

3-16-02

7:15<sup>ish</sup> am: left Pitt. late. Had to wait in the cold for Kip w/ the van. Dr. T arrived at 7:10<sup>am</sup>; which for him isn't that bad. Troubles with radio's illustrates importance of communication. (My) Thoughts are with Steven in Parsons... I pray all gets worked out.

1:30pm: left Walmart → lunch. Kip says to note that we saw a seagull. For Dr. Ford (sassy voice) Cold sandwiches; ice tea and cookies for lunch. Now onto the N. Solphor to jump into the cold cold water and sine for some little fish. Probably not so different than a early dip into Lake Michigan... only with shoes on. My thoughts are still with Steven...

4:30ish?: Sine Sabine River; two groups Dr. T vs KIP. Dr. T (me too) caught more/larger fish and stayed drier Kip was chest deep by the end. Ground very slippery, lots of clay sediment. Dr. T's group even caught a white bass → met off of boat ramp. A few mosquito fish out of stagnant ponds. Water quite cold ~ to lake Michigan in August.

7:00<sup>pm</sup>ish: arrive at Tyler State park set up camp in darkness. I lost tent, still not found, and it's a six man deal... I made dinner; chicken alfredo and salad; it was enjoyed by all.

11:30pm: To bed. Inside sleeping bag under my feathery happiness. It reminds me of Steven... but then again, everything does.

3-17-02 7:00am: Rise and shine. Showered with a quick orange tot breakfast. Slept sound all night through. Wake up to a light rain, but stopped soon, and has not returned. Happy St. Patrick's Day! I enjoy walking around the park. There are dozens of spider webs on the ground. I suppose they could be similar in Michigan, but with the rain droplets they stand out as mini opaque-trampolines. Nothing is know about baby's agenda, but that we are to drive and get in a river. (surprise) As always we have hurried-up to break camp to sit and

wait. Which is about as common as Dr. T. losing his glasses. (Did I mention he has to put in contacts today?)

It is nice to see trees in bloom and green plants push up through the damp ground. This camp ground is hillier than I expected. Very nice; would like to walk more, but we need to get on the road. I commented last night on the way to the bathroom, which is ALL uphill. How good rollerblading / street lounge would be; lots of curves to the road.

Kip's planning the days route... which I'm sure Dr. T. will change. I miss dancing as I listen to track #13 on Mo'lan Rouge Soundtrack.

12:30 ish: lunch @ good ol' McDonald's → due to wet weather.

1:10: Arrive at Little Brazos River. Sine: Pick-up ≈ 6 new species including a Mad Tom, channel catfish, some sunfish and Black-top shinner. The access was quite an off-road bazaar... Ground was slick → to say the very least; lots of clay. Usually sank up to mid shin (and it always wanted to keep my shoe.)

3:10 Left River → One the road again... Planning on one gas stop then high-tail it to campsite.

6:00ish: Arrive at camp & set up. Wonderful place! We'll wish to stay another day despite the No swimming Alligators / Possums snake signs. (Tyler State Park.) Very warm, and dry → as good camping should be.

7:30 pm Ran to Walmart with Linsey to pick up bugals & smores. Dinner chilli / hot dogs.

9:00 pm watch gators with Kip; walked marshy coast. Saw an armadillo! Up close & personal. Saw gators from dock up close and personal. Very, very wonderful place.

3-18-02

7:00am wake-up. Magically a dump truck came through to wake us all up. Dr. T said he was a little late. \*smile\* Still warm with a cool breeze, overcast. I wish to take pictures... yet I don't feel like it. Don't feel like much since Steven Texana

9:05am Pull out of ~~Texana~~; Saw Squirrel Tree Frog and Great Egret. Warm; but muggy.

10:00am - stop @ H.E.B. to get food; saw laughing seagulls

10:30 - Leaving H.E.B.; saw little Egret on road side; saw caracara; Flamingo

11:30am - Arrive @ Aransas Wildlife Refuge; watched video for State Parks 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, and walked around center. I watch another 12 min film about the park itself.

12:15pm: drove loop saw brown pelicans, mocking bird & white-tail deer.

12:45pm: saw whooping ~~cranes~~ cranes after climbing the large tower; also saw Great Blue Heron, & Great Egret

1:15pm: lunch time; ate at small park in Aransas; I did some vine swinging on the living oak trees.

1:50pm: pack-up from lunch; stopped to see fenced in Gadsden... better view at Texana

2:18pm: leaving Aransas; heading for Goose Island

3:02pm: Arrive @ Goose, Hwy 35; north of Rockport. Sine ocean. ~ 10-12 new species. In Aransas County. Shore mostly broken shells, some tide pools. Weather warm despite wind. Work on our chain-gang-look from using the micro-sine net.

4:30: arrive @ N. Padre beach set-up in the dark. Very windy. I wish people would understand that everything will be sandy... \*sigh\* they will

Pinner was sloppy Joe.

9:00pm - Scanned beach saw ghost crabs & Jelly Fish.  
I slept in the van ~~here~~ because I know what it's like  
to sleep in the sand... girls were very wet in the  
morning... due to open windows to allow wind to pass  
through and not knock the tent over.

Tuesday March 19, 2002

7:00am Breakfast

8:00am Dip into the ocean. My first time swimming  
in the ocean. Just like the lake, really... only  
salt water. Michigan.

Once a good storm blows in the waves are  
really the ~~same~~ same.

9:20am - Stop to Shower @ Visitor center. Cold Shower  
Sprocketometer is broken in the Grand Pre... Dr. T  
is trying to blame me, but he was the last one to  
drive it last night... then it begins working again.  
Probably sand in the gear.

10:25am: leaving Visitor center heading to Corpus  
Christi.

11:30am: arrive at Texas State Aquarium; walk  
around. I ran into two older couples from Michigan  
we talk for a while.

1:25pm - ate lunch in parking lot now on the road heading  
south.

2:30pm - Stop @ H.E.B. to pick-up food; hit road and  
head South on 77.

4:07pm Group project of reading the newest Enguiler  
and doing the puzzle (crossword)

5:33pm arrive @ Thomas Park; saw lots of Sugar cane  
and some orange trees. Very windy.

set-up ~~just~~ before dark. (what a surprise) Very-low  
standard place compared to Texana. Smelly bathroom...  
run-down everything. Dr. T swears it is the best around.  
\*Sigh\* that's just sad... Dinner was grilled-ham-mchese  
with Mashed potatoes and brocolii

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

8:40am: left Thomae park & headed south to Mexico.  
today is a dry day in Mexico! windy, (switch, now out  
of North.) Cloudy & cool

9:30am: arrive @ Laguna Atascosa; very cute place.  
Bird watching stations; saw great tail Grackle, Green Jade  
bird, cow-birds, wood-peckers, Pigeons; Butterfly garden.  
Could not drive loop due to paving the roads  
Walked around the center. Nice big cat exhibit. 3 small  
films we all watched. I talked to Susan one of the  
biologist working on the oscolet.

10:35am: left Laguna Atascosa Refuge,

11:35am arrive at Brownsville and got lunch @ H.E.B.

12:35am: leave H.E.B head for the border.

Cross border met more people for Michigan... U.P.  
around Eskanaba.

3:00pm Dr. T. & Chris left early ~~off~~ to S. Padre

5:35pm we leave Mexico!! Just started having fun.  
Went with Kip, Brandon & Ron bar hopping. Dancing in  
Cantina. Great stress relief.

6:35 pm arrive @ Thomae Park ~~then~~ BEFORE Dr. T &  
Chris. Dinner is Shrimp



Thursday March 21, 2002

9:30am Break camp and head for S. Padre. Camp is all packed and we are ready to Go HOME!

11:00am - Sine S. Padre @ Windsurfing area. Mostly drums... drums... drums. Caught a squid while he was eating...

2:00pm: Finished eating lunch by the van; sun came out rather nice out of the cold win. Caught a <sup>3</sup>Robin ~~Fish~~ Pulled out micro sine worked out in veggie line → nothing new. Rob nearly came down with hypothermia after a quick swim pulling the net.

3<sup>30</sup>ishpm. Moved to Southern most tip of island tried to Sine real ocean surf. TOO waves. I stayed dry on the beach with Rob while everyone else went swimming. Caught 2 new species and a Portuguese Manta ray.

5:00pm: moved to Jetties to get Molly - something fish. Caught 4 or 5. Showered → VERY quickly... Showers reminded me of WW II gas chambers without a ceiling.

6:30pm Shopping on main strip.

8:00pm dinner @ Whataburger then hit the road for home.

10pm → 1am I drove Grand Pre

2-7am Slept through Dallas

7:30-2pm: drove from Mesquite to home.

Glad to be home.