

The **BARRED OWL**

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society

Volume XXVIX, Number 4

August / September 2003

President's Message by Dorothy Prowell

Dog-days are here and it's a good time to be birding somewhere else. Not too much goes on with BRAS in the summer months. We did finally have a Board Retreat in May at my cabin in Star Hill. It was productive and fun. Here are the highlights of what we accomplished this past year:



- Held two workdays at Peveto Woods Sanctuary;
- Installed a new Sanctuary sign;
- Hosted a Coastal Restoration reception w/ NAS and Orleans Audubon;
- Led 10 field trips;
- Revised and updated the Barred Owl and our web site;
- Hosted 3 speakers from NAS for Monthly Programs;
- Continued to negotiate land deals in Cameron and Denham Springs area;
- Restructured and updated our membership.

We mostly spent time at the retreat talking about what we want to accomplish in the coming year. One main topic of our discussions was continued progress on enhancing the Peveto Woods Sanctuary by adding an interpretive panel, finding some way to suppress Japanese honeysuckle, and recruiting more volunteers. We considered low attendance at monthly meetings and decided to

see "President's Message" on page 2

Calendar

August 23 Alligator Bayou canoe trip

September 6 Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., GCBO, 103 W. Hwy 332, Lake Jackson, Texas (979.480.0999)

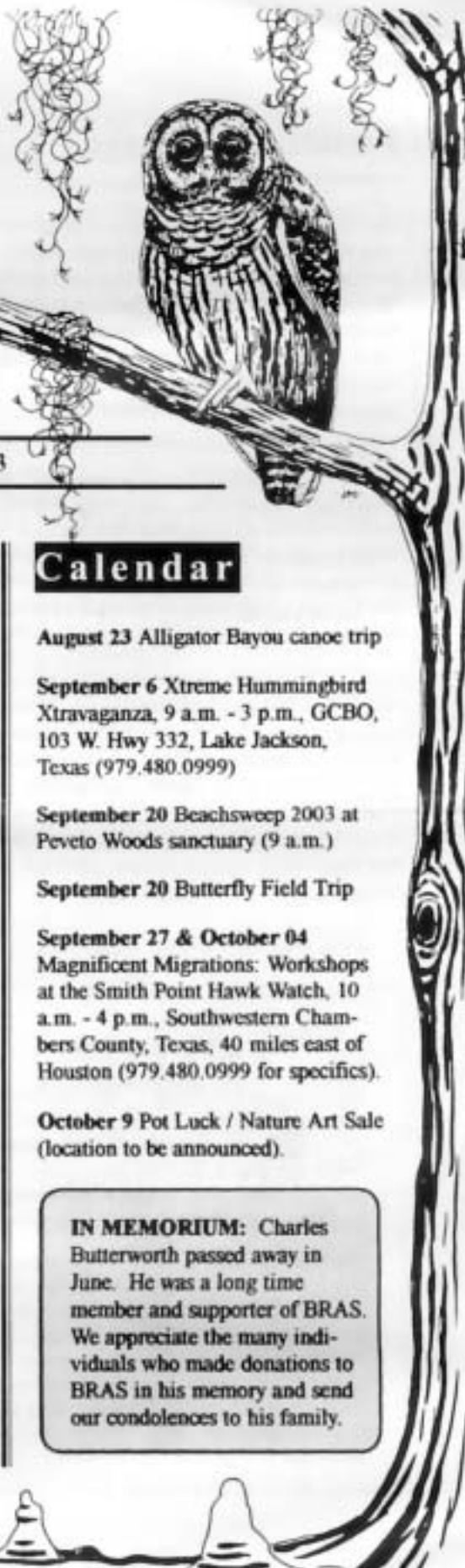
September 20 Beachsweep 2003 at Peveto Woods sanctuary (9 a.m.)

September 20 Butterfly Field Trip

September 27 & October 04 Magnificent Migrations: Workshops at the Smith Point Hawk Watch, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Southwestern Chambers County, Texas, 40 miles east of Houston (979.480.0999 for specifics).

October 9 Pot Luck / Nature Art Sale (location to be announced).

IN MEMORIAM: Charles Butterworth passed away in June. He was a long time member and supporter of BRAS. We appreciate the many individuals who made donations to BRAS in his memory and send our condolences to his family.



President's Message

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have fewer, more highly publicized programs with a more varied format. Our financially savvy board members suggested a fundraiser in the fall specifically to establish an endowment to cover maintenance of our sanctuary, a growing expense. Lastly, we discussed our failing education mission. We identified some local sources to contact for ideas but first we need to find a volunteer interested in chairing the Education committee. Volunteering is almost nonexistent and I wonder why. From discussions with other organizations, I sense it is a pervasive problem for many organizations. I guess we're all busy. It sure leaves you with a good feeling, however, when you're part of keeping a worthwhile program alive. We'll have to put some effort into figuring out how to bump our volunteer numbers up.

That's it for where we stand right now. Hope you're taking some time out this summer to enjoy what nature has to offer. The beauty around us is awe inspiring, even in these dog-days...a moonlit night with frogs croaking and katydids stridating, the chorus of birds singing at dawn, a rare few days with cooler air from the north, and swimming in any available water you can find.

PATCH PREVIEW - We've already got production of the 2004 patch off the ground. It happened as a spin-off of the interpretive panels Victoria has contracted for the Sanctuary Kiosk. A very talented artist, Sharen Carter, did a painting of a wood thrush that we've converted to patch format. The patches aren't for sale yet but they should be by our next mailing. Here's a preview:



Field Notes by Harriett Pooler

This past year was my first year as fieldtrip chairman. I had one fieldtrip a month except for a break in July. My appreciation goes out to Audubon members who volunteered to help and lead a fieldtrip or two. Each fieldtrip leader was given one of the 2003 BRAS patches as a token of our appreciation. Those members who led trips are Dennis Demcheck, Al Troy, Marty Guidry, Joe Kleiman and Van Remsen. Special recognition goes to Dennis who also led 3 fieldtrips for BRAS at the Grand Isle Birding Celebration. Many, many thanks to each of you for sharing your time and expertise with us. I hope you will continue to lead trips next year.

The National Audubon Society first started out with an interest in birds, evolving into all areas of nature and conservation. So it is with our fieldtrips. This past year we had all bird watching fieldtrips, but there are many members with interests in other areas such as butterflies, insects, flowers, fungi, reptiles and frogs. If you have the knowledge and time, please step up to the plate and volunteer to lead a fieldtrip. Sharing your knowledge with other members is a good way for everyone to learn. Many Audubon societies have members who lead fieldtrips during the week and not just on the weekends. This way there are more options for the at-home or retired members. If you are interested in leading a fieldtrip or learning how to lead a fieldtrip, contact me at hapooler@bellsouth.net or 225-291-0077. Remember leading a fieldtrip is a good way to complete your patch collection!

Whiskey Bay Road Trip

by Harriett Pooler

Bright and early on June 14th, a group of six of us went to Whiskey Bay Road to catch sight of some nesting migrant birds. I haven't been there in at least 8 months and was surprised and saddened to see so many 'lots' being cleared for camps. Nonetheless, we did manage to see a good many birds and enjoyed ourselves. We missed finding Swainson's warbler but did see two Swallow-tailed kites soaring overhead—a life bird for several on the trip. Species we saw included:



Anhinga	American Crow
Snowy Egret	Carolina Wren
Black Vulture	White-eyed Vireo
Turkey Vulture	Prothonotary Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Summer Tanager
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Indigo Bunting
Downy Woodpecker	White Ibis
N. Rough-winged Swallow	Great Egret
Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
N. Mockingbird	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Northern Parula	Mississippi Kite
Yellow-throated Chat	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Common Yellowthroat	Barred Owl
Brown-headed cowbird	Barn Swallow
Great Blue Heron	Fish Crow
Little Blue Heron	Wood Thrush
Cattle Egret	Red-eyed Vireo
Swallow-tailed Kite	Eastern Towhee
Mourning Dove	Northern Cardinal
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Painted Bunting

Field Trips by Harriett Pooler

All Baton Rouge Audubon Society field trips are open to the public. Participants are asked to pay a fee of \$1 per person for each trip.

Canoe trip at Alligator Bayou (August 23) Let's take a look at the birds from a canoe! We might even see nesting alligators on the bank. We'll meet at the Alligator Bayou cabin at 8 a.m. Canoe rental is \$10 for the first hour and \$5 per hour after that (life vests, paddles included). If you have your own canoe, there is a \$5 launch fee. Call Harriett at 291-0077 or 382-3505 to register. PRE-REGISTRATION is necessary. Bring a hat, insect repellent and water.

Butterfly field trip (September 20) Donna Lafleur and Robert Sherman will take you to Murrell Butler's beautiful St. Francisville property to look for butterflies. September is the peak month for butterfly watching. Some species you probably will see are Giant, Tiger and Pipevine Swallowtail, Cloudless Sulphur and Gulf Fritterlary. Meet at Coffee call at 9 am. Call Donna at 892-4492 to register. PRE-REGISTRATION is necessary. Bring a bag lunch to eat out on Murrell's veranda.

BRAS Directory

Officers

President	Dorothy Prowell	923-1070
Vice-President	Dan Hendricks	757-1593
Secretary	JoAnn Fryling	766-3120
Treasurer	Fred Sheldon	763-6113

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Mark Skinner	201-0078
Education	Chris Carlton	344-9635
Field Trips / Activities	Harriett Pooler	291-0077
Legal	Doris Falkenheiner	346-8761
Membership	Elaine Kilgore	667-3206
Newsletter	Ron Bayless	757-1769
Publicity	Donna LaFleur	892-4492
Sanctuaries	Victoria M. Bayless	757-1769

LAC Representatives

Doris Falkenheiner	346-8761
Donna LaFleur	892-4492

Board Members at Large

Cherylann Story	752-0867
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The Barred Owl

is published bi-monthly by the Baton Rouge chapter of the NAS. Submissions should be received by:
January 15 for the Feb/March issue
March 15 for the April/May issue
May 15 for the June/July issue
July 15 for the August/September issue
September 15 for the Oct/Nov issue
November 15 for the Dec/Jan issue.
Submissions may be sent via e-mail to vbayless2@cox.net or mailed to:

Editor, *Barred Owl*

Baton Rouge Audubon Society

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Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2525

Changes of address and other official correspondence should be sent to the mailing address shown above.

www.braudubon.org

Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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BEACHSWEEP 2003 REMINDER (Saturday, September 20)

Please join us in cleaning up the beach in front of the Peveto Woods Sanctuary below Lake Charles. Between the Gulf's currents and wave action, and the irresponsible actions of a few beachgoers, trash and debris often litter the beach all along the coast. Please join us at the sanctuary at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 20 as we remove as much of that trash and debris as we can. For those of you who have never visited the sanctuary, this is an opportunity to see what you've been missing and to help make a portion of Louisiana's coast safer and more visually pleasing. Mark your calendars now and plan for a trip to the beautiful coast of southwest Louisiana.

BATON ROUGE AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Type	Amount	2003 Patch?	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> National Audubon Society (new members only)	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Baton Rouge Audubon Society (local chapter only)	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing National Audubon Members "BRAS patch option only" (must be a paid member of National Audubon Society)	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra 2003 patches (for members only)	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution	\$ _____		_____
GRAND TOTAL:			\$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

E-mail: _____ Zip Code: _____ Local Chapter Code: 7XCH8 K01

Please send this form to (and make your check out to): **Baton Rouge Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 82525

Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2525