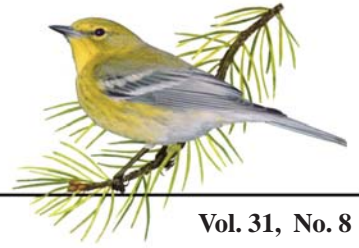


The Pine Warbler



November 2011

Vol. 31, No. 8



Mark your calendar for Nature Center events!

The Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 17th. Information on the group meeting times and places will be in the December newsletter. The count down dinner is scheduled at El Palenque Mexican Restaurant from 6 PM to 8 PM that evening.

Our December PWWS meeting on the 20th will give us a chance to talk about all the great birds seen on the Bird Count day.

(Board members will be meeting in December also so stayed tuned for dates, times and places.)

PWWS November Program November 15

Gary and Kathy Adams Clark will share their "Story Behind the Story"!

Gary Clark has been writing a weekly nature column for the Houston Chronicle since 1999. The column expanded to include the San Antonio Express News in 2009. The article centers around birds and are illustrated with photos from Kathy Adams Clark. Writing and illustrating a weekly column is only part of the story. What goes on behind the scenes as a husband and wife work together is the other side of the story.



Gary who is vice-president for instruction at Lone Star College-North Harris was awarded a 2010 Synergy Award for Environment Excellence by the Citizen's Environmental Coalition. Clark and his wife, Kathy Adams Clark, were recognized for outstanding efforts in the field of environmental reporting for their weekly "Nature" column published in the Houston Chronicle. He is the founder of the Piney Woods Wildlife Society. His other other professional accolades include membership in the Who's Who among America's Teachers, Who's Who in Houston, Delta Mu Delta National Honor Society in Business Administration, and

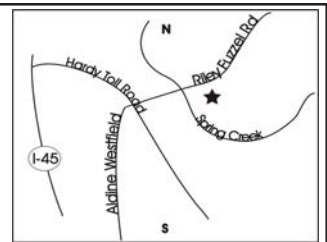
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Don't Forget! Piney Woods Wildlife Society Has Moved!

Thanks to Teri McArthur and the Montgomery County Commissioners, the Piney Woods Wildlife Society began holding its monthly meetings at the new Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center last January. The Nature Center is located at 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road near Spring. It is a beautiful facility with exhibits, photography by President Al Barr and a great big kitchen for coffee and snacks which are served at 7 p.m. before the 7:30 p.m. Meeting begins. There is no charge and everyone is invited.

Date: November 15
Time: Social 7:00 p.m.
Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

**Spring Creek Greenway
Nature Center**
1300 Riley Fuzzel Road



Directions to the Nature Center are as follows: Aldine-Westfield turns into Riley Fuzzel Road just northeast of Spring so there are several ways to get there.

1. Take the Rayford/Sawdust exit and go East (right) on Rayford Rd. It dead ends at Riley Fuzzel, then turn South (right) and drive to the Center. or, 2. take Spring-Cypress east to Aldine Westfield through Olde Town Spring, turn left and then on to Riley Fuzzel for a short distance and turn right; or, 3. Take Aldine Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it turns into Riley Fuzzel. Turn right, go under the freeway and over the bridge. Watch for a sign on the right (lighted at night) and a concrete driveway. The building is not visible from the road but club members can count on security as the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department is also housed there. (If you still have a question about the location, call Al at 281-443-6629).

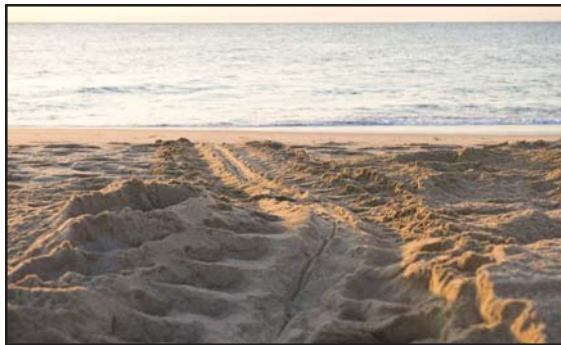




Heart Happenings

The PWWS board voted to join humane societies, conservation groups and 100 scientists asking Louisiana to change their ways! Although other coastal state shrimp fleets use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), the Louisiana legislature voted in 1987 that their law enforcement officers could not board shrimp boats to look for TEDs or make sure they are installed properly. Federal law enforcement can enter state waters, but little information is available as to how often that happens. Sea Turtle Restoration Project is leading the campaign asking Governor Bobby Jindal to encourage their state legislature to repeal the 1987 law during their 2012 session.

The documentary "The Heartbreak Turtle Today" will be shown to school teachers at Educators' Day at the Houston Zoo on November 12. Channel 8 has scheduled it for Tuesday night, November 1, at **11 P.M.** Thanks to the Springers for reminding Channel 8 that they need to schedule a showing.



Program from page 1

the American Mensa Society. Kathy is well known for her fantastic photography classes and illustrations for the Clark publications. She is past-president of the North American Nature Photography Association.

Join Gary and Kathy as they tell humorous and thought provoking stories about their collaborative efforts. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about their adventures, mishaps, near misses and successes.



FIELD TRIPS FOR 2011-2012

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Rockport, TX Whooping Crane Boat Tour

The popular boat tour not only focuses on birds, but also includes information on the history of whooping cranes, geography, and history of the area. The Wharf Cat has an upper and lower deck for viewing, an indoor cabin with restrooms, and a concessions counter (cash only). Mark this on the 2012 things to do!

Saturday, April 28, 2012 Quintana

On Saturday, April 28, Piney Woods members will head down to Quintana to try their luck at finding some migrating birds. The island of Quintana is located between the mouth of the Old Brazos River and the New Brazos River on the Texas Gulf coast. Quintana is home to the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, owned by the Town of Quintana and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. The sanctuary has trails, ponds, and benches that allow easy access and close viewing of migratory birds. You won't want to miss this trip. Details will follow in 2012.

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"/>	

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**East Texas Nature
The Ice Breaker**
By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist

*"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it,
and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the
successive autumns."*—George Eliot

In July I met the young boy I had been matched with through Big Brothers Big Sisters...my 2nd 'little'. I had been on a waiting list for almost 3 years.

I vividly remember our 1st outing this past July 31. I was driving home from church to change my clothes when I spotted a "committee" of Black Vultures in a neighbor's front yard congregating around what looked like a road kill. After I picked up my "little" I asked Joaquin if he would like to see some birds. He eagerly accepted the challenge and we drove over to Rabon Chapel Road to view the vultures at their delicious repast. There were 12 Black Vultures taking turns eating the dead mammal while some simply viewed the action. Joaquin and I quietly got out of my truck and walked over to the fence to get a closer view of these carrion eaters. We were so close we did not need binoculars. After about 10 minutes of watching the comings and goings of these strange looking birds we left to head out to finish on the rest of our adventure.

As we were buckling up, Joaquin from the backseat said "Ms. Diane". I said "Yes Joaquin". Joaquin in an excited voice said, "I am having the best time. I was nervous before you picked me up but now I am not."

The next time you find yourself with a new friend and are having awkward moments finding something to talk about...check the roadside and perhaps you will find a "committee" of vultures that will help break the ice. And watch your friendship grow!

*Faith without works is like a bird without wings;
though she may hop with her companions on earth,
yet she will never fly with them to heaven.*—Francis Beaumont

For further information on Big Brothers Big Sisters organization please go to bbbs.org

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



Notes:

Monthly Refreshments!

If you would like to provide snacks for the November meeting, please send me an e-mail or call Carol Lowrey at 281-444-6344. Many thanks to everyone who brought food for the October meeting even though they had not signed up. Carol would like to know before the meeting if there will be refreshments. She does a great job making the coffee and tidying up the kitchen after the meetings. Thanks, Carol!

October program was a hit!

Naturalist Anita Howlett of the Jones Park and Nature Center presented a wonderful program about spiders in October. Everyone was captivated by her wit and charm and incredible knowledge. We saw slides of friendly spiders we find in the yard and others we don't want to find at all such as recluse spiders and black widows. Thanks, Anita, for a great job!



**PWWS 2012
dues are due
soon! Just
complete the
renewal form in
the newsletter
and bring it
with you!**

Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 17th.



2010 Board of Directors

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2nd Vice President.....Jean and Mike Drummond
3rd Vice President.....Carlos Hernandez
Secretary.....Carole Frascella
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Director (term expires 2011).....Farrar Stockton
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Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline.....281 444-6204



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jdfagm@swbell.net.

P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

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

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>