

Volunteer Opportunities and Recognition

Laura Singleton



As noted in the March issue of the Naturalist, Houston Audubon's wonderful friend and devoted volunteer, Laura Singleton, passed away on February 4, 2002. A memorial service celebrating her life was held by the family at the cabin in Houston Audubon's Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary on a rainy afternoon in mid-February. The service was open to all, and Auduboners were among the large numbers who attended in spite of the inclement weather. Fred Collins, a past President of Houston Audubon, eulogized Laura as the consummate soldier in "Audubon's Army" and told of her service to Houston Audubon

as a Board member and a volunteer over a period of many years. Among her many other activities for Houston Audubon, Laura organized the Birdathon and ran the Speakers Bureau, planned and executed the first auctions, and chaired the silent auctions for Award Dinners. She was a regular at High Island from the beginning, helping with the organization and fundraising that made that critical sanctuary a reality.

Laura was recipient of Houston Audubon's "Exceptional Volunteer Award" in 1998 for her years of dedicated volunteerism, and Jeff Mundy, current President of Houston Audubon, announced at the memorial service that the Exceptional Volunteer Award in future will be known as the "Laura Singleton Exceptional Volunteer Award."

It was noted in the Naturalist when Laura received the Exceptional Volunteer Award that she was a "tireless worker, cheerful booster, and best arm-twister in the Society." With charming bulldog tenacity, she was able to cajole countless merchants into donating items for Houston Audubon auctions, and she wheedled volunteers

into helping out at High Island year after year. Everyone knew that when Laura called, it was going to be impossible to turn her down, so people gave in the spirit that she asked - with enthusiasm and good humor. That enthusiasm and the winning smile that went with it will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

At her wish, the family requested that donations be made to Houston Audubon in lieu of flowers, and donations in her memory have been many and generous. Houston Audubon is grateful to Laura and her family for those funds and for the pleasure and honor of having known Laura these many years.



**Laura Singleton Exceptional
Volunteer Award Recipients**

Name	Date
Betty Keith	2002
Peggy Boston	2002
Marjie Pierce and John Miers	2003
Don Gray	2004
Susan and Brad Billetdeaux	2004
Linda Kuhnen	2005
Julia Garrett	2006
Aaron Stoley	2007
Barbara Tilton	2007
Hurricane Ike Volunteers	2008
Joy Hester	2009
Don Verser	2009
Sara Bettencourt	2010
Pam Smolen	2010
Jim Winn	2011
Jennifer Lezak	2011
Judy Boyce	2012
Martha Wright	2012
Alice Anne O'Donell	2013
Judith Schott	2014
Mary Carter	2015
Ben Hulsey	2016
Julie d'Ablaing	2017
Doris Heard	2018
Karen Hoffman and Lester Pearce	2019
JD Carballo	2020
Winifred "Winnie" Burkett	2021
Tom Greer	2022
Madeleine Chaisson and Frank Perkins	2023