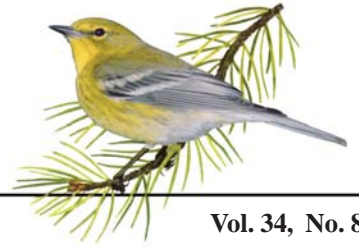


The Pine Warbler



November, 2014

Vol. 34, No. 8

Notes:

Don't miss this lecture!

Anita Tiller sends this information about an outstanding speaker on November 6 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Dr. Peter Wyse will present his lecture "Growing an Ark: The Expanding Role of Botanic Gardens in Plant Conservation" at 6:30 p.m. A leader in the international botanic garden community for the past two decades, Jackson has helped establish botanic gardens all over the world and helped develop and implement the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, which the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity adopted in 2002. The lecture is part of a series presented by Harris County Precinct 4 and The Mercer Society (TMS) in partnership with the HMNS in celebration of Mercer's 40th anniversary.

Reservations are required and can be made directly through HMNS by calling 713-639-4629 or visiting www.hmns.org/lectures. Individual lecture tickets are \$12 for TMS members and \$18 for non-members. Ask HMNS about possible discounts available for members of nature organizations. To learn more about becoming a TMS member, visit themercersociety.org. Free transportation to and from the lecture is available to senior adults 50 years and better using Harris County Precinct 4 buses departing from Mercer Botanic Gardens. Seating is limited and reservations are required on a first-come, first-served basis by calling 281-443-8731.

Put Naturefest on your calendar now!

Many of you know Matt Abernathy who was a board member and employee at Jones Park and will be interested in knowing where he is. Matt recently accepted a position with the Houston Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Management Division. A big part of his job will be conducting baseline surveys on habitat type, plants and animals. Matt said "I am hoping that some folks from PWWS might be interested in assisting me with some of these surveys through the fall and winter. If so, send an e-mail to matthew.abernathy@houstontx.gov."

Next page

PWWS November Program

Mark your calendar! Gary Clark will be our presenter on November 18 showing and discussing hummingbirds!

If you have never heard or met Gary, he is the founder of PWWS, an author of books and a Houston Chronicle column, a college professor, lecturer, a world traveler and spouse of photographer Kathy Adams Clark.



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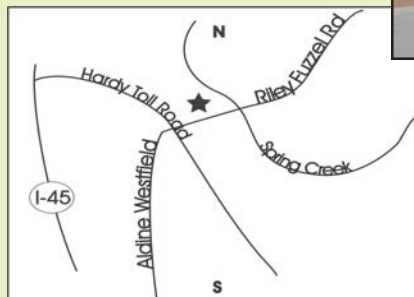


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November 18th
Social 6:30pm
Program 7:00pm



Big Stone Lodge
Dennis Johnston Park
709 Riley Fuzzel Road



WANTED: NEW VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICITY!

After an unknown number of years, Carole Allen is stepping aside from the Vice-President role. It's a fun job so give it some thought! Carole will continue writing HEART HAPPENINGS but a new officer with new ideas and new energy is needed!

Heart Happenings

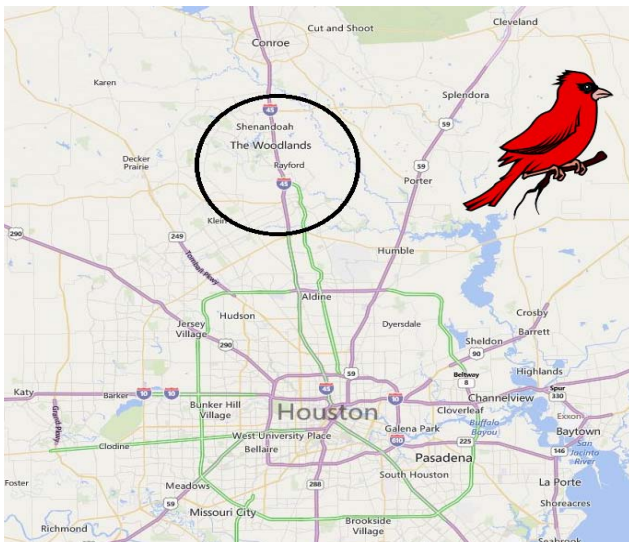


Turtle Island Restoration Network delivered over 7000 petitions to Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal on October 24. The petitions signed by Louisiana voters and people from across the country ask him to take the lead in changing a 1987 law that prevents their state law enforcement from boarding shrimp boats to check for Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). The TEDs allow sea turtles to escape drowning and is a federal law as part of the Endangered Species Act. Louisiana is the only coastal state not implementing the TED regulations and somehow they have successfully ignored the government since 1987. Shrimp caught in Louisiana waters is now "red-listed" by sustainability standards since endangered sea turtles are caught with shrimp in their state waters. In other words, try not to eat shrimp caught in Louisiana waters.

It's Bird Count Time Again! by Claire Moore

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) happen each year between December 14 and January 5. The Spring Creek CBC for this year sponsored by PWWS is scheduled for Saturday, December 20th. As always, it will cover a 15 mile diameter circle centered at I45 and Rayford / Sawdust Road. Several teams of bird watchers will go out that day to count all the birds that they can find.

We are also seeking "feeder watchers" who live in the count circle and are available on the 20th to watch their bird feeders and send in information on the birds that they see at their feeders. Any amount of time watching your feeders would be helpful to the CBC.



East Texas Nature Landscape with Stones

by Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist



"As much of heaven is visible as we have eyes to see." -William Winter

Think stone. Think meditation. The two can work together. Our love affair with stone—its permanence and simplicity; its raw beauty and mystery such as we find in the Inca ruins—is old and long lasting.

Dry-stacking and dry-laying stone is surprisingly popular in this high-tech world we live in. Not having to add mortar simplifies stone stacking. What better way to reconnect with our natural surroundings than to build a path, a small wall or bench with your own hands.

The small retaining wall in the photo was built by a landscaper and his assistant at our church. Fidencio's idea of incorporating the large boulders in the wall that was going to be built originally with only stacking stones was brilliant. The wall has gone from serving in a purely functional capacity to a piece of eye candy for those who walk pass this secluded spot. When I walked pass this garden spot I immediately wanted to sit down on the wall and day-dream for a bit.

Our passion for private garden retreats is as old as civilization itself, going back across the centuries to the earliest communities of Pharaohs in Egypt. Step outside today and look for that spot that is begging for a private hide a way. Drag out the shovel, wield a hammer, lift small stones and see what kind of magic happens in your backyard or elsewhere.

"Why keep a garden account
And reckon the cost of pure joy?
Is it not cheap at any price?"
- Mabel Osgood Wright

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

References:

1. David Reed, The Art and Craft of Stonescaping: Setting and Stacking Stone, Lark Books.
2. Chuck and Barbara Crandall, Creating Privacy in the Garden, Rizzoli International Publications.
3. As My Garden Grows: 101 Thoughts from the Garden, Brownlow Publishing Company, Inc.



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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 responded to within 3 days. If you do not receive a response please call 832 717-3276. All articles are subject to approval by the PWWS Board.

Please send all new address changes and any corrections to cdmoore3@gmail.com (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>