**For Immediate Release** Contact: Montana FordFeb. 25, 2015 (469) 834-2848

**Charity 5K In Fort Worth Welcomes Families And Pets***Fun Run Benefits Local Animal Refuge*

FORT WORTH, Texas - The Friends of the Nature Center will host its 23rd Annual Buffalo Boogie 5K and 1 Mile Fun-Run/Walk at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge on May 9. The event features live music, activities for children and bandanas for dogs that are registered in the run.

Participants will be eligible to win more than $5,000 in door prizes and the first 750 participants registered will receive Buffalo Boogie T-shirts. Activities for children include arts and crafts and educational exhibits provided by vendors.

On and off-site parking will be provided and all gate fees are waived for registered runners. The Friends will provide water at stations throughout the USATF-certified course, which is comprised entirely of paved roads that are closed to traffic. All participants will have gate fees waived at the Nature Center and will be allowed to visit the exhibits after the run.

Registration begins March 1 and continues through the date of the event. Participants may register online at the Friends website, via mail, or in person at the Nature Center or at Fort Worth Running Company. On-site registration will also be available at the event.

Registration for individuals prior to May 3 is $20 per person. The price increases to $25 on May 3, then to $30 on the day of the run. Groups of five or more receive a reduced rate of $15 per person prior to May 3. Prices for groups are the same as individuals after May 3. Registration fee for dogs is $5.

On-site registration and sign-in begins at 7 a.m.

Volunteers and sponsors are welcome. Visit the Friends website at www.naturecenterfriends.org for more information.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Nature Center to cover operational costs, including utilities, animal feeding, animal care and grounds maintenance. For more information, visit the Friends website or visit the Nature Center website at www.fwnaturecenter.org.

**About the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**

The Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge was designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service in 1980. The Nature Center is one of the largest city-owned nature centers in the United States, with approximately 3,261 acres. The center is home to three unique ecosystems and more than 20 miles of hiking trails. The center offers educational programs and summer activities for children. The Nature Center houses a conservation herd of bison as well as an exhibit of prairie dogs. All other animals at the center are free-roaming, including foxes, turtles, and more than 200 species of birds.

**About the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**

The Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge nonprofit organization was established in 1990, ten years after the Nature Center was established. Their mission is to preserve, protect, and conserve the Nature Center and all its animal inhabitants. The Friends staffs the gift shop at the Nature Center and provides volunteers for the Buffalo Boogie Run every year. The volunteer-based organization donates approximately $300 thousand to the Nature Center each year, almost $20 thousand of which comes from the annual Buffalo Boogie event.