big Labor Day weekend is upon us and what are we to do?

*Take nature walks. You don't have to be in the woods or mountains; a vacant field or a park will do. Point out things, but without too much explanation let the children explore. If you find an ant hill, stop to watch. Ask what the ants are doing. Ask lots of questions to help the children figure things out. Take nature walks to the same place in all four seasons and ask: "how have things changed?"*

*Teach children to distinguish nature from non-nature. On nature walks, ask them to find things that are not nature's –cans, paper, litter---and pick them up. Point out that man's things are not as beautiful as those in nature; show that each little thing in nature is unique, while man's things are often mass-produced.*

*Watch ants and bugs with the children and be interested in them instead of smashing them. Involve children in picnics, nature walks, and exposure to the out-of-doors. At zoos or botanical gardens, or at home in the backyard, notice nature, talk about it; Teach deep appreciation for the earth.*

Linda and Richard Eyre, *Teaching Your Children Joy.*



Individual Membership – \$20  
Family Membership – \$30  
Patron Membership – \$100  
Lifetime Membership – \$1000

**Enjoy the peacefulness of nature, at MCBNC.  
Everyone can use a day away from the chaos!**

## Important Tweets.....

We are excited to announce our need for interested members to serve as Board of Directors for MCBNC. Many Board Members will cycle off the board this December and we are now inviting those members at large to let us know your desires for leadership! We need you!

Have you met our Park Hosts?  
Come by and talk with Skip & Gail  
Pierce. Gail works the kiosk  
between volunteers and Skip is  
maintenance and grounds keeper!  
They do a great job!  
Please stop by soon!

**Kiosk Volunteers.....**We need interested members to keep our nature center alive by volunteering in the entrance kiosk. We work a typical 3 hour shift from, 9 a.m. – Noon...Noon - 3 p.m. ... 3 – 6 p.m. We will work with anyone willing to fill in for an hour, two or more.....! Training is always available...Please call Gail Pierce at 979-245-3336 to volunteer! We are so grateful for your time!

**Check out our website:** [mcbnc@mcbnc.org](mailto:mcbnc@mcbnc.org). Our webpage has been updated with photos from our recent park hosts at the bottom of the home page. Click our gallery or Park hosts photos for a current view of the nature center!

If you haven't visited MCBNC, in the last few weeks, then it's been too long!

Here is a sample of what you might see!



Photos by Arlene and Bob Draper



**Hummingbirds and Butterflies are plentiful in the gardens. Tillman Daniels and Helen Kessler have been working hard to attract these beautiful creatures.**

Photos by Arlene and Bob Draper

## Information Links:

**HARVESTING TIPS**... go to [www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com) Children enjoy imitating you and like to feel that their "work" is important. Find a space or pots in your garden for them to plant, dig, and rake or play in as soon as they seem ready. Give them extra seedlings or plants, some child-safe tools, and the impression that their area is an important part of your garden. Young children also love to water with a gentle spray wand or watering can; some enjoy weeding or even slug collecting if they are old enough! Don't expect them to work for long without your direct interaction, expect some damage, and know that they will get muddy and wet! Their urge to help is more important than whether they do things correctly. Over time, their technique will improve and their pleasure and interest will be its own reward!

**LAWN TIPS**...go to:

[www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/aug/30/fr\\_joe\\_janak\\_083111\\_150170/?viewpoints](http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/aug/30/fr_joe_janak_083111_150170/?viewpoints)

*(Many residents are worried about greening their yards, but, our trees need more attention. For more information please click on the following report in Victoria Advocate on Aug. 30, 2011).*

**Extension Agent: Some trees are dying because of drought...** by *Joe Janak* "and, with one inch of rain; we still need to continue to water trees unless it rains again, soon. You see, one inch of rain, whether from above or a sprinkler will soak in about 4 to 6 inches deep. Most tree roots are in the 12 to 18 inch deep zone in the soil, so it'll take another two inches of rain or watering to get it down to the tree's roots."



Send your tidbits to:

[mcbnc@mcbnc.org](mailto:mcbnc@mcbnc.org) or

[lamyonger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lamyonger@sbcglobal.net)

# MATAGORDA COUNTY BIRDING NATURE CENTER

## Event Rules

Events must be booked and paid for two (2) weeks prior to the event

50 ATTENDEES - RESERVATION FEE: Members: \$150.00 Non-Members \$ 250.00

50+ ATTENDEES – RESERVATION FEE: Members: \$200.00 Non-Members \$300.00

The above fees include four (4) hours of one (1) golf cart use. Additional carts may be reserved for \$5.00 per hour. **Golf cart rules MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES.**

### EVENT RULES:

Events will be held at the Pavilion. Other locations within the Center must be approved by the Center's Director or the Board of Directors.

**NO loud music and NO GLASS CONTAINERS**

No balloons can be released to the air

**All balloons, decorations must be removed from the premises at the end of the event**

**Any items brought in (chairs, tables, etc) must be removed from the premises immediately following the end of the event**

**ALL TRASH must be removed from the Center's grounds immediately following the end of the event**

**A waiver of liability must be signed at time of payment**

## Youth Birthday Party Rules

Birthday parties must be booked and paid for two (2) weeks prior to the event. The Center can accommodate up to 100 persons. A maximum of 125 has to be approved by the Center's Director.

50 ATTENDEES - RESERVATION FEE: Members: \$35.00 Non-Members \$ 50.00

50+ ATTENDEES – RESERVATION FEE: Members: \$75.00 Non-Members \$100.00

The above fees include four (4) hours of one (1) golf cart use. An additional cart may be reserved for \$5.00 per hour. **Golf cart rules MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES.**

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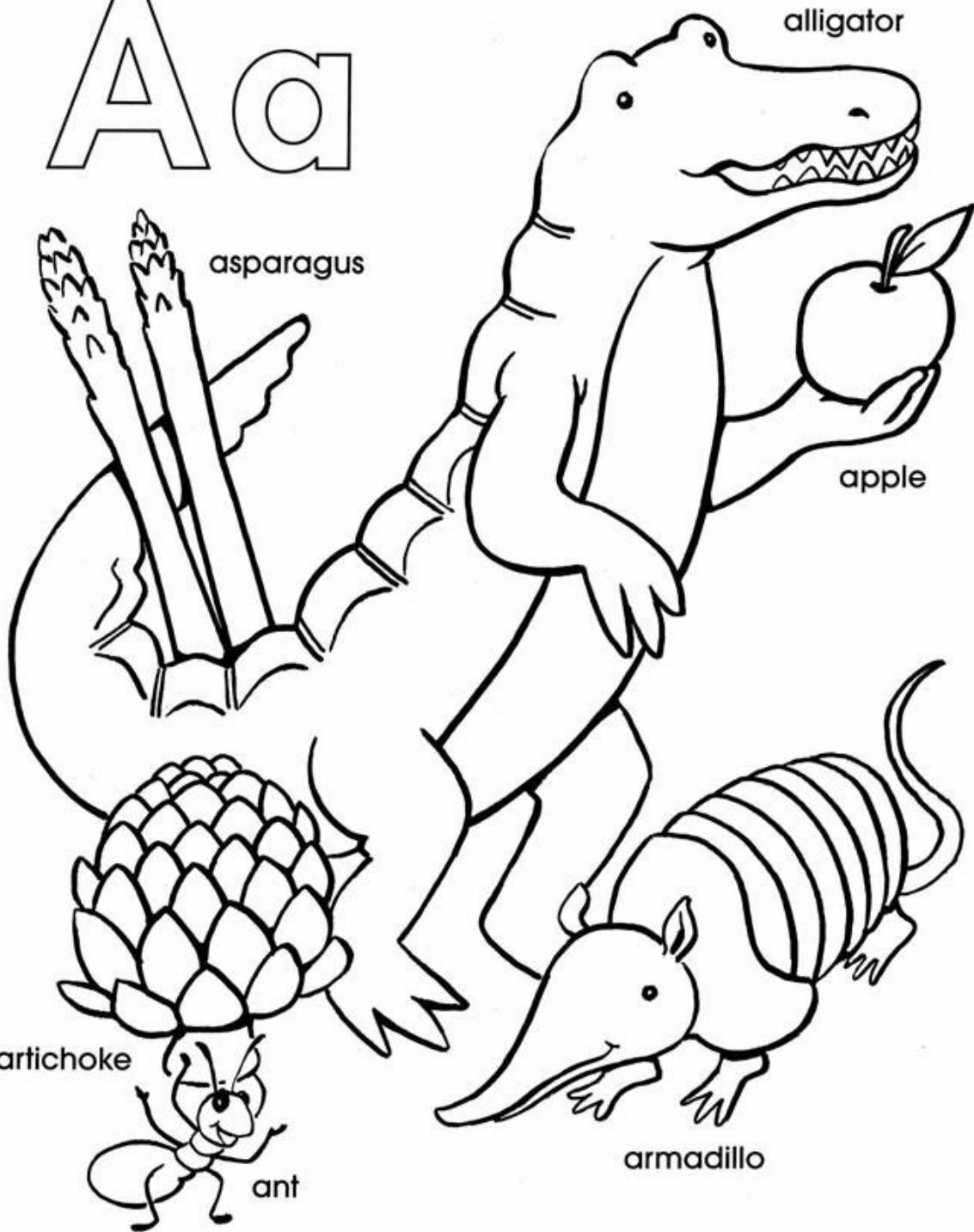
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A a



alligator

asparagus

apple

artichoke

ant

armadillo