

FOOTPRINTS NEWSLETTER



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MEETING & PROGRAM

Wed, January 1, 2012 – 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.
Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center
1300 Riley Fuzzel Road
Spring, Texas 77386

Program: Dennis & Renee Bilyeu will present a program about a past trip to Zion and Bryce Canyon National Park.

Refreshments: Thanks in advance to the Renee Bilyeu, George Wilkerson, Barbara Edwards & Chris Hooks who will be providing refreshments for February's meeting.

NEXT OUTING

Feb. 24 - 26, 2012

Rockport, Whooping Crane Festival in Port Aransas on Mustang Island
Trip Leaders: Lisa & Chuck Houston
(Details on page 5)

NEXT DAY HIKE

Feb. 11, 2012–9:00 A.M.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
Hike Leader: Don Macken
(Details on page 5)

DUES FOR 2012

Contact: Lisa Houston our Secretary/Treasurer
\$20/person – \$35/couple (Due yearly in January)
Checks payable to *The Woodlands Hiking Club*



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am not sure when I joined the Woodlands Hiking Club; it has been at least 10 years ago. I was reading the local newspaper when I saw an article written by the Woodlands Hiking Club. I read the article and then I called Sandy Feldman. We both agreed we would like to hike. Joining the club was a good way to hike and meet new friends. The club was much smaller when we joined. We went on several weekend hikes, we really enjoyed the hiking. Later, we decided to go on some of the longer trips that the club had to offer.

Having the opportunity to meet new friends was really nice. The club was pretty small back then. The word got out about the club through articles that were written in the local newspapers. Currently, members pass information on to their friends and family's about the club. I really enjoyed meeting new friends through the club. I love hiking and getting away is a good way to relax. Currently, I have mom living with me (she is 88 years old). So it is difficult for me to do as much hiking as I would like to. Taking care of mom is my top priority, right now.

If you want to put something in the our newsletter, contact Chris Hooks at 281-728-3968 or Christopher.Hooks@c-a-m.com

Sally Goerke, e-mail: sallygoerke@yahoo.com
Cell: 832-628-5998

~ Sally



Last Weekend Outing
GOOD WATER TRAIL - GEORGETOWN TEXAS
January 13 - 15, 2012

Everyone (Stephanie, Nancy, George, Carol and Bernie, Chris and Barbara) arrived at the motel by 5pm. Friday. As we were all starving, we gathered shortly thereafter to go to the Monument Cafe for dinner. After the long drive & a relaxing dinner, we decided to head back to the motel for a good night's sleep.

7 of us met Saturday morning at the trailhead. Included were Chris, George, Nancy, and Stephanie, Gill, and a very nice couple Carol & Bernie and their dog Pencil. Pencil was anointed very quickly as our leader. He kept us on the right path all day and definitely had lots of energy. It became obvious very quickly that 2011 had been a very rough year. There were lots of dead cedars, exposed boat ramps, and inlets. We figured the lake must have been down maybe 20'. We ended up hiking about 10 miles and we agreed next time we will park a car at Tejas Camp mile marker 11 to keep from backtracking and be able to see more of the trail. The day was awesome completely blue and fairly cool. It was a picture perfect day for hiking. Did not see much wildlife some birds Turkey Vultures but really enjoyed the trail although it was rough...lot of rocks. It always feels good to get out and breathe some fresh air. We had good conversation and that's the cool thing about hiking with a group. Back at the trailhead Carol & Bernie surprised us with some cookies. Nice treat as we all pulled off our boots and got ourselves together. The hike wore me out...Feet and legs were tired. We all agreed what happens on the hike stays on the hike.....Should of, Could have been there....But no There's always next month...Rockport here we come....lol

The rest of Saturday afternoon was spent resting and/or shopping in the shops around the quaint downtown square. I found Georgetown very pretty with all the shopping areas one would ever need. Ha! We had dinner reservations at Toni & Luigi's at 6pm. and soon discovered why we needed reservations. It was small and quite charming with a very diverse menu. I had shrimp Ravioli; some in our group had Veal. Everyone agreed the food was delicious. We enjoyed some lively conversation, and lingered over dessert which no one could finish!

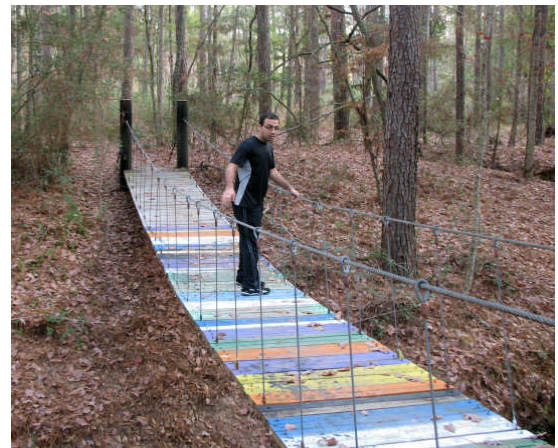
Everyone left Sunday morning at their leisure. All in all, it was another great weekend! Big thanks to Barbara P. for finding the Quality Inn. The hotel was in a good central location and to the pictures provided by George & Nancy

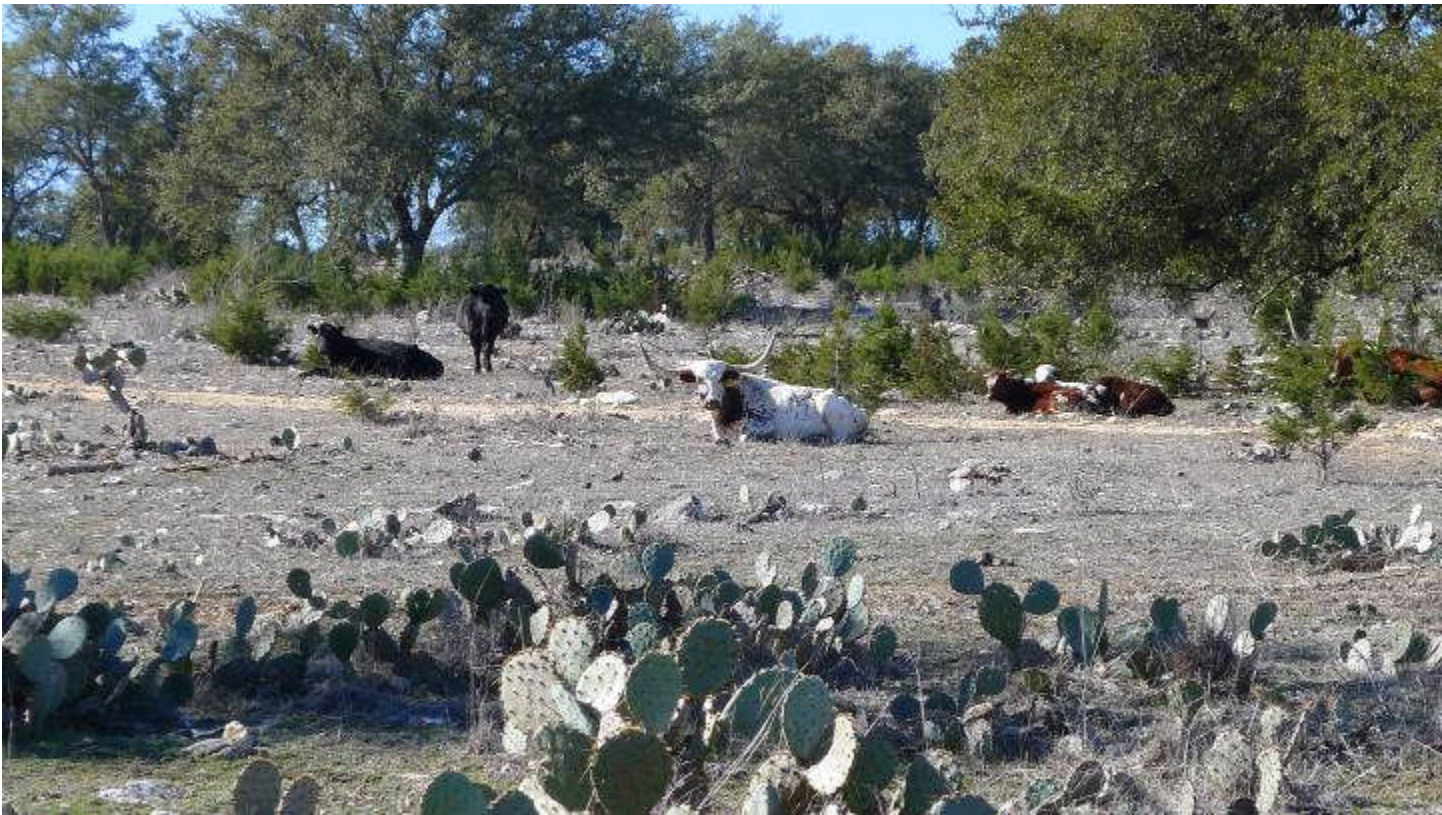
~Barbara R. & Chris H.

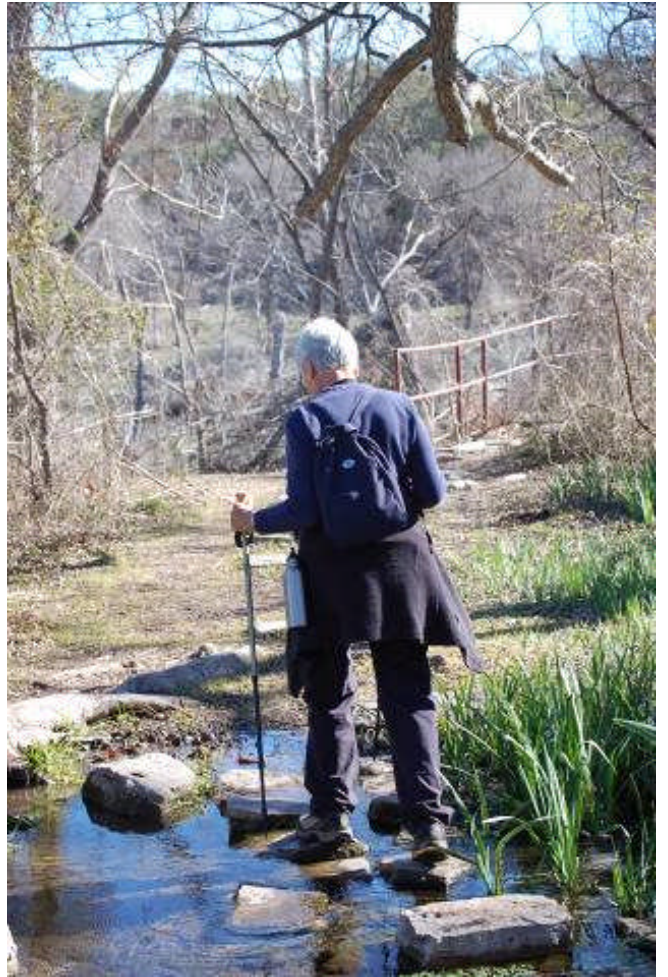
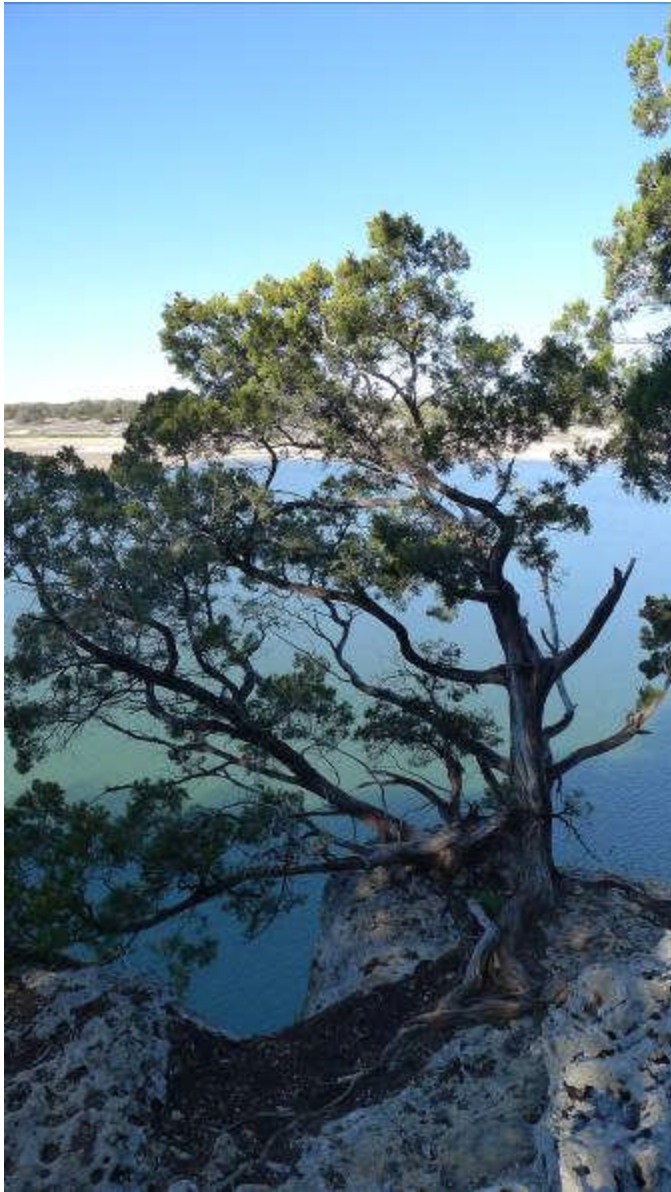
Last Day Hike
W GOODRICH JONES STATE FOREST
January 7, 2012

We had 18 hikers turn out for our first hike of the year. Thus we had an excellent turn out. For some of us the hike helped work off some of the extra lbs gained during the holiday season. During the first portion of the outing, we were given a field presentation by State Forester Jack Warner. He showed us the wildlife gardens near the headquarters of the forest. Jack also spoke at our January 5, 2012 meeting also about the gardens. The club is very appreciative of Jack and the volunteers who also helped at the meeting presentation. We got some very good ideas about what plants will attract different species of birds, butterflies, etc. In the spring when the flowers are blooming, individuals can go back on their own and see the gardens with their spring colors. After the presentation, we got in some good exercise by hiking the trails on the north side of the state forest. The main attraction was the Sweet Leaf Nature Nature Trail, which is one of the most scenic trails in the area. This state forest is a popular place for our club members since it is so close by. So now we've started another year of hiking.

~ Don Macken, Day Trip Leader







NEXT DAY HIKE

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

(Owned by the Outdoor Nature Center)

2001 FM 945 South, Cleveland, TX

Saturday February 11, 2012 - 9am

Directions: From The Woodlands, go north on I45 to New Waverly, then go east on SH 150 about 17 miles to FM 945, go right about two miles, the entrance is on the left (top of a hill on a curve). There is a fence with gate. We will meet here.

We have been given permission to hike this property on this date. The sanctuary comprises 655 acres of wilderness with trails and flowing creeks through quiet forests of huge magnolias, towering pines, holly and dogwood. There are about 20 miles of trails and some scenic meadows too. Our hiking club went there in the spring a couple of years ago and we had a very good turnout then. Now we are going to hike there during the winter time. It has been April of 2010 since last hiking here. Since then a new trail has been constructed. This trail, called The Willows, Trail is on the far side of the property. We will check out that trail along with the other trails. Please bring your lunch and water as we will eat somewhere on one of the trails. At the trail head near the headquarter area are two outhouses. The outing should be enjoyable as we will get to see some real east Texas wilderness wintery scenery. Hope many can make it.

~ Don Macken, Day Trip Leader

For additional information I can be reached at 713-376-1278



Woodlands Hiking Club Cookbook

“GOOD FOOD and GOOD MEMORIES”

DeeDee is collecting recipes for our Cookbook. On the template provided previously please send recipes to her attention from past camping trips, meetings, and Christmas parties. Actually it has been decided it could be any favorite recipe. Also pictures of the recipe would be appreciated and let her know if you can remember dates and places where provided.

Contact DeeDee 936-890-1362 for questions

Email: deederhamd@aol.com

Welcome New Member

Michelle Goldsworthy

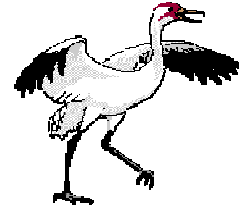
NEXT WEEKEND OUTING

ROCKPORT - WHOOPING CRANE FESTIVAL

PORT ARANSAS TEXAS ON MUSTANG ISLAND

February 24 - 26, 2012

Trip Leaders: Lisa & Chuck Houston - 281-292-2417



Get your binoculars ready! The Coastal Bend of Texas is the only spot in the United States where the endangered whooping crane can be viewed at close range. In addition, an awesome array of wintering migratory birds flock into the wetlands and onto the Texas shorelines of Mustang Island in Port Aransas. The Woodlands Hiking Club's February trip will take us to this area during the Whooping Crane Festival.

We will be staying at the Sand Dollar Resort Motel and RV Park. Reservations can be made at www.sandollar-resort.com or (877) 463-4747.

We are planning a group boat tour to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to view the endangered Whooping Cranes in their winter habitat. The cost is \$40/person. There are also a host of festival related activities (<http://www.whoopingcranefestival.org/home>) and the quaint town of Rockport to explore on your own if you prefer. In addition, we will be organizing group dinners for Friday and Saturday night to partake of the “best seafood restaurants this side of New Orleans” according to Christopher Hooks.

We have ~20 people signed up so far but it is not too late to sign up.

If you would like to join us, please call (936-760-9400) or email (mamanash@yahoo.com), Lisa Houston.



**THE WOODLANDS HIKING CLUB
2012 SPRING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

CAMPOUTS / HIKES / SPECIAL TRIPS / PARTIES / EVENTS

FEB 11 LITTLE THICKET NATURE SANCTUARY DAY HIKE – DON MACKEN
 FEB 24 - 26 ROCKPORT TX WHOOPING CRANE FESTIVAL – TRIP LEADERS: LISA & CHUCK HOUSTON
 MAR 10 SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST DAY HIKE – DON MACKEN * TENTATIVE
 MAR 16 - 18 MOTHER NEFF STATE PARK – TRIP LEADER: TBA
 APR 13 - 15 PURTIS CREEK STATE PARK – TRIP LEADER: TBA
 MAY 11 - 13 BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK – TRIP LEADER: TBA
 JUNE 8 - 10 PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK – TRIP LEADER: TBA

PLEASE NOTE: Trip leader(s) needed for spring campouts: Contact Barbara Perez to volunteer

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2012 OFFICERS AND BOARD

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