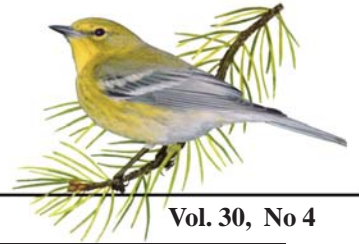


# The Pine Warbler



April 2010

Vol. 30, No 4

## Pineywoods Wildlife April Field Trip with Sheena Humbird

Spring migration is in full swing and the April field trip for Piney Woods members should land us exactly in the middle of the action. On April 24, members of Piney Woods Wildlife are invited to take a trip down to the Baytown Nature Center and stroll around the centers multiple habitats to view the areas wildlife. Baytown Nature Center is surrounded by three bays, Burnet, Crystal, and Scott Bays and occupies about 450 acres. Checklists feature over 200 species of birds and over 60 species of butterflies. The nature center consists of fresh water and salt water wetlands, along with mixed woodland habitats that create an optimum wildlife viewing experience.

*cont. on page 3*



## April Presentation

*Presented by Paul Smith*

PWWS member Paul Smith has arranged a remarkable program about the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge for our April 20 meeting. The area has been described as "a gift East Texans have given themselves" with wood ducks, mallards, eagles, songbirds, bobcats, deer, otters, beavers, alligators, bass, catfish, and almost-unending lists of birds and animals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that their office received more letters, faxes, and phone calls in support of this refuge than any other ever established. Paul will introduce Richard Clower of the Texas Conservation Alliance, an organization working for the designation of the Neches River as a Wild and Scenic River. (More information is available in a book "Paddling the Wild Neches", published by Texas A&M University Press. See <http://www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2006/donovan.htm>)

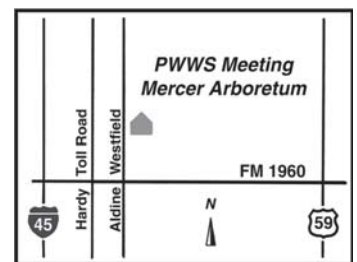
Don't miss this wonderful program about a Texas treasure.

*(We were unable to see Farrar Stockton's program about New Zealand due to his sudden and unexpected trip to the hospital. The program was given about sea turtles, of course, by Carole Allen. We look forward to Farrar's presentation at a later time.)*



**Date:** April 20  
**Time:** Social 7:00 p.m.  
**Meeting:** 7:30 p.m.

**Mercer  
Arboretum  
22307 Aldine-Westfield**



The butterfly soars, and merrily sings,  
For, without change, it could never grow wings.

- H.R. Adamkiewicz





## Heart Happenings

History was made on March 16, 2010, but not one newspaper mentioned it, at least locally. The new Kemp's Ridley Recovery Plan that US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service working with the Mexican government wrote this plan during a long six year period! It is now available in full to read at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery/plans.htm> The plan at this point is a draft and the public comments are requested until May 17, 2010.

The Recovery Plan asks for the following action to be taken by both Mexico and the United States. If all goes well, one day the Kemp's ridley sea turtle will no longer be listed as endangered. It is important that the following actions be taken:

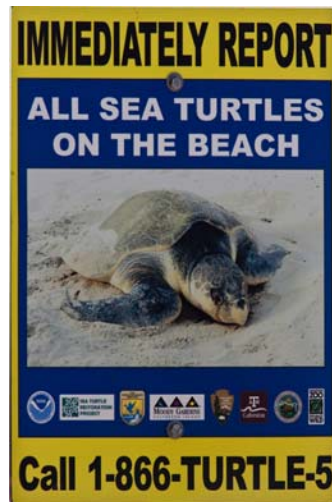
### ACTIONS NEEDED:

- Protect and manage nesting and marine habitats
- Protect and manage populations on the nesting beaches and in the marine environment
- Maintain a stranding network
- Manage captive stocks
- Educate the public
- Develop community partnerships
- Maintain and develop local, state, and national government partnerships
- Maintain, promote awareness of, and expand U.S. and Mexico laws
- Implement international agreements
- Enforce laws in the marine and terrestrial environment and in the marketplace

### DATE OF RECOVERY:

We anticipate that the Kemp's ridley will attain its down listing criterion of 10,000 nesting females in a season by 2015. Based on population growth rates of 7-10% per year, and assuming the slower growth rate, we anticipate that the Kemp's ridley will attain its delisting criterion of an average of 40,000 nesting females per season over a 6-year period by 2038.

The Plan recommends that current conservation efforts including the use of Turtle Ex-



cluder Devices (TED) on shrimp trawls and protection of nesting beaches be continued. TED-use should be expanded to all trawl fisheries. The Plan calls for reduction of mortality in hook and line fisheries, trap/pot fisheries, long line and gillnet fisheries. Impacts of marine pollution, oil and gas operations, drift fences designed to prevent coastal sand build-up and hopper dredging activities should be monitored and reduced to protect Kemp's ridleys. Motor vehicles on nesting beaches are also noted as a growing problem.

### East Texas Nature

#### Where Art Thou Spring?

By *Diane Cabiness,*  
*Texas Master Naturalist*

Underneath an apple-tree  
Sat a maiden and her lover;  
And the thoughts within her he  
Yearned, in silence, to discover.  
Round them danced the sunbeams bright.  
Green the grass-lawn stretched before them  
While the apple blossoms white  
Hung in rich profusion o'er them.  
- *Will Carleton, Apple Blossoms*

What are the signs of spring you are hearing, smelling and seeing in your yard? Is it the squirrels chasing each other up and down the trees? Perhaps it is various birds such as male northern cardinals singing to attract a spouse and to discourage an unwanted competitor for his territory and mate to be. Maybe it is the urge to sow wildflower seeds in containers knowing good well we are most likely to have some deliciously, cold weather in February and you will hurriedly bring in those pots to place along the window seal for safety. For me it is all those things and so much more.

When the spring equinox arrives, you know that there are landscaping chores you will need to perform in order to ready the landscape for the new growing season. But before becoming absorbed in your landscaping chores, a word about the celebration of spring—let us not forget about the beauty of this fleeting season of birds, emerging butterflies and spring peepers. The landscaping chores on your checklist will be just so much more work you have to do. Take time to listen to the singing birds; do not take them for granted. Drink in the serenity that they offer. Serenity is not serendipitous—you have to make yourself receptive to it. Slow down daily for a moment, stop the must-do-this-now attitude and enjoy a little quiet time in God's creation.

David Beaulieu says, "Working on home landscaping chores, unfortunately can all too easily become merely an extension of your work week at the office—do this chore, do that chore, keep the old nose to the grindstone.... You must silence this

nervous activity, give your senses permission to absorb the sights and sounds of the season. Better for the landscaping chores to go undone than to lose out on spring's ephemeral gifts."

"Early spring is a magical and tempestuous time of year unlike summer when nature becomes more set in its ways. Early spring is the year's childhood. Celebrate it faithfully by refusing to miss the changes on the landscape, just as you refuse to miss a human child's first utterance or first faltering steps.

Let us not head into the next season without stopping to listen to the various birds singing to one another or watching the first leaves of each precious tree or bush unfurl in soft colors. It would be a shame to say at years end "Why didn't I stop to admire the Carolina wren so diligently making her nest in my old flowerpot?"

"If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, if the simple things of nature have a message that you understand, rejoice, for your soul is alive."—John Muir

Please share with me your nature experiences at [dianecabinessplants@consolidated.net](mailto:dianecabinessplants@consolidated.net)



*Directions: From Mercer Arboretum, take HWY 59 south to Beltway 8. Turn left on Beltway 8 going east. Exit the beltway onto I-10 heading east towards Baytown. Take the Baytown Spur 330 (Decker Dr.) exit. This will be the second exit after the San Jacinto River Bridge. Exit Bayway Dr. and turn right onto Bayway Dr. The entrance to the nature center is located at 6213 Bayway Dr. We will be meeting at 8:30 a.m. and there is a \$3 per person fee to enter the park.*

PWWS needs a new education chairperson, someone with energy, enthusiasm, and resourcefulness. The challenge is how to "hook" more people into protecting our environment. Contact Al Barr, president.

## Piney Woods Wildlife Society Membership Form

Last Name(s):		First Name of Members(s):	
Street Address:		City:	State and Zip:
Home Phone No:	Work Phone No:		Email Address(s):
Annual Membership Fee \$15.00*		Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to:  Piney Woods Wildlife Society P.O. Box 189 Spring, TX 77383-0189	
Additional Contribution \$ _____			
Total \$ _____			
*Per Household - Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter			
New <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	Rejoining <input type="checkbox"/>	



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

**Piney Woods Wildlife Society Field Trips**

**Baytown Nature Center  
 April 24**



**2010 Board of Directors**

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 Director (term expires 2011).....Farrar Stockton  
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**Numbers of Interest**

Heart Hotline.....281444-6204



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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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 P.O. Box 131776 Spring, TX 77393

**The deadline for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:drummond@thedrummonds.com) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.**

**Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>**