

The Pine Warbler



November, 2013

Vol. 33, No. 8

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 hundreds of acres of land along Spring Creek. And now, we might not have this wonderful place to meet.



PWWS November 19th Program

Take a birding trip to another country with Claire Moore!



Andean Condor
in Chile



Guanaco
in Chile



Armadillo
in Patagonia



Lesser Rhea in
Chile



Fox in Argentina

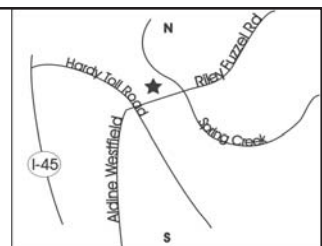
Claire Moore is a PWWS member who has traveled to some very exciting places to bird! Claire was on a field trip at Jesse Jones State Park when Sheena Abernathy mentioned PWWS and that peaked her interest. After attending a few meetings and several field trips, she decided to get involved which is a blessing to the club. Claire maintains the website, prints new membership badges and emails out the newsletter!

Retired recently from Pennzoil / Shell, she and her husband have one daughter, Bethany, who is starting her final year at Texas A&M University. Claire has been interested in nature for her whole life and birding since the mid-1990s.

We will see birds and other wildlife she or her friends photographed while in Chile, Argentina and Australia.

Date: November 19
Time: Social 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Big Stone Lodge
709 Riley Fuzzel Road



Program Notes:

The Old Stone Lodge was packed with members and guests to hear Gary and Kathy Adams Clark talk about Big Bend and show marvelous photos. Thanks to the Clarks and everyone who brought the delicious snacks!

Christmas Bird Count

The annual Audubon/Piney Woods Bird Count is set for December 14. Claire Moore will be leading the group that will meet at Hooks Airport, but Al Barr is looking for others to help out guiding other groups. The count covers a 15-mile diameter circle that is roughly centered in The Woodlands at I-45 and Rayford-Sawdust Road.

Heart Happenings



Sea turtles seem to have left the Texas coast for the time being so it allows us to pay tribute to someone who has given grants to HEART and Sea Turtle Restoration Project for many years.

Terry Hershey has always

been a conservationist and unafraid of anyone who opposes her in government or out of government. She served as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner appointed by Governor Ann Richards and people statewide grew to respect her good judgment about natural resources. She recently gave major funding to the campaign to save prairie land in Deer Park and is responsible for conserving Houston bayous and many other important sites. Terry has received the first Texas Women in Conservation Award given by the Audubon Society to outstanding women leaders in conservation throughout the Lone Star State.

A Houston Chronicle article on October 24 states that she has been showered with accolades too numerous to list. But they include being inducted in the Texas Women's Hall of fame and having a park on Buffalo Bayou named for her. She was a founding member of the The Park People and what is now the Bayou Preservation Association. She's served on the Houston Zoo Advisory Board, the Trees For Houston Advisory Committee, the Houston Parks Board and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, among others. Terry received the award on Wednesday, October 30, at the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary here in Houston.

Congratulations and thanks, Terry!

East Texas Nature "Nandina domestica: Poisonous to Many"

By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist



Photo by Jerry W. Davis

When I started bird watching my husband and I lived in Marin County, California. We moved back to Texas back in the '70s. Eventually I got into the Landscaping business. A popular plant back then was Nandina domestica, Heavenly Bamboo. Granted it was easy to plant and the plant did not seem to have any health issues. Eventually I found out that the berries were toxic to birds. To make matters worse it has become invasive in many forests. Part of the reason is this plant can grow in deep shade making it a likely candidate for the forest. Now I do not recommend this shrub.

Jerry Davis, a certified Wildlife Biologist and a past member of PWWWS wrote the following short, but illuminating article on the problems of Nandina berries which was published in a local newspaper.

"Nandina domestica is found in most landscaping mixes in yards, parks, hospital grounds, and other locations in the lower 48 states. Its bright red berries and contrasting dark green foliage is planted for color and texture by commercial landscapers. Some home owners plant Nandina to provide food for Cedar waxwing, American robin, Northern mockingbird, Eastern bluebird and other birds that depend on winter fruits to survive. Nandina berries last for months attracting hungry birds when food is in short supply.

When dozens of Cedar waxwings were found dead in Thomas County Georgia, Moges Wolderemeskel and Eloise L. Styer (2010), College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, found the cause to be Nandina berries, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3005831/>. All birds had intact berries of N. domestica in their crops. There was hemorrhaging in the heart, lungs, trachea, abdominal cavity and other organs (Figure 1).

Nandina berries contain cyanide and other alkaloids that produce highly toxic hydrogen cyanide (HCN) which is extremely



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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>