

## ***ANWR Kiosk Project***

### **Project Overview**

By David Clayton

The project was a true collaboration. Refuge staff, Texas Master Naturalists, Friends of Aransas and Matagorda Island (FAMI) members, resident volunteers, spouses of all of the above, and a few "freelance" volunteers all participated.

The design work originated with Refuge staff and was adapted by Norm Hirsch and Carroll Marsh. Site preparation was divided between staff and volunteers. The prefabrication work was almost all done by volunteers. Norm Hirsch, Martha Riccio, Dick Klopshinske, and myself participated in that phase. The last step volunteers were involved in was the concrete work. For safety reasons, the staff did the final assembly of the prefabricated panels and tops. The signage is now being produced and should be done in 3 to 6 months.

I found the project educational in many ways. The best part of the experience was talking with Refuge visitors about what we were doing and about the level of volunteer involvement. When we were digging up one site for the concrete work, we found a rough earth snake (*virginia striatula*). I was moving him away from the site and a large group of visitors asked me what I had. I got to tell them all about those shy little snakes that most Refuge visitors never see. That is the kind of opportunity that raises a day of "labor" to a different level—at least it does for me.

### **Report to the Chapter**

By Norm Hirsch

The ANWR Kiosk Project is officially complete. The project began Jan. 21, 2006 when TMN members David Clayton, Carroll Marsh, and Norman Hirsch met with Charles Holbrook, ANWR Project Leader/Refuge Manager, to review plans for the construction of three kiosks on the Refuge. Construction drawings were made by Norman Hirsch and submitted to Charles Holbrook for approval. Drawings were approved by Charles Holbrook and on March 11, 2006, work began on the project under the supervision of FAMI Project Coordinator Carroll Marsh. One crew, consisting of TMN members David Clayton and Norman Hirsch and other volunteers began the project site layout, earth excavation, and construction of concrete forms for two sites. The second crew, consisting of TMN members Martha Riccio and Dick Klopshinske and other volunteers constructed the roof and panels in the ANWR shop area.





On March 17, 2006, TMN member David Clayton and other volunteers poured concrete in the two constructed forms. On March 18, 2006, TMN members helped finish the construction of the three roof sections and six panels. Additional work days to erect the three kiosks—consisting of a roof and two panels per kiosk—were cancelled by ANWR based on construction safety hazard of volunteers lifting and placing heavy loads. This work was completed by the Refuge employees. The three kiosks are now complete and in place for Refuge visitors to enjoy. One is located near the Alligator Pond north of the Visitor Center; one at Dagger Point, and the third between the Tower and the Boardwalk.

Meals and water for these work days was provided by FAMI under the supervision of Charla Marsh. This was a major project and the cooperative help from ANWR, the TMN Mid-Coast Chapter members, FAMI members, and others made this project a success. A "Big Thanks" goes to everyone who contributed to the success of this project.