



**BEXAR
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**
SAN ANTONIO, TX



First Place, 2000 & 2002!
National Audubon Society
newsletter contest — large
chapter division

Thursday, November 11, 2004, Chapter Meeting

San Antonio's great jewel

Hear about the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

6:30 p.m. — Social Time; 6:45 p.m. — Program

Free and open to the public—Parking adjacent to the Center

Grossman International Conference Center of the University of the Incarnate Word
Northeast corner of Hwy 281 and Hildebrand

After many years of efforts to protect and preserve the refuge at Mitchell Lake, National Audubon signed a Memorandum of Agreement with SAWS and assumed management in April 2004. Under the able directorship of Iliana Pena, the Grand Opening was held a mere five months later on September 25. Iliana will be our speaker for the November program.

Birdwatchers have known about Mitchell Lake for years, but under Iliana's leadership, we have the

opportunity of learning more about the ecological significance of the site and the benefits to be offered to the neighborhood and the City. The first class of docents has already been impressed with the great variety of flora and fauna present there.

Iliana is a native of Texas and Brownsville is her home town. Come meet Iliana and learn about the programs available at the Center now and what is planned for the future.

Saturday, November 13th, 8 a.m.

Visit the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center



An outing to the refuge at Mitchell Lake will be held on Saturday, November 13, at 8:00 a.m. For those wishing to carpool, meet at the Grossman International Conference Center parking lot at 7:20 a.m. Sign up at the meeting, or call Marge Lumpe at 545-1822, or email her at birdwatcher@msn.com by November 12 to reserve your space.

Ballot for 2005 Bexar Audubon Board on Page 3

BEXAR AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter of the National Audubon Society

P. O. Box 6084, San Antonio, TX 78209
210-822-4503

GOALS

The Chapter's primary goals are to promote species and habitat conservation and environmental education in the community.

OFFICERS

President	Susan Hughes . (susan@wordwright.com) . 532-2332
Vice Pres.	Harry Noyes (harrynoyes@satx.rr.com) . 490-3124
Treasurer	Betty Minyard ... (mink@texas.net) 344-6128
Secretary available

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Bibles (dbibles@aol.com) 698-9264
Tony Wood (tmcaewood@aol.com) 493-4684
Director available

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Conserv.	Harry Noyes (harrynoyes@satx.rr.com) . 490-3124
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Memb. available
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Bexar Tracks is your newsletter.
We welcome your contributions.



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper.

Visit Bexar Audubon's
Web Site:

<http://www.BexarAudubon.org>

Visit San Antonio Environmental
Network's Web Site:

<http://www.sa-naturecenter.org>

Suggestions and contributions are welcome.
Please contact Harry Noyes at
harrynoyes@satx.rr.com

To report a polluting vehicle:

1-800-453-SMOG

(1-800-453-7664)

or www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/air/ms/smokingvehicles.html

Wisdom is knowing what to
do next, virtue is doing it.
~David Starr Jordan~

BENEATH THE GAVEL

I recently spent three weeks in Taiwan — a last minute opportunity to accompany my husband on a business trip. Taiwan was not on my list of places I must go and I really knew nothing about it. We spent most of our time in Taipei, a city of over three million people. It buzzes 24 hours a day. Like many cities built in a bowl of mountains, Taipei has serious air quality problems. The seeming millions of motor scooters don't help that, but I can't imagine what traffic would be like if each of these scooter drivers was in their own private vehicle. They recently inaugurated a rail system for rapid transit, which is reported to have reduced the number of scooters on the roads.

"Macho" cycle riders here in Texas would blanch at the life threatening events faced every other moment by young women in business attire and high heels — sometimes with a friend and a couple of kids — or covered up by a slicker to fend off the rain and splashes during the frequent showers — as they ride their scooters to and from everywhere.

On the other hand, Taipei is one of the cleanest cities I have visited. It is not uncommon to see shopkeepers scrubbing the sidewalks; street trash and litter are rarely seen. The city is densely packed, neighborhood based, mixed-use, and walkable for many purposes. There are frequent parks and lush vegetation, supported by a warm, humid climate.

Taiwan is also a country with remarkably beautiful natural wonders and resources. Wind and wave eroded features on the north coast hint at alien visitation, and the geothermal and sulfur vents hiss and groan and steam from mountain sides. Taiwan has protected large areas of national parks.

Of course, I know my impressions are only thumbnail sketches, and I did not delve into the problems of this island, but was focused on the friendliness of the people and the depth of its history.

An interesting note is that articles about birdwatching and nature tourism appeared frequently in local newspapers and magazines. I commend Taiwan as a destination to enjoy.

Elections: We published short biographies of our board candidates in October's issue. The BAS election will be held at our holiday party in December, and we hope you will participate in the election and the festivities. A mail-in ballot is available on Page 3 for those folks not able to attend the holiday party. We are grateful to our board members present and past for their services, and to our incoming members for stepping up to the plate!

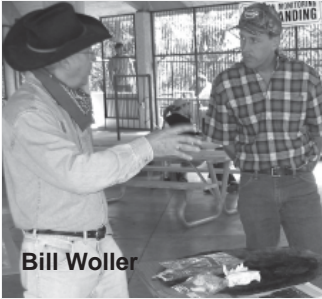
-Susan Hughes, president

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAM by Peggy Spring

San Antonio Naturally Recap



Sumner Dana



Bill Woller

Beautiful weather brought out 115 attendees to see 14 presenters along with 2 helpers. We were treated to outstanding presentations from the city and several local nature and environmental organizations: a fresh batch of baby rattlesnakes, make your own 'peanut bug', practice 'calling' turkeys, learn about bird banding, sprinkle some 'dirt' and 'manure' on a model landscape to study non-point source pollution, toss some trash, consider dinosaurs and how they ate, understand the misunderstood bats, make a corn husk doll, learn about foods of today and yes-terday from the plant world, touch a beaver fur and skull, investigate the critters of Salado Creek.



Kim Hoskins

These and more were the sights and sounds of the second annual San Antonio Naturally. You should have been there! See you next year!

Nov. 13, 2004 10:00-11:30 am

FUR AND FEATHERS

Presented by Texas Wildlife Association's **Helen Holdsworth** – Ed. Specialist. There's more to deer than venison and more to wild turkeys than Thanksgiving dinner! Come learn about 'A day in the life of white-tailed deer and wild turkeys.' Helen Holdsworth will share the habits and habitats of these two species that become notorious in the fall. Several parent-child games and activities, like making turkey calls, will keep the whole family engaged. Limit – 30 people. Call 210.698.1057 for reservations and information.

Suggested donation: \$3.00 per individual/\$5.00 per family. Eisenhower Park, Harris (Mass Pavilion), 19399 NW Military Hwy.

Proposed 2005 Bexar Audubon Board

The nominating committee, comprising Marge Lumpe, chair, Patty Pasztor, and Dwight Henderson, proposed the following slate of experienced conservationists for the 2005 term. The election will take place at the annual meeting on Dec. 9. Please attend and help shape our future.

If you cannot attend the meeting, but wish to vote by mail ballot, please mark and cut out the ballot. Mail ballots must be postmarked on or before **November 24, 2004**.

You are encouraged to write in your own candidate or yourself for any position. Write-in candidates must be current members of BAS. **Ballots with write-ins must be accompanied by a statement signed by the candidate indicating willingness to serve if elected.**

Your name and address as it appears on your newsletter label must be clearly marked on the outside of your mailing envelope in order to validate your vote. To protect your privacy, however, you may enclose your ballot in another envelope inside your mailing envelope and it will be opened without being identified with you.

BEXAR AUDUBON SOCIETY BALLOT 2005 ELECTION

Circle proposed candidates or write in your own:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| President | Tony Wood | Write-in _____ |
| Vice President | Harry Noyes | Write-in _____ |
| Secretary | Caryl Swann | Write-in _____ |
| Treasurer | Betty Minyard | Write-in _____ |
| Board Member | Joe Orr (4-year term) | Write-in _____ |
| Board Member | Susan Hughes (4-year term) | Write-in _____ |

Mail Ballot to BAS Elections, PO Box 6084, San Antonio, TX 78209.

Mark your calendar

Feb. 25-26 — 2005 South Texas Farm and Range Forum

Bexar Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 6084
San Antonio, TX 78209

**Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Antonio
Permit #590**

**Upcoming Second
Saturday Programs**

December 11 — 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.
Tuna, Nopales and More!
Local experts will share their knowledge of native plants and their uses by past and present people; family friendly.

**MITCHELL LAKE
ACCESS**



Birding trips to Mitchell Lake are still occurring. Call the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center at 210-628-1639 for information.



Earth Share of Texas represents the Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll deduction plans for charitable giving. For information, call 1-800-GREENTX or email <estx@earthshare-texas.org>.

RECURRING EVENTS

San Antonio Audubon Society's Beginners' Birdwalk is held at 8 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. Visitors are welcome. There are binoculars to lend.

Meet at the Judson Nature Trail next to the Alamo Heights Swimming Pool on Viesca St. From the 5900 block of Broadway, turn west on Ogden to Greeley St., turn left one block, then right again to the parking lot on the left. More information at 210-342-2073.

**First Saturday
Hikes Schedule**

January 8 (to avoid New Years),
2005 - Walker Ranch Historical
Park

February 5, 2005 - Eisenhower Park

March 5, 2005 - Friedrich Park

April 2, 2005 - Walker Ranch

**Membership Form
National Audubon Society
Bexar Audubon Society**

Membership rates are:
Student/Senior \$15 Basic \$35
Introductory 1-year \$20 (2-year: \$30)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

For a new membership, mail this coupon and your check—payable to "National Audubon Society, Chapter W19" to:

**Bexar Audubon Society
P. O. Box 6084
San Antonio, TX 78209**

W19, 7XCH

Opt out for other mailings

By using this form, 100 percent of your first year's dues will benefit the chapter.

**FIRST SATURDAYS INTERPRETIVE
NATURE HIKES**

November 6, 2004 — 9 - 11 a.m

December 4, 2004 — 9 - 11 a.m.

FRIEDRICH PARK — 21395 MILSA, SAN ANTONIO

Reservations are highly recommended, as the hike will not be conducted if there are no pre-registered participants. Call 210/698-1057. *Participants are limited to 15 per hike.* For groups of 8 or more please call to schedule a separate hike. *Meet at the restrooms near the parking lot in the park. A donation of \$2 is suggested.* Sponsored by San Antonio Natural Areas — www.sanaturalareas.org.