



Cypress Black Bayou Monthly Digest

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Happy Holidays!

Here are the CBB updates for month of November 2018.



by [Jennyne Pinter](#) on November 16, 2018

What an absolutely wonderful month here in Benton! Our lakes swelled with water from the rains, the temperature dropped enough to start beating back some of the darned vegetation and everyone is gearing up to get jolly. I hope that you and yours are taking full advantage of the lakes on the sunny days when the skies are blue. Remember to keep in touch with any pictures or stories you might like to share with you lakeside neighbors, and in the meantime, I hope that you enjoy your newsletter for the month of November.

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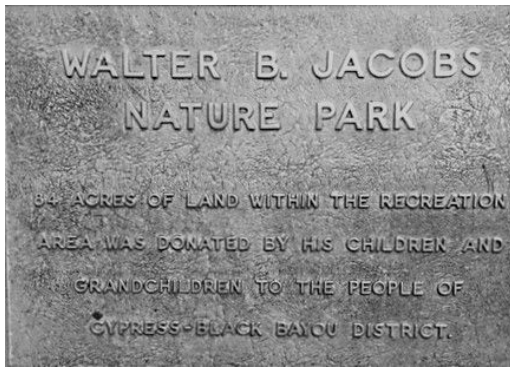


Cypress Nature Study Center

by [Jennyne Pinter](#) on November 19, 2018

In the late 1970s, the Cypress Nature Study Center became a first-of-its-kind creation in Louisiana. The Center provides education about the ecology of Northern Louisiana through a variety of exhibits. Along with a large number of taxidermied displays of indigenous wildlife, there is also a live aquarium where students and adults alike are able to get a close viewing of live baby alligators, a variety of turtles and a number of species of fish.

At the entrance of the building is perhaps the most impressive component of the Nature Center: a vast array of mounted birds. Meticulous care in taxidermy went into these 86 aviary displays, and the detailed effort shows in their life-like positions and personalities.

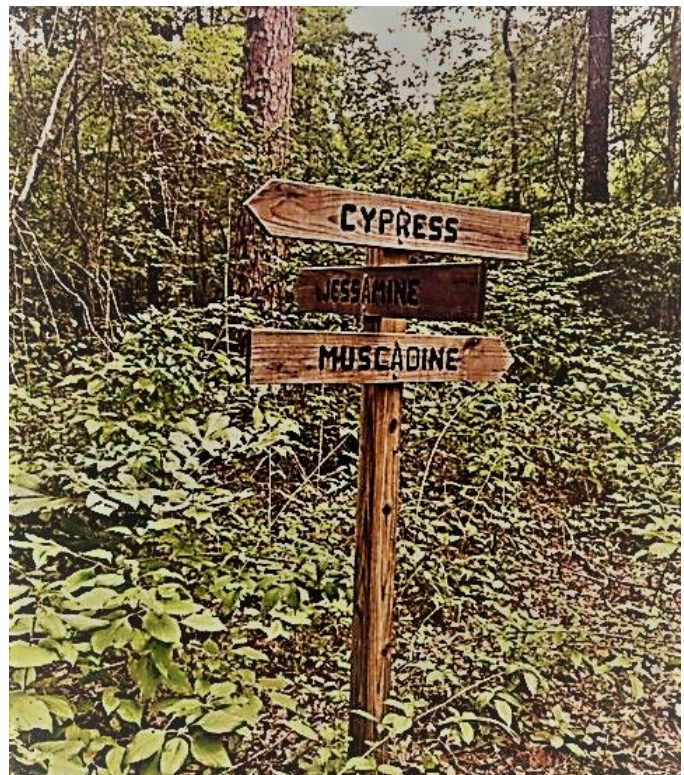


A wealth of information is available to read and enjoy, as well as display cases filled with pelts, skulls, teeth and shells. And while the literature about local plant life is a great resource, a wonderful circuit of walking trails weaves throughout a 5-mile area behind the building. Native trees, bushes and plants adorn both the paved handicapped paths as well as the rustic trails. Mexican Plum trees bloom beautiful white flowers and shed off their tart berries, and

majestic vines spin in an almost art-like fashion around the barrels of large oaks and beech trees.

The Bossier Parish School Board runs a program for school field trips at the Nature Center. Ms. Kelly Kruthof is in her first year as the BPSB Nature Center Director, and she refers to the experience thus far as being her “dream job.” At this month’s Board meeting, Ms. Kruthof shared more than a dozen positive remarks left by visitors in the sign-in book and extended her thanks to the Board of Commissioners for their trust and support in her efforts.

While the field trips impact more than 1000 students each month, over a hundred walk-in guests will have also enjoyed the facility. Just as with the Cypress Zoo, there is no additional cost to visit the Nature Center (both are included with the gate entry), so be sure to note it on your list of the things-to-do with your guests over the holidays!





Board of Commissioners Meeting Recap

by [Jennyne Pinter](#) on November 26, 2018

This is just a little expansion on some of the topics found in the minutes. I'll recap important highlights, but will only elaborate on issues of my choosing based on relevance to the community at large. If anyone should ever so desire, all meetings are recorded and preserved and may be accessed with permission through the administration at the Front Gate, M-F from 8-4.

In the Director's Report, Mr. Berry mentioned the October dam inspection and stated that he is still waiting on the printed report and that there was some damage caused by hogs that would need to be addressed. He also mentioned that there has been 2 incidents of verbal abuse toward CBB staff members and that he is putting measures in place to protect the employees.

[\[Redacted\]](#)

President - Gary Wyche **Secretary** - Walter Bigby **Vice President** - Alan Warren
Board Member - Jerry Fowler **Executive Director** - Robert Berry



Photo Courtesy of Philip Wilkinson/Leading Lens Photography
www.leadinglensphoto.com

Mr. Berry and staff rescued a landowner's boat which had become loose from its tether and floated to a vacant lot. The boat sticker allowed the park to find its owner.

The Thanksgiving Holiday was very busy for the RV park.

Salvinia continues to rear its ugly head in a few spots. The cold temperatures and rain make it hard to spray, but as soon as there is a break to give us a few days of dry with some slightly warmer temps, we will be out there.

The Marina is officially closed for the season.

The 2019 Boat Stickers are available for sale at the Front Gate!

Please remember to visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)!



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