**Cedar Lake Plantation Trail Improvement and Extension**

The Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR) are raising funds to enable the improvement of the Cedar Lake Plantation Trail on the Stringfellow Unit of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. This trail is currently one-half mile of mowed grass that follows the east bank of Cocklebur Slough, which dissects the approximately 933-acre Stringfellow Unit of the refuge at the intersection of FM 2611 and CR 316.

The unit adjoins the property of the John McCroskey house. Build of hand hued cedar logs from nearby Cedar Lake in 1824, it is the oldest surviving structure in Brazoria County. In 1852, C. K. Reese turned it into a working cotton plantation that he named “Cedar Lake” and made improvements that form the basic structure of today’s building, two log cabins connected by an enclosed dog trot, a loft, a porch and a lean-to addition. Nannie M. Stringfellow purchased the house in 1945 and her nephew Percy Beacroft, restored the cabin to its appearance as a prosperous mid-nineteenth century plantation house. The Cedar Lake Plantation Trail will explain both the natural and historical features of this land.

Elements of our project include the construction of a parking lot with a solar-activated gate, building two crossings of the slough, extending the trail to a length of 1.1 miles with a section on the west side of the slough, surfacing the path with granite fines, and installing benches and signs. The north section of the trail will pass by the McCroskey house. The estimated cost of this project is $73,000, and will begin in the first quarter of 2018, with expected completion in the fall of next year.