



September 2010

President's Perspective

Fall is here! How did it get to be September already? One exciting thing about seeing August in the rear-view mirror is it means a Huntsville Audubon year is about to begin! Mark your calendars; our first meeting is September 16th. The board has done a bit of brainstorming. We hope to deliver an exciting year of programs, field trips, and conservation action. We start the year off with a talk on birds in the Sam Houston National Forest, and later will have programs on rain capture, Eastern Bluebirds, wildlife photography, and much more. Adventures to local and out-of-town nature spots are also ahead. We have some inspiring local conservation goals, so please look for those opportunities to get involved. Best to you and yours. 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
Email:	anneprouty@sbcglobal.net	
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

September Meeting: Our meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at Fire Station #2. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with a light supper, followed by our meeting and program at 7:00. This month it's **build-you-own-Dagwood sandwich!!** The Chapter will provide the meat-and-cheese tray, and board members will bring bread and condiments. As always, side dishes and desserts are a welcomed addition to our menus. Variety is, after all, the spice of life!!

September Program: Please join us for a very interesting program by Mallory Brodrick as she shares with us her research on how bird communities in the Sam Houston National Forest respond to the Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat regimen of prescribed burns. Mallory recently completed a Masters degree in biology from Sam Houston State University under the advisement of Dr. Diane Neudorf.

September Field Trip: We will have our own private **STAR PARTY** at the University Observatory on the SHSU Country Campus near Riverside. The date is Saturday, **September 25, 2010**, and the time is **8:30 p.m.** There will be more info and a sign-up sheet at the meeting. Please call **Paul Culp** at **936.295.3404** if you have questions or need more information.

2010-2011 Goals: The City of Huntsville Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) is in the process of making significant **revisions to all chapters of the City of Huntsville Development Code.** One of the goals set by the board is for representatives of our Chapter to be active participants in this process. All P&Z meetings **are open to the public** for attendance, and it would be even better if our Chapter had a representative sitting on the P&Z board. What is the Development Code? Please take a few minutes to go to the City's website at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/>. Under "**City News**" on the main page you will see "**Development Code Revision.**" Click on that for information about the Code itself, and the proposed areas of revision. Our mission is "*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.*" By participating in this process, we have a say about habitat preservation when land is developed in our city. More information will be available at our regular meeting.

Our other goals include encouraging water conservation with educational programs and demonstrations, supporting the Neches River as a Wild and Scenic River, opposing the tar sands pipeline, and monitoring the resolution of the bat colony issue.



Fair on the Square Time!!! Huntsville's *Fair on the Square* takes place this year on Saturday, October 2nd. We will have out booth in our usual spot, Space 142, and will need members to sign up for two-hour shifts throughout the day. We need four people for set-up and teardown. This will be discussed at the meeting, and a sign-up sheet will be circulated with the available times during the day. We will be selling calendars, t-shirts, bird boxes, and bird guides this year, as well as handing out brochures of interest to passers-by. Please be ready to take a shift during the day to help our Chapter in this important fundraiser. For more info, please call Anne Prouty at 936.581.4761 (cell) or 936.295.3958 (home).

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance: \$ 553.65
 Memorial Fund Balance: \$ 4,136.66
 (The Memorial Fund includes an amount of \$925, granted to the Chapter by Audubon Foundation of Texas for work on the bird blind.)

Bird Blind Update: The bird blind is still in the forefront of our conservation goals this fall and we hope to have the main platform and trail completed by Christmas. Currently we are looking at bids for just the pier and beam work, with the idea that our volunteers can finish the rest. So many people have said they will help and we hope we can put them to work very soon!

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: In addition to September marking the beginning of our Audubon season, it is also Chapter dues renewal time! Huntsville Audubon, with the approval of National Audubon Society, offers chapter-only memberships in addition to National memberships.

A number of years ago, National Audubon changed the way they calculated the share that local chapters received from national dues. As a result, local chapters received less than they once did and many faced financial difficulties. At the request of many chapters and members, National Audubon began allowing chapters to offer chapter-only memberships, in which the entire amount of the dues is retained at the local level for local programs and projects.

While Huntsville Audubon is pleased to offer both Local and National memberships to interested members, we do not advocate one over the other. It is entirely up to the preference of the member and both have their value. National Audubon Society is a dedicated wildlife organization with an impressive history of conservation advocacy, certainly deserving of support. Membership in National Audubon entitles members to all the rights and privileges of both local and chapter membership, including the award winning Audubon magazine and Huntsville Audubon's "The Raven" newsletter.

However, some members prefer that their donation dollars remain in their own community. Huntsville Audubon Chapter dues are \$20 a year, renewable in September of each year and the entire amount remains with our local chapter. Chapter members will receive "The Raven" newsletter.



Long time Huntsville Audubon charter member **Roy Kveton** continues to improve, recovering from his recent illness. Roy is recuperating at Ella Smither Geriatric Center and enjoys visitors. Stop by and see Roy if you have an opportunity.



Earth Share Texas is the source of most 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.



"One environment. One simple way to care for it."
<http://www.earthshare-texas.org/>



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P.O. Box 6818
Huntsville, TX 77342-6818