



Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center

Fall 2009 Programs & Activities

SEPTEMBER

HUMMINGBIRD WORKSHOP. *Sat., Sept. 12, 9 a.m.* Getting ready for fall-migrating hummingbirds is easy as hummingbird bender Sumita Prasad gives participants an up-close experience with banding these birds' tiny feet with even tinier bands before releasing them back into the wild. Then at 11 a.m., TPWD's Mark Klym showcases these tiny green avian fighter jets on the big screen. Bring a picnic and stay for after-lunch hummer observations and information sharing. *All ages.*

SECOND SATURDAY SETTLERS: ANTIQUE ARCHERY. *Sat., Sept. 12, 1-3 p.m.* Learn about archery equipment used by the settlers and "Native Americans" in the 1800s. Also see some of the daily chores of early Texas settlers as park volunteers and staff use hands-on demonstrations to bring the Redbud Hill Homestead to life. *All ages.*

CUB SCOUTS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BELT LOOP. *Sun., Sept. 13, 1-3:30 p.m.* Cub Scouts can earn their Wildlife Conservation belt loop by learning about nature. *Reservations required beginning Thur., Sept. 3.*

PONTOON BOAT TOURS. *Sat., Sept. 19. Tours are offered throughout the day.* Step aboard the *Spring Creek Star* for a leisurely tour along Spring Creek to learn about the area's natural history and wildlife. *Ages 8+. Reservations required beginning Wed., Sept. 9.*

CANOE SPRING CREEK. *Sat., Sept. 26, 9 a.m. or Sun., Sept. 27, 2 p.m.* On Saturday, enjoy a longer trip from Pundt Park to Jones Park. On Sunday take a shorter trip from Jones Park to the San Jacinto River. *Ages 16+. Reservations required beginning Wed., Sept. 16.*

HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATION. *Tues., Sept. 29 through Thur., Oct. 1, 5-8:30 p.m.* This three-day course meets the mandated Texas Parks & Wildlife hunter education requirements for Texas. A \$15 fee is required for materials. *Ages 9+. Reservations required beginning Wed., Sept. 16.*

OCTOBER

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS. *Sat., Oct. 3, 10 a.m.* Discover the many types of carnivorous plants and learn how each attracts, captures, and digests its prey. Take home a free plant! Limit one plant per family. *All ages.*

NEW: LIVING HISTORY TEACHER WORKSHOP. *Sat., Oct. 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.* Teachers receive hands-on training by authentically outfitted re-enactors to learn about the lives of Civil War soldiers and the civilians left at home. Be 'inducted' into the army and spend a morning drilling, learning weapons and camp gear, and other activities of a regular soldier. Stay and enjoy a lunch prepared by our army cook! *Reservations required beginning Mon., Sept. 14. All ages.*

SECOND SATURDAY SETTLERS: BLACKSMITHING. *Sat., Oct. 10, 1-3 p.m.* See how heat, a hammer, and an anvil are used to transform metal into useful tools and other items. Also witness some of the daily activities of early Texas settlers as staff and volunteers bring the homestead to life. *All ages.*

FALL MIGRATION. *Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 a.m.* Enjoy the fall migration of birds through Jones Park while watching banding demonstrations and taking a guided bird walk to try and catch a glimpse of migrating and resident birds. *Reservations required beginning Wed., Oct. 7.*

HAUNTED HOMESTEAD. *Sat., Oct. 24, 5-8 p.m.* Take a hayride in the woods and enjoy a family-oriented, PG-rated spooky homestead. Then let the woodland creatures and sounds escort you down the jack-o-lantern-lit trail. Costumed trick-or-treaters are encouraged, and treats end at dark or when supplies run out. Bring a flashlight. *All ages.*

CREEPY CRAWLY CRITTERS. *Sat., Oct. 31, 10 a.m.* The forest is alive with bugs! Take a walk with wildlife biologist Don Olhausen to see and learn more about some of the grubs, worms, insects, and other creepy crawlers that inhabit the woods of Jones Park. *All ages.*

NOVEMBER

ADOPT-A-TRAIL WORK DAY! *Sat., Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.* Join sponsoring groups as they help maintain the park's trail system by removing invasive plants, limbs, and litter. *Reservations requested beginning Wed., Oct. 28. All ages.*

STARGAZING. *Sat., Nov. 7, 7 p.m.* Learn about the planets, stars, and other celestial bodies with the help of members of the North Houston Astronomy Club. Participants are encouraged to bring telescopes or binoculars. *All ages. Reservations required beginning Wed., Oct. 28.*

Continued on reverse



Fall 2009 Programs

NOVEMBER (cont'd)

PIONEER DAY. *Sat., Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.* Take a "living history" look at the Texas settler and "Native American" lifestyles! Witness a skirmish for Texas independence, along with woodworking, blacksmithing, cooking and many other demonstrations. Folk music is featured and hayrides are provided. Fun for the whole family. *All ages.*

GIRL SCOUT WILDLIFE BADGE WORKSHOP. *Sat., Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.* Junior Girl Scouts can learn about the importance of local wildlife during a nature-packed day. *Reservations required beginning Wed., Nov. 11.*

PIONEER CAMPFIRE. *Sat., Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m.* Enjoy an evening of hot cider and roasted marshmallows around the campfire as talented performer Bobby Bridger performs *Seekers of the Fleece*. *Reservations required beginning Wed., Nov. 11.*

CUB SCOUT FISHING BELT LOOP. *Sun., Nov. 22, 1-4 p.m.* Cub Scouts and Webelos can learn fishing basics and then try to catch a fish. Scouts must bring their own rod and reel, tackle, and bait. *Reservations required beginning Thur., Nov. 12.*

DROP-N-SHOP. *Sat., Nov. 28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.* Parents can drop off their children for a fun-filled day of guided nature walks, crafts, stories, and a movie while they enjoy a day of shopping. Children may bring a lunch for a picnic. *Ages 5-10. Reservations required beginning Wed., Nov. 18.*

UPCOMING

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS. *Sat., Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m.* Experience the Christmas traditions of earlier times as the Redbud Hill Homestead comes alive with customs of the 19th-century holiday season. *All ages. Reservations required and open to Harris County residents beginning Mon., Nov. 16; non-Harris County residents beginning Mon., Nov. 23.*

ONGOING

TADPOLES CLUB. *Wednesdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, and 23; or Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, and 18, 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.* This interactive program introduces preschool-aged children to nature with animals, puppets, short walks, crafts, and stories. *Ages 3 and 4 only! Parent must accompany child. Sorry, no younger or older siblings. Reservations required for respective dates beginning Mon., Aug. 3 and Sept. 28.*

NEW: INSECTIGATORS. *Mondays, Sept. 14, Oct. 5, and Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-noon.* Join Team Insectigator to help survey and record insects and other arthropods in Jones Park (no collecting). Previous knowledge in entomology is not mandatory, and any interested person is encouraged to attend. Participants need to wear closed toe shoes and long pants, and should be prepared for varied habitats and weather. *Ages 12+.*

SECOND SUNDAY PICKERS. *Sundays, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8, 2-4 p.m.* Visitors are welcome to bring an instrument to join in the fun, or sit on the sidelines and enjoy the fall folk music. *All ages.*

MONDAY MORNING BIRDING. *Mondays, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, and Nov. 16, 7:30 a.m.* Who says Mondays have to be boring?! Bring a pair of binoculars and field guide to join naturalist Sheena Humbird for an early morning glimpse of the birds around the park. *Ages 12+.*

JESSE JONES PARK VOLUNTEERS. *Mondays, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 30, 7 p.m.* The JJPV invites everyone to its monthly program and meeting. *Ages 16+.*

SUNDAY MORNING BICYCLING. *Sundays, 8 a.m.-noon.* The trails are open for bicycling. *All ages. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.*

Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center
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All Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center programs requiring reservations are limited in size and open to one family per phone call. Group reservations are not allowed unless otherwise indicated. Preferential reservations are given to Harris County residents. Persons not residing in Harris County may attend a space-limited program if spaces are available. All programs and events are free of charge unless otherwise noted and open to the public regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, physical ability, national origin, or religion. Anyone requiring special assistance to participate in these programs should contact the nature center. Programs meet at the nature center unless otherwise noted. Solid shoes are recommended for all walks. Call (281) 446-8588 for reservations or information.

 Jerry Eversole, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct 4