



March 2011

President's Perspective

Water conservation is a topic important to everyone, as our fresh water resources are too quickly running dry. We are glad to welcome a presentation from the local master gardeners group on how to capture rainwater for various uses around the house.

See you at the meeting.
Anne-Marie Prouty

Huntsville Audubon

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
 P. O. Box 6818
 Huntsville, Texas 77340

Our Mission

To increase our community's awareness of the natural world and the need for its preservation, through education and the active enjoyment of birds and other wildlife.

Officers

President	Anne-Marie Prouty	295-3958
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Vice-President	Ron Boddicker	594-9838
Secretary	Deanna Boddicker	594-9838
Treasurer & Membership	Carol Reed	295-3958

Committee Chairs

Programs	Joe Smith	295-7958
Field Trips	Paul Culp	295-3404
Conservation	OPEN	
Newsletter	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937
Publicity & Scrapbook	Sharyn Pezant	294-9408
Hospitality	Joy Tinsley	293-1918
Edu/Jr. Audubon	Tom Stafford	295-1403
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

Our Website: <http://www.huntsvilleaudubon.org/>

Programs and Events

March Meeting: Huntsville Audubon will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 17, 2011**, at 6:30pm. Our meeting location is Fire Station No. 2 on Sam Houston Avenue. The menu for this month is **Homemade Chili and fixins for Frito Pie!** Board members are preparing three versions of chili and bringing the Fritos and other fixins. If you can provide a **side dish, salad or dessert**, they are always welcomed additions!

March Program: The Walker County Master Gardeners will present a program on rainwater capture. The presenters will be George Tykol and Mark Short.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Look for Huntsville Audubon online at <http://www.huntsvilleaudubon.org> AND on Facebook, at **Huntsville (Texas) Audubon Society**. **If you have a Facebook page, please be sure to join our group.** It is another way to keep up with everything that is going on in our Chapter!

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance: \$ 969.28
 Memorial Fund Balance: \$ 4,148.26

Our treasurer, Carol Reed, has submitted the Annual Financial Report to National Audubon.

(The Memorial Fund includes an amount of \$925, granted to the Chapter by Audubon Foundation of Texas for work on the bird blind.)

FIELD TRIP CORNER:

In March we shall explore the **Bearkat Camp** just north of Riverside on the Trinity River; probably very few of you have seen this latest addition to the SHSU extended Campus. Meet at the Walker County Annex parking lot in order to leave at 8:00 am.

April will find us at **Nature's Cathedral**, a large protected area that includes—in addition to beautiful overlooks of Lake Livingston—a large collection of outdoor statuary, a riverboat, and a marble pyramid. Sturdy footwear and perhaps a walking stick are highly recommended for both these outings. Also in April, we will take our annual trek to **High Island** to enjoy the wonder of spring migration! PAUL CULP

FRIENDS OF HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK PROGRAMS, AT RAVEN LODGE

3/20/2011, 2:00 p.m: **Wildscape 101**. Speaker will be **Diana Foss**, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department. Programs are **free to the public** and sound awesome!

Book recommendation from Ann Staples: **Finders Keepers: A Tale of Archeological Plunder and Obsession** by Craig Childs, a "naturalist, adventurer, and desert ecologist."

The **nominating committee** will begin its work soon, putting together a slate of officers for the 2011-2012 Chapter year. Please consider taking a position on the board or as a committee chair if you are called upon. If you have a burning desire to hold a particular office, please let Anne Prouty know.

<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside Bearkat Camp, March 19, 2011 • Nature's Cathedral, April 23, 2011 • High Island trip April 30, 2011 • Chapter Picnic, May 19, 2011 <p>9th Annual Galveston FeatherFest 4/7 – 4/10/2011</p> <p>Booming and Blooming Attwater Prairie Chicken Festival 4/9 – 4/10/2011</p> <p>Balcones Canyonlands Songbird Festival 4/29 – 5/2/2011</p>	<p>Earth Share Texas is the source of some of the money used to fund the collaborative grants given by Audubon Foundation of Texas. Please visit their website to learn more about their wonderful organization and how they raise the money to help fund Texas Chapters' projects.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">"One environment. One simple way to care for it." http://www.earthshare-texas.org/</p>
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Our own **Terry Brackeen** spent several months as a park volunteer in Big Bend National Park last fall. Following is her account of her encounter with a Mountain Lion!

"I was hiking solo and was walking up the steep trail. There were a lot of switchbacks, meaning it was a trail with a lot of curves. I came around this one curve. Twenty feet ahead of me I saw movement coming up to the next curve in front of me. I immediately knew it was a mountain lion. He was speedily coming down the trail toward me. He obviously had seen me, but he was still coming toward me. I said the words mountain lion out loud, but in a low tone. I believed I was in fear of my life. One is to never run from a mountain lion. I took a defensive stance and held my walking sticks together in both hands in a horizontal position in front of me. Visions of being mauled to death went through my mind and I was thinking that I didn't want to die. Then he jumped off of the trail onto a rock. I was extremely relieved, but remained cautious. Then I just wanted him to stay long enough for me to get a picture. I put down the hiking sticks, got out the camera and began taking pictures. As I relaxed my body and face (but always remaining cautious), my heart was the last to slow down. That had been a huge adrenalin rush. To my surprise, he didn't leave. For the next 15 minutes I stayed there taking pictures of him. He gave me several different poses. Sometimes he was 20 feet from me and sometimes 30. Sometimes he was looking at me and sometimes he was looking away. After the 15 minutes, I left and he remained there. Some friends came up the trail about an hour later, but the mountain lion was no longer there. It was an amazing experience. (Later I realized the mountain lion was probably waiting to see what tasty morsel was coming around the corner, but when he realized it was a human he had to continue coming toward me a few feet to get past the cliff into the meadow.)"

Terry plans to begin a camping tour of the nation's national parks in the spring of 2012. We hope to hear lots more about her travels!



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