

Ann Wier McNamara Jones (1927 - 2020)

Ann Wier Jones began supporting Houston Audubon in 1996 with donations towards Galas, Winnie Burkett Intern Fund, Birdathons, Year-End Appeals, Bolivar Land Purchase, and High Island Sanctuaries. She was on the Houston Audubon Board of Advisors starting in 2003. Ann was the Honorary Gala Chair for the memorable Destination High Island Gala at The Bayou Club in Houston, Texas on October 22, 2017. Back in 2000, Ann gave Houston Audubon the lead donation for the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Expansion Project. Her \$171,847.45 donation in December 2000 toward the purchase of 615 acres on Bolivar Flats was the donation that launched the extremely successful land purchase capital campaign of 2001. Ann Wier Jones was a Lifetime Member of Houston Audubon and very good friend to Houston Audubon.

2017 Honorary Gala Chair - Destination High Island at The Bayou Club in Houston, Texas on October 22



*Ann Wier Jones receiving her Honorary Gala Chair Award
from Co-Chairs Sara Bettencourt and Caroline Callery*



Honorary Chair Award



Ann Wier McNamara Jones with her family



Ann Wier McNamara Jones with her son, Dan McNamara

Article about Donation from Ann Wier Jones towards the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Expansion Campaign in 2001:

from The Naturalist January 2001

President's Letter Bolivar Campaign Blasts Off!

by Dwight Peake, President

Bolivar Flats, the saltmarsh, and the adjacent muddy, sandy area on the north side of the North Jetty at the entrance to Galveston Bay on Bolivar Roads, is recognized by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network as an area of hemispheric importance to shorebirds. Hundreds of thousands of birds visit this site each year. About one percent of the world's population of Piping Plovers winter here. Birders flock from around the world to see the spectacular concentrations of American Avocets; Dunlin; Western Sandpipers; Marbled Godwits; White and Brown Pelicans; Neotropic Cormorants; Reddish, Great, and Snowy Egrets; Great Blue, Tricolored, and Little Blue Herons; Roseate Spoonbills; Black Skimmers; Common, Forster's, Royal, Caspian, Sandwich, Black, Least, and Gull-billed Terns and the many other species which congregate here.

Thanks to the dedication of Gretchen Mueller and Stennie Meadors, the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) was able to establish a sanctuary at this critical site. In 1997 Louis Tyra donated four-sevenths interest in 611 acres east of Retillon Road, the paved road that goes from Highway 87 to the beach, to HAS. The HAS also purchased a 168-acre tract to the west of Retillon Road in 1997. The only other undeveloped property remaining between Retillon Road and the North Jetty on the south side of Highway 87 is for sale (see pp. 4-5). This tract consists of about 615 acres that are most critical to the integrity of this site as a shorebird paradise.

The cost to purchase, restore, and manage the property is \$743,000. Although this amount of money will be the largest capital fund-raising project that HAS has ever undertaken, it is vital to Bolivar Flats that this property be secured. Birders, wildlife viewers, fishermen, beach-goers, birds, and other wildlife will benefit from this project.

How can these funds be raised? Almost all the money from private donations can be matched by grants from various sources; but in order to get these grant funds, HAS must first raise the money to be matched. All contributions are, therefore, extremely important because they can be magnified.

Winnie Burkett, HAS sanctuaries manager, had the foresight to nominate Bolivar Flats for a place on the list of conservation projects for the winners of the annual Texas Parks and Wildlife Great Texas Birding Classic. The year 2000 first-place winners of the Classic, the Canadians (Tom Hince, Paul Pratt, Bruce Di Labia and Ethan Meleg), sponsored by binocular and scope maker Kowa Optimed, directed \$25,000 to the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary.

Liz Dear-Zivley, HAS vice president for external affairs, definitely continued the process in a big way. She has organized the Fall Birdathon for the past two years, and this year she picked the Bolivar Flats purchase as the Birdathon fundraising beneficiary. The Birdathon raised \$10,000 this year.

In addition, HAS Director Lettalou Whittington asked her friend Ann Weir McNamara Jones to contribute to the Birdathon. Ann and Arthur E. Jones were awaiting a project such as the Bolivar Campaign, and they responded in an absolutely splendid way. Their spectacular donation of \$171,847.45 could not have come at a better time. Although much more money needs to be raised, the Jones' donation brings the whole effort much closer to fruition. The HAS and all those who visit Bolivar Flats are incredibly fortunate to have such wonderful supporters.

Please help HAS in this tremendous undertaking.