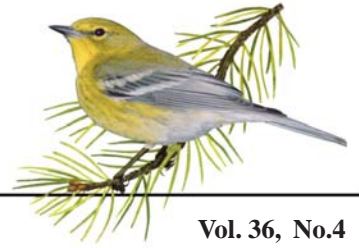


# The Pine Warbler



April 2016

Vol. 36, No.4

## Heart Happenings

**You Can Save Sea Turtles!**



Sea turtle nesting time is here again on the Gulf Coast. Over 200 people have volunteered to walk the beaches of the Upper Texas Coast. Day after day from April through June, they will search for tracks of the world's most endangered sea turtles, the Kemp's ridleys. If they are lucky this spring, they will see a nesting female or hatchlings later in the year.

Too many people believe the problems of the Kemp's ridleys are past and their population will increase, but this is far from true. Nothing definite is known about the long term effects of millions of gallons of crude oil which gushed from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill tragedy in 2010. BP is beginning to place funds with conservation groups struggling to help the ridleys recover.

Texas will have more patrols and increased law enforcement and research as a result of the BP settlement  
*next page*

## April Presentation All About Bald Eagles By Dr. Gary Clark



*Adult bald eagle soaring near nest  
– photo by Carlos Hernandez*

*Adult bald eagle perching near nest  
– photo by Carlos Hernandez*



Dr. Gary Clark presenting All About Bald Eagles. This is a fascinating topic especially since there are several pairs of bald eagles living and nesting in The Woodlands. Dr. Clark is the founder of PWWS, author of many books, author of the weekly Houston Chronicle column on Nature, a college professor, lecturer, a world traveler and spouse of photographer Kathy Adams Clark.

Please join us on Wednesday April 20 at the Big Stone Lodge in Dennis Johnston Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, TX, for a wonderful evening!



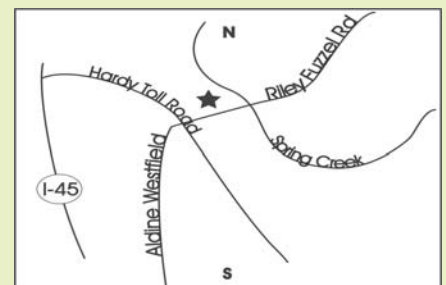
## Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road

PWWS meetings are held at the Big Stone Lodge at the new Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road.

**April 20  
Social 6:30pm**

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.



HEART from page 1

ment. If money would bring the turtle population back to where it was before the oil spill, we could all relax a little. But, not so. Over 3000 shrimp fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico are allowed to use skimmer nets or butterfly nets WITHOUT Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDS) which allow part of the net to be elevated above the water while the net is fishing preventing the shrimp from escaping over the top. But there is a very dark loophole to the use of these nets. Thousands of sea turtles are caught in these nets and many die. Existing for years as a huge loophole, no TEDS are required to allow sea turtles to escape; instead there is a futile effort to require shrimp fishermen to look in the nets frequently and not leave them in the water long enough to harm a turtle struggling to get out. Just picture that scenario: shrimpers are trusted to check their watches to make sure a sea turtle is not trapped in their skimmer nets long enough to harm or kill it. Just who is kidding who (or whom) to think that sea turtles can depend on weary shrimpers checking their watches. Although sea turtles can survive some 30 minutes submerged if they are resting but being dragged in a net with no chance to escape causes stress, release of oxygen and injury or death.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has been studying this issue for years and are finally giving us a chance to speak up. For more information, go to: [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected\\_resources/index.htm](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/index.htm) <[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected\\_resources/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/index.html)>.

Information is given on several pages. Public hearings about this issue will be held in Louisiana and Alabama in April. Then, we will have an opportunity to write letters and/or send e-mails to demand TEDs on ALL NETS including skimmers!!

### **Suburban Bald Eagles** *By Claire Moore*



*Bald eagle chick about one month old in nest – photo by Claire Moore*

Interestingly, the bald eagles in The Woodlands continue to nest where they can be easily viewed by the public. Even though a parking garage was built on Lake Front Circle right near their nest tree, they returned again this year to raise their family. Many people in The Woodlands are getting to watch the family.

The chick was born in mid-February, so fledging should take

place sometime in the latter half of April and possibly early May. Bald Eagle viewing will be at a premium during April! Don't miss out!

A great place to view this bald eagle nest is from the parking lot of "The Loft" which is located on Lake Front Circle between Lake Woodlands Drive and Grogan's Mill Road. Bring your binoculars, a chair, an umbrella for shade and a camera and enjoy watching the bald eagle family.



*Pair of bald eagles from their favorite perch near the nest – photo by Claire Moore*



*Adult bald eagle in their favorite perch tree next to parking garage – photo by Claire Moore*

### **April MNW Horticulture Newsletter** *By Kathy Dodge*

April brings spring gardeners out and nurseries are fully stocked with all kinds of plants and products. Here are a few gardening tasks for the month of April that you might find helpful.

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.





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Please submit any articles you'd like considered for the PWWs Newsletter, The Pine Warbler, to Roy Woodward ([rawoodwa@bechtel.com](mailto:rawoodwa@bechtel.com)).

**Please send all new address changes and any corrections to [cdmoore3@gmail.com](mailto:cdmoore3@gmail.com) (Claire Moore) and add PWWs to the subject line. Thank you.**

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