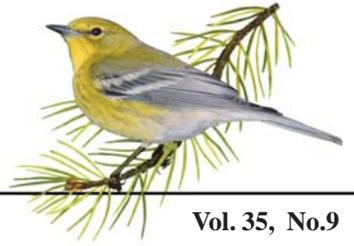


# The Pine Warbler



December 2015

Vol. 35, No.9

## Heart Happenings

(Help needed by December 4!)



We all need to speak up and support the sea turtles of the Gulf of Mexico even though we have done it before. The trustees in charge of \$8.8 billion dollars of BP oil spill settlement money are considering where to allocate perhaps the last funds to be given for the Gulf.

Sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico were killed by the horrendous Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, which flooded the Gulf with some 134 million gallons of oil. Today, the turtles that survived continue to suffer from effects of toxic materials left in their feeding grounds. We need funding for a sea turtle education center and a clinic on the Upper Texas Coast for oiled or injured sea turtles. The city of Jackson, Mississippi, 200 miles from the Gulf, has received thousands of BP dollars because they claim they lost a lot of tourism money because of the spill. We need to point out that the sea turtles and especially the Kemp's ridleys suffered more than any other wildlife in the Gulf and continue to suffer bad effects.

Please help tell the trustees to set aside funding for endangered sea turtle recovery efforts by December 4! The easiest way to join the fight for sea turtles is to go to <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan/> click on the button that says 'Submit A Comment.'

*Cont. on page 2*

## December 16 Wednesday Program



Everyone is invited to bring whatever dishes they choose from cookies, cakes, chips and dips, fruit, cheese, casseroles, cold cuts, deviled eggs, veggies, pumpkin pies or whatever you would like to share.

Drinks, cups, paper plates, utensils and napkins will be furnished. We'll start gathering at 6:30 p.m. as always followed by a brief meeting and lots of good food! We have invited our host Dennis Johnston and his wife and hope they can attend. The building caretaker, Shaun, and his family are also invited.

If anyone has photographs to show, please contact Carlos Hernandez and/or Al Barr by December 12 so arrangements can be made to show them at the meeting.



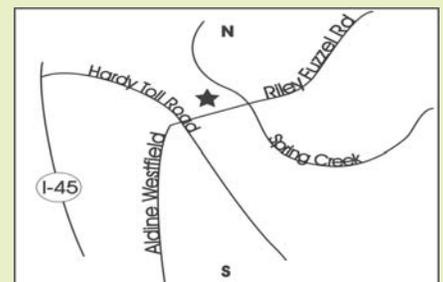
## Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road

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

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.

**December 16th  
Social 6:30pm**



HEART from page 1

### Time to Say Thanks!

As 2015 comes to a close, it's time to say thanks to PWWS officers, members, everyone who has brought snacks, cleaned the kitchen, swept the floor, put away the chairs, led bird counts, sent out the newsletter, writes articles, given programs and all the jobs it takes to run a nature club. And a special thanks to Allison Marks who puts a wonderful newsletter together every month!

**May we all enjoy a healthy and happy 2016!**

### This and That!

President Kathy Coward announces that the next PWWS board meeting will be held January 12 so the new board can attend. Also on the New Year calendar is a whooping crane trip to Rockport on Saturday, February 20. The Woodlands Camera Club will be invited to the whooping crane adventure.

At last a new volunteer has stepped up to take the First Vice President spot held by Carole Allen for many years. He is Roy Woodward who attended the November meeting with his wife, Deb. Roy has a Ph.D. in botany from the University of California and currently works full-time for Bechtel Corporation as an environmental advisor. In a previous job he managed the endangered bird and mammal program for the California Department of Fish & Game and has done field studies for everything from invertebrates to large mammals. He has participated in hundreds of studies trapping, netting, collecting, and says he has walked a jillion miles of plant/wildlife survey transects. The Woodwards moved to Houston in 2009, but Roy has worked mostly worked overseas the past few years and so he is still learning the Texas birds and plants.

Roy says he is glad to serve wherever needed. He said "I'm fairly organized and do much technical review and writing at my work." The Woodwards live in The Thicket, just off Mirror Lake between Cypresswood and Louetta in Spring. Their phone number is 832-764-6548 if you want to call and welcome them to Piney Woods!

### In Memory

After longtime PWWS member and officer Mike Drummond passed away, the board worked with his widow, Jean, to use memorial funds for a meaningful project in his memory. The decision was made to install bird feeders at the park near the Stone Lodge. On November 12, Al Barr, Larry Oden and Jerry Hawkin of the Spring Creek Education Society installed three first-class bird feeders placed near cover for the birds. Al reported they were covered with birds the very next day.

## Calling All Birders for Christmas Bird Count!

The Piney Woods sponsored Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count needs your help! Please consider signing up to go out with one of the teams of birders counting birds on Saturday morning, December 19th. We will be attempting to count all the bird species in our 15 mile diameter count circle roughly centered at I-45 at the Rayford / Sawdust.

If you're not able to go into the field and happen to live inside that circle and plan to be home part of the day on Saturday, December 19th, please sign up as a "feeder watcher". Claire will send you a form so you can report your bird observations made on that day from inside the count circle. They will be included in the official CBC results for the 2015 Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count.

The count down dinner is for everyone, even if they didn't participate in the count... Meet at 5:30 p.m. at El Palenque on Saturday, December 19th, in the back left of the restaurant in their separate dining room. The restaurant is at 1485 Spring Cypress Rd. at I-45. All are welcome! We'll discuss happenings from the day and what we saw, etc.

Please contact Claire at [cdmoore3i@gmail.com](mailto:cdmoore3i@gmail.com) or call her at 832-372-5033 to discuss either opportunity.



### December MNW Horticulture Newsletter By Kathy Dodge

December has arrived and so have the chillier temperatures. Don't get too anxious to do major pruning. Most **woody** trees and shrubs can be safely pruned December through early March. Be sure you can justify the removal of each branch or limb.

Plants which bloom in early spring, like azaleas, forsythia and spirea, should be pruned after they flower, while those that bloom later in the spring and summer can be pruned during wintertime. Roses are pruned in mid-February except spring-only bloomers which are cut back after spring flowering.

Don't let fallen leaves remain on the lawn all winter. Either mow them back into the lawn, collect them to be used as a weed suppressing and





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**Numbers of Interest**

Heart Hotline..... 281 444-6204

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**The deadline for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cdmoore3@gmail.com) (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.**

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>