

## Land Donors

### 1. **Edith Lotz Moore – Edith L. Moore Bird Sanctuary (1975)**

In 1975, Edith L. Moore bequeathed 17.5 acres of land and her log cabin to Houston Audubon on the condition it be maintained as a permanent nature sanctuary. Edith wanted to ensure the wildlife within her woods would be protected and enjoyed by future generations. In the years since, Houston Audubon has managed and protected this special place according to her wishes. Today, when visiting Edith's cabin, children are encouraged to touch ... create ... imagine ... grow. As the home for education programs serving over 9,000 annual visitors, Edith's cabin serves as a tangible connection to the past for Houston-area children, and provides a setting that allows them to establish lasting relationships with the natural world. Due to its iconic quality, the Moore log cabin is the focal point of Houston Audubon's Edith Moore Nature Sanctuary. Recognized as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1995, the cabin is the only log home within the city of Houston that still stands today where it was originally built. It is an increasingly rare and tangible piece of Houston's past.

### 2. **Brown/Truheart Ltd. – North Deer Island (1975 and 2020)**

Houston Audubon owns one-third of this 120-acre island. Together with National Audubon, 70% of the island is now under permanent protection. Located in Galveston Bay between Tiki Island and Galveston Island, North Deer hosts the most productive waterbird breeding colony in Galveston Bay (20,000-40,000 pairs of birds of 17 species nested there in 2005). Houston Audubon's approximate 7-acre interest was acquired by donation in 1975. In late 2020, Houston Audubon was also gifted 40 acres of North Deer Island from Brown/Trueheart, Ltd. The late Henry Martyn Trueheart of Galveston acquired his 33% share of North Deer Island and it remained in the family for over 120 years, having been most recently held by Brown/Truheart Ltd. whose partners are all great-grandchildren of Mr. Trueheart. One-third of the island is uplands covered mostly by South Texas vegetation, and two-thirds is a productive salt marsh. It can only be viewed by boat. In 2009 North Deer Island was designated a Global Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and BirdLife International.

### 3. **Amoco Production Company + Ted Eubanks + Donations from Members and Friends – Boy Scout Woods (1982-1994)**

Boy Scout Woods consists of 60 acres of woods, coastal prairie and wetlands. 15.7 acres were purchased by HAS with the help of members and friends, 44 acres were donated by Amoco Production Company, and 0.3 acres were donated by Ted Eubanks. In 1982 Houston Audubon purchased the first 4 acres of oak/hackberry woods from Louis B. Smith, who had purchased the woods from Amoco Production Company and had added many kinds of fruit and nut trees. The sanctuary property was officially named the Louis B. Smith Bird Sanctuary in 1982. An additional 11 acres surrounding the 4-acre tract was donated to Houston Audubon by Amoco Production Company in 1994. Smaller tracts were acquired by purchase (Buceme Tract, 1.21 acres, 1993; Charpiot Tract, 0.46 acres, 1994) and donation (Eubanks Tract, 0.35 acres, 1993; Amoco Tract, 44.77 acres, 1994).

### 4. **Malcolm Damuth – Damuth Bird Sanctuary (1984)**

A 617-acre sanctuary of mixed pine and hardwood bottomland habitat in Liberty County, this sanctuary was donated to Houston Audubon by businessman Malcolm Damuth in 1984 to be owned and managed as a wildlife sanctuary. The property lies in the eastern portion of the San Jacinto River Basin where it drains into Tarkington Bayou. There is no public access at this time.

5. **Amoco Production Company + Donations from Members, Friends and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Smith Oaks Bird Sanctuary (1987-1995)**

Smith Oaks Bird Sanctuary is 177 acres of fields, woods, wetlands and ponds. Sixty-four acres were purchased by Houston Audubon with the help of Houston Audubon members, friends, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The remaining 110 acres were donated to Houston Audubon by Amoco Production Company. The Rookery in the middle of Claybottom Pond has become a favored roosting and nesting place for thousands of waterbirds. The sanctuary is open to the public sunrise to sunset year-round. The High Island sanctuaries are fee sites. The fee helps defray the costs of maintenance, utilities and improvements for the entire Houston Audubon sanctuary system.

6. **Malcolm Damuth – Winters Bayou Sanctuary (1989-1997)**

Located in San Jacinto County, 11 miles northwest of the town of Cleveland, this 165-acre sanctuary is adjacent to the Sam Houston National Forest. It is in the transition zone between the Gulf Coastal Prairie, the Piney Woods, and the Blackland Prairie ecoregions. Made up of two adjacent tracts, the larger 130-acre tract is upland pine forest and mixed pine-hardwood bottomland. It was donated to Houston Audubon by Houston businessman Malcolm Damuth in three transactions in 1989, 1990, and 1997, with the stipulation that it be managed as a wildlife sanctuary. Winters Bayou is open every day throughout the year from sunrise to sunset.

7. **Amoco Production Company – S.E. Gast Red Bay Sanctuary (1994)**

These 8.8 acres of woods and former pasture are being turned into woods. The property was donated to Houston Audubon by Amoco Production Company in 1994. It is named in honor of Steve Gast, who led the High Island Initiative that resulted in Amoco's donation of property to Houston Audubon. Open to the public sunrise to sunset year-round.

8. **Lewis Tyra; Many Donations from Foundations and Individuals – Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary (1997 and 2001)**

Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary on the western end of Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County began with agreements with the General Land Office and Galveston County in the late 1980s that allowed Houston Audubon to establish the sanctuary and close the beach to automobiles. The 1,146.35 acres that make up the sanctuary today were acquired in a number of transactions. The first acquisition was the purchase of 178 acres (Suderman Tract, 1997), followed by a donation of a 4/7 undivided interest in a tract of land from Houston businessman Lewis Tyra, given with the restriction that it be used as a wildlife sanctuary. A partition agreement with Houston Audubon and the owners of the 3/7 undivided interest in 2002 led to full Houston Audubon ownership of the present 353.35-acre Tyra Tract. In 2001 a major addition to the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary was made with the purchase by Houston Audubon of 615 acres (the Burkett Tract) through the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. A major fundraising effort led to support for that purchase from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Shell Marine, Houston Endowment, and hundreds of individual donors. Efforts to acquire further small adjacent tracts have continued. Bolivar Flats is a Globally Important Bird Area, the highest designation, and an International site in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

9. **Scott A. Davis – The Carolyn Raizes Davis Bird Sanctuary (1999)**

The Carolyn Raizes Davis Bird Sanctuary is a 63-acre bottomland forest in Brazoria County, 7 miles southeast of Alvin. The sanctuary follows the meanders of Chocolate Bayou. The sanctuary came to Houston Audubon in two donations from Houston businessman Scott Davis, with the request that it be maintained as a bird sanctuary in honor of his wife Carolyn Raizes Davis. The first half of the donation was made in 1999, and the second half was donated two years later. A conservation easement was given by Houston Audubon to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the sanctuary shortly thereafter, and USFWS partners with HAS in management of the sanctuary. It is open to the public.

**10. George and Jane Clayton – Dos Vacas Muertas Bird Sanctuary (2001)**

Located on the west end of Galveston Island, this 6-acre sanctuary was donated to Houston Audubon in 2001 by Dr. and Mrs. George Clayton for use as a bird sanctuary. They named it Dos Vacas Muertas in memory of the dead animals they'd found on the property after Hurricane Alicia. Open to the public, it contains a pond lined with cane, a small spartina marsh, coastal grassland with cord grass and a woodlot of live oaks. A water drip has been added in front of the two benches. The sanctuary contains flat sandy beach habitat with adjacent wetlands with access to West Bay. Please note that vehicular access to West Bay is not allowed.

**11. Funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Eubanks Woods Bird Sanctuary (1995)**

Purchased by Houston Audubon with funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, this 9.5-acre sanctuary of woods and wetlands was named in honor of Ted Eubanks, a past president of the Houston Audubon Society who was instrumental in starting Houston Audubon's High Island sanctuary system. It is open to the public sunrise to sunset year-round.

**12. Grant Funds from USFWS North American Wetlands Council and donations from Houston Audubon members and birds around the country – Horseshoe Marsh Bird Sanctuary (2003)**

The purchase of Horseshoe Marsh took two years to complete. It was a complicated purchase by Houston Audubon of 4,126 lots through the bankruptcy court in 2003. The acquisition was made with a grant from the USFWS North American Wetlands Council and donations from Houston Audubon members and birders around the country. Over 1,000 donations were received from donors in 39 states.

**13. Bolivar Holdings, Ltd. – Mundy Marsh Bird Sanctuary (2004)**

Houston Audubon acquired this 368-acre tract of prime coastal wetlands and prairie on the Bolivar Peninsula as a donation made by Bolivar Holdings, Ltd., in 2004. The donation was made as mitigation for a planned development in Port Bolivar. The sanctuary is named in honor of Jeff Mundy, HAS President from 2001 to 2003 and a present member of the Board of Advisors. The sanctuary is open to the public daily, but is as yet undeveloped and has no trails.

**14. Greater Park Place Community Development Corporation – The Raptor & Educational Center (2005)**

The Raptor & Education Center is located next to Charlton Park and the Houston Botanic Garden. The property was originally established in 1997 as the Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center by the Greater Park Place Community Development Corporation to help revitalize the area. That group created educational and environmental programs, attracted hundreds of volunteers and provided a peaceful setting for scouting, birding, and other outdoor programs as well as boating and fishing opportunities. It was donated to Houston Audubon in 2005.