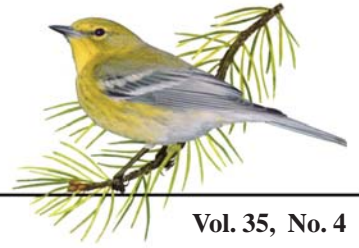


The Pine Warbler



April, 2015

Vol. 35, No. 4

Notes:

Spring at our Secretary's Home!



If you know Carole Frascella, you know her back yard is home to birds, possum, squirrels, cats, raccoons and all kinds of creatures. She buys bird food by the ton and helps sick and injured animals on a regular basis. These fortunate whistling ducks are regular visitors to her backyard!

Next month will be the last before our annual summer break! Last year everyone enjoyed a program of members' favorite photos. Just in case Al Barr (newly retired) has the time to put a program of photos together, everyone needs to look for a maximum of six photos for May! To Al: Please, Al, help us with the May program!

April 21 Program Discover John James Audubon with Mary Anne Weber

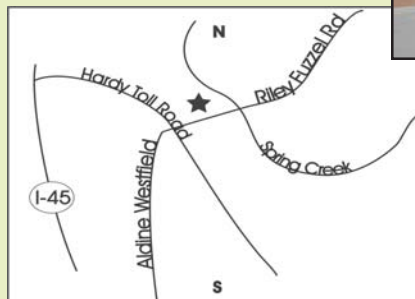


Mary Anne is the Education Director for Houston Audubon and will help us re-discover John James Audubon through his Ornithological Biography. She runs the Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center in southeast Houston. She has been working with raptors since 1983 and teaching about birds and with live birds since 1987. She has a degree in Wildlife Biology and Forestry from Virginia Tech and has taught and cared for wild birds in New Jersey, Montana, Virginia and Texas. She has been on staff with Houston Audubon since 1999. She was recently awarded the Garden Club of America's Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award for Environmental Education.

Don't miss this wonderful program!



April 21
Social 6:30pm
Program 7:00pm



Big Stone Lodge
Dennis Johnston Park
709 Riley Fuzzel Road



Heart Happenings



Green Turtle, (*Chelonia mydas*)
Photo Credit: Andy Bruckner, NOAA

Nesting season is about to start and we hope it is better than last year and the year before. In the meantime, please read this news release about our dear neighbors to the east.

Conservation groups are taking a hard look at Gov. Bobby Jindal's environmental record in advance of his expected campaign announcement in June. Turtle Island Restoration Network published an op-ed on March 14 in the *Houston Chronicle* highlighting how Jindal has failed to protect the endangered sea turtles in his home state of Louisiana.

Jindal's state is currently the only one in the United States that refuses to enforce federal regulations that require shrimp fishermen to put Turtle Excluder Devices, known as TEDs on their nets. TEDs act as an escape hatch that allows trapped sea turtles to escape shrimp nets rather than drown entangled in nets. Jindal's lack of enforcement is not only irresponsible from an environmental standpoint; it has also caused Louisiana shrimp to be red-listed by the Seafood Watch Program.

"Governor Jindal needs to step up to save the smallest sea turtle in the world," said Carole Allen, the Director of the Gulf of Mexico Office of Turtle Island Restoration Network that delivered nearly 4,000 petitions to his office asking him to enforce TEDs in Louisiana waters. So far he has failed to take action.

Background on Turtle Excluder Devices: All but one coastal state where the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle swims make sure their shrimp industry uses Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) on their trawls to allow turtles to escape. Additionally, fishermen in 20 other countries use TEDs. As pointed out in the op-ed by Homer Aridjis, the president of Mexico's foremost ecology organization, and Todd Steiner, founder and director of the Turtle Island Restoration Network with offices in Texas and California, Louisiana's Governor Bobby Jindal could save hundreds of Kemp's ridley sea turtles by enforcing a federal law of the Endangered Species Act in his own state waters, but thus far he has chosen to do nothing. Without the use of law enforced TEDs in Louisiana waters, it is likely that thousands of sea turtles of various species will drown again this year in U.S. waters (the majority in the Gulf of Mexico).

APRIL HORTICULTURE

By Kathy Dodge, Texas Master Gardener



April brings spring gardening to a fever pitch, and nurseries are fully stocked with all kinds of plants and products for every purpose for the itchy green thumb. Here are a few gardening tasks for the month of April that you might find helpful.

Azaleas: A common azalea question is: "When do I prune my azaleas". Since they bloom on growth produced the previous year, you must wait until they finish blooming before pruning. The same holds true with spirea, forsythia, wisteria and any other early spring blooming plant. Azaleas don't have to be pruned every year, but you might find it desirable to remove long shoots sticking up above the rest of the bush to keep the growth more compact.

Camellias should be fertilized this month, and once azaleas finish blooming, fertilize them, too, to stimulate new growth. Roses have relatively high fertility requirements, so fertilization can begin now and continue every 4 to 6 weeks until September.

Lawns: April is the month to begin fertilizing lawns. The ideal time to apply fertilizer is after you have mowed actively growing grass once or twice. Early April is a good target date for St. Augustine. Water often (St. Augustine uses volumes of water), raise area if water stands after a rain (it can't tolerate wet feet) and mow often, twice weekly to force it to fill in dead or sparse areas.

Planting: Perennials for summer color include lantana, daylilies, verbena, hostas, salvia, sedums, ornamental grasses, purple coneflower, rudbeckia, ferns and summer phlox. Plant white, fragrant flowers in areas where you sit outside at night. White is not only cooling and elegant, it remains vivid as other colors fade and makes all surrounding colors, including green, look more vibrant. Try white angel's trumpet (*datura*), butterfly bush (*Buddleia*), clethra, crinum, dianthus, flowering tobacco, four o'clock, ginger, hyacinth, jasmine vine, mandevilla vine, mock orange, moonflower vine, plumeria, summer phlox, sweet olive, sweet pea, sweetspire, or wisteria.

Extras you can do:

- Plant caladiums in slightly acidic soil with good drainage.
- Plant new shrubs before it gets any hotter and keep newly set-out plants well watered.
- Cut flowers to extend blooming season.
Pinch tips from coleus, copper plants to make them



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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.

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