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Sunday March 19, 2006
First day on spring break trip

We left a little after seven this morning. The weather outside was cold and rainy. As we stopped several times along the way I notices the weather getting warmer. I also noticed that the further south we traveled the more plants that where in flower and there where more leaves on trees. Our first night stay is at a state park near Tylor Texas. I collected no plants or fish but did see several raccoons near our camp. It is pretty chilly tonight, hopefully it warms up tomorrow.

Monday March 20, 2006

Today we left the park where we stayed. The night before was very wet. As we traveled south the vegetation changed dramatically. Near Tylor the trees where mostly tall coniferous trees. As our group moved south there where fewer trees and the trees that where present where short. The closer we got to Austin the dryer the climate seemed. Near Austin there where cacti, shrubs and short trees. I gathered several different families of plants for my collection near the Colorado river. We also caught several fish in the Colorado river. The Colorado river valley had many flowers in bloom and I gathered sunflowers and poppies. We set up camp at lake Texana where we saw several deer and an alligator.

Tuesday March 21, 2006

Today our spring break group arrived at the ocean. The land was much flatter there where many cacti and short shrubs and the coastal plain. We visited a wetland marsh. The vegetation there was mad mostly of grasses. There are many more green trees and some palm trees closer to the coast. The costal plain is much different than the Colorado river valley we drove through yesterday. It is much drier and warmer. We caught several fish including pipefish and drums. The pipefish seemed to be where there where many waves. We saw several different birds including whooping cranes and pelicans. I collected seven species of plants near the Aransas national park. In the Aransas park we saw wild hogs and an alligator. The park was very interesting. The parks rangers do periodic controlled burns to prevent invasive species from taking over. The tree line around the ocean seemed to be shaped by the coastline. The trees that where very near to the ocean had a very thick coat over their leaves to protect them from salt spray.

Wednesday March 22, 2006

Today when I woke up it was very windy. We stayed on the beach on North Padre. The sand was very fine and got everywhere. The beach was littered with sargasum weed

washed in from the sargaso sea. As we headed southwest the terrain was still very flat and dry, although it did rain some today. We caught several species of fish today at our camp site next to the mouth of the Colorado river. The trees here are still pretty short although there are some tall palm trees. I noticed fewer wildflowers along the road, but the flowers we saw and collected where short and seemed to be fitted for a dry climate well.

Thursday March 23, 2006

It was very cool and windy this morning, but it warmed up through the day. We visited Laguna Atascosa national park and saw several interesting birds, an osprey and some roseate spoonbills. The park was very dry and there where many cacti. In places brush tangled and made a thick maze, which must be hard to move through. The brush probably provides a safe haven for many animals. After we visited the park we took a trip to Mexico. The plants and climate in Mexico resembled those of southern Texas. Short trees and shrubs covered the horizon. I collected some sensitive weed, a cool weed that closes its leaves when touched Chris caught an Atlantic Stingray of the fishing pier in the Colorado river tonight.

Friday March 24, 2006

Today was another cool morning, but we left around 8:30 to do some seining. We seined the mouth of the Rio Grande river. The island we seined on was covered in short grasses, and the beach was littered with sargasum weed. In the fresh sargasum weed we gathered we found sargasum fish and nuedebrants living in the wed. These organisms lived and blended in with the weed forming a little ecosystem of organisms in the weed. After eating and bandaging wounds from barnacles we headed to south padre island which was mostly short grasses and sand. Although there where some tall palm trees scattered through the island. While on the island we seined Laguna Madre and collected several new pipe fish and some flounders in the mud. Later we seined the boat ramp at the Colorado river and gathered a few new anchovies and many fish we had already caught.

Saturday March 25, 2006

Today was one of the nicest days on the trip. We seined South Padre island beach. The water was cool, but we caught several new species . On the south end of South Podre we caught a molly miller which lives in and around rocks in the protected bay near south padre. Then we ate and headed north. As we drove North fewer plants where in flower but it was much wetter than south Texas. In southern Texas farmers had already planted corn. In Kansas corn wont be planted for another couple of weeks. Also in southern Texas there where many fields that used irrigation ditches to keep the crops moist. Further north irrigation ditches are not required.

Sunday March 19, 2006
First day on spring break trip.

We left a little after seven this morning. The weather was cold and rainy. As we stopped several times along the way I noticed that it was getting a little warmer out. Also as we moved farther south I noticed that there where more plants in flower and more leaves on the trees.
Our first night stay is at a state park near Tylor Tetas. I collected no fish or plants but did see a racoon near our camp. It is pretty chilly tonight so hopefully it warms up some tomorrow.

Monday 3/20/06
~~Slept near Tylor~~ 1
~~left~~

Today we left from ~~Tylr~~ a national park near Tylor Texas. The night before was very wet. As we traveled south the vegitatation changed dramaticaly. Near Tylor there were many tall trees, mostly pine trees. As our group moved South I noticed ~~that~~ ~~there~~ trees where much shorter. Also I noted that there where fewer trees and hardly any pine trees. The closer we got to Austin the dryer the climate seemed closer to Austin there where ~~cl~~ cactus shrubs and shorter trees. I gathered several different families of plants for my collection. It appeared that as we moved ~~north~~ ~~South~~ further south there where more plants with flowers I gathered several plants from the sunflower, and poppy family. We set up camp for the night at lake ~~Texam~~ Texana where we saw several deer and an Aligator.

Tuesday 3/21/00

- Today our Spring break group arrived near the ocean. The land was much flatter and there where many cactus and ~~Smath~~ shrubs on the coastal plane. We visited ~~the~~ a wetland marsh. The vesitation there was mostly grasses. The Climate is warmer and there are many more green Trees and some palm trees closer to the Coast. The coastal plane is much different than the Colorado river vally we drove through yesteday. It is much dryer and warmer. We collected several Species of fish Incoding pipefish, drums, and ~~Sotfish~~ minows. The pipefish where found more ~~in the~~ near ~~a~~ a beach with more waves. ~~We also~~ ~~found~~ We saw several different binds incuding Whooping cranes and pelicans. I collected seven species of plants near the Aransas national park.

In the Aransas park we saw several wild hogs and an Aligator. The park was very interesting. They did controled burns to prevent invasive species from taking over the park.

Tonight we set up camp on the beach. On the way to the beach we saw several ~~dauphins~~ ~~dout~~ dauPhins surfacing. I'm glad the wheather is warmer

The treeline around the ocean seamed to be shaped by the coastline the trees that where vert near the coast had very thick ~~leave~~ coat over their leaves to ~~plant~~ ~~that~~ protect them from salt I would assume

Wednesday 3/22

Today when I woke up it was very windy. We stayed on ~~the~~ a beach on North padre. The sand was very fine and got everywhere. The beach was litteled with sargasum weed. We heas southwest in some cold weather. At a stop North of corpus christi I gathered several poppys. The terrain is still very flat and fairly dry although we did get some rain today. Our camp tonight is on the Colorado river. near the ocean so the water is salty. We went fishing and ~~a~~ caught several different species of fish, Including an eel. Most of the fish ~~is~~ caught in the river ~~that we caught~~ where drums, although ~~we~~ Gabe did accidently shag a flounder with a net. The trees here are still pretty short; however there are some very tall palm trees. I noticed fewer wildflowers along the road, but the flowers I saw and collected where different than the ones further north. These flowers where short and appeared to be fitted for a dry climate well.

Thursday 3/23

It was very cool and windy this morning, but it warmed up through the day. We visited laguna atascosa national park and saw several interesting birds, ~~the~~ an offsprey and some roseate spoonbills. The park was very dry and there where many cacti. In places there was very thick brush which must be hard to move around in. The brush was very dry and tangled. After visiting the park and eating we traveled to mexico. Mexico was very simjar to southern Texas. The climate and ~~the~~ plants looked ~~the~~ resembled that of the plants and climate in texas. Chris went fishing tonight and caught an atlantic stingray in the Colorado near our campsite.

Friday 3/24/06

Another cool morning, but we left around 8:30 to do some seining. We seined the mouth of the Rio Grande river which was fairly productive. The Beach on the ~~around~~ inside of the Island was covered in short grasses. The beach was littered with Sargasum weed. ~~The~~ In the fresh Sargasum weed gathered from the ocean we found two sargosum fish and a ~~sa~~ a bunch of Sargasum nudebrants. These ~~fish~~ organisms and blend in with the weed and there appeared to be a ~~that~~ little ecosystem of organisms living in the weed. The rest of the organisms gathered at the Rio grande where the same as fish previosly caught. After eating lunch and bandaging wounds we headed to South padre. South padre Island was mostly sand and short grasses however there where some palms scattered through the island. While on south padre we seined Laguna madre, we gathered several new type fish and some flounders. in the mudd and dead sargasum weed. Before we

went ~~to~~ ~~had~~ ate - and went
to bed we saiaed some boat
ramps on the colorado river we
gathered a few new anchovies but
~~for~~ also ate lot of fish we already
gathered.

Sat 3/25/06

Today was one of the nicest days on the trip ~~we~~ ~~Sn~~ We Spined South padre Island beach The water was a little cool but we caught several new species ~~of~~ Triple fin a new madhaden and a few others. On the South end of south Padre we collected a Bkmat that lived in the weeds attached to the rocks. We headed north around four. As we went north the vegitation changed ~~and~~ ~~at~~ ~~to~~ there where fewer flowers in bloom the further north we went. In the southern Texas Many farmers have already planted corn. and set up irrigation ditches As we went further north There where fewer feilds plated and fewer fields using irrigation ditchs The weather in south Texas was warmer and drier than it is here.