

## FAN 1960 General Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 8, 2013

- I. Meeting was at S. Ignatius Loyola Church.
- II. **President** – Kathy Michalski - The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:05, a slight delay because we had no microphone. Kathy thanked Barbara Bolz for doing such a nice job on our Holiday Luncheon and mentioned that we also had a wonderful time at the Cookie Exchange.
- III. **Secretary** – Denise Hunt - Motion to approve November's General Meeting Minutes. 1<sup>st</sup> – Clarita Doussan, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Carolyn Gibbs
- IV. **Treasurer** – Pat Townzen - Pat Townzen presented details of the Treasurer's Report. (See Attached)
- V. **Membership** – JoEllen Wade - We had 71 members in attendance. We had 14 Board Members, and we had 5 guests at the meeting – Sharon Bartow, Liz McCarty, Mary Haydel, Sue Rieansnil, and Gloria Hernandez. We also had one new member – Corinne Precup.
- VI. **Holiday Luncheon** – Barbara Bolz -Barbara thanked everyone for a successful Luncheon. She thanked the runners, and Shirley Limbaugh, and the Reindeer Dancers. We raised approximately \$5000.00 for the Fallen Soldiers Memorial.
- VII. **Socials** – Linda Neibel - We are going to the horse races on Saturday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>. Linda needs to know by tomorrow, if you want to go. Tickets are \$25.00 each and they will be at the Will Call area of the race track.
- VIII. **Historian** – Margie Rogers - Please send in photos of your activities for the President's handbook.
- IX. **Advisor** - Debbie Laich - Debbie is taking pictures of new members after the meeting. Debbie brought in old scrap books – if anyone would like pictures, please let Debbie know. Debbie also brought some fabric from her mother's Things if anyone would like some.
- X. **Program** – Lin Fish – Kathy Adams Clark will be discussing “**Attracting Birds and Butterflies To The Backyard**”.

Kathy and her husband write a nature article in the Saturday paper. Many of us Are bird and butterfly watchers, so we are very fortunate to have Kathy here with us today. She and her husband have written several books and she has brought some of them with her today. Kathy is a college professor and speaker.

Kathy is a professional nature photographer since 1995. She teaches photography up in The Woodlands and also has nature tours in other countries. It's amazing how many people have bird feeders in their yards. It is helping to increase the population of birds. She and her husband travel all around the world.

We need food, water, and shelter for our birds. If you are serious about attracting Birds this is what you have to do.

Food – simple things you can do is purchase bird food. You can buy a peanut Butter mixture or you can clean out your pantry by using natural things. You can feed them cracked sunflower seeds. If you feed them this, you get a much cleaner Feeding area and it won't attract rodents. If you get the specialty mix, the birds Love the peanuts. You can put shelled nuts on the ground so it won't attract rodents. Don't feed the little round seeds if you don't want to attract the sparrows.

Morning doves are being overrun by larger doves. Pine Warblers are here right now. They live in pine trees and they will eat suet. They are beautiful singers in the winter. Blue birds will come if you have a blue bird box. They are attracted to meal worms. If you whistle when you put the worms out, they will come. Yaupon berries can be eaten after the first freeze. The mocking birds stake out a Bush and wait for the berries to be ready to eat. Hummingbirds – the ruby throated hummingbirds go north to breed. The female builds the nest, has the babies, and the male leaves. Around July the males show up, then the females show up and stay till September. They will go south with the cold weather. After they all leave, then the western hummingbirds show up for the winter. So you should keep the hummingbird feeders up all year long. The feeders should be 4 parts water to 1 part sugar.

Another winter bird you may see is the Pine Siskin. They may come with 50 to 60 at a time. When food gets short up north, they come south. Another one is the Purple Finch. It looks like a Merlot wine.

A good habitat attracts bugs! In the spring it means you will have a lot of butterflies. Check with your nursery to find out which plants attract butterflies. The plants don't usually need a lot of water. When you start to plant for butterflies You also plant for the butterflies to lay its eggs.

The blue gray knat catcher is around right now. In the spring you may hear the Cat Bird that sounds like a cat. A good yard has leaf mulch that contains the chrysalis which is waiting for warmth to become a butterfly. You can put it around your plants. The fuchsia is a good plant to attract butterflies, Texas lantana, red passion flower as well.

Birds in your yard need water. Birds like a dirty bird bath. They want a rough, mossy, bird bath. In the spring the Warbler will come and need water. They are heading north. The Bard owls roost during the day. The blue jays and crows start

going crazy when a predator is near. The red shoulder hawks come down to take out the other birds.

Keeping cats indoors is a good idea. The cat's fangs infect the birds.

Shelter – Means a birdhouse. The size of the hole attracts a specific size of bird. Perches are not good. They allow predators to get in. Purple Martins should have their houses put up now. They will return year after year. They have to be in an open area.

Tree snags are good for red headed woodpecker. It only nests in dead trees. The green lizards, bunnies, and skunks eat a lot of bugs. Skunks, mate by spraying in February. They eat tons of bugs, possums eat roaches. Squirrels – It's amazing how many people have tried to keep them out of the bird feeders. Only put enough birdseed out for one day at a time to keep rodents away.

Right now the American gold finch should be around. In early April it will turn bright yellow.

So you should be planting things right now to attract birds and butterflies into your yards. Never put a feeder near a birdhouse. The birdhouse should be in the shade and they should be spread out and at various heights.

There is a Leisure Learning facility down in the Richmond area as well as classes in The Woodlands. She will also be planning some photo/nature tours. You can reach Kathy at [KathyAdamsClark@comcast.net](mailto:KathyAdamsClark@comcast.net). Her website is [www.Kathyadamsclark.com](http://www.Kathyadamsclark.com) and she has a blog at [Kathyadamsclark.blogspot.com](http://Kathyadamsclark.blogspot.com).

**50/50 Raffle** – We took in \$96.00 - \$48 for the club and 2 - \$24 each

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at St Ignatius

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.