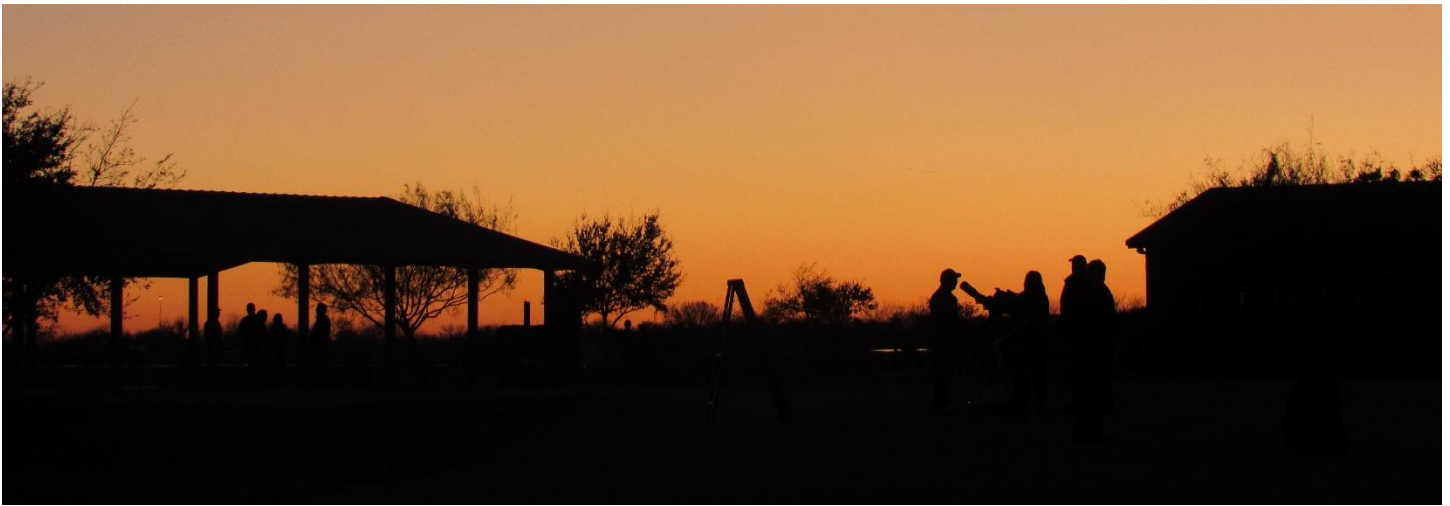




January 2020

## Nueces Delta Preserve Hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Star Party

by Kathryn Tunnell



Stargazers flocked to the Nueces Delta Preserve last weekend for Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program's (CBBEP) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Star Party! CBBEP's environmental education program, Delta Discovery, partnered with the Corpus Christi Astronomical Society (CCAS) to host the night time experience, which featured a lecture, guided nature walks, children's activities, s'mores, and half a dozen telescopes set up for families to view the constellations. The goal of the program is to introduce families to the wonders of the universe and inspire the next generation of astronomy enthusiasts, and it was a wonderful success!

Over 200 people attended the event, which began with an amazing clearing of the skies! Local astronomers from CCAS then sighted different objects so visitors could enjoy galaxies, stars, planets, and our own moon. "It was wonderful to see so many families taking the opportunity to explore and learn at the Delta," said Kim Ogden, Education Coordinator for Delta Discovery, "Because the event was held during a Wolf Moon, the moon surface and lunar phases were a focus, but visitors were also able to view Orion Nebula (over 1,300 light years away) and the Andromeda Galaxy, which is 2.5 Million light years away!"

Star parties are excellent opportunities for those new to astronomy because they give beginners a chance to use different kinds of equipment. In addition to stargazing with telescopes, visitors were given instruction on how to use binoculars, birding scopes, and simply looking up with guidance, to see the moon, stars, and planets. "The children acted as the experience explorers they are," said Kim, "But the childlike wonder of the adults in attendance revealed just how many people needed this opportunity to decompress in nature."





It's looking like this will be an annual event, but you don't have to wait until next January to visit the Nueces Delta Preserve. Family Star Party is just one of many opportunities for the public to visit the Preserve including Family Picnic Days, Homeschool Days, and Nature Story Time. Visit <http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org/events/> for more information on those programs.

View additional photos on the Caller Times at <https://www.caller.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2020/01/12/star-party-photos/4445944002/>.

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of the Texas Coastal Bend. For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Kathryn Tunnell at (361)336-0311 or [ktunnell@cbbep.org](mailto:ktunnell@cbbep.org). This report published in October 2018.

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