



Volunteers enjoy visiting with old and new friends (left to right): Kakkie Cunningham (butterfly garden), John Shaffer (roving naturalist), Sally McCoy (gift shop), and John Kent (natural guard). FWNC&R Staff Photo.

HANDS & HEARTS 2019

By Laura Veloz, Natural Scientist/Volunteer Coordinator

On the afternoon of February 23, the Hardwicke Interpretive Center welcomed volunteers to the Nature Center's annual Hands & Hearts celebration. This gathering provides the opportunity for staff and fellow volunteers to pay tribute to individuals who achieved hourly milestones and notable collaborations in 2018. The generous support of volunteers each year helps make the Refuge a great place to experience nature and enables the Nature Center to provide environmental stewardship to the community.

Laughter and conversation among friends and acquaintances kicked off the celebration. Attendees participated in "Find the volunteer who..." to learn interesting facts about each other,



Honorees for the 50-hour pin (L to R): Dee McGinnis (roving naturalist), John Corley (animal care), Melinda Crudup (docent), Wendy Elias (canoe guide), Doreen & Brett Hernandez (natural guard), Thomas Murphy (docent), and Judy Sheridan (greenhouse). FWNC&R Staff Photo.

including who spoke the most languages, who has traveled to the most countries, and who is not allergic to poison ivy. After hors d'oeuvres catered by Always Good Catering, special individuals who donated their time to the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge were honored.

Thank you to the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center for sponsoring Hands & Hearts and providing food and refreshments. A huge "thank you" goes to volunteers for their present and past

contributions of time and their dedication to the Nature Center and its mission. Honestly, we cannot do it without you.

The honorees for Hands & Hearts for significant accomplishments and for hours served through the end of 2018 are:

2018 Bison Honorees

Animal Care Volunteer – David Kist
Canoe Volunteer – Wendy Elias
Docent Volunteer – Gary Lacy
Greenhouse Volunteer – Jesse Becker
Natural Guard Volunteer – John Kent
Volunteer Intern – Sean Cazier
Youth Volunteer – Vincent Miranda

500 Hours – Bison Pin

Godbee, Amanda
Hall, Sue

400 Hours – Great Blue Heron Pin

Adame, Allyson
Clouse, Steve
McArdle, Sarah
Morgan, Kate
Schwarzer, Hester

300 Hours – Swallowtail Pin

Clouse, Steve
Cunningham, Kakkie

200 Hours – Cardinal Pin

Barber, Beth
Hevel, Corey
Newberry, Kerri

100 Hours – Chickadee Pin

Almazan, Emma
Burton, Avon
Carey, Joan
Cazier, Sean
Hernandez, Brett
Hernandez, Doreen
Matthews, Jennifer
Newberry, Kerri

Walker, Stan
Weyandt, Bonnie

50 Hours – Tadpole Pin

Almazan, Emma
Carey, Joan
Cazier, Sean
Corley, John
Crudup, Melinda
Elias, Wendy
Hernandez, Brett

Hernandez, Doreen
Huebner, Krista
Huebner, Tim
Kissinger, Corey
Matthews, Jennifer
McGinnis, Dee
Murphy, Thomas
Newberry, Kerri
Sheridan, Judy
Thornburgh, Sandy