

Where are the Meadowlarks?

By John Monroe

One of the more pleasant ways to enjoy Windrush is a long, quiet walk through its forested trails or along the perimeter road surrounding the fields of grass and experimental crops, with a pair of binoculars and a guide to identifying birds. In the forty-one years we have lived here on the place, Frances and I have engaged in this entrancing pastime with, from time to time, more or less intensity. I would not say that we are bird-watchers (or to use the modern term, birders) because if we were judged on any scale of knowledge, activity or depth as compared to the real authorities, we would rate low. Although we did keep lists of what we saw for a few years (long ago), most of our birding experiences, and the best ones I think, can be described as a communion with

Reflections from the Chair

I decided the next series of articles for this column should be from different scientists working

It is with mixed emotions that many friends, fellow volunteers, and the faculty and students of University Terrace Elementary School (UT) are saying their goodbyes to Judy and Mark Weaver. While they will be missed, everyone is proud that Mark has been appointed to a newly created endowed chair at the University of Southern Alabama.

Judy had a distinguished career before coming to Baton Rouge. She was the chief executive of the Alabama State Television from 1989 to 2000. Since 2001 she has been a partner in NETA Consulting, an executive search firm for

public television.

The contagious passion of Jim Barry is evident at every session of Project Learning Tree (PLT), a BHS program offered to school age students. As volunteer coordinator, he schedules the 30 volunteer docents as well as leading one of three interactive learning stations.

Before PLT, Jim worked for 25 years with British Airways. He was regional airport director for Chicago, Detroit, Houston, and Dallas/Ft Worth. This was quite an adventure for someone from Crowley and McNeese State in Lake Charles.

Jim says proudly, "I've lived in Houston, San Francisco, and Chicago. That's a career of living on airplanes. It was a wonderful career that allowed me to see the world."

"If anyone would have asked me what I'd do in retirement, this time at Burden would not have been it," a smiling Jim remarked.

However, last year he enrolled in the three month Master Gardener program at La House on the LSU campus. A class of 17 met each Thursday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. And that path led to Burden. Another program is being offered beginning in July. Yes, there is a Master Gardener course at Burden also.

Docent Lora Taylor met Jim in the class. She had retired after 35 years at Woman's Hospital. Lora mused, "Working with the kids here at Learning Tree is a perfect fit for me." Jim added, "Here at Burden I take what I've learned and give back to the community."

Kathy Kramer works for the LSU AgCenter. She says, "Working with the kids is fun; Learning Tree is a great program." Director of Development, Gigi Gauthier, also takes time out to be a docent.

"There is no educational requirement to be a docent," Jim cautioned, "just an interest in helping students to understand environmental issues and introducing them to the wonderful world of Trees and Trails at Burden."

Located in the center of Baton Rouge, Jim says the

Support the Burden Horticulture Society

Donor Name Daytime phone

Donor Address, City, State, Zip

E-mail Address (optional)

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for LSU Foundation/BHS in the amount of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

Enclosed is my **check made payable to LSU Foundation/BHS**

Please charge my Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

Burden Horticulture Society

Burden Horticulture Society (BHS) is a non-profit organization formed to promote, support, and expand the use of the Burden Center. The LSU Foundation accepts contributions directly in support of the LSU AgCenter's Burden Center activities and programs, together with the Burden Horticulture Society. Your contribution will be accepted by the LSU Foundation as a restricted gift for the benefit of the Burden Horticulture Society.

Partnering with other gardening and outdoor organizations, plus the Rural Life Museum, BHS strives to offer informative opportunities for the public and to increase awareness of this local resource. Your gift will allow us to develop a Master Plan for Burden Center and will help sponsor special educational events.

Please mail to: Burden Horticulture Society
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, La. 70809

B