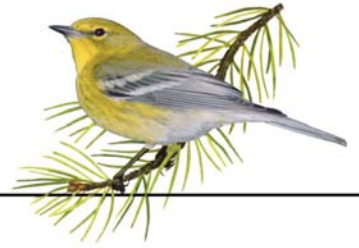


The Pine Warbler



November 2008

Vol.28, No.8

EAST TEXAS NATURE

By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist

“Avoiding Water Waste”

By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”
-Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard’s Almanac, 1746

In grade school I remember reading a children’s rhyme that I thought was quite delightful and the words caught my imagination. “Rain, rain, go away, come back another day.” - (author unknown). Granted during times such as Hurricane Ike, water can be something we fear. But let’s face it without water we all would perish.

With the concerns regarding our economy conserving our resources seems even more providential than in the past. An estimated 25% of the water processed for human consumption is wasted by inefficient irrigation practices in the landscape. Overwatering results in runoff in clay soils that have not been properly prepared in advance. In sandy soils, it results in water passing below the root zone, where it is not available to the plant and is wasted. Overwatering also leaches nutrients below the root zone of the plant and reduces the amount of available air necessary for healthy root growth.

To avoid water-waste, set your irrigation controllers and clocks based on the seasons and the weather. Check your irrigation system to ensure water is applied only to plants, not to driveways and streets. Periodically check that emitters and sprayers are functioning properly.

Less frequent and deeper watering is often the best solution during warmer months. Water early in the morning to avoid excessive evaporation and, please, do not water when the wind is blowing or if it is raining.

Soaker hoses are one solution for wasting less water when gardening. These rubber hoses with miniatu

continued on page 3

November Presentation Impact of Ike on the Gulf Coast Region with Keith Crenshaw

Keith Crenshaw, the Urban Wildlife Biologist of District VII Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife, will speak at the November 18th meeting. His presentation will be “Impact of Ike on the Gulf Coast Region”. Everyone should bring their questions about the relocation of birds and wildlife following the salt water storm surge of Ike.

For the past five years, Keith has been working in the Houston area as the Urban Biologist for Texas Parks & Wildlife. He graduated with a BS in Range & Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University - Kingsville and has worked for such organizations as the Nature Conservancy in Florida, National Park Service in Arizona and the National Forest Service in Nevada. He also did research at the Caesar Kleberg Research Wildlife Institute.

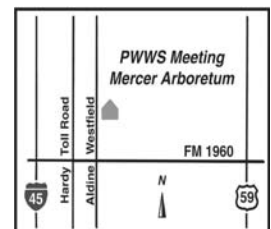


ISS017E015752

**View of
Hurricane Ike
From
Space Station
09.10.08**

ISS017-E-015752 (10 Sept. 2008) — This picture of Hurricane Ike from earlier today (9/10/08) was downlinked by the crew of the International Space Station, flying 220 statute miles above Earth. The center of the hurricane was near 23.8 degrees north latitude and 85.3 degrees west longitude, moving 300 degrees at 7 nautical miles per hour. The sustained winds were 80 nautical miles per hour with gusts to 100 nautical miles per hour and forecast to intensify. Photo Credit: NASA

Date: November 18
Time: Social 7:00 p.m.
Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Place: Mercer Arboretum
22307 Aldine-Westfield



Got no check books, got no banks.
Still I'd like to express my thanks -
I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night. ~Irving Berlin





Heart Happenings

Very little has been said about sea turtles following the disastrous arrival of Hurricane Ike on the upper Texas coast but there are many questions about these mysterious visitors to Texas beaches. What about all the sand that is needed for sea turtle nests which has been moved inland or swept away? Will the Kemp's ridley return to nest next spring?

The Galveston city Park Board has announced plans to spend more than \$7.5 million dollars to restore its beaches with 400,000 cubic yards of sand. Since numerous nests have been found on the beaches at the Galveston Seawall during the last few years, this is a welcome announcement.

The sand will be dredged on the eastern end of the island and trucked to the Seawall for placement from 10th to 61st Street. The Texas General Land Office and the city of Galveston have stated that they hope to complete the project by March 31, before Spring Break and the peak of the tourist season, and the beginning of nesting season for the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles.

Meanwhile staff and visitors at the Padre Island National Seashore are watching tons of debris wash up on the beaches. The washing machines, dryers, lumber and roofing material mixed with personal items of storm victims must be moved from National Seashore and South Texas beaches before the first Kemp's ridleys arrive to lay eggs.

Volunteers will be needed to patrol upper Texas coast beaches this spring more than ever. Dr. Andre M. Landry, Jr. of Texas A&M University at Galveston will be coordinating patrols on Galveston Island Bolivar Peninsula and said "Beaches need to be patrolled, regardless of their present state and their status over time, to ascertain whether the upper Texas coast can continue to play a role in sea turtle nesting and recovery."

He also stresses the importance of monitoring data on nesting activity for making sound recommendations to state and federal agencies charged with maintaining beaches. The integrity of the beaches is vital for providing favorable nesting habitat, a buffer from storm related events, and a source of revenue through tourism and ecotourism to support communities like Galveston and Bolivar.

AN EXTRA NOTE: The Gulf of Mexico from the Texas/Louisiana boundary southward to the boundary shared by Matagorda and Brazoria Counties (Texas) is full of debris following Hurricane Ike. The National Marine Fisheries Service authorized shrimp trawlers not to use their turtle excluder devices (TEDs). Instead, shrimp trawlers in the affected areas can use restricted tow times instead of TEDs. The trawlers must limit

their tow times to 55 minutes from the time the trawl doors enter the water until they are removed until November 7 at 11:59 p.m. The authorization extends 20 nautical miles.

Hurricane Gustave brought a similar authorization in the waters off Louisiana from the Mississippi/Louisiana boundary to the Texas/Louisiana boundary extending offshore 20 nautical miles due to debris from Hurricane Gustave. This authorization ended on October 26.

According to an article in the Beaumont Enterprise, shrimpers are only catching 1/3 of what they normally catch because of heavy debris levels. With such low rates of catch and the danger of large objects in the water, it would make sense for the government to suspend shrimping instead of calling for a limited tow time which is virtually un-enforceable.

November Field Trip Bear Creek Park

Let's go to Bear Creek Park on November 22 and see what we can find. There are Merlins back in the trees around pavilion #5, and a Vermilion Flycatcher has been seen near the golf course. We should also find sparrows and maybe some butterflies. We can picnic in the park if the weather is okay. We will meet at 8 a.m. at pavilion #5 even if there is light rain. We will not meet if the morning is stormy. Bring binos, scope, raincoat, water, lunch and rubber boots. The trip is lots of easy to moderate walking.

Directions:

To get to pavilion #5, take Highway 6 to Patterson Road and turn right, turn left onto Bear Creek Drive, take that to South Golbow Drive and follow it around the circle onto North Golbow Drive Pavilion #5 is the first on your right. This will be good practice for our Christmas Bird Count.



- submitted by Jennifer Backo

Education Chair Needed

PWWS needs a new education chairperson, someone with energy, enthusiasm, and resourcefulness. The challenge is how to "hook" more people into protecting our environment. Karen Stockton, present chair, has presented hundreds of live nature concerts for many years now – but she is Road Weary... Won't you consider creative ways through which the general public (children especially) can be reached? Karen will gladly assist the new chair; she just doesn't want the chairmanship herself. Contact Al Barr, president; or Karen (281 444-0343).

continued from page 1

holes have been used in veggie, fruit and rose gardens for a long time. Bury the soaker hose just an inch or two below the soil surface. Then run the hose for an hour. Next carefully dig a hole, and see how deep the water has gone. It is likely you will need to run the hose for a few hours to get enough saturation—you want the plants' entire root zone moist. I would run the hose for a few hours as necessary in the morning. It is usually considered a good idea to water thoroughly less often, than water a little continuously. Light watering will penetrate the soil, so roots will tend to stay too shallow. It is not a perfect system or is for every garden. For me one of the great things about this water wise system is that you can use it in the evening as well. The water will trickle to the roots and not wet the leaves avoiding some disease problems from showing up.

As the planets' stewards we owe it to the world to conserve water whenever we can whether it is inside or outside our homes. There are so many who have so little. Unicef estimates that there are approximately 1 billion people in the world who have little or no access to water.

"Everywhere water is thing of beauty gleaming in the dew-drop, singing in the summer rain."—John Ballantine Gough

Please share your nature experiences with me at dianecabinessplants@consolidated.net

Update on the October Field Trip

Pineywoods Members had a lovely field trip on Saturday, October 18. The temperature was mild and the sun shone all day. We didn't see a whole lot of species, just twenty seven, but we got great views of some of them for as long as we wanted to watch. We found Wood Ducks with the sunshining on them which made their beautiful colors glow in the light. The sun also helped to show individual feathers on Red-shouldered Hawks which were seen sitting on a branch of a pine tree and also, flying overhead. We saw four species of woodpeckers. In fact, they seemed to be everywhere! We also found several White-breasted Nuthatch along with the usual forest birds such as chickadees, Titmice and Wrens.

The group enjoyed walking by the lake all morning, then we had a picnic lunch. In the afternoon we resumed walking for awhile before saying goodbye until our next trip.

- submitted by Jennifer Backo

East Texas Backyards



Texas Rat Snake (in blue)



Cope's Treefrog

November Board Meeting - Tuesday, Nov.11 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Carole Allen.

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Piney Woods Wildlife Society
P.O. Box 189
Spring, Texas 77383-0189

Piney Woods Wildlife Society Field Trips

November Field Trip
Bear Creek Park
Saturday, November 22

Bird Walks with Al Barr - 2nd Saturday of every month through May, 2009. 8:30-10:30 at Mercer Arboretum. All that participants need to bring is some binoculars and mosquito repellent if it is needed.

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>

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For membership information write to us at P.O. Box 189, Spring Texas 77383-0189. Annual Dues: \$15.00 per household.

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jdfagm@swbell.net
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The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the previous month, earlier if possible. Always add "PWWS" in the subject line. All emails will be resonded to with in 3 days. If you do not recieve a response please call 832 717-3276. All articles are subject to approval by the PWWS Board.

Please send new address changes and corrections to Mike Drummond at drummond@thedrummonds.com and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.