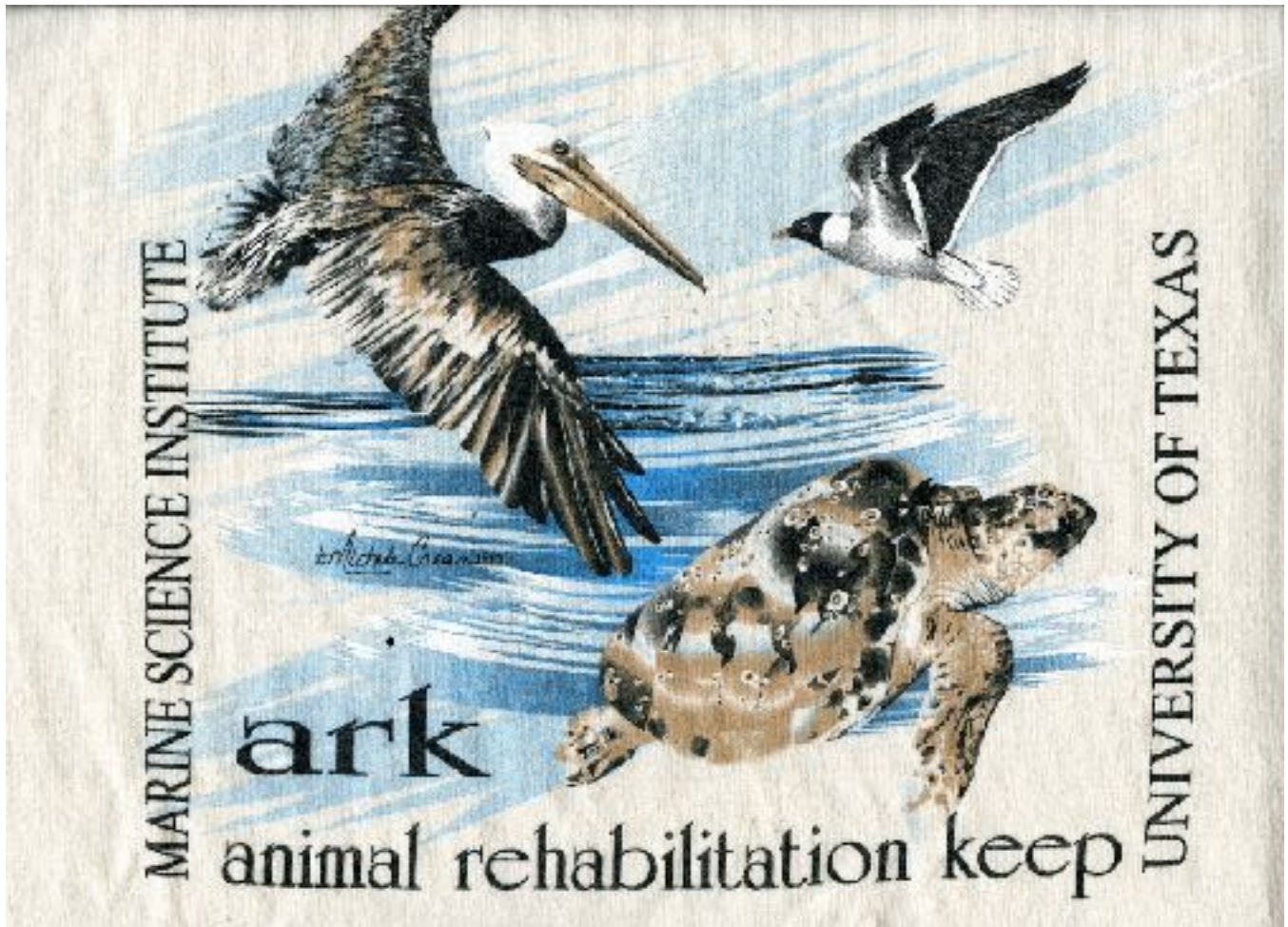


ARK Service Project

BY:

Wyatt McAllister



Project Week Proposal

Student: Wyatt McAllister

Advisor: Jason Daniel

Project Name: ARK Service Project

One sentence description of your project: I am going to go to Port Aransas to volunteer with an experienced Marine Animal expert and help him with his work at a University of Texas Marine Science Institute animal rescue facility called the Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK.)

One paragraph explanation of why this project is important to you and/or the community: I have always loved animals and I think that they are beautiful. I go down to Port Aransas every summer and I usually work at the ARK. I love the people at the ARK and their love for animals. At the ARK they will take in every sick animal that they can. They take in sea turtles, seagulls, dolphins, tortoises, pelicans, raccoons, owls, mice, rats, lizards and much more. Everyone at the ARK believes that animals are living creatures that deserve love and respect. I think that they are right. If I grow up and get rich I would like to create an animal refuge in the rain forest. I think that by working at the ARK I would get a better understanding of animals and that would bring me one step closer to my goal.

Brief description of the necessary way of being for you to ensure the success of your project (ex: organized, courageous, etc.): I will need to be **Brave** because sometimes when I am working with animals I will be scared. For example when I am working with loggerhead turtles I will be afraid of getting bitten because they are capable of biting a man's hand off. I will need to be **Optimistic** because sometimes I will be frustrated. I will need to be **Persistent** because sometimes I will not be able to solve a problem at first but I cannot allow myself to give up. I will need to be **Realistic** because sometimes I will want to be able to achieve the goals that are not achievable in the limited time frame that I have. Finally I will need to be **Caring** because some of the animals will be very ill. I will need to try the best that I can to help them.

Your mentors and their contact information:

Carolyn Rose, UT MSI Volunteer Coordinator, Phone: 361-749-6832, E-Mail: carolyn.rose@mail.utexas.edu

Guy Davis, UT Marine Science Institute volunteer Phone 361-688-5159

Jerri, Volunteer Supervisor, Phone: (361) 749-6793

Tony Amos, Research Fellow at UT Austin Marine Science Institute, Phone: (361) 442-7638

Project Timeline

Action	By When	Result Produced	Date of Completion
Call volunteer supervisor	Feb 9, 2009	Found out what needed to be done to volunteer	Feb 9, 2009
Fill out volunteer forms	Feb 13, 2009	Be able to volunteer	Feb 13, 2009
Watch a video on volunteering and answer questions about it	Mar 9, 2009	Finish application procedure	Mar 9, 2009
Pack	Mar 8, 2009	Be ready for the trip	Mar 8, 2009
Drive to Port Aransas	Mar 8, 2009	Get there	Mar 8, 2009

☼ Eloise McAllister will be driving me every where I need to go. ☼

Pre Project Schedule

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
8-9 am	Feeding, cleaning cages, and doing laundry	Feeding, cleaning cages, and doing laundry	Feeding, cleaning cages, and doing laundry	Feeding, cleaning cages, and doing laundry	Write my reflective essay and finish doing anything that needs doing.
9-10 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
10-11 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
11-12 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	↓
12-1 p.m.	Special project with Tony Amos	Island survey with Tony Amos	Weather station project with Tony Amos	Special project at ARK	↓
1-2 p.m.	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
2-3 p.m.	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
3-4 p.m.	Feed and doctoring	Feed and doctoring	Feed and doctoring	Feed and doctoring	↓
4-5 p.m.	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
after 5 p.m.	Journal work	Journal work	Journal work	Journal work	↓

- Include who will be bringing you to your commitments on the calendar
- Schedule a minimum of ,* minutes a day to keep a journal that includes:
 - What did you do?
 - How did it affect you or the community?
 - What worked, what didn't work?
 - What did you learn?

Materials Needed

Material Needed	Where to get it	Cost
Computer	N/A	N/A
camera	From my wardrobe	N/A
Close toed shoes	From my wardrobe	N/A
Camera	N/A	N/A
Books	Book people	5-10\$
Work clothes	N/A	N/A
Graph paper	N/A	N/A
Calculator	N/A	N/A
Binoculars	N/A	N/A

Post Project Schedule

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
8-9 am	Got up and ate breakfast	Met with Tony and made notebooks	Met Tony at 7:30 and did beach survey	Got up and ate breakfast	Breakfast and went shopping
9-10 am	Fed in the upstairs turtle house	Rescued young pelican	↓	Fed birds and washed cages	Played with my friend
10-11 am	Fed in the outside and Barnacle Bill Turtle Houses	Doctored pelican and removed hooks then helped care for birds	↓	↓	↓
11-12 p.m.	Meeting with supervisor	Lunch	Rescued great blue heron	Lunch	↓
12-1 p.m.	Lunch	↓	Lunch	↓	↓
1-2 p.m.	Worked with Tony Amos	Measured and weighed turtles	Cleaned upstairs turtle house	Went to the hardware and pottery stores	↓
2-3 p.m.	↓	Released 10 green turtles	Helped in the bird hospital	Went back to the ARK	Lunch
3-4 p.m.	Went boating	Drove down and rescued a turtle	Worked on journal	Attempted to fix car	Music lesson
4-5 p.m.	↓	↓	↓	Journal	↓
after 5 p.m.	↓	Weighed measured turtle	Went boating	↓	↓

Wyatt McAllister
3/9/2009

Day One

Hello, my name is Wyatt McAllister and for my project week I am going out to Port Aransas, Texas and working at an animal shelter called the ARK. I am on my first day of my project week and I am having a good time so far. I drove down to Port Aransas yesterday from Bastrop:



I went through Goliad and stopped for something to eat and then I drove all the way to my grandma's house. I then went to a benefit dinner at a local restaurant for the ARK. Then I went to bed.

When I got to my house I saw a huge oil rig passing right through the channel by where I live. I stopped to take a picture of it:

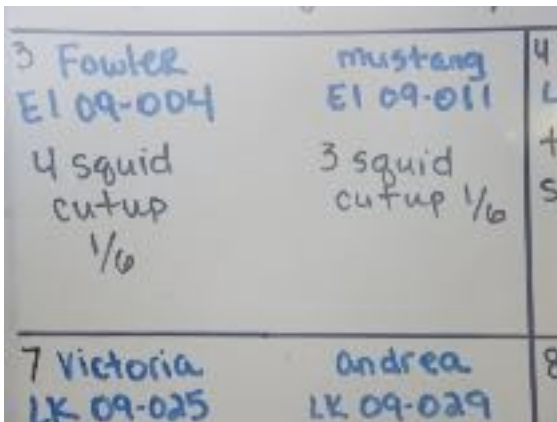


I got up today and went to the ARK. I was supposed to go there at 9:30 A.M. but the volunteer supervisor got sick and passed out so I went to the ARK at 9:00 A.M.

Since the supervisor was sick I got handed over to a volunteer from the Monday shift. His name is Jack Niederhorn. I fed the turtles in the upstairs turtle house:



I then went in and fed the turtles with squids and Caplen fillets. I used a white board that told which turtles got what:



I then went down and fed in the Outside Turtle House. I hand fed the two turtles in one outside pen. Then I went into the Barnacle Bill Turtle House and hand fed the turtles in there and threw Barnacle Bill his share because he would not come up.

I then went and met with the volunteer coordinator:



I went to have lunch and then back to the my house and got some things. Then I went back to the ARK and met Tony Amos, the founder of the ARK and an old friend of my grandma's, and I helped him out. He looks like this:



We worked in the bird hospital for awhile. One of the birds in the hospital died:



So we bagged it:



and then we force fed a cormorant. We made up a fish gruel and I held the bird while Tony fed it. We then fed the raptors mice:



We fed an owl in the outside gazebo:



and a red tailed hawk in the flight cage:



Then we swam a pelican:



Then we released it back into the wild because it had finished recuperating:



Then we fed the baby Kemp's Ridleys turtle gel. Finally we went and cleaned a pelican house and I went home.

I think that you need to know that my grandma has been the major fundraiser for the ARK since its founding. That is the main reason that I got to come and work at the ARK since now your supposed to be 15 years old to work there and I am not. My grandma actually donated so much money to the ark that they renamed it The Edith S. McAllister Animal Rehabilitation Keep after her:



But most people still just call it the ARK because it was renamed so recently.

After I got home from work I got into the boat with my mom and I drove us down to an island along a channel by where my grandma's house is:



We had a picnic there and I read. We went home after that and by that time it was 6:00 P.M. I washed off the boat, had dinner and then started working on this journal.

Now I will tell you about some of the challenges that I faced. My first challenge was that the person that was supposed to take care of me passed out. That was very inconvenient for me and I also felt sorry for her. It was also good because I got to spend time with Tony and he is awesome. I handled this challenge by not getting upset and just trying to make the best of my day.

My second challenge was that I thought cutting up raw fish and squid with the heads on them was fairly disgusting. I handled this challenge by just thinking of all the hungry turtles and telling myself that the job needed to be done.

My third challenge was driving the boat. I have not driven a boat in awhile and it was a little hard. I handled this challenge by just trying to drive the best I could and have fun with it. I ended up having a good boat ride.

Now I will tell you about my successes of of the day. My first success was that I got to see a pelican get released.

My second success was that I held a cormorant without flinching.

My final success was that I drove a boat for two hours without crashing.

Wyatt McAllister
3/10/2009

Day Two

Hello, my name is Wyatt McAllister and for my project week I am going out to Port Aransas, Texas and working at an animal shelter called the ARK. I am on my second day of my project week and I am having a good time so far.

I got up today at 7:45 A.M. and got to the ARK at 8:30 A.M. I then met with Tony and went to the UT Marine Science Institute and helped Tony make field note books. He writes them on a program called "I write it myself." He made two books worth of pages with four notebook pages worth on one page:



We cut the pages out and then I interleaved them. Then we bound them:



and left the building.

As we were walking back to the ARK Tony got a call from a grad student about an entangled pelican in the marina right next to us. We went there and found the pelican:

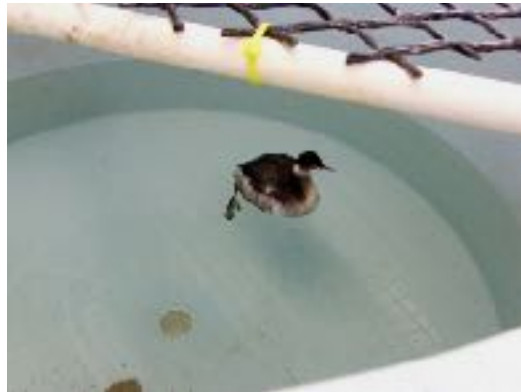


It was severely injured so we said goodbye to the grad student and went back to the ARK to treat it. It turned out to have five hooks imbedded in its flesh. That is a record number for Tony. It had one in its upper bill, one in its lower bill, one in its shoulder, one in its head, and one through its foot. We operated on it. The volunteer supervisor, who is named Jerri, helped us. She looks like this:



Me and Jerri held the pelican down while Tony pulled the hooks out of him. We then put him in a cage so that he could have a chance to recover.

After that I helped Jerri feed and doctor the other birds in the hospital. We force fed the cormorant. Then we swam an Eared grebe:



and a pelican:



After that we fed all of the small turtles by putting them all in a pool and throwing Capelin fillets in:



After that I went to lunch at Moby Dick's and had a seafood platter. I then went to a pottery store with my mom and bought her a present. Then I went home and changed into some new clothes. I went back to the ARK after that. We released ten green turtles into the channel by the ARK. First we weighed and measured them:



My mom wrote down the measurements on a notepad, Tony took the measurements, and me and Jerri held the turtles. After that we released the turtles into the channel. We did the turtles in three batches. In each batch each one of us carried a turtle then I would climb down the rocks to the waters edge and someone would hand a turtle to me and I would release it into the water when a big wave came:



We did this for a few hours and I was the only one to actually release the turtles except for my mom who did it a few times. I had a great time seeing the turtles flying off to freedom. I hope that they are having a good life.

After that Tony got a call about a Kemp's Ridley turtle on a beach in Kleberg county. The call came from the Parks and Wildlife Service who had been called by the people who had *actually* seen the turtle. They did not give Tony very much information

but we ended up finding the turtle anyway. It was covered in moss and part of its right front flipper was missing:



We took it back to the ARK and made a bed for it in a kiddy pool:



Then I went to dinner at a place called *Pelicans Landing* and had king crab legs. I got the last of the box which was five arms!! It took me two hours to get all of the meat out. By then I felt like barfing so I took the meat home. It was hilarious to watch me try to break open the claws. By the end of it I was covered in fish juice. I would hammer at them and still not get them to open. I would have to get the pinchers around the claw and then put it on the table and lean my full weight on it to get it to crack. By the end of it me and my mom were hysterical with laughter.

It was a full moon when we got out of dinner. My family has a tradition of walking out the pier at night when there is a full moon so me and my mom did. We got out to the

end of the pier and watched the waves for awhile. Then we came back and went home to bed.

Now I will tell you about some of the challenges that I faced today. My first challenge was that I had to hold the pelican down while Tony operated on it. I handled this challenge by thinking about how much pain the pelican was in and how I needed to help it.

My second challenge was that when I had to help Tony make notebooks and I messed up a lot and got frustrated. I handled this challenge by just trying to think about how Tony had been doing this for a long time and that he had probably messed up a lot too when he started. That helped me understand that it was okay to mess up on my first try.

My third challenge is that I have to get a picture for the cover page of my portfolio for this project. The picture I want is the ARK's logo and it is under copy write so it will be hard to get. I am handling this challenge by being patient while Tony tries to help me.

Now I will tell you about some of the successes of my day. My first success was that I got to release ten green turtles back into the wild and that felt great.

My second success was that I got to rescue a pelican and that also felt great.

My third success was that I got to rescue a turtle. I hope that he will be all right because he looked terrible. I will have to see when I get to the ARK tomorrow.

Wyatt McAllister
3/11/2009

Day Three

Hello, my name is Wyatt McAllister and for my project week I am going out to Port Aransas, Texas and working at an animal shelter called the ARK. I am on my third day of my project week and I am having a good time so far.

I got up today at 6:00 A.M., had breakfast, and then met Tony at his house. Me and my mom got into his truck and went to the beach to watch Tony do his Beach Survey. Every other day for almost 34 years Tony has gotten up and gone down to a seven mile long strip of beach and collected information on it. We went with him this time but he usually goes alone. He catalogs the number of birds, people, trucks, injured animals, and trash all along this strip of beach. He picks up some types of trash and takes measurements on certain areas of the beach. He measures the wind speed and direction, the water temperature. He also measures the distance from the shore line to different areas of the beach such as the sea weed collection area, the area that people drive on, the area where the dunes are forming, and he takes a reference point on a semi-permanent object such as a dock or a bush. Today he used a bush.

We drove down to the beach and Tony started to do his measurements. He would drive slowly and write down the number of birds in a flock and the different types of birds that he saw. He picked up trash. We saw this one interesting piece of flotsam from a ship:



It had a convenient label on it that told what company it was from and their phone number. Tony was going to call them and tell them to come and pick it up but as we were coming back we saw that someone else had it in the back of there truck.

Tony got out his length measuring devise to take measurements on the beach:



Later he got out a special thermometer to take the sea temperature:



Later he used another devise to take the humidity:



After we were finished we headed back to the ARK. On our way we got a call about an entangled Great Blue heron. It turned out to be one that we had been right next to while we were taking measurements on a portion of the beach. Tony had been watching the bird for a few weeks. It had an injured foot. That is why he remembered it. He named it "Bent Foot." We drove back to the beach and rescued "Bent Foot":

He was dragging about a hundred feet of monofilament with three hooks on it



from his injured foot. Fortunately he had not been entangled for very long so when we cut him loose:



he was fine and did not have to go back to the ARK.

We went back to the ARK and Tony left to go to a meeting. By that time it was about 12:00 P.M. My mom and I then went to lunch at Port Aransas Brewing Company. After that we went back to the house and changed clothes. Then we went back to the ARK and I helped clean the turtle house:



and my mom did the laundry. The ARK does a ton of laundry. Most all of the animals have to sit on sheets in their houses and they all need to be changed several times a day.

When I went into the turtle house I saw the turtle that we rescued yesterday. It looked okay. It hadn't eaten, but that is normal. Some times turtles won't eat for four months when they first come to the ARK sick. I think that it is going to be okay.

Yesterday someone found a headless green turtle washed up on the beach and called the ARK to get rid of it. I saw it as I was walking in to clean the turtle house. It STANK!!! I almost barfed. Tony bagged it after he got back from his meeting. Even after it was gone the porch smelled awful. I didn't get a picture of it but for some reason I do not regret that in the least and I have an inkling that neither do you.

After I finished cleaning the turtle house I went into the bird hospital and did some chores. I cleaned two pelican cages:



I swam the two pelicans while I cleaned their cages:



One of the pelicans that I swam was the one that I rescued yesterday. He looked okay. He did not have any major infections and he didn't look to sick. That was good. He still didn't eat anything though. I think that I might have to force feed him tomorrow.
I saw the baby turtles all piled up on their platform in their cage:



When they look at you it looks like they are smiling



I went home after that. By the time I was finished, it was around three and I needed time to work on this journal. Plus I had already pulled a seven hour day. I worked on finishing up my last journal until four. Then I worked on this one until six. I took a break and went for a boat ride. Then I came back and finished this journal. It is 7:22 P.M. now.

Now I will tell you about some of the challenges that I faced today. My first challenge was that I had a very hard time cleaning the upstairs turtle house. It was very hot and I had a hard time squeegeeing the water into the drain because it kept getting stuck under the turtle tanks. I handled this challenge by just thinking about how the job needed to be done and how if I even got the room a little cleaner it would be worth it.

My second challenge was not barfing when I saw the headless turtle. I handled this challenge by thinking how much worse it would be to have to smell rotting flesh with vomit on it instead of just plain rotting flesh.

My third challenge was that I had to get the pelicans out of their cages to swim them and they snapped at me. I handled this challenge by telling myself that the pelicans were not angry with me, they were just afraid and that they needed to be swam so that they could get exercise.

Now I will tell you about the successes of my day. My first success was that I met the expectations of the ARK staff whenever they gave me a job. That made me feel like I could really help animals like I have always dreamed of doing.

My second success was that I helped rescue a blue heron and was able to set it free.

My third and final success was that I drove the boat for an hour and a half and it was the best driving job I think I ever did.

Wyatt McAllister
3/12/2009

Day Four

Hello my name is Wyatt McAllister and for my project week I am going out to Port Aransas, Texas and working at an animal shelter called the ARK. I am on my fourth and final day of my project week and I have had a good time so far.

I got up today at 8:45 A.M. I usually go to the ARK at 8:30 A.M. Tony was going to take me out along the pier by the ARK and have me help him take oceanographic measurements. He called and said that it was too windy so I did not have to go until 9:30 A.M. I got to the ARK at 9:30 A.M. like I was supposed to but I was met with an unexpected surprise. Almost the entire ARK staff plus a few friends of the ARK went down to Fennessey Ranch as a celebration. One of the volunteers covered for the volunteer supervisor so that she could go on the trip. He go there at 4:00 A.M., defrosted the fish, had breakfast, came back, and did all the work that needed to be done. He had just finished up when we got there. Consequently I did not have a very eventful day today.

The volunteer did leave one job for another volunteer to do. That volunteer's job was to feed the outside birds. I helped him with his job. He looks like this:



We fed the red tailed hawk in the flight cage:



His left eye has a detached retina so he can never be released back into the wild. You can see it in the picture.

We also fed the pelicans in the outside yard:



As you can see they are fighting with the wild gulls for food.

When I arrived I saw a great blue heron sitting by the stairs to the upstairs turtle house:



We also fed the pelicans and gulls in the gazebo:



Then cleaned their house by hosing it down and swept the dirty water into the drain:



After that I fed the owl and the pelicans in the small flight cages:



While we were feeding the pelicans I asked him what the different crest colors on pelicans meant. He told me that the brown ones are juveniles:



and that the ones with yellow and white crests were adults:



After the volunteer and I had finished feeding the birds he went home and I went into the bird hospital to get my mom. While I was in there I discovered the cormorant I told you I force fed died:



I feel sorry for him. He was very sick when I fed him. I wish that I could have saved him.

I then went home because there was nothing left for me to do. I went to lunch at a Mexican restaurant called "La Playa." It was my mom's birthday and she loves Mexican food and so we went there for her birthday. After that we then went to the hardware store. Later we went to a pottery shop and I got my mom a present.

Then we went back to the ARK and took a final tour around it and said goodbye to all the animals and volunteers. I saw the turtle that I rescued on day two. It looked pretty much the same but its condition was stable so I know that it will eventually get better and be released. Big turtles are tough!!!

After that I went to Aransas Pass because my mom's car had an alignment problem and we had to go to an auto shop there to fix it. We called in advance to see if they could fix the car and they said yes. When we got there, though, it turned out that they could not fix it so we left. They lied to us on the phone and we wasted almost two hours. That sucked.

I worked on this journal when we got home. Now it is 6:59 P.M. and I am almost done with my entire portfolio. I have loved this project week so much. I am sorry that it is over.

Now I will tell you about some of the challenges of my day. My first challenge was that I did not have any work to do because Ken did it all. I handled this challenge by making the best of it and trying to find some work left to do. It surprised me that I was sad at not being able to get covered in fish guts to feed turtles in the freezing cold. The fact is that I enjoy working at the ARK.

My second challenge was that I couldn't work with Tony on measurements either because the weather was so bad. I handled this challenge by trying to figure out what else I could do.

My last challenge was that I could not get my mom's car fixed. I didn't really handle this challenge at all. I had a good book that I read the entire time. I know that is very mean but it was a really, really good book. Okay?!?!?!?

Now I will tell you about some of the successes of my day. My first success was that I finally got the picture that I needed for my cover page!!! Tony sent it to me a few minutes ago.

My second success was that I know the turtle that I rescued will be okay.

My third success is that I persevered enough today to get to feed the birds and do a little work even though the weather was so bad.

My final success was that I have completed my entire project week and that I have had an amazing time!!!

Wyatt McAllister
3/12/2009

Reflective Essay

I am sitting in my room in my grandma's house late at night typing this up. I have finished my project at the ARK in Port Aransas, Texas and I have had a great time.

My Project week is almost over and I am sad about that. I loved my project at the ARK and I would like to go back again. In fact I might go and help out a little more since I will be here until 3/18/2009. My favorite part of the project was releasing all of those green turtles. It was an amazing experience to see them flying off back to freedom. I hope that they are having a good life and that we will not see them back at the ARK again. All of the volunteers wait around for weeks or even months for the experience of releasing turtles back into the wild and I got to do it on my second day!!

I also loved being with Tony and getting to see all of the cool stuff he does. I think Tony is an amazing guy and I am happy that he let me shadow him and help out. There is something bigger than just being with him that makes me happy. I think that I actually helped Tony. I think that he liked having me around to help. It is one thing to just be a shadow to someone that they would rather be without. It is another to be of help to that person so they enjoy having you around.

My biggest challenge was that I did not get to do much work today. It was cloudy, overcast, and very, very cold. I did not like today nearly as much as the rest of my project. I did not get to go with Tony and do measurements and I think that would have been the best part of my project. I did not get to do much work with the turtles. I did not get to get my mothers car fixed. And worst of all it was my moms birthday and it always rains on her birthday. Every single year. I wish that it was sunny for once because she would have liked to work in the sun and help creatures on her birthday.

My best success was that I got to learn more about taking care of animals than I ever have in one week. I learned about how to take care of birds. I learned that you have to swim water birds twice a day so that they can get enough exercise. I learned about different types of turtles and how to identify them, how their shells all look different, about where they breed and why some of them are endangered. I learned about how to measure turtles and about satellite tags. I learned about how birds like to stay in one spot on the beach that they mark out at a certain time of year. I learned so many things that I don't have time to list them all, but they will stay with me and they will be useful someday.

The best thing that I learned was that I got a insight into the lives of animal caregivers. I loved to take care of the animals and I think that I might like to do it someday for a living. I think that it would give me a new look on life. I would realize that life is precious and that it should not be wasted by throwing monofilament into the sea.

Project Week Portfolio Rubric

Student: _____

Advisor: _____

Portfolio Component	Points Possible	Pionts Earned
Title Page Includes name of your project and your name.	10 Points Title Page 5 for titel 5 for name	
Planning Formes (typed) Project Propoaal Project Timeline Materials Chart Daily Schedule	50 Points Total 10 for proposal 10 for timeline 10 for materials 10 for schedule 10 for typing	
Daily Journals One for each day (4 total) One page typed 12 point font Double spaced	100 Points total 20 for journal 1 20 for journal 2 20 for journal 3 20 for journal 4 20 for typing	
Photo journal Three photos for each day Captions for each photo	120 Points total 30 for day 1 30 for day 2 30 for day 3 30 for day 4	
Final Reflective essay Minimum of 5 paragraphs 12 point font Double spaced	120 Points total Evaluate on: content grammer	
Pionts Earned = /400		
Percentage =		