



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

April 2003

RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: A Community Conservation Resource

Kathryn Nichols, National Park Service

Tuesday April 15, 2003 7:30 PM

Kathryn Nichols represents the Texas Field Office of the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service. Rivers & Trails staff work with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

RTCA can help communities achieve their conservation goals in a variety of ways and tailor activities to meet community needs. These might include everything from resource assessment and mapping, development of promotional brochures and events, planning, public meeting facilitation, project management and coordination, to serving as a liaison with nonprofit agencies and local, regional, state, tribal and federal agencies.

Kathryn will present a brief overview of her program and share examples of current and past community projects in Texas. Following the presentation, Kathryn will entertain questions and lead a discussion about interests in conservation pursuits in the Bastrop community.

Ms. Nichols holds a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas.

She began her planning career with the Capital Area Planning Council but quickly moved on to Texas Parks and Wildlife where she worked for 19 years in various positions including statewide outdoor recreation planning, trail and greenway planning and funding, and land acquisition. Since 2000, she has been employed as a Community Planner by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. In this position, she provides technical and planning assistance to local communities desiring to conserve and enhance their locally important resources.

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communities desiring to conserve and enhance their locally important resources.

Please join our speaker and BCAS Board members for dinner at Jalisco's Mexican restaurant (by the HEB) at 6 PM on Tuesday.

Bastrop County Audubon chapter meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month (except July & August) in the Cecil Long Community Room of the First National Bank of Bastrop (next to the bank on Main Street). Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the program.



R.G. Bell

YESTERFEST

Pioneer Day Celebration

We need your help!

Join other BCAS members at the Bastrop Yesterfest Celebration Saturday April 26th from noon to 5:15 PM. In our booth at Fisherman's Park we'll be showing & selling native plants, hummingbird feeders and talking to the public about birds and birdwatching.

For more information or to volunteer contact Linda Presto-Lenoch at 512-303-0944. or Mary Ellen Branan at 512-303-2734.

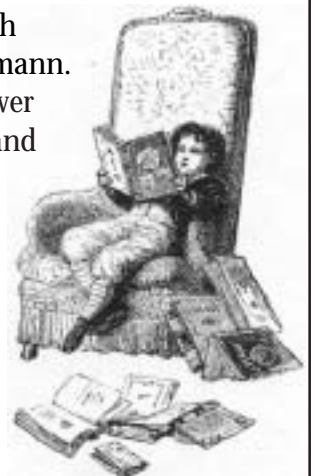
THE LEARNERS' CORNER

Wildflower Watching with Board Member Marcia Hermann.

Marcia will bring wildflower books, herbarium samples, and some fresh cut wildflowers.

With wildflowers as the focus, she will talk about botany, taxonomy, ecology, and wildlife habitat.

The Learners' Corner meets at 7:00 PM before the general meeting.



BCAS CALENDAR



FIELD TRIPS For the Birds

When the ferry boat to Matagorda Island burned about a month before our scheduled visit, I experienced an uneasy feeling. But I quickly located an elderly gentleman who agreed to transport us and began to relax. By nature I am a hopeful person but Murphy must have followed us to Port O'Connor, or maybe he was already there. Our accommodations were primitive. Saturday's weather was the opposite of Friday's wonderful weather. Because of miscommunication, we expected a visitor's center with live people who would provide maps and information on the island; however, that convenience was at the ferry dock instead. Matagorda Island is as primitive as the motel: no telephones (even cellars don't work), very few attendants (although the ranger who aided us, Larry, was great), and limited restroom facilities. We ate our lunches in a dilapidated bus beside the historical lighthouse, entertained by red-winged blackbirds and a yellow-rumped warbler. And then Larry returned early because of the approaching storm! Our boat pilot was also waiting; however, he determined that one of his boats was not adequate for the return trip. By that time, Mary Anne Casey had claimed an ancient dugout canoe for the night. Our befuddled captain managed to locate another, much safer boat, and we eventually stepped onto dry land in Port O'Connor—relatively dry ourselves—having seen about 30 different species of birds.

Because all sixteen of us were not only interested birders but also great sports, we must have persuaded old Murphy to bother someone else. Pollyanna would have been proud of us: we were grateful for plentiful hot water (except for Alan Jaeger whose shower didn't work); and once we requested and received blankets, we were warm enough. We enjoyed sumptuous breakfasts at Josie's, home of the world's largest pancakes that require a Texas-sized spatula to flip (I asked). The highly recommended Barkett's in Seadrift lived up to its reputation Saturday evening also.

Sunday we awoke to another gorgeous morning (akin to Friday's) and decided that Murphy must have given up on us and was plaguing someone else. We had breakfast at Josie's again and finally saw some of Matagorda Island's famed endangered species—mounted!

Those of you who weren't able to accompany us, aren't you envious of such an adventure?

Loretta Hennard, Field Trip Chair

APRIL

- April 13 – Board Meeting Barbara Harp's home, 581-0835
- April 15 – Chapter Meeting
- April 26–FIELD TRIP to Palmetto State Park. Contact Loretta Hennard (321-3818) for more information.
- April 26-YESTERFEST Pioneer Day Celebration, Bastrop.

MAY

- May 2-4 3rd Annual Texas Songbird Festival, Lago Vista. for more information 1-888-328-5246.
- May 18 – Board Meeting at the home of Bill Montgomery & Margie Crisp, 281-5667
- May 20 – Chapter Meeting: John Flowers of Austin's Useful Wild Plants Project and WeedFeed.
- May TBA FIELD TRIP to Peckerwood Gardens near Hempstead

JUNE

- June 15 – Board Meeting. Barbara Carson's home in McDade. 273-2840
- June 17 – Chapter Meeting: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory will present a program on prairie restoration and Project Prairie Bird.

JULY & AUGUST No meetings

Visit our Web site for updates and additional information on field trips and events.
www.bastropcountyaudubon.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Join the National Audubon Society or become a Friend of Bastrop County Audubon through the BCAS Web site bastropcountyaudubon.org Or contact Priscilla Jarvis at 512-281-2762 for more information.

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: **APRIL REFRESHMENTS:** :
: **Margie Crisp & Maggie Lambert** :
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Bastrop County Audubon Society
c/o Jarvis
783 Lower Elgin Rd.
Elgin, TX 78621

Return Service Requested