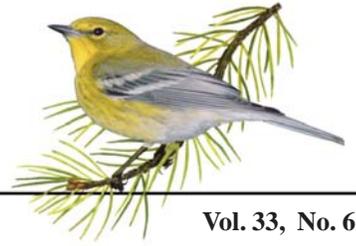


The Pine Warbler



October 2013

Vol. 33, No. 6

Big Stone Lodge

PWWS meetings are held at the Big Stone Lodge at the new Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road. It is located very close to the Nature Center where we have been meeting, but on the Harris County side of Spring Creek.

The directions to get there are much the same as to the Nature Center. 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 Dennis Johnston Park past Spring Creek and on the right. 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 left; or, 3. Take Aldine Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it turns into Riley Fuzzel. Turn right and watch for the Dennis Johnston Park on the left.

Meeting time is the same with a social time at 6:30 p.m. And the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Thanks to former president Al Barr, we are able to make this marvelous move for our meetings. Al is now the Outreach Coordinator at the Jesse Jones Park taking the place of Margarita Padilla who will soon move to turkey with her husband, another former president, Mike Beathard. When at Jesse Jones, you can visit with another friend of PWWS, Teri McArthur who was formerly at the Nature Center.

We thank Dennis Johnston, the Park Administrator for Precinct 4, Harris County, for extending hospitality to PWWS. Without Dennis, we wouldn't be protecting hun-



PWWS October 15 Program



**Off To Big Bend
with
Gary &
Kathy Clark**

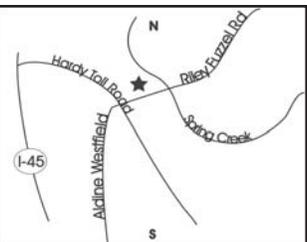


Gary and Kathy Clark have been visiting Big Bend National Park for most of their adult years. They have explored the park in all seasons, during daylight and dark, with binoculars and camera, exploring the beauty and diversity of the park. Join them for this program as they share their love for Big Bend National Park.

Everyone knows Gary as the founder of PWWS and for his great column in the Houston Chronicle. Kathy is also very well known for her photography and instruction classes. Together they have published some marvelous books including one about Big Bend! Don't miss this program!

**Date: October 15
Time: Social 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

**Big Stone Lodge
709 Riley Fuzzel Road**



Program Notes:

Snack Providers!

Thanks to Carole B. for making coffee for our September meeting; Carole F., Carole A., Farrar, Kathy and Mary Anne for bringing refreshments!....Thanks to Paul Gregg for his great presentation about Greenland! November will bring cool weather, Thanksgiving and a presentation by traveler Claire Moore about birding in South America and Australia!

Thank You to Anne Gorman

Anne Gorman donated to PWWS, in memory of her husband Jack Gorman, many wonderful bird books that were part of Jack's collection. "It is what he would have wanted," she said. Jack passed away one year ago and wrote many wonderful articles for the Pine Warbler. Anne and Jack had traveled to 75 countries and Jack was a birder all his life.



Heart Happenings

Evelyn Merz of the Lone Star Sierra Club was our special guest at the September meeting. She drove from her home near Hobby Airport to award Carole A. the Herman Rudenberg Award from the Lone Star Sierra Club which was announced in April. Dr. Rudenberg worked very hard on coastal issues including sea turtle conservation for a number of years and the award is certainly a special one. Evelyn is a volunteer who tackles difficult issues about the environment which often require trips to Austin and testifying at hearings. She is indeed a fearless lady who will speak up whenever she is needed! We hope she will return to one of our meetings in the near future.

The campaign for an "Ike Dike," a 17 foot high monstrosity to be constructed for miles along the Upper Texas Coast to protect Galveston and ship channel refineries from a hurricane, has again reared its ugly head. It would cost billions of dollars and probably affect birds, beaches and sea turtles in a negative way. Yes, there is one in the Netherlands and some sort of dike in New Orleans but the Upper Texas Coast isn't the Netherlands and certainly not New Orleans. Stay tuned.



East Texas Nature Eastern Redbud: A Spring Pink Beauty By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist



Deep in the forests in spring
When the redbird makes her first call
She sees only the green of the cedar
And the Redbud through brown leaves of fall.
Brilliant buds tempt travelers to gather
Small sprays to take on their way,
Denuding the forests of slender
And wasting God's glory each day.

To protect this miracle of springtime
When drab colors become radiant hue,
Help God keep beauty in our forests
For birds and mankind to view."

- Maimie Lee Robinson Browne

Redbud trees are one of the early, floral reminders that spring is here in our Lone Star State. The name redbud is an exaggeration, because the buds are actually pink and open into reddish-pink or purple flowers for several weeks usually from March to May. The edible flowers cover the bare branches before the heart-shaped shaped leaves pop out. Many pioneers would toss the petals in their salads.

Even the bark was used as a folk remedy for many common illnesses. This deciduous member of the legume family has seeds that are encased in pea pods that dangle like a necklace from the tree branches.

Cercis Canadensis is a small rounded tree from 10 to 20 feet on average in height and 20 or more feet in width. Generally a redbud will have a straight trunk. In nature it is usually a understory tree. Nowadays nursery growers grow redbuds in full sun and you can safely plant them in a lot of hot sun.

Redbuds are native over much of Texas and are adaptable in a variety of soils and climate as long as it is not waterlogged soils. George Washington liked the redbud tree and successfully transplanted some into his landscape. Redbuds varieties interbreed on their way west.

In the 1930s, the Eastern redbud was made the state tree of



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Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline..... 281 444-6204



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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>