

Audubon Docent Guild (ADG)

Audubon Docent Guild Founding

- Founders:
 - Holland McCarver
 - Mary Glen Smith
 - Betsy Massey
 - Sandi Hoover
- 1975 - First Nature Tours
- 1976 - First Docent Training
- 1984 - ADG became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- 1986 - ADG classes began

What was the ADG?

The Audubon Docent Guild originally started in 1975 taking children and adults on guided nature tours at the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary. It started off as a community activity. Since they worked with children, all volunteers had to pass a security check. After having passed, the volunteers would take the training class appropriate for the activity they were interested in leading, i.e., tour guide, “What’s in the dirt” instructor, “Pond Life” instructor, etc. After which time, the volunteers would then be a member of the Audubon Docent Guild.

The docents developed their own specialty—trees and shrubs, frogs and pond life, native songbirds who live in the sanctuary. They enjoyed the special feeling that comes from helping children experience nature for the first time and contributed to the protection of the natural world by increasing awareness and knowledge in those they educated and inspired.

There was significant need to expose children to nature in an urban environment where many had limited or no prior exposure to nature. The ADG volunteers believed strongly that there was a need to educate the future generation of environmentalist. ADG provided meaningful nature experiences for children and young people ages 2 ½ to 11—guides tours, Titmouse Club, nature-themed birthday parties, owl prowls, bird walks, Saturdays in Nature, Mindful Mondays, Nature Explorers Club, children day camps, Holiday at the Cabin, Boy & Girl Scout Service Project, Tuesday Trail Crew, volunteer workdays, Citizen Science projects, sanctuary hosts, and special projects.

In cooperation with HAS, it served as caretaker of Edith L Moore’s log cabin home. ADG volunteers worked with the HAS Sanctuary Steward to maintain the fauna and flora within the 18-acres of the Edith L. Moore Bird Sanctuary.

There were three Audubon Docent Guild Coordinators over its 33-year history:

Sandy Hoover – started in 1986 / Betty Henderson – started in 1993 /Bethany Foshée – started in 2007

When did ADG become a nonprofit organization?

The Audubon Docent Guild (ADG) was organized as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation in 1984 to provide nature educational programs for children. The first meeting was on January 9, 1986. Classes began at the Edith L Moore Nature Sanctuary (ELM) in 1986 and for the next 33 years there were untold numbers of children who learned about the wonders of nature to be found in these 18 acres. Some who had no prior exposure to woods/forests found anxiety replaced with wonder when accompanied by caring volunteers. Mothers of young children, and men like Don Gray, were well suited to the task.

A Timeline of the Origins and the Creation of the ADG

- 1969 - Houston Audubon Society (HAS) is born
- 1973 - Father of Sanctuary & Neighbor, Holland McCarver, active volunteer warden of Edith L. Moore's property. Pushed HAS to hold it as a sanctuary and protect it
- 1975 - Edith L. Moore dies and bequeaths her cabin and 17-acres to HAS and named Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary (ELMNS)
- 1976 - Mothers of the Sanctuary Betsy Massey & Mary Glenn Smith form cadre of dedicated volunteers
- 1976 March - 1st (HAS) Docent Training
- 1976 August - Dee and Steve Ross move into cabin as tenants/caretakers (for about 2 yrs.)
- 1978 June - HAS hires its first Executive Director - Eric Lautzenheiser
- 1978 July - first Summer Camp
- 1978 November - Immortal Bridge Photo by Don Gray
- 1980's - First 5 Years / Property Survey, Tax Exempt Status, Big Pond and Deck projects, Education Programs
- 1980's - Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition begins on east porch of cabin
- 1981 - New big bridge constructed
- 1984 - Wooden bridges on Creekside Trail completed
- 1985 - Chickadee Nature Store opened in the cabin
- 1986 January 1 - Audubon Docent Guild Created / 1st official training takes place
- 1986 - 1st Issue of ELM Leaves (Docent Guild Newsletter #1 by Sandi Hoover)
- 1987 - Don Gray becomes ELM Sanctuary Steward
- 1989 August - 1st issue of ADG Gadget written and published by Don Gray, Newsletter Editor
- 1989 - First Nature Center to offer Birthday Parties 1990 / Becky Thomas starts Titmouse Club
- 1988-1989 - Cabin remodeled and restoration completed
- 1990 - Betty Henderson becomes ADG Tour Director
- 1991 - HAS staff officed in cabin's tiny loft / Betty's office is a file cabinet and answering machine in the cabin kitchen
- 1993 - Big Bridge set on fire by vandals
- 1993 - Teaching Deck built on north side of cabin
- 1993 - Betty Henderson hired as 1st ADG Guild Coordinator
- 1994 - Outreach Programs at libraries begin
- 1996 - Charlie Wright begins evolution of the Gadget to computer
- 1997 - Ground broken for new HAS Administration Building
- 1997 - October Administration Building Grand Opening
- 1997 - Edith's Cabin dedicated a Texas Historical Site; Application work by Dorothy "Gregg" Mueller
- 1997 - Harris Co. Champion great White Ash falls and captures Betty's car in ELM parking lot
- 1998 - ADG Summer Camps begin
- 1999 - Trail lighting system installed
- 2000 - Summer Camps expanded to 7 weeks with inclusion of X-treme Pond Camp
- 2007 - Betty Henderson retires from Guild Coordinator position / Bethany Foshée is hired as new Guild Coordinator
- 2007 - Harris Co. Flood Control reconfigures Rummel Creek to stop erosion
- 2011 - Severe drought destroys 40% of canopy
- 2012 - Major Cabin restoration, spearheaded by Martha Wright and Bethany, begins by Steve Riha
- 2013 Jan. 12th - Cabin Grand Reopening with ribbon cutting by Terri Hershey
- 2013 - Bethany Foshée becomes ELM Sanctuary Manager and Docent Coordinator
- 2015 March - Cabin porch roof extended across Cabin's west side to protect logs
- 2015 - Bethany Foshée resigns
- 2019 - ADG is dissolved

Mission Statement

The Audubon Docent Guild's mission at the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary is to promote, through education and experience, an environmental awareness and respect for nature.

The Elmwood Gadget – ADG Newsletter

ADG Board Member, Don Gray, wrote and published 302 issues of the ADG newsletter, The Gadget, for 30 years. It serves as an encyclopedia of the flora and fauna found in the Sanctuary. The newsletters were extremely informative and educational.



Titmouse Club



Pond Camp



After School Club



Immortal Bridge taken by Don Gray

Audubon Docent Guild (ADG)
Docents Throughout the Years

Patty Albers	Patty Griffin	Barbara Massey	Jim Sirios
Margaret Atmar	Michaela Griffith	Cori McCray	Emily & Cynthia Slaton
Jack Bacon	Marco Guerra	Peg McNealy	Simon & Ian Slot
Bob & Susan Barry	Mary Hamilton	Steve & Lori Mertz	Kathleen Smith
Beth Boone	Denise Hansen	Claudia Mikkalo	Majida Smith
Laura Bradham	Tod Harding	John Miers	Dee Sorrick
Neil Broussard	Dorthyle Headrick	Brian Mihura	Emma Spillios
Don & Margaret Brown	Janet Healy	Janelle Mikulas	Agnes Stanley
Patricia Buck	Betty Henderson	Teya Miller	Stephen Stakemiller
Barbara Butler	Nel Hertog	Barbara Miller	Jan Stevenson
Janice Byth	Joy Hester	Cliff Morris	Cathy Strey
JD Carballo	Cherie Hoepfl	Betsy Mulligan	Heather Sullivan
Emily Carter	Charles Holtsclaw	Lisa & Steven Murray	Bill Taylor
Heather Castillo	Beverly Hopson	Rebekkah Nelson (Sandt)	Lorna Terhune
Rayne Castle	Bernice Hotman	Cathy Nitsch	Lucinda Thelen
Cecil Childers	Ruth Hruska	Darla Northrup	Kristen Theode
Jo Lynn Cole	Fred & Brenda Jackson	Elaine Pan	Carolyn Thompson
Mary Cole	Becky Jones	Lester & Karen Pearce	Phyllis Thompson
Karen Collins	Nora Jones	Cheryl & William Perry	Susan Thompson
Vivian Cromwell	Leann Karsten	Marjie Pierce	Cable Todd
Ellen Coombs	Betty Keith	Estelle Pollard	Kacey Torres
Lori Dangelewicz & Steve Mertz	Kristie Kemp	Nigel Purnell	Lynn Trelles-Gaines
Sue DeFrank	Jim Kersting	Nina Rach	Blanca Trujillo
Rebecque Demark	Jack Klander	Evelyn Ramey	Rosie Veggeberg
Liz Diemont	Rony & Ori Klein	Sara Ranger	Sharon Vise
Shannon Donahue	Katelyn Kovski	Margaret Rapp	Miriam Vyles
Pam Dunker	Paige Krekeler	Sandy Rasch	Jeanelle Waldrop
Barbara Duvall-Wesolek	Byron Kress	Betty Rexrode	Lauren Weiss
Shawna Dykes	Elveda Kruse	Barbara Reynolds	Ken Wiech
Martha Eskew	Siri & Katie Lalime	Natalie Reynolds	Allyson Wilkinson
Minerva Espinosa	Cindy Lawson	Nancy Rose	Pat Williams
Harlan Evans	Elizabeth Lewand	Linda Royce	Mitch Winkler
Bethany Foshée	Martha Lewis	Matt & Katie Ryan	Jim & Betsy Winn
Janet Foy	Jennifer Lezak	Connie Sabom	Linda Wolford
Julia Garrett	Ling Lin	Joan Scheuer	Charlie Wright
Ashley & Alexis Garza	Carolina & Gabe Little	Ada Fay Schmidt	Martha Wright
Lilya Gehman	Ann Lloyd	Alan Schwartzbard	Bob & Paula Wynhoff
Elliott Ginger	Kathy Long	Jayati Sengupta	Stephanie Zayouna
Jo Glaves	Schandra Madha	Carmen Sewell	Margarita Zuniga
Gail Glover	Lydia Mares	Peggy Shanler	
Don Gray	Anita K. Manning	Christi Simmons	
Tom Greer	Sheryl Marquez	Kati Singleton	