

Next year's plans started

# Workshop attendance poor

By CHERYL HICKMAN  
Muddy ponds and Indians were topics of discussion in a nature workshop held Saturday and Sunday by the Outdoor Recreation Committee (OCR).

University professors either lecturing or conducting field trips. Topics included aquatic ecology, ecology and the free market system, Indians of Texas, Texas wildflowers, and terrestrial ecology.

Dr. Richard L. Noble, associate professor in Wildlife and Fisheries sciences, led the aquatic ecology field trip to Post Oak Pond, maintained by Texas A&M near Easterwood Airport.

Noble said generally the older a pond is the clearer it is.

He said vegetation eventually dies and rots in a pond and the rotting matter causes the mud to precipitate, making the water clearer. Muddy water makes it very difficult for any kind of plant life to survive, and the large amount of clay in this area makes the water brown.

One solution to the problem is to dump hay into the pond and let it rot. Chemicals such as alum or gypsum also help precipitate the clay.

Dr. Phil Gramm conducted a discussion on ecology and the free market. Gramm is a former economics professor at A&M and is now campaigning for the U.S. Senate.

A large part of the discussion centered on the national park system. Gramm advocated charging higher rates for park users and dropping the present program of maintaining the park system through taxes.

"Should the guy who's working in a black smutty hole be forced to pay for the Snake River so Teddy Kennedy can go down it?" Gramm asked.

Dr. Harry J. Shafer, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, gave a slide presentation on Indians in Texas.

Shafer said most people think only of Apaches, Karankawas and Comanches in association with Texas Indians. Actually, there were about 12 major groups of Indians in Texas, and up to 12 different bands within each major group. For example, within the Comanche group there were the Penateka, Tenawa, Tanima, Nokoni and the Kwahadi bands.

Some of the major groups who lived in Texas were the Tonkawas, the Wichitas, the Caddos and the Kiowas.

Almost all the Texas Indians are extinct now, Shafer said. They were the victims of European diseases and the superior technology of the white man.

If popularity can be judged by attendance, one of the most popular events of the workshop was Sunday's Texas wildflowers field trip conducted by retired professor, Dr. John J. Sperry. Sixteen people attended.

The group drove near Navasota with Sperry naming flowers he or anyone else saw. Types of flowers observed ranged from the bluebonnet, the Texas state flower, to the poisonous death campus, which resembles a green onion.

Dr. Fred E. Smeins, associate professor of range science conducted a field trip on terrestrial ecology.

The group examined land at the Navasota River area.

Smeins said overgrazing and settlers have kept natural fires from burning off the saplings that take root in the pasture land. Most of the land around Bryan and College Station is naturally savannah — open grassland with only a few scattered trees.

Now most saplings grow to maturity unless they are uprooted, causing this area to change from open Savannah to forestland.

Other topics covered by the workshop were Texas mammals, campus trees and shrubs, birds of Texas, insect-plant interactions, vegetation history of Texas and Texas reptiles and amphibians.

Helton said next year's format will probably be changed to include some skills-oriented programs.

Although attendance at the workshop entitled "Right in Your Own Backyard," was very low, plans are already underway for some kind of outdoor awareness program next year, said Wayne Helton, junior wildlife science major and chairman of ORC.

The workshop was designed to let people get more working knowledge of things in Texas, Helton said.



Two Loners

Because dormitory regulations keep some pets away, many Texas A&M students have to leave their favorite animals behind. Patricia Daniel,

a freshman accounting major from Christi, checks out her suitemate's goldfish for some companionship.

## Queen Cotton chosen in Agronomy Society pageant

By MICHELLE SCUDDER

Mollie Ann Winston of Tyler was crowned Queen of the 44th Annual Cotton Pageant and Ball last weekend in Rudder Auditorium. She was selected from among 127 contestants.

Winston, a sophomore pre-dent major, was representing Mosher Dorm in the Pageant.

The 19-year-old brown-eyed brunette received a crown and a

bouquet of fourteen red roses entwined with cotton puffs from King Cotton, Paul Vaculin of Cameron.

Named to the queen's court were Debbie Ann Kolodzie, representing the American Society of Agriculture Engineers; Kathleen Miller, representing the Texas A&M Women's Social Club; Debbi Pigg, representing Alpha Delta Pi sorority; Lori Ellis, representing the College Station Noon Lion's Club; Pamela Grotthouse, representing the Texas A&M University Jaycees; Leslie Rummel, representing the Lubbock Home-town Club; Loretta Francine Fazzino, representing the Soil Conservation Society of America; and Sandra Englert, representing the San Angelo Mother's Club.

Winston said, "The funniest thing about being Queen Cotton is that now when people pass me some-

times they say hello and me."

Winston is a member of Phi Alpha sorority, Alpha Delta honor society, and student "Y." She was escorted by Lloyd.

The pageant was sponsored by the Student Agronomy Society. The purpose of the pageant is to promote good citizenship over the state, and promote cotton and show its importance as one of our natural fibers," said Dr. McBee, Agronomy Society president.

Proceeds from the pageant are used to sponsor student agricultural tours. "The students take an annual trip to look at farming practices and crops over the state," McBee

## Alaska parks bill discussed

By PAUL BARTON

What will be left when the Alaska pipeline runs dry? The scenic beauty of America's last frontier or a landscape scarred by unbridled development?

Questions like those were discussed Monday night at a meeting at Rudder Tower sponsored by the Bryan-College Station Sierra Club and the Parks and Recreation Club. On hand were representatives from the Alaska Coalition, an alliance of conservation and environmental organizations seeking passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act now before Congress.

The bill is designed to set aside 95 million acres of Alaska as national forests, national parks, wildlife refuges and scenic rivers. Of the total, 75 million acres would be designated wilderness areas, meaning the land could not be developed commercially or opened to motor vehicles.

"We're at the midnight hour for Alaska," says Pam Rich, a member of the coalition. If the

bill isn't passed by Dec. 31,

says, the lands now being

considered for preservation

will be re-opened for develop-

ment.

Rich says the lands are

able because, among

things, they contain the

last major completely

developed watershed area

centers on the North

of the Brooks Range

mountain range.

Both Rich and Paul

Rich, another speaker from

the coalition, urged the audience

to write their senators and

representatives urging them

to pass the bill.

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- Vice Chairman - Entertainment
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Public Relations Chairman

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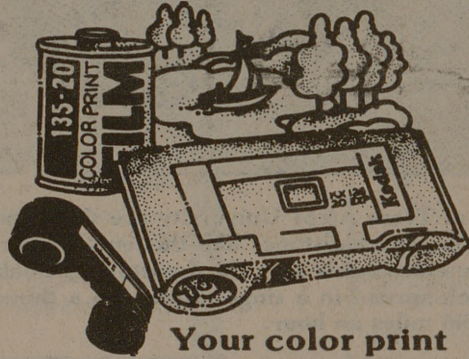
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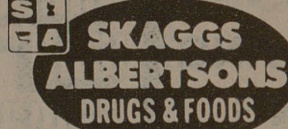
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