

The Woodlands Hiking Club

March 2010

FOOTPRINTS

NEWSLETTER



WWW.WOODLANDSHIKINGCLUB.COM



MEETING & PROGRAM

Wed, March 3, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

South Regional Library
2101 Lake Robbins Drive
The Woodlands, TX 7738

Next Program

Dr. Brean Symmonds with Abundant Life Chiropractic in The Woodlands will hold a workshop and discuss on "How to have Outrageous Health in 2010." She will talk about what health is. How to avoid injuries and how to heal from sickness & disease.

Next Campout

March 12-14, 2010

Lake Somerville Site Park
Nails Creek Unit

Next Day Hike

The next day hike will be held at the Nature Fest (Mar 6). A short hike will be held in the morning and afternoon.

DUES

Contact: Stephanie Brassovan 281-292-2417
10 Camberwell Ct, The Woodlands TX 77380
\$20/person – \$35/couple (Due yearly in January)
Checks payable to *The Woodlands Hiking Club*

NEWSLETTER / WEB SITE

Contact: Sally Goerke 832-628-5998
sallygoerke@yahoo.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Christopher Hooks

During the clubs trip to Government Canyon one of our members asked me an interesting question **what long trips did the club have planned for the year?** During the clubs Big Bend trip in December another member asked **if there was interest in maybe hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park.**

Our club has positions for planning hikes (Don Macken) and weekend camping / Hike trips (Barbara Perez) Trails & Outings. We did not get any interest to continue Backpacking /Special Trips.

In the past the majority of our trips have sprouted as a result of members having personal trips planned and inviting other to join.

Sally Goerke is planning a trip to Arkansas for Oct. this year but I have no details at the moment.

What I'm saying is this club is yours and the newsletter as well. If you have an interest in taking a longer trip. Its really very easy! What is involved in putting a trip together? Not much as Chauncey Murphy our past president said back in the April 2001 newsletter. Thanks Chauncey!

Step 1: Ask at a meeting if there are others interested & put together an article for the newspaper.

Step 2: Obtain information about your destination

Step 3: Write up a proposal

Step 4: Make Reservations, Plan hikes and activities. Our newsletter is a message board for what's happening within the club. It can be used to sell equipment, post articles of interest or as a soundboard to see if there is interest in a possible trip. Just e-mail sallygoerke@yahoo.com.

Happy Hiking!

~Christopher



UPDATE FROM TRAILS & OUTINGS

By: Barbara Perez
(281-651-7778 or baptx@earthlink.net)

TRIP LEADERS NEEDED

We are still in need of trip leaders for our planned hikes in 2010. It doesn't take very long....you pick what we are going to eat, collect the money to pay for the park fees for Saturday night, and write two short articles for the newsletter. (See attachment for trip-leader duties) I did it last month, and it really is painless, promise! We need volunteers, please!

NEXT CAMPOUT

Lake Somerville State Park – Nails Creek

6280 FM 180, Ledbetter, TX 78946-7036 979-289-2392

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lake_Somerville/

Mar. 19 – 21, 2010

Trip Leader: Chris Hooks 281-728-3968

Lake Somerville State Park consists of four units: Birch Creek SP, Nails Creek SP, Lake Somerville Trailway, and the Somerville Wildlife Management Area. Nails Creek consists of 3,155 acres in Lee County on the south shore near the west end of the reservoir. Birch Creek and Nails are connected by a 13-mile trail.

Somerville Reservoir 11,630 acres was constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1967

Nails Creek Unit facilities include restrooms with showers; 20 campsites with water & electric in the Bent Tree Equestrian & Cedar Creek area; kids fishing pond; fish cleaning shelters; a double-lane boat ramp; and multi-use trails. Visitors can enjoy fishing for white bass, crappie, largemouth bass, and catfish. The terrain is gently rolling and the trail passes through dense stands of yaupon, mesquite, oak forests, past scenic overlooks and water crossings. Many species of birds and wildlife may be observed & photographed including white-tailed deer, fox, coyote, raccoon, rabbit, waterfowl, and quail.

The Club has 3 sites reserved. Remember the club picks up the first night and whoever stays Saturday night we divide the costs. Whomever arrives first will need to pick the 3 sites and pay Saturday's portion and they will be reimbursed Saturday. Saturday's hike begins at 9am sharp so be ready and pack a lunch. We will take the trailway to Flag Pond. We could eat lunch there and then return same route. This would give us about 8 miles of hiking. Should be a great hike and will probably see a lot of wildflowers and wildlife! Saturday nights theme will be Dutch Oven Cooking. If you do not have a Dutch Oven then either bring a dessert or Pot Luck. The Park is about 2 hours & less than 100 miles from The Woodlands. Take US 290 west to Burton (Go through Brenham) Exit at Spur 125. Stay on 125. Turn left on FM 1697. Stay on FM 1697 to FM 180. Turn right on FM 180 to the park. Signup sheet will be available at the next meeting.

-Chris Hooks

Next Day Hike

JESSIE H. JONES PARK AND NATURE CENTER

As the Nature Fest is on Mar 6, 2010 and is also at Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center, we can make up for that hike that we could not make due to the freeze on Dec 5, 2009. On Mar 6, we'll set up a short morning hike and a short afternoon hike so that when club members are not volunteering at the booth they can do one of the hikes

Don Macken

President:	Christopher Hooks
Vice Pres	President: Christopher Hooks
Vice President:	Jerry Hawken
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stephanie Brassovan
Trails & Outings:	Barbara Perez
Day Hikes:	Don Macken
Programs:	Barbara Roesler/Jerry Hawken
Publicity:	Jan Kelm
Newsletter/Webmaster:	Sallv Goerke

Last Day Hike
Buffalo Bayou
February 6, 2010

Members Nancy Olson, Ursula Kyle, Richard Kyle, John McKinley, Chris Hooks, Don Macken and guest Alberta Raymer hiked parts of the Buffalo Bayou Trail.

The first part of the hike included the Blue Lagoon portion of the Trail, which is just north of downtown Houston. We started from the trailhead at Sabine Street and followed the trail along the north side of the bayou which took us under several Houston highway and street overpasses, through the Theater District area, alongside the Downtown Aquarium and to the Downtown University of Houston Campus. There we walked up seven flights of stairs to an observation deck. We then took a rest break, enjoyed the view and took pictures of the Houston skyline. We then returned to the trailhead by hiking along the south side of the trail, passing by some colorful waterfalls and hiking by the Wortham Center and Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. There was much vegetation to see as according to the book, Best Easy Day Hikes Houston, along this trail there are 300,000 plants and 600 native trees that line the banks of the bayou. Note: The Blue Lagoon trail would make a good night time hike for the club to consider in the future as it is known for its cobalt blue and white lights which illuminate the bayou during evenings.

The second part of the hike included a portion of the Buffalo Bayou Trail west of downtown Houston. We started at the trailhead, again at Sabine Street, and proceeded west along the bayou as far as Montrose Blvd. There we took a rest break and while relaxing we were given some free water bottles by some nearby church goers as promotional items for their church (hence the hike was profitable as we each got a freebee item). We then hiked back to the trailhead, traveling along the other side of the bayou passing by a disc golf course (we also got an education on the hike from watching the participants strategically throw their Frisbees , passing the Jamail Skate Park (watched some skaters / skate boarders do some scary maneuvers) and through the Art Park (observed some very interesting works of art).

Thus from hiking the portions of the Buffalo Bayou Trail we saw many interesting places near downtown Houston, which are not seen when traveling in cars. Some of us afterwards had lunch at Jax's Restaurant (has good burgers), which is on Shephard near I 10. The weather was great as the sun was out the entire day and the temperature was mostly in the 40s and 50s. It was a perfect day for hiking.

~Don Macken



Last Weekend Trip
Government Canyon SNA
February 19 THRU 21, 2010

Government Canyon State Natural Area is a great hike. Stephanie Brassovan, Mollie & Dennis Altom, Patty Natole, Chris Hooks, Barbara Roesler, Nancy Olson, Lennie Churchwell, (a new member) Giuliana & Clay Rivers, my niece Keitha Fletcher and I all really enjoyed the park and San Antonio.

We started out Friday night at Chili's for dinner. Saturday morning we all went to I-Hop for breakfast and then thought we were headed to the park. I could not find my keys. I thought I had locked them in my truck but after 15 minutes or so, I found them hiding in a pocket behind my cell phone. I couldn't feel them through the 4 layers I had on ...crisis over and we left for the park.

Giuliana's sister-in-law, niece and two nephews joined us for the hike. The trail is 8 ½ miles and part of the group went another mile to an overlook for a total of 9 ½ miles. Unfortunately,

It was pretty overcast and not much could be seen from the overlook. This is a good hike but with the mist San Antonio had overnight and all morning, the rocks were pretty slippery and we had to be quite careful in lots of areas. We had lunch at the half way point when the mist finally ended. We finished the hike and went back to Motel 6. A couple of members had family in San Antonio and went to stay with them for Saturday night.

Those of us left met at Casa Rio on the river for great Mexican food and margaritas Saturday night. Sunday morning we all said our goodbyes and everyone headed back to Houston.

~Barbara Perez

The Woodlands Hiking Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010

- JAN 9 MERCER ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS – DAY HIKE – Hike Leader: Don Macken
- JAN 15-17 BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK – Trip Leaders: Jerry & Diane Hawken (Weather Cancellation)
- FEB 6 BUFFALO BAYOU BLUE LAGOON TRAIL – DAY HIKE – Hike Leader: Don Macken
- FEB 19-21 GOVERNMENT CANYON SNA – Trip Leader: Barbara Perez
- MAR 6 NATUREFEST 2010 – Jesse Jones Park & – DAY HIKE – Hike Leader: Don Macken
- MAR 12-14 LAKE SOMERVILLE STATE PARK – Trip Leader: Chris Hooks
- APR 2-4 EASTER IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY – Trip Leader: Barbara Austin
- APR 24 LITTLE THICKET NATURE SANCTUARY – DAY HIKE – Hike Leader: Don Macken
- MAY 14-16 FORT PARKER STATE PARK – Trip Leader: Sherry Trimble
- JUNE 11-13 GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK – Trip Leader needed

PLEASE NOTE: Trip leaders are needed for most of the 2010 campouts. Contact Barbara Perez to volunteer.

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2010 OFFICERS AND BOARD

		Day Phone	Night Phone	E-Mail
President	Chris Hooks	281-261-3721	281-728-3968	Christopher.Hooks@c-a-m.com
Vice President	Jerry Hawken	281-513-1039	281-513-1039	Jerry2568@yahoo.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Stephanie Brassovan		281-292-2417	
Trails & Outings	Barbara Perez		281-651-7778	baptx@earthlink.net
Day Hikes	Don Macken	713-376-1278	281-355-1628	mackendonr@aol.com
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Newsletter/Webmaster	Sally Goerke	832-628-5998	832-628-5998	sallygoerke@yahoo.com

