



**GENERAL MEETINGS: 2ND THURSDAYS**

7:30 p.m.

October 9, 2014

November 13, 2014

December 11, 2014

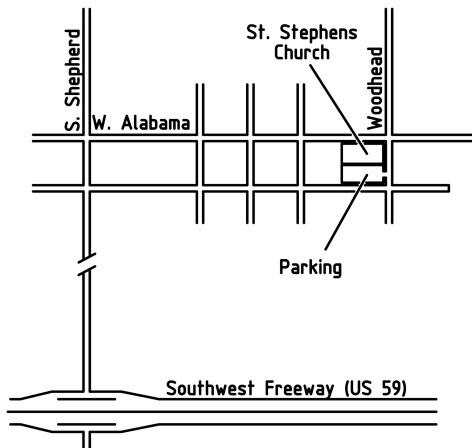
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

St. Stephens Episcopal Church  
1805 West Alabama

Enter one parking lot from Woodhead, the other from Sul Ross.

Before 7:00 PM, left turns to Woodhead are not allowed. If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlavy, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

Join us prior to the meeting for refreshments at the hospitality table and to visit the information tables for Forestry, Outings, and Inner City Outings. Find out how you can volunteer with us.



Map: Getting to the General Meeting

**GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 9, 2014  
KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY, KEEPING IT REAL**

The Katy Prairie is less than 30 minutes away from Jersey Village (out Highway 290) where anyone with a love of wide-



Katy Prairie, By Greg Lavaty [CC BY-SA-3.0], via Wikimedia Commons.

open spaces can visit and enjoy. Visitors will find fabulous birding, leisurely biking and hiking, and sunrises that will blow your mind. A picnic on the Katy Prairie offers a relaxing getaway from the hustle and bustle of the big city. Unfortunately, it's not easy keeping the Katy Prairie real in the face of ever-encroaching development.

Join us Thursday night, October 9, to hear from the Katy Prairie Conservancy's Executive Director, Mary Anne Piancentini, as she discusses their work to preserve the area for the enjoyment of all of us. Program starts at 7:30 p.m. Meet and greet at 7:00 p.m.

**GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2014  
LET THE SUN IN**

As Houston finally starts to win some cooler temperatures and gently begins a long drawn-out path to the Texas winter, Sun worshipers might be wondering, "How much longer will we see the Sun and her golden rays?" Long-time Sierra Club member Bill Swann asks, "How much longer will Texans fight the Sun and her energizing rays?" Bill, and many other solar power enthusiasts, say it's well past time to let the Sun in to honestly compete with the entrenched fossil fuels. Join us Thursday night, November 13, for an honest look at solar energy and the art of the possible. Attendees will not hear speculation, but reality, what is here today in Texas, regarding solar energy options. We may be dipping towards winter, but the Sierra Club says, "Let the Sun in!" Program starts at 7:30 p.m. Meet and greet at 7:00 p.m.

**GENERAL MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2014  
ANNUAL AUCTION**

**DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our Annual Auction will take place this year at our December General Meeting on Thursday, December 11. This is one of the principal fundraising events for the Houston Group and features both a live and silent auction. All proceeds from the auction stay here in Houston to fund local conservation efforts and activities.

See DECEMBER 11 ANNUAL AUCTION on Page 10

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# TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

## OUTINGS UPDATES

See the outings calendar on our Meetup site:  
[www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings](http://www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings)  
for possible additions to schedule.

Also, outings information is available at our website  
<http://houston.sierraclub.org>

## Outings Leader Training

**Dates: Arranged with participants; no cost**

We are always looking to maintain and expand our pool of outings leaders.

Our leader training (OLT 101) provides participants with the background requirements for leading a Sierra Club outing in the field. This class is a qualification to become an assistant leader or leader on our air/bus trips, or to sponsor local day or weekend outings. Besides gaining rewarding personal experience, our leaders and trip organizers make an important contribution by creating opportunities for others to experience and enjoy the natural world.

Also, some trips generate donations for the Houston Group, helping to support local conservation activities.

If you have an interest in becoming an outings leader, contact Frank Blake, [frankblake@juno.com](mailto:frankblake@juno.com) or 713-528-2896.

Each class is approximately two hours long, and dates are coordinated with participants.



Trailhead in the Sam Houston National Forest, By Carol Woronow

## OUTINGS CALENDAR

**Oct 4 - Work Day - Marysee Prairie**  
**Oct 18 - Trail Work - Sam Houston National Forest**  
**Oct 18 - Service - Davis Hill State Park**  
**Oct 25 - Canoe/Kayak - East Fork of Double Bayou**  
**Oct 25 - Service - North Jetty Beach Cleanup**  
**Nov 1 - Work Day - Marysee Prairie**  
**Nov 15 - Hike/Birding - Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Nov 16 (Sunday) - Canoe/Kayak - Cypress Creek**  
**Dec 6 - Canoe/Kayak - Cypress Wonderland**  
**Dec 6 - Hike - Little Lake Creek Wilderness Area**  
**Dec 6 - Work Day - Marysee Prairie**  
**Jan 10 - Hike - Brazoria County National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Feb 7 - Service - Katy Prairie**

## ADDITIONAL OUTINGS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

We will likely schedule additional day outings in October and November.

Please check the Houston Sierra Club Outings Meetup website and/or the group website for new listings and updates. If you sign up at our Meetup site you will receive an email notice when we post new outings.

Some outings we are considering are:

**Lake Houston Wilderness Park**

**Sheldon Lake State Park**

**Memorial Park – forest trails**

**Buffalo Bayou – new trails, new bridges**

**METRORAIL tour – sights along the Red Line**

## NOTICES

Sierra Club is a California non profit corporation, with "California Seller of Travel" registration number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>, or contact the Outings Department at the national Sierra Club office at (415)-977-5528 for a printed version.



# TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

## Service

### MARYSEE PRAIRIE WORK DAYS

First Saturday most months fall through spring.

**Saturday, October 4, 2014**

**Saturday, November 1, 2014**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

The Marysee Prairie is one of the last remnants of tallgrass prairie in the Big Thicket region. Come assist the Texas Land Conservancy in this ongoing effort to revive and maintain the native grasses and wildflowers on this site near Batson, Texas.

Work tasks vary by month, but usually involve controlling the regrowth of woody species and keeping the prairie clear for mowing. Tools provided.

Check the Meetup site for updates.

For more information and to confirm work dates, contact Tom Maddux at 936-697-3425, or Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896.



Meadow Pink on the Marysee Prairie, By Frank Blake

## Trail Work

### TRAIL MAINTENANCE HIKE IN SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST

**Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m.**

Enjoy a trail maintenance hike on the Lone Star Hiking Trail in the Sam Houston National Forest. The part of the trail to be maintained will be chosen based on current trail conditions.

Bring your daypack, two quarts of water, lunch, hiking shoes, hat, insect repellent, and clothes to fit the weather.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) at I-45 North and Greens Road. Look for a maroon and silver F-150 truck. To reach the parking lot, enter from the feeder road off I-45 North, via the Greens Road exit, and then pass through the traffic signal at Greens Road. Turn right into the first strip center you come to (look for Brown Sugar's Barbecue) and drive to the end of the strip center. The parking lot behind IHOP is on the right.

Contact Darrell Matula at 281-667-7024 or drmatula@verizon.net for additional details.

Please supply your name and contact information in case we need to contact you.

Check the Houston Sierra Club Meetup site on the web for possible updates and sign up there. 🌐

### TRAIL SIGNS IN THE SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST

As a talented volunteer, Darrell Matula has crafted and installed more than 150 signs in the Sam Houston National Forest, beginning in April 2011.

"Recently I have focused on installing signs at trailheads with detailed distance, destination, and direction information," he said.

Although the Trail Maintenance Hike will not involve installing signs, remember to thank him when you see these signs along the trail.



New Trail Signs in the Sam Houston National Forest, By Darrell Matula.

# TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

## Service

### FIRST SERVICE OUTING VIA CANOE AT DAVIS HILL STATE PARK

**Saturday, October 18, 2014**

This is our first service outing via canoe to Davis Bayou within Davis Hill State Park. Sometimes the only way to get to those pesky tallow trees is by canoe. We will launch at Davis Hill State Park and travel with both paddle and hatchet in hand. We'll hack and spray from the canoe. We have restored prairie and killed tallow in the lowlands before, but always on foot. Davis Bayou itself is a beautiful stream studded with cypress trees. As any canoeist will tell you, you can see places in a canoe that you just can't reach on foot. This is an opportunity to see a truly natural state park while you volunteer to control invasive plants and help preserve plant diversity.

We will work with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff, who will guide our work party. Volunteers should gather at 8 a.m. in Cleveland. The exact site is being determined. The distance from downtown Houston is about 50 miles.

We'll caravan to Davis Hill State Park and arrive about 8:30 a.m. After a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m., we'll continue until 2:30 p.m. and then start back to the vehicles. Contact Evelyn Merz at [elmerz@hal-pc.org](mailto:elmerz@hal-pc.org) for more information.



Davis Hill State Park, By Evelyn Merz

## Canoe/Kayak

### EAST FORK OF DOUBLE BAYOU CANOE/KAYAK

**Saturday, October 25, 2014**

Observe wildlife and hear tales of history along Double Bayou as you enjoy a day-long paddle on the east side of Trinity Bay, several miles south of the community of Anahuac. Visit waters that have stood silent witness to pirates' exploits, pioneer settlements, and the birth of a future Texas governor.

We will see a rich variety of habitats, ranging from salt and freshwater marshes to prairies, oak domes, and pine forest. There are also docks for recreational and shrimp boats, and two conveniently located Chambers County parks.

Following completion of the outing, paddlers and accompanying persons are invited for a Dutch treat seafood meal at a local watering hole.

Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak, life jackets (required to be worn), and paddles. The trip leader can help you with advice regarding gear rentals from Houston area outfitters, if needed.

Paddling time: 3-4 hours, plus breaks for sightseeing and lunch.

Difficulty: moderate.

Recommended donation to the Houston Sierra Club: \$10.

Trip size is limited. To register, contact Tom Douglas at [baymail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baymail@sbcglobal.net) or (713) 869-6026. A detailed trip information sheet will be sent by email to registered participants.



Double Bayou, Little Boat, Big Boat, By Linda Shead



# TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

## Service

### NORTH JETTY BEACH CLEANUP

**Saturday, October 25, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

The Houston Group has adopted this stretch of beach as part of the Texas "Adopt-A-Beach Program." The North Jetty is a popular fishing, crabbing, and birding spot on the Bolivar Peninsula just south of the Audubon Society's Bolivar Flats Sanctuary. Because this site is heavily used, trash and litter have become a problem. Much of the trash, such as discarded fishing line and plastics, are hazards to area wildlife.

It is interesting to visit the jetty in different seasons. To sign up, contact Frank Blake, [frankblake@juno.com](mailto:frankblake@juno.com) or 713-528-2896 or sign up at the Houston Sierra Club Outings Meetup website. Additional details will be emailed to participants.



North Jetty Beach Cleanup, By Frank Blake

## Hike

### BIRDING IN ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Saturday, November 15, 7:30 a.m.**

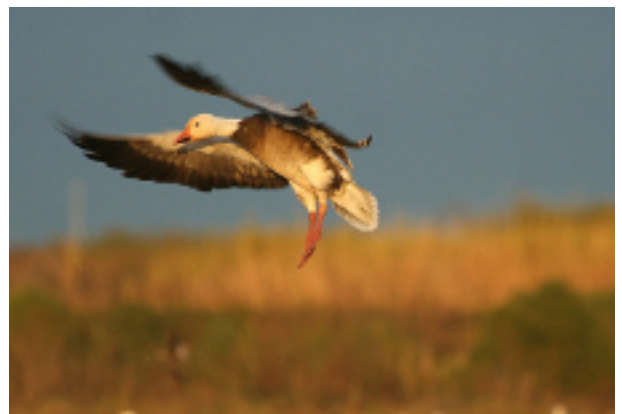
On Saturday, November 15, 2014, the Houston Sierra Club will visit Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for a day of birding. We should see shorebirds, songbirds, wading birds, raptors, ducks, and many other feathered friends.

Bring your daypack, water, lunch, hiking shoes, cameras, bug repellent, sunscreen, field guides, binoculars, spotting scopes, and clothes to fit the weather. Long pants are strongly encouraged. We should be back in Houston about 5 p.m.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a silver-gray Honda Civic with lots of bumper stickers.

If you would like to come, you can sign up at the Houston Sierra Club Meetup site, call 713-664-5962, or email [brandtshnfbt@juno.com](mailto:brandtshnfbt@juno.com). In case of trip cancellation you will be contacted.

For those who want to meet us at the ANWR gift shop at about 9 a.m. the directions are: Go east on I-10 until you come to State Highway 61 (about 45 miles). Turn right (south) on State Highway 61 until you come to the State Highway 65/FM 562 intersection. Continue south (straight) on FM 562. When you get to the FM 562/FM 1985 intersection, turn left on FM 1985 and go about 12 miles and turn right at the refuge sign and follow the road to ANWR.



Snow Goose (blue phase) by William Powell. Courtesy of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge.

# TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

## Canoe/Kayak

### CYPRESS CREEK CANOE/KAYAK

**Sunday, November 16, 2014**

Along its path through the forested areas of northern Harris County, Cypress Creek flows past numerous parks and other points of interest. As a significant source of drinking water for the Houston region, it also illustrates some of the water quality issues posed by increasing urbanization.

Because this trip is farther inland than many of our other paddles, it begins to take on more of the characteristics of a river trip. There is likely to be a noticeable current, so that good boat control and some experience with paddling in moving water will be very helpful. Being farther inland, the river banks are also steeper and higher than we usually encounter on coastal trips.

You will need sturdy shoes that provide good traction at the river bank, and will probably get muddy.

In the event of unusually high or low water levels, it may become necessary to move this outing to an alternative location or to postpone it until the rain date of November 22.

Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak, life jackets (required to be worn), and paddles. The trip leader can help you with advice regarding gear rentals from Houston area outfitters, if needed.

Paddling time: 4-5 hours, plus breaks for sightseeing and lunch.

Difficulty: moderate to strenuous.

Recommended donation to the Houston Sierra Club: \$10.

Trip size is limited. To register, contact Tom Douglas at [baymail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baymail@sbcglobal.net) or (713) 869-6026. A detailed trip information sheet will be sent by email to registered participants.



Cypress Creek, Small Grove of Cypress Trees, By Tom Douglas

## Canoe/Kayak

### CYPRESS CREEK WONDERLAND CANOE/KAYAK

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

Experience the maze of lakes and shaded, winding bayous deep within the heart of the largest cypress forest on the Texas coast. This is one of the most scenic paddling destinations in this part of our state, and it is located only 30 miles east of Houston.

Depending on the water and weather conditions, we will focus on one or more of the area's many features: wildlife, river processes, Texas history, and the impact of human interventions.

Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak, life jackets (required to be worn), and paddles. The trip leader can help you with advice regarding gear rentals from Houston area outfitters, if needed.

Paddling time: 4-5 hours, plus breaks for sightseeing and lunch.

Difficulty: moderate to strenuous.

Recommended donation to the Houston Sierra Club: \$10.

Trip size is limited. To register, contact Tom Douglas at [baymail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baymail@sbcglobal.net) or (713) 869-6026. A detailed trip information sheet will be sent by email to registered participants.



Cypress Wonderland, Wes Cove, By Richard Cunningham



# TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

## Hike

### LITTLE LAKE CREEK WILDERNESS AREA CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF WILDERNESS

**Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m.**

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, join the Houston Sierra Club as we walk on the Lone Star Hiking Trail in the Little Lake Creek Wilderness Area in Sam Houston National Forest (SHNF). This hike celebrates the 50th anniversary of the passage of The Wilderness Act in 1964. We will enjoy beautiful early winter weather so blow the cobwebs off and come on out.

Bring your daypack, hat, water, lunch, binoculars, hiking shoes, camera, field guides, and clothes to fit the weather. Long pants are strongly encouraged. We should be back in Houston about 4 p.m.

We will meet to carpool/caravan at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a Silver Honda Civic with lots of bumper stickers.

For those who want to meet us north of Houston, be at the SHNF District Ranger Office (394 FM 1375 West, New Waverly, Texas 77358) front parking lot by 9 a.m.

If you would like to come, you can sign up at the Houston Sierra Club Meetup site, call 713-664-5962, or email [brandtshnfbt@juno.com](mailto:brandtshnfbt@juno.com). In case of trip cancellation you will be contacted.



Trail to the Little Lake Creek Wilderness, By Carol Woronow

## Hike

### TRIP TO BRAZORIA COUNTY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

**Saturday, January 10, 2015, 9 a.m.**

On Saturday, January 10, 2015, the Houston Sierra Club will visit Brazoria and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges. The winter weather will make this visit very pleasant. We will look for wildlife of all kinds but particularly birds like shorebirds, songbirds, wading birds, ducks, and raptors.

Bring your daypack, water, lunch, hiking shoes, cameras, bug repellent, sunscreen, field guides, binoculars, spotting scopes, and clothes to fit the weather. Long pants are highly recommended. We will get back to Houston between 5 and 6 p.m.

We will meet to carpool/caravan at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (next to Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza fronting the 4700 block of Beechnut near the West Loop South. Look for a silver-gray Honda Civic with lots of bumper stickers.

For those who want to meet us at about 9 a.m. at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge's visitor center the directions are as follows: Go south from Houston on State Highway (SH) 288. Exit from SH 288 to SH 288 Business in Angleton. Turn left onto SH 288 Business and go south toward Downtown Angleton. At the intersection of SH 288 and FM 523 turn left onto FM 523. At the intersection of FM 523 and County Road (CR) 227 (Hoskins Mound Road) turn left onto CR 227 and go 1.7 miles to the refuge entrance.

If you would like to come, you can sign up at the Houston Sierra Club Meetup site, call 713-664-5962, or email [brandtshnfbt@juno.com](mailto:brandtshnfbt@juno.com). In case of trip cancellation you will be contacted.



American Widgeon at the National Wildlife Refuge, by Marvin DeJong.  
Courtesy of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge.

## HOUSTON SIERRA CLUB ASSISTS ON VEGETATION SURVEY IN SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST

By Brandt Mannchen

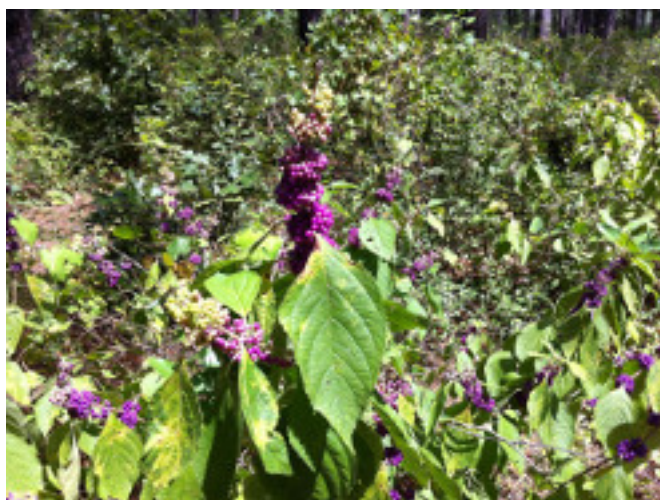
On August 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th the Houston Sierra Club (HSC) assisted Dr. Jeff Glitzenstein (Jeff), who is a forest ecologist associated with Tall Timbers Research Station, in Sam Houston National Forest (SHNF) while he conducted surveys on vegetation plots in Compartment 35, near Lake Conroe.

These vegetation plots were first set up and surveyed in 2007 in Compartments 35 and 38. The vegetation plots were set up to record the effects on vegetation of different management options that the U.S. Forest Service (FS) uses, including prescribed fire only, prescribed fire and mulching, and mulching only. Jeff, for free and because of his interest in vegetation, came to SHNF after he traveled from Florida to New Orleans, Louisiana for a professional science conference. Jeff conducted the surveys from August 1st through August 7th. The HSC served as a second pair of eyes that assisted Jeff in finding all plant species in the 10 meter by 50 meter plots which had smaller subplots of 10 centimeters, 32 centimeters, 1 meter, and 3.16 meters in two corners of the 10 meter by 50 meter plot.

Besides finding the surveys fascinating (if hot – the weather was beautiful but in the 90's), it was exciting to see and learn new things. Jeff originally chose the vegetation plots in Compartments 35 and 38 because the groundcover he found appeared to be similar to Oak-Hickory and Longleaf Pine groundcovers that he is familiar with in Florida and parts of the Lower Atlantic Coast. The Compartment 35 area may be an ecotone (transition or edge area) between two different forest ecosystems, Post Oak Savannah and Upland Loblolly Pine forest, that intergrade into each other.

Surveys of three plots in Compartment 35 were completed, including a vegetation control plot, but there was not enough time to conduct surveys on the vegetation plots in Compartment 38. Jeff is going to write up a vegetation type for Compartment 35 and submit it to a scientific organization to determine if the vegetation type is new to science. Jeff is very impressed, as he was in 2007, with what he found in the vegetation plots.

The HSC had never seen in SHNF large bunches of Big Bluestem grass scattered over a 100-acre area with Loblolly Pine, Shortleaf Pine, and Post Oak as the dominant forest trees. It is not known if this area should be called a forest or a savannah, but it is impressive that Post Oak, in sapling stage, was overwhelming in numbers, even more so than Sweetgum, Southern Red Oak, Common Persimmon, and Loblolly Pine.



American Beautyberry in the Sam Houston National Forest, By Carol Woronow  
Crushing the branches and leaves of this bush provides a great mosquito repellent, an old folk remedy. "It does work," according to Page Williams.

Some of the plants found that were particularly interesting included Big Bluestem, Florida Paspalum, Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*), Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), Gulf Muhly, Grass-leaf Golden Aster, Green Milkweed, Silver Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Climbing Hempweed, *Euthania* species, *Eupatoria* species, Cherokee Sedge, *Baptisia* species, Purple-top (*Tridens flavus*), Pencil Flower, Side Oats Grama, and Needle Grass. The HSC had no idea that swatches of Big Bluestem and other prairie grasses (other than Little Bluestem) were so prevalent in what would normally be called Loblolly Pine Uplands. This type of forest is unusual in SHNF and the HSC believes that efforts should be made to determine if other locations in SHNF have this vegetation type.

The HSC asked the FS for the following:

1) A copy of the soil maps (preferably overlaid on the stand map outlines) and soil type descriptions for Compartments 35 and 38.

2) For Fiscal Year 2015, prescribe burn Compartment 35 (Compartment 38 is already slated for burning) to reduce woody species competition with grass and herbaceous groundcover.

3) In the next two weeks or so, view the plot locations in Compartment 35 with the HSC.

4) Have the FS work with the HSC to determine if there are similar soil types in other parts of SHNF and then ground truth these areas to see if the same type of groundcover exists at these locations.

It appears there may be a unique vegetation type in Compartment 35 that is unlike anything the HSC has seen in SHNF. This vegetation type may be an ecotone of Post Oak Savannah and Upland Loblolly Pine forest. Information from the surveys may assist the FS in finding plant management indicators for groundcover that will help the FS manage some SHNF upland forest communities. The HSC will keep its members updated on this exciting find.



## VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 ELECTION

### VOTE EARLY... AND OFTEN FOR OUR TEXAS ENVIRONMENT

By George Batten and Doug Peterson

Join the many thousands of Texas Sierrans and other environmentalists to vote and encourage others to vote, making the difference in the crucial 2014 elections. The state political leadership from the governor through individual Texas Senate and House members who appoint and approve members of the Texas Commission on Environmental Equality, write and enforce environmental laws, will be elected November 4. Your actions and vote between now and then are critical for the Texas environment.

Texas fails the fundamental democracy test: most of its citizens do not vote. This allows some single-issue voters to have undue influence in elections. Now voter-identification requirements tend to restrict and discourage voting, even though the number of cases of voter fraud is miniscule. All this makes your vote and that of those you convince to vote even more important.

Make sure you are prepared to vote. Check out this Sierra Club website <http://turntexasgreen.com> to see our endorsed candidates, and click their websites for more information. If you don't know your House or Senate district number, check your voter registration card. Study the candidates - not just by looking at their ads on television, but by reviewing their issue concerns, background and our endorsements.

You must be registered and now have an appropriate photo ID, and your name and address on your photo ID should match the name and address the County has on file for you. Check your County Clerk's web site for details. In Harris County the web site is [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org) and click on the Voting IDs tab. If you live in Harris County, you can update your name and address through that website.

Do that no later than 30 days before you vote. The next election is on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, but early voting begins October 20 and ends October 31; check [harrisvotes.org](http://harrisvotes.org) for schedule and locations. If you are over 65 or unable to vote in person, you can vote by mail, but you must apply for a ballot at least nine days before Election Day.

As noted above, the Sierra Club reviews candidates and endorses those supporting environmental issues based on their support for environmental issues. On this page is the current list of endorsements for the area of the Houston Sierra Club.

Bottom line: Vote early if possible, beginning October 20 and through 31, and if not then on Election Day, Nov. 4.

### NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION - DATES TO REMEMBER

October 6, 2014 - Last day to register to vote  
October 20, 2014 - First Day of Early Voting  
October 24, 2014 - Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail  
October 31, 2014 - Last Day of Early Voting  
November 4, 2014 - Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail  
November 4, 2014 - Voting Day - REMEMBER TO VOTE

#### TURN TEXAS GREEN RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Link to the following web site:  
<http://turntexasgreen.wordpress.com/>

Sierra Club Political Committee, Texas

#### TEXAS GOVERNOR

Wendy Davis

#### TEXAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Leticia Van de Putte

#### TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Steve Brown

#### TEXAS SENATE Candidate

(SD = Senate District)

Rita Lucido – Houston (candidate for SD 17)

#### TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(HD = House District)

Alma Allen	Houston (HD 131)
Carol Alvarado	Houston (HD 145)
Art Browning	Cypress (HD 130)
Garnet Coleman	Houston (HD 147)
Susan Criss	Galveston (HD 23)
Harold Dutton, Jr.	Houston (HD 142)
Jessica Farrar	Houston (HD 148)
Patricia Harless	Spring (HD 126)
Ana Hernandez Luna	Houston (HD 143)
Borris L. Miles	Houston (HD 146)
Mary Ann Perez	Houston (HD 144)
Senfronia Thompson	Houston (HD 141)
Hubert Vo	Alief (HD 149)
Armando Walle	Houston (HD 140)
Gene Wu	Houston (HD 137)

## DECEMBER 11 ANNUAL AUCTION

Continued from Page 1

We are now seeking donations for this year's auction. An early response will help us publicize items in advance. Suggestions for donations are: goods such as camping equipment, sports equipment, tools, crafts, artwork, or autographed books; nature tours, adventure activities, or sailing excursions; gift certificates or gift cards for services, performances, merchants, or restaurants; stays at cabins, bed & breakfasts, or resorts.

We also need volunteers to help solicit auction items, pick up donated items, or help promote and advertise the event. And we will need volunteers on the day of the event to help with a variety of setup tasks.

To donate, volunteer, or for more information about the auction, please contact one of the following: Frank Blake at [frankblake@juno.com](mailto:frankblake@juno.com) or 713-528-2896, Art Browning at [art.browning@gmail.com](mailto:art.browning@gmail.com), or Jen Powis at [jenniferpowis@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferpowis@yahoo.com).

## EARTH, WIND & FIRE ENERGY SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN DALLAS

The "Earth, Wind & Fire Energy Summit" will be held at the Addison Conference Centre the weekend of October 4-5, 2014.

This educational conference will provide insight on both traditional and renewable forms of energy including current and future perspectives on the use of these various forms of energy, on both a national and regional scale, as well as the environmental and human impacts of these various forms of energy.

"This energy conference is the first event of its kind that the Sierra Club has held in this state," noted Rita Beving, conservation co-chair of the Dallas Sierra Club. "This conference is unique in that it not only covers many traditional sources of energy including natural gas, coal, oil, and nuclear, but also discusses renewables and emerging forms of energy such as waste-to-energy generation."

The conference will feature well-known academics, policymakers, and professional representatives from associations and institutions that focus on a wide of energy issues.

"We are particularly excited about our speakers who are coming in from across the country," noted host committee member John Lingenfelder. "We have a number of highly-credentialed speakers including the president of the third largest wind producer in the world."

Space is limited for this event. Early registration is \$55 through Sept. 2, and \$75 thereafter. For more information, contact Rita Beving at [rita.beving@gmail.com](mailto:rita.beving@gmail.com).

## GALVESTON BAY AREA SIERRA CLUB HOUSTON

### GENERAL MEETINGS: 3RD WEDNESDAYS

Clear Lake Park - 5002 NASA Parkway  
Bay Area Community Center (Blue Roof)

October 15, 2014

November 19, 2014

6:30 -9:00 PM

## CLEAR LAKE AREA MONTHLY MEETING

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2014

For further information on the October program, contact Grace Martinez at [gracemartinez7@earthlink.net](mailto:gracemartinez7@earthlink.net)

## CLEAR LAKE WALKERS

Every Saturday morning at 7:30, rain or shine

Some Bay Area Sierra Club members and friends meet weekly for a three-mile walk, conversation and breakfast. Much of the walk is along the water and we often see a variety of shore birds.

Where: Nassau Bay, meeting in the Dollar Store parking lot across from the Post Office.

Contact: Betty Armstrong at 281-333-5693.

Editor's note: The Clear Lake Walkers have been active for 21 years. 🌍

## BIKE TRAILS COMMITTEE

A bike trails committee was started to explore enhanced hike and bike trail connectivity in the Bay Area. The three folks doing this are Debra Goode, Richard Lee, and Doug Peterson. They are brainstorming and investigating breaks in existing trails and systems where it is hazardous to travel by bike, and identifying some of the variables for implementation, other interested parties, local government, sources of funding, etc. Contact Debra Goode at 281-280-9944 if you are interested in participating. 🌍

## NOTICE

Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston (acronym GBASCH) is part of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club (also called the Houston Sierra Club — acronym HSC). HSC is so large - over 100 miles in diameter - that it is useful to provide local organization of activities for members in outlying areas. GBASCH does that by planning activities and holding general meetings in the Galveston Bay area. These are open to all HSC members. 🌍



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## DON GREENE: ANOTHER WARRIOR LEAVES US

By Brandt Mannchen



Don Greene, By Sherri Blifford

In August we lost Don Greene.

After a few weeks in the hospital and hospice Don died from pancreatic cancer. River guardian and steward, paddler extraordinaire, educator of young and old, keeper of the safe river trip, and believer in Buffalo Bayou, Don made it a habit to paddle wherever the flow led him. To Don, Life was like a river, you don't force it; you ride with the flow.

In his last two and a half years Don was particularly concerned about the future of Buffalo Bayou and Memorial Park and how they would be harmed by the Memorial Park Demonstration Project (MPDP). Don expressed concern about the safety of canoers and kayakers on Buffalo Bayou due to this proposal. Don also was concerned about the impacts of the MPDP on the biology and ecology, historic sites, and geology (particularly the sandstone formations) of Buffalo Bayou. Don was very disappointed that groups that he led or worked with for years had apparently lost their way and supported and pushed for this destructive project.

Don was a sentinel for Buffalo Bayou. He called people's attention of the need to protect Buffalo Bayou from human efforts to control and direct it the way some people wanted but not the way the river wanted.

Don was a tireless advocate for the education of kids of all ages. He gave of himself and his business, White Water Experience, as long as he lived. He not only led hundreds of trips down Buffalo Bayou, the Rio Grande, and other rivers but also gave away or lent free his equipment to others so the word would not cease being passed around for lack of resources.

Don's love of wildflowers affected me personally. He came over with Frank Smith in the Spring of 2013 to build a wildflower garden for me in my front yard. Since that time the coreopsis, sage, coneflowers, bluebonnets, and other wildflowers have bloomed and reminded me of Don each day I look at their beauty.

Don was like a wildflower, tough but beautiful. We can only hope to emulate Don because he was truly, one of a kind. Wherever Don is I can hear his conversation now with the Great Spirit, "Don I have a job for you to do. What is that? I want you to be my captain."

That is Don, a captain of the river of Life. He flowed through all of our lives. His memory will continue to do so for the rest of our lives. Here is to the river, here is to Don Greene.

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## RECYCLING RESOURCES

### CITY OF HOUSTON RECYCLING

The City of Houston has several drop off sites (some are specialized for certain items), and provides curbside recycling in many neighborhoods. Principal drop off locations are the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark, and the self-serve site at 3602 Center Street in the Heights. For other locations and a complete list of recyclable items, consult the City's recycling web page, phone the City's 311 hotline with recycling questions, or connect to

[www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html)

### BELLAIRE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

This group has a useful website, with a variety of information on recycling activities in the Houston area. Committee phone line is 713-662-8173. [bellairerecycles.org/index.html](http://bellairerecycles.org/index.html).

### Huntsville

The City of Huntsville's recycling facility — north of town on the I-45 access road — takes cardboard, paper, tin and aluminum cans, glass, used oil, plastics, and has a warehouse for reusable donated construction materials (doors, windows, tile, wood etc). One employee is available Monday-Friday to help you unload; it is self-service on Saturday. The web site is [http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/residents/trash\\_and\\_recycling/recycling.asp](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/residents/trash_and_recycling/recycling.asp).

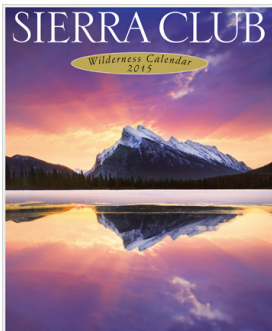
### Pearland Recycling Center

5800 Magnolia Road in Pearland, Texas, 77584, 281-489-2795. Takes most recyclable wastes: PC's, TV's, plastics, bottles, cans, paper, etc.

More available at <http://www.h-gac.com/>, especially at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/waste/resources/>.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2015 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

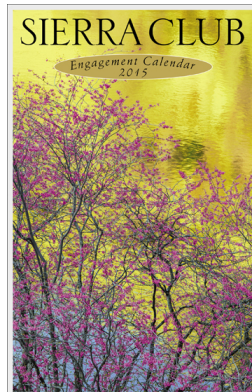


### Wilderness Wall Calendar

Best seller for over 34 years.  
All the grandeur of the North American wilderness.

### Engagement Calendar

Most popular nature calendar ever published.  
Stunning images of flora and fauna.  
Week-by-week format with 57 full-color photographs.



Available at the monthly General Meeting sales table. If you are interested in volunteering for calendar consignment sales, or need information about the calendars, contact Lorraine Gibson at 281-384-4104 or [raineygib@aol.com](mailto:raineygib@aol.com).

The station with much for Sierrans:

Explorations, Tuesdays, 5:00 AM  
Eco-Ology, Wednesdays, 3:00 PM  
Democracy Now (with Amy Goodman),  
7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, weekdays.  
Progressive Forum (with Wally James)  
Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 PM

Of course there is news:

BBC News, 6:00-7:00 AM and 8:00-9:00 AM  
KPFT local news, weekdays, 4:00-5:30 PM  
Bird Note, 9:58 AM... at the end of  
Open Journal, 9:00-10:00 AM

And lots of music, especially on the weekends.

You can see the program schedule at

**[www.kpft.org](http://www.kpft.org)**

RSS and ATOM web feeds, and  
PODCASTS are available.

Revised March 31, 2014

## CREDITS

Some photos in the Bayou Banner are public domain photos provided by the National Park Service, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or Wikipedia. All photos are used by permission, and the photographer is given credit, where known.

## THE BAYOU BANNER (PRINTED EDITION) HAS ENDED

The Bayou Banner has ended printing and distribution by conventional mail. The issue of June-July, 2014, was the last issue for which paper copies were mailed to members.

A PDF copy of the newsletter, letter-sized, suitable for printing yourself, is available at the website of the Houston Sierra Club

<http://lonestar.sierraclub.org/news/>

Also, outings, trips, and other activities are posted on our Meetup site

[meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings](http://meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings)

and we have a facebook page for discussion of environmental issues

[facebook.com/HSCenvironment](http://facebook.com/HSCenvironment)

The primary reason for abandoning mailed paper copies was the cost. For the last few months the cost of printing, addressing, and mailing paper copies to about half of our members (the others get it on the Internet) was over \$1,000 per issue. Since the Houston Sierra Club gets nothing (that's "zero") from dues paid to the National Sierra Club, all funds supporting local operations must be raised by local activities (outings, trips, the yard sale, the auction, etc.), but the amount these activities bring in has fallen in recent years, so it seemed best to cut expenses such as mailing paper copies of the Bayou Banner.

If you do not receive email notices of the availability of the *Bayou Banner* online, you should sign up on the Email Alert/Announcement List (see page 14).

## Kayak for sale

Valley Avocet, kevlar, retractable skeg, 16' long, 22" wide, 44 pounds. Used gently for 10 years, selling for half of original price of \$4,300. Also Lendal paddles and Yakima rack system with saddles and rollers. Page Williams, 281-679-7221.

Some activities shown on the Announcements pages are not managed by the Houston Sierra Club.



The ant seen on these pages is the fictitious *Sieromeymex houstonensis*, drawn for and named after the Houston Sierra Club by world-famous biologist E. O. Wilson.

# BAYOU BANNER

Newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 9

October-November, 2014

[houston.sierraclub.org](http://houston.sierraclub.org) • [facebook.com/HSCenvironment](http://facebook.com/HSCenvironment) • [www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings](http://www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings)

The Bayou Banner is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It is published 6 times a year by the Houston Sierra Club.

Circulation is 5,000 copies: about 2,500 are mailed, and 2,500 are delivered electronically to members; some are distributed through other outlets.

EDITOR: Carol Woronow

Email: [BayouBanner@gmail.com](mailto:BayouBanner@gmail.com) Website: <http://houston.sierraclub.org>

Opinions stated are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Houston Sierra Club.

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The Sierra Club — Houston Group • P.O. Box 3021 • Houston, TX 77253-3021



# VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Second Thursday monthly in Pecore Hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 West Alabama. Enter parking lot from Woodhead. The meeting opens at 7:00 p.m., and the program starts at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Before 7:00 p.m., left turns are not allowed at Woodhead. If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlavy, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

### CONSERVATION

Second Tuesday monthly, 7:00 p.m. Meet in the H-E-B food court at West Alabama and Dunlavy. Contact Evelyn Merz, 713-644-8228, [elmerz@hal-pc.org](mailto:elmerz@hal-pc.org). Come early (6:30) and grab a bite to eat.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fourth Thursday monthly, 7:00 p.m.  
Contact Frank Blake [frankblake@juno.com](mailto:frankblake@juno.com).

### INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO)

Meeting times and place to be determined. Please contact Lorraine Gibson at 281-384-4104 or [raineygib@aol.com](mailto:raineygib@aol.com) for more information.

### OUTINGS:

Usually the third Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Whole Foods store on Bellaire near Wesleyan. Help us plan regional day outings, weekend trips, and air/bus trips to exciting outdoor destinations across the country. Please call to confirm meeting date. Frank Blake, 713-528-2896, [frankblake@juno.com](mailto:frankblake@juno.com).

## WANTED - YOUR STORIES

Have a story about a great outing?

Want to promote an environmental issue close to your heart?

Did you take some spectacular photographs during your hike last month?

Have you discovered a great place to recycle your trash or treasures?

Send your stories, photos, and links to local issues to the Bayou Banner editor at [HSCBanner@gmail.com](mailto:HSCBanner@gmail.com).

## JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB

Just go to our web site  
<http://Houston.sierraclub.org/>  
and click on  
Join or Give/Membership Benefits

For a limited time:

Only \$15  
Get a FREE rucksack  
See it online

Part of your payment  
comes back to support the  
Houston Sierra Club

## RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Houston Sierra Club gets a small part of your membership renewal fee (the rest of it is used by the National Sierra Club and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club). The amount passed to the Houston Sierra Club is more if you use a credit card and renew online through our website than if you mail a check.

## EXCOM ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

Although paper copies of the Bayou Banner will no longer be mailed bimonthly to members, club bylaws require ballots to be mailed by December. Therefore, a paper version of the December-January issue of the Bayou Banner will be mailed to members.

That issue will have ballots for election of members of the Executive Committee of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Candidates can be suggested by any member of the club. You can submit suggestions for candidates and petitions to the Nominating Committee: Jim Williams ([ezz@pdq.net](mailto:ezz@pdq.net)), Jen Powis ([jenniferpowis@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferpowis@yahoo.com)), or Mary Schultz ([mschultz@hal-pc.org](mailto:mschultz@hal-pc.org)). Petitions for candidacy must be received by October 20, 2014 for publishing in the Bayou Banner December-January issue.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE HSC WEBSITE

We need a couple of people to assist the webmaster with posting material to the Houston Group website. This normally requires a few hours per month. For more information, contact the webmaster at

[houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org](mailto:houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org).

The Bayou Banner is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It has been published 6 times a year, in odd-numbered months, but that is changing. See the Group's web site for the latest information (<http://houston.sierraclub.org>). Current circulation is 5500 issues sent to members and distributed through various outlets.

CURRENT EDITOR: Carol Woronow.

SUBMISSIONS: The deadline to submit articles is the 15th day of the month before the date of the issue in which the articles are to run (for example, articles for the September/November issue must be submitted by August 15) — but articles and information is welcome at any time. The online Bayou Banner will be posted on the first day of the month (for example September 1).

All submissions must have the author's name, and contact information even though it will not be printed. All photos must identify the source and have proof of permission to use (or link to the policy of royalty-free photos). Articles may be edited for clarity, accuracy, and space considerations. Opinions stated are those of the author and not necessarily that of the Houston Sierra Club.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Telephone 415-977-5633 or send address changes to Sierra Club Membership, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322, or via email to [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org).

Include both old and new addresses and allow 6 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Please DO NOT CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

# VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

## HOUSTON SIERRA CLUB

### EMAIL ALERT/ANNOUNCEMENT LIST

Subscribe to the Houston Sierra Club's email alert list to get timely alerts on Houston area conservation issues, and occasional announcements of interest to Houston Sierra Club members. Whenever you want to drop from the list it is easy to unsubscribe yourself—those instructions are included at the bottom of each message sent out on the list.

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Send FROM the email address to which you want to direct the messages.

Subscribe by sending TO:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Subject: [this line may be left blank]

Message Body:

SUBSCRIBE LONESTAR-HOUSTON-

ANNOUNCE FirstName LastName

(Insert YOUR name in place of "FirstName LastName")

That's it. You will receive confirmation messages from the listserve. Thanks for your interest.

If you need assistance in locating the instructions or in signing up for the email list, please contact Frank Blake at [frankblake@juno.com](mailto:frankblake@juno.com) or 713-528-2896.

Since the Houston Group will not be mailing out the *Bayou Banner* on a regular basis, one option for getting information on Club activities is this Houston Group EMAIL ALERT LIST.

Note: There is the possibility that we may produce some sort of periodic newsletter in the future that could be mailed out to those members specifically interested in subscribing.

The December-January issue may be mailed because of the Executive Committee ballots.

## HOUSTON REGIONAL GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Art Browning (Chair) (Lone Star Chapter Delegate)	<a href="mailto:art.browning@gmail.com">art.browning@gmail.com</a>
Jim Williams (Vice Chair)	<a href="mailto:ezz@pdq.net">ezz@pdq.net</a>
Lorraine Gibson (Treasurer)	<a href="mailto:raineygib@aol.com">raineygib@aol.com</a>
Page Williams (Secretary)	<a href="mailto:page.williams@gmail.com">page.williams@gmail.com</a>
George Batten	<a href="mailto:BayouBanner@gmail.com">BayouBanner@gmail.com</a>
Frank Blake	<a href="mailto:frankblake@juno.com">frankblake@juno.com</a>
Grace Martinez (GBASCH Director)	<a href="mailto:gracemartinez7@earthlink.net">gracemartinez7@earthlink.net</a>
Evelyn Merz (Conservation Committee Chair)	<a href="mailto:elmerz@hal-pc.org">elmerz@hal-pc.org</a>
Jen Powis (Alternate Lone Star Chapter Delegate)	<a href="mailto:jenniferpowis@yahoo.com">jenniferpowis@yahoo.com</a>

### REGIONAL GROUP LEADERSHIP

Banner Editor	Carol Woronow	<a href="mailto:HSCBanner@gmail.com">HSCBanner@gmail.com</a>
Beach Cleanup	Frank Blake	<a href="mailto:frankblake@juno.com">frankblake@juno.com</a>
Conservation	Evelyn Merz	<a href="mailto:elmerz@hal-pc.org">elmerz@hal-pc.org</a> 713-644-8228
Conservation Subcommittees		
Air Quality	Brandt Mannchen	<a href="mailto:brandtshnfbt@juno.com">brandtshnfbt@juno.com</a> 713-664-5962
Coastal Issues	Page Williams	<a href="mailto:page.williams@gmail.com">page.williams@gmail.com</a>
Energy and Global Warming	Jim Williams	<a href="mailto:ezz@pdq.net">ezz@pdq.net</a>
Forestry and Big Thicket	Brandt Mannchen	<a href="mailto:brandtshnfbt@juno.com">brandtshnfbt@juno.com</a> 713-664-5962
Recycling	Frank Blake	<a href="mailto:frankblake@juno.com">frankblake@juno.com</a>
Watershed	Evelyn Merz	<a href="mailto:elmerz@hal-pc.org">elmerz@hal-pc.org</a> 713-644-8228
Hospitality	Carol Lee	713-523-2294
Inner City Outings	Lorraine Gibson	<a href="mailto:raineygib@aol.com">raineygib@aol.com</a> 281-384-4104
Lone Star Chapter Delegate		
Art Browning		<a href="mailto:art.browning@gmail.com">art.browning@gmail.com</a>
Membership	John Berlinghoff	<a href="mailto:johnb@hal-pc.org">johnb@hal-pc.org</a>
Outings	Frank Blake	<a href="mailto:frankblake@juno.com">frankblake@juno.com</a>
Political	Doug Peterson	<a href="mailto:dougpeterson@earthlink.net">dougpeterson@earthlink.net</a>
Programs	Joe Lengfellner	<a href="mailto:thatsjoesmail@yahoo.com">thatsjoesmail@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster	<a href="mailto:houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org">houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org</a>	
Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston	Grace Martinez	<a href="mailto:gracemartinez7@earthlink.net">gracemartinez7@earthlink.net</a>

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

1. Explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.
2. Practice and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.
3. Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.
4. Use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

