



HPWBANA

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE HPWBANA NEWS

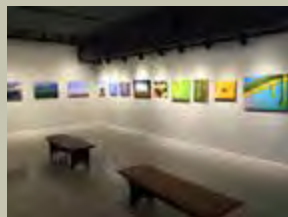
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Exhibition coordinator and neighbor Jessica Winslow.



PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

HPWBANA neighbors Jessica Winslow and Lynn Adams recently exhibited their original photographs as part of a show at the Dougherty Arts Center. The contemplative photography exhibit ran from February 20 to March 28.

Jessica, a former HPWBANA Board member and neighborhood resident since 1998, organized the show. She teaches with Miksang Contemplative Photography, a style that combines the mindfulness of meditation with the art of photography. Miksang means "good eye" in Tibetan. "The idea is to work with being in the present moment," says Jessica. "The beauty of the world is shown in the images in a heartfelt way."

By focusing on what she calls the "flash of perception," students distill the experience of their subject matter into a single frame. Whether it is a tree, landscape, or still life, the images highlight the color, texture and movement of the subjects into something that is often painterly and, at times, unrecognizable. An image of bold, primary-colored stripes, for instance, turns out to be an extreme close-up of a garage door!

The group's first major show was a nine-month project for Jessica to organize. The application process to be shown at Dougherty Arts Center is very competitive. Once Miksang was accepted, a call for submissions was put out to current and former students, who could each submit up to five pieces. Jessica and two other photography instructors narrowed the selections down to 17 total photographers, both rookie and experienced, shooting on everything from an iPhone to high-end professional equipment and everything in between.

If you see Jessica or Lynn around the neighborhood, please congratulate them on a beautiful and well-done show. Jessica's next workshop, "Miksang Contemplative Photography: Touching the Phenomenal World," will take place April 25-26. Classes are taught at the Shambhala Meditation Center. For more information, visit austin.shambhala.org.

Pancake Race

by John Berry

The 8th Annual Beverly Hills Pancake Race was a great success!!

Many, many thanks to everybody who helped, especially MaryLou Ralls and Terry Newman at the finish line, Stan Casey and Ingrid Berry for photographs, Corinna Whiteacre-Lewis, Christian Tatu and Kim Edwards the Line Judges, Leila Behjat for a quick dash to the start line for a frying pan and with supplies, and anyone I have forgotten.

Also welcome to new and relatively new BeverlyHood neighbors who came out - I hope it was fun for you, too!

Most of all thanks to all the runners, young and older, and most especially to our District Ten Council Member Sheri Gallo for awarding the trophy and medals.

The winners of the Junior Division (8 and under) were:

1. Ellie Knoll
2. Henry Perakos

The winners of the Senior Division were:

1. Marta Knoll
2. Peyton Casey
3. Charlie McBride

The winners of the "Grown-up" Division were:

1. Pam Higgins
2. Lynn Adams
3. Loren Fredlund.



(Continued on Page 2)

Highland Park West Balcones Area

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The HPWBANA Board meets on the first Monday of each month except December. Please go to HPWBANA.org for our current meeting location or contact president@HPWBANA.org.

HWPBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St. Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755

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(Pancake Race Cont. from Cover)

Anyone who would like their medal engraved please bring it to me in the next week and I'll get it done.

A memento for the fastest adult (Pam!) , as well as the permanent trophy, are currently at the engraver's: they should be ready at the end of the week.



Keep Calm and Keep On Tossing



Cub Scout Pack 59 Takes Care of Perry Park Trees

by Nadene Morning

On March 7, Cub Scout Pack 59 held their Scout Service Day at Perry Park as part of the Austin Parks Foundation It's My Park Day event. They mulched 12 small trees and two massive trees! These trees are important to our park as they will provide beauty for many years, much needed shade in the hot summers, and wildlife food and habitat. Nurturing the trees now will help them grow strong in years to come. This was a wonderful way for the youth in our community to show stewardship towards our local park.

Many thanks go out to Cub Scout Pack 59 and to leader Ken Zent and co-leader Ed Castellanet for leading the event!



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The Magic of Migration

By Peter English

APRIL NATURE NOTES

Mark your calendars: Nature Notes author Peter English will be speaking at the Travis Audubon Society's monthly meeting on April 16 at 7pm at the Hyde Park Christian Church, 610 E 45th Street. Free to all.

Migration is happening now, and it is an exciting time to watch the Spring unfold. The trees have regained their leaves, there are loads of fruits and berries available, and you might have noticed all the insects that have hatched. It is these fruits and insects that really drive migration, because migration is all about birds going North for food.

Texas is among the most exciting places on Earth to see the mass movement of birds northward. Many of the smaller birds jump off from northern Yucatan and head over the Gulf and end up on the Upper Texas Coast - specifically a town called High Island. Larger birds like hawks and cranes and geese fly mostly over land on their way up to the central plains and that route takes many of them through Texas. These converging pathways don't happen in very many places and we are lucky to be in Central Texas where so much of the migration is right outside our doors.

High Island, just up the coast from Galveston, is a worldwide attraction. The salt dome geology below pushes up a pretty substantial hill that is topped by very old forest and even a freshwater lake. Because it is a hill on the coast, birds flying north will see it well before they see other signs of land and the tired birds head straight for it. Birds leaving from the Yucatan can sense the weather, and if there is a wind from the north they wait before departing. When the wind is from the south, they get a tailwind that makes the crossing easier. When a front comes down from the north and hits the Gulf while the birds are in the air, the wind changes from south to north and now the headwind makes the crossing much more difficult. When this happens, tens of thousands of birds stop to refuel as soon as they get to land. Many of those birds end up at High Island and the event is known among birders as a "fallout." The birds attract birders, and you are likely to see just as many Europeans birding the woods as Americans.

While not a famous hotspot like High Island, Austin gets its share of the birds that land on the Texas coast and these are fun to see. Bright yellow warblers, orange orioles, indigo buntings, red tanagers, and even the multi-colored Painted Buntings are all moving through. Typically you will see them in your yard for a few hours, then they are off again. Water features can be the best attraction for these birds (they mostly eat insects so don't visit typical feeders). Some of these species stop in Austin and make their nests here, others move along. The Painted Buntings stay, as do the more well known Golden-cheeked Warblers.

The big birds come through the Austin area in large numbers, too. Just as a north wind would bring the hawks through in the

Fall, a wind from the south helps the mostly soaring hawks move northward. There have been days in April when I have seen more than 100,000 Swainson's Hawks on their return path from Argentina headed for Canada. Another spring favorite are the Sandhill Cranes, whose beautiful call carries for miles and gives you a reason to look up. Cranes always fly with their neck outstretched, which makes them easy to recognize. White Pelicans also pass right over Austin in big formations and can be recognized because they are the only big white birds with black on their wings (the flight feathers are black).

As I mentioned last month, migrating birds have to arrive at just the right time. Since the 1960s it has been recognized that the increasing day length of the Spring is the primary trigger for birds to begin migration. The world was relatively predictable and if you were a Golden-cheeked Warbler that arrived to Brightleaf on March 25, you would be right on time. Recently the world has become less predictable due to climate change, and so now it is a little more complicated.

The day length that we have believed to be the cue for migrations is not part of the change we are seeing as a result of global climate change, yet we are seeing birds migrate earlier and earlier. Somehow Golden-cheeked Warblers have moved their arrival time to Central Texas almost a month earlier than it was 40 years ago. It makes sense that if it is warmer earlier, the plants and insects would bear fruit and hatch out earlier - and if those two things are available, then birds should come back earlier. The mechanism for all of this changing behavior is shaping up to be both a mystery and a concern.

The mystery is interesting because it is calling into question decades of us believing that we understood the ways birds knew when to migrate - it is clearly much more complicated than day length. The concern is that the "best" time to return might move beyond the abilities of different species to change their behavior. No one knows what will happen when we get there. There are roughly half as many birds in North America as there were in 1970 - half as many individual birds - and increasing perils of migration, habitat loss, cats, etc., all play a role in the decline. I am personally hoping that these threats are being addressed appropriately and my kids will be able to see the magic in migration that I have been fortunate to witness.



Painted Bunting

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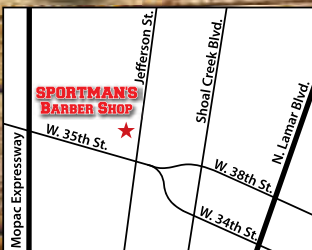
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Movie in the Park

May 9th, 2015

Movies Begin at Dusk!

HPWBANA is looking for neighbors or area businesses to sponsor this event! To find out more about sponsorships, contact Chereen Fisher at 512 507-9065 or chereenfisher@gmail.com

We also need volunteers to help organize the event. If you are interested in helping make this event a good one, please contact Becca Tripathi at coditripathi@yahoo.com.

Watch the neighborhood list serve to vote on movie selection!

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home

noun

1. An environment offering security and happiness.
2. A valued place seen as a refuge or place of origin.
3. A place where one lives; a residence.

root

noun

1. To come into existence; originate.
2. To cause to put out roots and grow.
3. To become firmly established, settled, or grounded.
4. To furnish a primary source or origin to.

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