

Big Bend National Park

Interpretive Activities

November 23 – November 29, 2008

Visitor Center Hours

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|--------------------|---|----------|---|---------|-------|------------------|
| Panther Junction | - | 8:00 AM | - | 6:00 PM | Daily | |
| Chisos Basin | - | 8:00 AM | - | 3:30 PM | Daily | closed for lunch |
| Persimmon Gap | - | 10:00AM | - | 4:00 PM | Daily | closed for lunch |
| Rio Grande Village | - | 8:30 AM | - | 4:00 PM | Daily | closed for lunch |
| Castolon | - | 10:00 AM | - | 5:00 PM | Daily | closed for lunch |

Sunday, November 23

9:00 AM Guided Walk – “Big Bend Exotica” An amazing variety of plants and animals are native to Big Bend, but many exotic species have now moved in too. Join Resource Assistant A. Myers to learn how and why these species got to Big Bend and how they interact with the native flora and fauna. Meet at Boquillas Canyon Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. ½ mile. 1 hour.

10:30 AM Guided Walk – “Survival of The Fittest” For plants, surviving the extremes of desert climates requires an amazing array of special adaptations. Join Resource Assistant E. Bosarge for an easy walk to take a closer look at some of the common plants found in Big Bend. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Easy walk on the Panther Path. 45 minutes.

Monday, November 24

10:30 AM Morning Program – “Expeditions into the Big Bend” Join Resource Assistant A. Myers for an overview of the Spanish and Anglo efforts to explore, survey, and map the Big Bend region from 1535 to 1901. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

2:30 PM Afternoon Program – “Flipflops in the Desert? Not!” The warm desert climate makes us want to let our toes and feet free to breathe, but walking out from the pavement in sandals and flipflops is not the best idea. Resource Assistant E. Bosarge, desert novice, relates from personal experience some hard lessons learned. Meet at Panther Junction Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 30 minutes.

Tuesday, November 25

10:00 AM Guided Walk -- "Be An Animal Track Sleuth" A good animal track sleuth uses many clues and observation techniques, not only to gather evidence to identify tracks, but also to improve awareness, understanding and appreciation of the outdoors. Meet Ranger A. Yost at the Hot Springs parking lot. ½ mile. 1 hour. **Note: Motorhomes and oversize vehicles are prohibited on the one-way sections of the Hot Springs road.**

1:00 PM Afternoon Program – “The Agave Connection” How could the loss of an endangered bat impact the production of tequila? Join Volunteer Jim Allen to learn the answer and how agave is transformed into potent drinks. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

7:30 PM Evening Program -- "Tales of the Texas Rangers” The taming of the last frontier, West Texas and the Big Bend, was made possible by the famed Texas Rangers. Join Ranger R. Dean in this fascinating program about Big Bend’s most famous lawmen. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour. **Rio Grande Village Amphitheater.**

Wednesday, November 26

10:30 AM Morning Program – “Giants of Big Bend” From a 30 foot crocodile to one of the largest flying animals ever known, paleontologists have discovered a vast array of prehistoric giants in Big Bend National Park. Join Ranger C. Wonderly to discover the stories of some of these fascinating creatures. Meet at the Chisos Basin Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 30 minutes.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Captured” For nearly a century the Comanche launched raids through Texas and Mexico. During the raids, children were abducted and adopted into the Comanche lifestyle. Some captives, when given an opportunity to leave, chose to continue living with their Comanche families. Join Ranger A. Yost to hear their stories. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour. **Chisos Basin Amphitheater.**

See Other Side for More Programs

Thursday, November 27 - Thanksgiving

10:00 AM Morning Program – “Giants of Big Bend” From a 30 foot crocodile to one of the largest flying animals ever known, paleontologists have discovered a vast array of prehistoric giants in Big Bend National Park. Join Ranger C. Wonderly to discover the stories of some of these fascinating creatures. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 30 minutes.

11:30 AM Morning Program – “Bad Bear, Bad!” Encountering a black bear anywhere in Texas would be a very rare event, except in the Chisos Mountains. Here, bears and humans must exist side by side. Ranger D. Davis provides an overview of recent bear-related incidents and what you should do in the event of an encounter. Meet at the Chisos Basin Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

2:00 PM Afternoon Program – “Green Gold: The Most Valuable Plant in the Desert” In the historic Big Bend, an endemic industry existed alongside the more mainstream endeavors of ranching and mining. Join Volunteer Jan Allen for a look at the story of candelilla wax production in the Big Bend. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Visitor Center. 45 minutes.

Friday, November 28

10:00 AM Guided Walk -- "Silent Paws" Most people don't see them, but lions do live in Big Bend. Their continued survival depends on how well we learn to coexist with them. Join Ranger T. Smith for a walk through lion habitat to learn about their behavior and role in nature. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1.6 miles. 2 hours.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Written In Stone” Big Bend has seen it all – ocean, wetland, forest, prairie, and desert. Evidence of these ecosystems remains in the rocks throughout Big Bend. Join Ranger J. Timmer for a closer look at these habitats and how they fit into Big Bend's bigger picture. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour. **Rio Grande Village Amphitheater.**

Saturday, November 29

10:30 Morning Program – “Build Green” Adobe bricks are a construction material that can last 2500 years or melt away in a generation. Join Volunteer R. Payne for a hand's-on look at adobe construction through the years and a chance to build your own brick. Meet at the Castolon Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

2:00 PM Afternoon Program – “Bad Bear, Bad!” Encountering a black bear anywhere in Texas would be a very rare event, except in the Chisos Mountains. Here, bears and humans must exist side by side. Ranger D. Davis provides an overview of recent bear-related incidents and what you should do in the event of an encounter. Meet at the Chisos Basin Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

7:30 PM Special Evening Program -- “An Evening With the Stars” Join Ranger M. Manning to explore the night skies over Big Bend. If possible, bring binoculars, a flashlight, and a lawn chair or blanket. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour. Meet at the **Chisos Basin Amphitheater parking lot.**