



# Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center

## WINTER 2009–2010 PROGRAMS

### December

**AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS.** *Saturday, December 5, 4-7 p.m.* Experience traditions of earlier times as the homestead comes to life with 19<sup>th</sup> century holiday customs. Enjoy music, a holiday craft, tree lighting, wassail and cookies, and an early visit from Saint Nicholas. *All ages. Reservations required beginning Mon., Nov. 16 for Harris County residents, and Mon., Nov. 23 for non-Harris County residents.*

**NATURE RANGERS.** *Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.-noon.* Kids ages 5-8 can learn about how local animals survive the winter, and what migrating animals visit our warmer climate at this interactive outdoor program that features fun lessons, hands-on activities, a nature walk, craft and a story. *Children must be accompanied by a parent. Reservations required beginning Wed., Dec. 2.*

**SECOND SATURDAY SETTLERS: CHRISTMAS CHEER.** *Saturday, December 12, 1-3 p.m.* Join park staff and volunteers for yuletide fun in the homestead. Enjoy a cup of wassail, sample old-fashioned treats, and have your picture taken with jolly old Saint Nicholas. *All ages.*

**SECOND SUNDAY PICKERS.** *Sunday, December 13, 2-4 p.m.* Enjoy a festive yuletide folk concert or bring your instrument and join in the music! *All ages.*

**WINTER BIRD COUNT.** *Saturday, December 19, 7:30 a.m.* Join fellow birding enthusiasts in an informal count of wintering and resident birds. Birders ages 15+. *Reservations required beginning Wed., Dec. 9.*

### January

**WINTER WOODS ORIENTEERING.** *Saturday, January 9, 10 a.m.* Take advantage of the lack of fire ants, mosquitoes, and snakes in the winter forest and experience orienteering by exploring off the trail with a compass. Scout groups welcome. Participants should bring a compass. *Ages 10+. Reservations required beginning Wed., Dec. 30.*

**SECOND SATURDAY SETTLERS: FLINT TO FIRE.** *Saturday, January 9, 1-3 p.m.* Starting a campfire is not as easy as most people think! Learn how to build a campfire using flint and steel as park staff and volunteers bring the Redbud Hill Homestead to life. *All ages.*

**PIONEER CAMPFIRE: PEEL AND SQUEAL.** *Saturday, January 9, 5:30 p.m.* Spend an evening around the campfire enjoying baked potatoes and fixings, while listening to the renowned bagpipe talents of Stanley Fontenot. *All ages. Reservations required beginning Wed., Dec. 30.*

**SECOND SUNDAY PICKERS.** *Sunday, January 10, 2-4 p.m.* Enjoy this informal musical group for a folk concert, or bring your instrument and join in the music! *All ages.*

**ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION.** *Saturday and Sunday, January 16 and 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.* Celebrate Texas Arbor Day by adopting a tree! Visit with The Lorax, take home a free sapling, and get information on tree selection and planting. Exhibits and activities highlight local forest plants and themes. *Webelos* can fulfill all requirements needed for their Forester Badge by completing a self-guided activity. *All ages.*

**PULP TO PAPER.** *Saturday, January 16, 10 a.m.* Imagine the world without paper! Learn how paper is manufactured from trees and make your own paper creation. *All ages. Reservations required beginning Wed., Jan. 6.*

**TREES & WILDLIFE.** *Saturday, January 16, 2 p.m.* Join a naturalist to learn which native trees are best for our area, and how good tree selection can help sustain local wildlife. *All ages.*

**PARK AFTER DARK.** *Saturday, January 16, 6 p.m.* Join a staff naturalist for an evening walk in the woods to discover what the forest reveals as the sun sets. *Bring a flashlight and wear comfortable walking shoes. Ages 10+. Reservations required beginning Wed., Jan. 6.*

**GUIDED TREE TOURS.** *Sunday, January 17, 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.* At this guided walk, participants learn about the unique trees and shrubs that grow in this area. This program is perfect for beginning dendrology and botany students, and anyone interested in local plants and trees. Boy Scouts can fulfill the field notebook requirement for their Forestry Badge. *All ages.*

**WOODPECKERS.** *Saturday, January 23, 10 a.m.* Learn about the various species of woodpeckers that inhabit the forests of Jones Park, and how you can attract them to your yard. Afterward, take a walk to try and see or hear some of these amazing birds. *Ages 8+. Reservations required beginning Wed., Jan 13.*

**JUNIOR BIRDING.** *Sunday, January 24, 2 p.m.* Novice birders can learn about the basic equipment needed for birding including field guides and binoculars, plus, at an outing following the presentation, they can learn the songs and calls of some the park's bird life. *Ages 8+. Reservations required beginning Thur., Jan 14.*

**PONTOON BOAT TOURS.** *Saturday, January 30, Tours throughout the day.* Take a leisurely tour along Spring Creek and learn about the area's natural history and wildlife. *Ages 8+. Reservations required beginning Wed., Jan. 20.*



## WINTER 2009–2010 PROGRAMS (continued)

### February

**BIRD SEARCH.** *Saturday, February 6, 8 a.m.* Join a naturalist for a walk through the park to discover many of the migratory and wintering birds of the area. Beginners are welcome! *Participants should bring their own binoculars. Ages 12+.* *Reservations required beginning Wed., Jan 27.*

**STARGAZING.** *Saturday, February 6, 7 p.m.* Learn about the planets, stars, and other celestial bodies with the help of the North Houston Astronomy Club. *All ages. Reservations required beginning Wed., Jan. 27.*

**HOMESTEAD HERITAGE DAY.** *Saturday, February 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.* Bring the family for a “living history” look at early settler life in 19<sup>th</sup> century Texas. Enjoy the sights and sounds of folk music, blacksmithing, black powder weaponry, open fire cooking, and more as the skills of times past are demonstrated by scores of authentically outfitted reenactors. *All ages.*

**SECOND SUNDAY PICKERS.** *Sunday, February 14, 2-4 p.m.* Enjoy this informal musical group for a Valentine’s Day folk concert, or bring your instrument and join in the music! *All ages.*

**CANOE CYPRESS & SPRING CREEK.** *Saturday, February 20, 9 a.m. or Sunday, February 21, 1 p.m.* On Saturday, leisurely paddle downstream to Jones Park. On Sunday, tour Spring Creek on a shorter trip to the San Jacinto River. *Ages 16+.* *Reservations required beginning Wed., Feb. 10.*

**WILD EDIBLES WORKSHOP.** *Saturday, February 27, 10 a.m.* There are more edible plants out there than you realize! This workshop includes an indoor overview of some common wild foods growing in our area, as well as practical field time to collect ingredients for a wild drink and snack. *Ages 15+ and families welcome. Reservations required beginning Wed., Feb. 17.*

### Upcoming

**NATUREFEST.** *Saturday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.* Enjoy a fun, educational day as noted speakers discuss birds, butterflies, reptiles, native plants, and more. Take a guided nature walk or pontoon boat tour, see and touch live animals, and learn more about other nature-related topics by visiting educational booths. *All ages.*

**NATURE PHOTO CONTEST.** *Photos due Monday, April 26 by 4:30 p.m.* It’s time to “click-click” for the park’s annual photo contest. Call for rules and information, or print them online at [www.hcp4.net/jones/pdf/Photo-Contest.pdf](http://www.hcp4.net/jones/pdf/Photo-Contest.pdf). *All ages.*

### Ongoing

**INSECTIGATORS.** *Mondays, December 7 and February 1, 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+.*

**MONDAY MORNING BIRDING.** *Mondays, December 21, January 18, and February 15, 7:30 a.m.* Who says Mondays have to be dull and boring! Bring your binoculars and field guide and join a naturalist for an early morning walk to glimpse some of the birds around the park. *Ages 12+.*

**JESSE JONES PARK VOLUNTEERS.** *Mondays, December 14 (annual Christmas party), January 25, and February 22, 7 p.m.* The JJPV invites everyone to its monthly program and meeting. *Ages 16+.*

**TADPOLES CLUB.** *Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20, and 27, 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.* This program introduces preschool-aged children to nature with animals, puppets, short walks, crafts and stories. *Ages 3 and 4 only! Parent must accompany the child. Sorry, no younger or older siblings. Reservations required beginning Tues., Dec. 1.*

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

**PIONEER OPEN HOUSE.** *Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.* Enjoy a look around the Redbud Hill Homestead and the Akokisa Indian Village. Self-guided interpretive tour brochures are available in the nature center. *All ages.*

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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.

Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center  
20634 Kenswick Drive ♦ Humble, Texas 77338  
(281) 446-8588 ♦ [www.hcp4.net/jones](http://www.hcp4.net/jones)

 **Jerry Eversole, Commissioner**  
**Harris County Precinct 4**