

## PWWS FEBRUARY 2018 Newsletter



*Drawer full of Parnassus specimens*

### February Program

Farrar Stockton will give a program about the Butterfly Collection at The Natural History Museum in London and the Microsculpture exhibit At Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Microsculpture is the

the process of photographing a fly or a bee more than 4,000 times and then blowing it up to a size of a door making outstanding detail and color to the insect.

Don't miss his, February 14, 2018 program 7 p.m. at the Big Stone Lodge. Come early 6:30 p.m. for snacks and social time.

Farrar has been a member of PWWS since 1983 and has volunteered to serve on the PWWS Board, the Outdoor Nature Club, and BEST (Butterfly Enthusiasts of South East Texas) as president for many years.



Looking into the main room from the entrance doors with Darwin's statue on top of stairs



Drawer full of *Anaea nessus* (Leaf butterfly) from the Amazon area.



*Outside image of the Natural History Museum in London*

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## **CHANGE ON WHOOPING CRANE TRIP DETAILS - PLEASE READ**

We had planned our trip to Rockport to see the Whooping Cranes for Feb. 17th but we had to change the date and boat. The trip will now be on Feb. 16th, Friday at 1pm, out of Fulton Harbor which is next to Charlotte Plummer's Restaurant. The boat is the Skimmer and holds 20 people. We have 11 signed up. If you want to go, please call Kathy Coward at 281/288-9019 work, or 281/893-1816 home as soon as possible as we will have to check availability.

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## **HEART**

(Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) News

**by Carole Allen**

The last few weeks have been a tough time for sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico, especially the green species. They simply can't survive in cold water. If not found and removed from the cold water, they will die from "cold-stunning." So many greens were found in the past few weeks, statistics will need to be refigured since there are obviously more of them in Texas waters than anyone knew about.

The tables below list the cold stunned turtles documented during the winter of 2017-2018, including turtles found from 8 December 2017-21 January 2018. Most of the turtles that were found alive have now been released. This is by far the largest number of cold stunned turtles found in Texas during a winter. Cold stunning in Texas could continue through the first week of March.

Hundreds of volunteers as well as federal and state employees have worked to find the greens, and a few ridleys, and remove them from the cold water. After warming up, they can be safely returned to the Gulf. The weather people tell is that February may be a cold month for the sea turtles, too. So if you are visiting any of the bays and other areas, look out for a sea turtle floating motionless in the water. It may need a helping hand.

Area	Total
Galveston Area/ Inshore	219
East Matagorda Bay	0
Lavaca/San Antonio Bay	41
Aransas Bay/Copano Bay	1
San Jose Island	0
Mustang Island/Aransas Pass	11
Upper Laguna Madre/Corpus Christi Bay	2663
Padre Island National Seashore/North Padre Island Gulf Beach	7
Lower Laguna Madre/South Padre Island/Boca Chica Beach	475
South Padre Island/Boca Chica Beach Gulf Beach	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3419</b>

Condition	Total
Alive	2915
Dead	504
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3419</b>

## IS IT A TURTLE OR A TORTOISE?



### IS IT A TURTLE OR A TORTOISE?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Some lump anything with an outside shell into the turtle category when in fact there are distinct differences between turtles and tortoises. Both are reptiles but turtles live in the water and the tortoise is a land-dweller.

Some lump anything with an outside shell into the turtle category when in fact there are distinct differences between turtles and tortoises. Both are reptiles but turtles live in the water and the tortoise is a land-dweller.

Turtles are identifiable by their webbed feet and long claws. The webbing helps them swim. The tortoise has a heavier shell than the turtle and has short sturdy

legs. Turtles are omnivores meaning they eat vegetation and meat. Tortoises tend to be herbivores but have been known to occasionally eat meat.

Both turtles and tortoises date back 220 million years! They both have a very long lifespan with sea turtles living up to 70 years and the more common turtles living up to 40 years. Tortoises can live up to 150 years!

Red-eared slider turtles became popular as pets when they were made available in dime stores. I know I had one in the 1950's so they've been around a very long time! Their popularity soared when the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle movie came out. Because the turtles were released into the wild when pet owners got tired of them, they are now considered invasive in some states. A couple of states have outlawed the sale of them. These turtles tend to be a bit aggressive and make it difficult for other native species to compete for food and habitats. They can also introduce unknown diseases to the wild population when pet turtles are released into the wild.

Probably the most unique turtle in our area is the softshell turtle. They live in the water and are carnivores. It has a flat shell and will often bury itself at the bottom of a lake, stream, or bayou leaving only its neck and head exposed. It can breathe under water much like a fish.

TWRC Wildlife Center cares for hundreds of turtles every year. Most are admitted because of injuries sustained from cars. In 2014, concerned citizens asked Missouri City to help protect turtles crossing the road. The City took a positive step by erecting road signs showing a mama turtle with three babies.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 38-year-old non-profit organization that is your resource for wildlife questions and concerns. Check out our website at [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org) or give us a call at 713-468-TWRC.

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**COMMUNITY** *Partners*



**CREATING** *Wildlife* **HABITATS IN** *Community* **SPACES**



February 3: Creating Wildlife Habitats in Community Spaces

Please join The Woodlands Township, our communities and our neighbors as we learn more and work together to reinvent public spaces into beautiful habitats that benefit wildlife and people. This is a FREE community workshop produced in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency. For more information REGISTER [www.TheWoodlandsTownship-tx.gov/environment](http://www.TheWoodlandsTownship-tx.gov/environment).

**CREATING Wildlife HABITATS IN Community SPACES**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 | 8:30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

The Woodlands Emergency Training Center

16135 I-45 South

Conroe, TX 77385

Directions:

Take the I-45 feeder road one mile north of Highway 242, turn right at the training center sign and follow the road until the end.

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**Kevin Gaines of Wildlife Revealed**



#### February 8: Walk in the Woods

Explore nature at your back door! Experts reveal the extraordinary plants and wildlife of East Texas. A different program each month from February through April and September through November.

For this program, the walk and falcon presentation will occur outdoors from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. A presentation from Kevin Gaines of Wildlife Revealed.

Location is Recreation Center at Rob Fleming, 6464 Creekside Forest Drive in The Woodlands.

Registration is required for our free Walk in the Woods Nature Series. Space is limited so register now for this nature walk and presentation, through the link below.

[http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/Calendar.aspx?](http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=6329&month=2&year=2018&day=2&calType=0)

[EID=6329&month=2&year=2018&day=2&calType=0](http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=6329&month=2&year=2018&day=2&calType=0)

Walk in the Woods Nature Lecture

[www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov](http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov)

Hope to see you there!

Teri MacArthur, Water Conservation Program Specialist

The Woodlands Township | Environmental Services, 8203 Millennium Forest Drive, The Woodlands TX 77381, 281-210-3928 (Direct)

281-210-3800 (Main)



February 10: Vegetable Gardening for The Woodlands

Soil is where our food begins. High quality soil is the key to growing high quality vegetables. Join us on Saturday, February 10, 2018 for our Spring Organic Vegetable Gardening and Soil Preparation class. Noted organic gardening author, photographer and vegetable expert Skip Richter will share research-based information to support you as you prepare the soil, plant and manage your Spring vegetable garden. Registration is required for our free organic vegetable gardening classes. Space is limited so register now for this interactive class.

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*Frosted Elfin photo by Jim Snyder March 28, 2015*

Tuesday, February 6 - BEST Meeting at The Museum of Natural Science at the lower floor of the Cockrell Butterfly Center. February's program will be presented by Dean Jue. He will talk about the following: The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) has been awarded a Conservation License Plate grant from the Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) to determine the current status of a rare butterfly, the Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irushadros*) in Texas. You can read more about this project at [www.best-naba.org](http://www.best-naba.org) and [www.naba.org/frosted\\_elfin.html](http://www.naba.org/frosted_elfin.html).

Social will start at 7:00 PM and meeting/presentation at 7:30 PM.

#### Best Events 2018 (Butterfly Enthusiasts of SE Texas)

Butterfly Counts		
Date	Count	Contact
Sat. MAR 10	Houston Lakes	Wally Ward 713/869-6856
Events		
Date	Event	Organization/location
Sat. MAR 03	Nature Fest 9AM – 3:30 PM	Jesse H. Jones Park, 20634 <a href="#">Kenswick Dr.</a> Humble 77338
Sat. MAR 17	March Mart 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Mercer Arboretum & Nature Center, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble
Sat. MAR 24	Montgomery County Master Gardener Plant Sale 9-12	Texas A&M Agri Life Extension 9020 Airport Road, Conroe
Sat. MAR 24	Texas Wildlife and Woodland Expo 10 AM to 2 PM	TPWD/Montgomery College

# Photos by Sandy Crystal-Vaughn



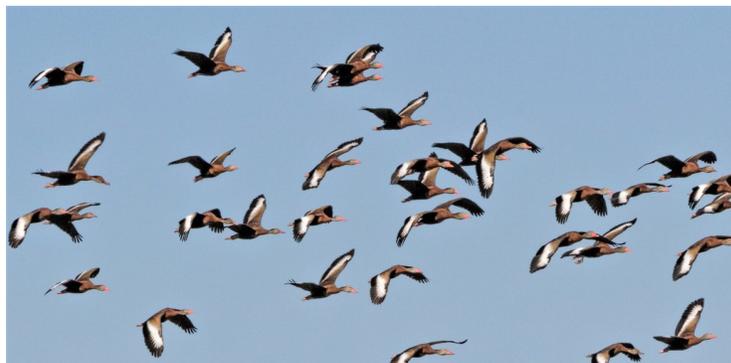
*Zoro having a bad hair day! Cedar Waxwing. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas*



*Confirmation that buying the "camo" pattern tarp to cover the pool during winter was the right thing to do! I am calling it an "ephemeral pond"!!! Cedar waxwings drinking. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas*



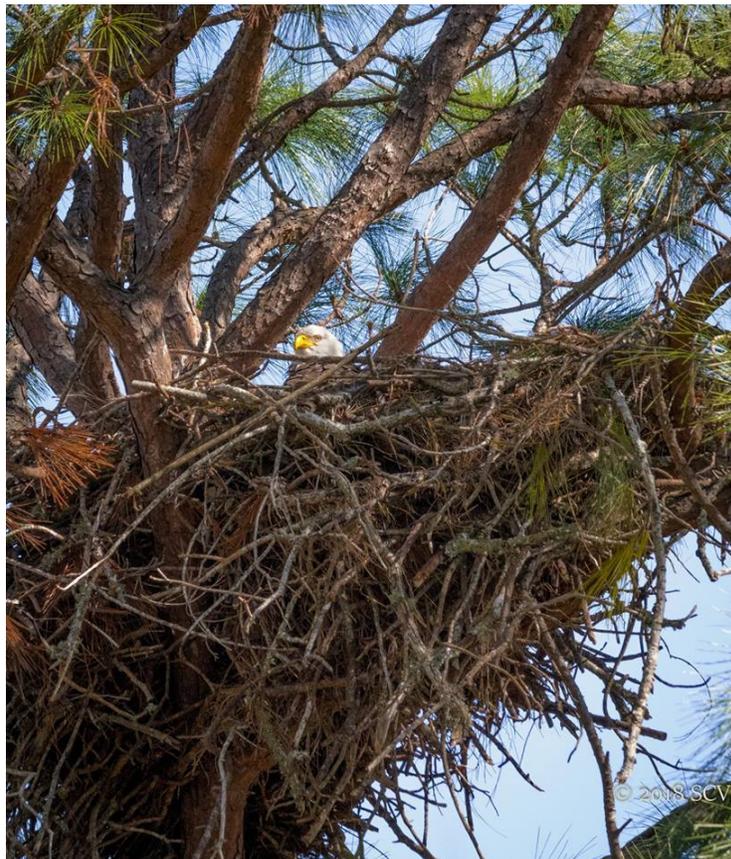
*Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were such good models! Luv these guys!  
Egret Bay Blvd. in Webster, Texas*



*Flying Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in flight. Egret Bay Blvd. in Webster,  
Texas*



*Bald Eagle repositioning a branch brought back to the nest.*



*Bald Eagle in ginormous nest! I was told the pair comes back year after year to the same location. A pine tree on private property in Pearland, Texas*



*Changing of the guard. Bald Eagle mate coming back to the nest for a turn!*



## **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  
Old  
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.



## Renewal Time

Don't forget to renew your PWWS membership today for 2018. You can either mail in your check to PWWS, P. O. Box 189, Spring TX 77383-0189 or bring it to the next meeting (Feb 14th) and give it to the Treasurer or any board member. Thanks!

<b>Piney Woods Wildlife Membership Form</b>		
Last Name(s):	First Name of Member(s):	
Street Address:	City:	State and Zip:
Home Phone No:	Work Phone No:	Email Address(s):
Pine Warbler will be delivered by E-mail Only		
Annual Membership Fee \$15.00*	Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to:	
Additional Contribution \$ _____	<b>Piney Woods Wildlife Society</b> P.O. Box 189 Spring, TX 77383-0189	
Total \$ _____		
*Per Household – Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter		
New _____ Renewal _____ Rejoining _____		

### 2018 Board of Directors

President, Kathy Coward

First VP, Diane Wedgeworth

Second VP, Claire Moore

Third VP, Carlos Hernandez

Secretary, Carole Barr

Treasurer, Jim Lacey  
Director, Farrar Stockton  
Director, Debbie Wilson  
Director, Maryanne DiBiase  
Carole Allen, **HEART** Committee Chair

Please join us!

PWWS web site is [www.pineywoodswildlifesociety.org](http://www.pineywoodswildlifesociety.org)

PWWS Facebook site is at <https://www.facebook.com/Piney-Woods-Wildlife-Society-125891867423250/>

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The Pine Warbler is published monthly, September through May, by the Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Inc.

For membership information write to us at P.O. Box 189, Spring, Texas 77383-0189. Annual Dues :\$15.00 per household.

Please submit any articles you'd like considered for the PWWS Newsletter. The Pine Warbler, to Kathy Coward, [justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net)

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.



# Valentine's



# Day



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