



## **Terese “Terry” Tarlton Hershey (1923 - 2017)**

For more than half a century, Terry Hershey devoted substantial time, energy and resources in significant conservation projects throughout Texas. Her influence was very significant in awaking the need for green spaces and preservation of nature in the public at large, including local politicians. Her legacy is imprinted in all the green spaces in and around Houston since she and Congressman George Bush preserved Buffalo Bayou in 1966.

For Houston Audubon, Terry was elected as Director-at-Large on the first HAS Board of Directors in 1969. She continued in that capacity through 1974. Subsequently, she went onto the Board of Advisors and remained there until her passing. Terry consistently imparted her invaluable wisdom and contributed to important projects that needed a champion, including Houston Audubon's restoration of the Edith L. Moore Log Cabin in 2012. She made the lead \$100,000 donation in memory of her husband, Jake Hershey.

Over the years, Terry personally supported Houston Audubon in various ways - Galas, General Operations, Birdathon, Cabin Restoration, Year-end Appeals, and Education. Her foundation, The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation supported Houston Audubon's Field Station, General Operations, General Sanctuary, Education and Raptor Aviaries, and The Naturalist newsletter sponsorship.

We pay tribute to Terry in memory of and gratitude for her leadership, dedication and passion to making Houston, the life of Houstonians, and Houston Audubon better.

**Remembering a Houston Legend, a Force for Nature  
TERESE "TERRY" TARLTON HERSHEY (1923-2017)  
By Helen Drummond, Executive Director**

For more than half a century, Terry Hershey devoted substantial time, energy and resources in significant conservation projects throughout Texas, including the founding of Houston Audubon in 1969. Today, we pay tribute to Terry in memory of and gratitude for her leadership, dedication and passion to making Houston and the life of Houstonians better.

Houston Audubon is honored to have been a part of Terry's life. Not only was she a founding director, but also a long-time member of the Board of Directors and Board of Advisors.



***Terry Hershey at the Cabin Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony***

Ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official completion of the cabin's restoration in 2012. From left to right: Judy Boyce (Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation Executive Director), Jim Winn (Houston Audubon Board President, 2009-2011), Ed Hickl (Houston Audubon Board of Directors), Lynn Johnson (Houston Audubon Board of Directors- deceased), Helen Drummond, Terry Hershey, Martha Wright (Houston Audubon Docent Guild President, 2008-2012), Mary Carter (Houston Audubon Board President, 2011-2013), Ben Hulsey (Houston Audubon Board President, 2013-2015)

Terry consistently imparted her invaluable wisdom and consistently contributed to important projects that needed a champion, including Houston Audubon's effort to restore the Edith L. Moore Log Cabin in 2012. The log cabin is recognized as a Texas Historic Landmark and is the focal point of Houston Audubon's Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary. Restoration of the cabin was a delicate undertaking given its status and Terry recognized the need. As a result, she gave the lead gift, in honor of her late husband Jake, to make the restoration happen, and her gift came at a critical time. This was one of Terry's trademarks; she always came through when needed most. Today, the cabin stands strong; it continues to host education programs for thousands, providing a setting that establishes a tangible connection to history and to nature.

It was also Terry's lead gift in 2013 that spurred hundreds to give in an unprecedented rally of support to save Deer Park Prairie, a 50-acre coastal prairie remnant representing one of the planets most imperiled ecosystems. The prairie was under imminent threat of development but because of Terry's leadership and

courage, over \$4 million was raised in a very short period of time to purchase and place under permanent conservation protection the largest remaining high quality prairie remnant known in Harris County. Today, the grassland birds, shorebirds, wading birds and an array of associated insects, amphibians, reptiles and mammals that have been found there can now continue to rely on this critical rare habitat.

With every turn, there is a moving story about Terry. And as we honor this amazing woman, the tangible achievements she's made for parks, people and the environment are entrenched in history leaving an indelible mark on the conservation landscape she helped shape. Terry was a true force for nature and catalyst of action. Her example will live on for generations through the many she touched and the many more to be touched by her story.

See the story of her conservation legacy in the [Audubon Women in Conservation](#) video.

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2uvrJMtT\\_Q\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2uvrJMtT_Q)

- [John Bartos, President, Board of Directors](#)  
Terry was monumentally important for Houston Audubon and many other conservation groups and issues. She will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.
- [Martha Wright, Secretary, Board of Directors](#)  
It would have been very difficult to save the cabin without Terry's generosity and dedication. The Docents will be forever thankful for her contribution. She was almost 90 when we had the ribbon cutting but participated and visited with us. It was wonderful to get to know her a little better.
- [Victor Emanuel, Board of Advisors](#)  
Terry and Jake hired me in 1975 to be the Executive Director of the Citizens Environmental Coalition. It was a honor to work with both of them on one of their many conservation projects. She made a huge impact on conservation and on the lives of many people.
- [Peggy Boston, Board of Advisors](#)  
Terry was indeed, a force for nature. She taught me so much including how to go high, when they go low. She NEVER said a negative word about anyone. I was honored to work for her and enjoy her wisdom and positive endless energy for conservation. What a Class Act and lovely friend to us all.

### **ABC Eyewitness News Video about Cabin Restoration (2012)**

#### **Houston Historic Landmark Saved in Time for the Holidays**

By ABC13

Saturday, November 24, 2012 Houston

More than \$200,000 was raised to fund the major restoration and update of Houston Audubon's Edith L. Moore log cabin -- its first in 20 years. New logs were carefully selected and preparations were made to ensure its historical integrity.

The log cabin was hand-constructed in 1932 by Edith Moore and her husband Jesse on the west bank of Rummel Creek, a tributary of Buffalo Bayou. The city of Houston grew around her, but Moore's peaceful oasis remained intact.

In 1975, Moore turned over 17.5 acres of her land and the cabin to Houston Audubon on the condition it be maintained as a permanent nature sanctuary.

Recognized as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1996, the cabin is the only registered historic log home in Houston that stands where it was originally built.

And there it has stood, through every hurricane and flood to hit the Bayou City in the last 80 years.

More than 100 donors, including The Brown Foundation and The Wortham Foundation, made the restoration possible. Local environmental benefactor Terry Hershey's donation completed the project's fundraising, a gift in honor of her late husband Jake.

"We have so many incredible people to be thankful for this season," said Martha Wright president of the Houston Audubon docent guild. "As long as we are here to help [the cabin], it will continue to stand for the community's benefit, just as Edith had wished it."

The cabin is a hub of activity, including home to bird and nature programs, day camps and after-school education for children and families. It is also a peaceful place for people to escape the city life, if just for a while.

"In a time when our lives have become so busy and hectic, this cabin and surrounding woods provide an incredible sanctuary not just for birds, but also for people," said Jessica Jubin, Houston Audubon development director. "Edith was a woman ahead of her time, and thanks to her and a generous community including Terry Hershey and many others, this place will continue to thrive and be protected for future generations to enjoy."

The community is invited to celebrate the cabin restoration's completion with a grand re-opening festival and ribbon cutting on January 12.

The rest of the property will remain open for the duration of the project through December. Right now, you can sign up for guided night tours of the sanctuary known as Owl Prowls, join a winter birding class, brush up on photography skills through the Houston Area Nature Photography Association and take part in many other programs on the schedule at [www.houstonaudubon.org](http://www.houstonaudubon.org).

### **Log Cabin Restoration:**



### **Some of Terry's Conservation Accomplishments in Houston and Texas:**

- 1966 – Buffalo Bayou saved from channelizing with concrete
- 1970 – Environmental Policy Act – Terry's activities were an indirect factor
- In Houston, Terry was a founder of:
  - Bayou Preservation Association in 1966
  - Citizens Who Care (the forerunner of Citizen's Environmental Coalition) in 1968
  - Citizen's Environmental Coalition in 1970
  - The Park People in 1979
  - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in 1982
  - Texas Land Trust Council in 1993
  - Urban Harvest in 1994
- Served on Local and National Boards:
  - Bayou Preservation Association
  - Houston Audubon
  - Houston Parks Board
  - The National Association of Flood Plain Managers
  - The National Audubon Society
  - The National Recreation Foundation
  - The Trust for Public Land
- Appointed to:
  - Texas Conservation Foundation by Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission by Governor Ann Richards in 1991
- Awarded:
  - Chevron Conservation Award
  - The Frances K. Hutchison Award from The Garden Clubs of America
  - The Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal from The National Recreation Foundation
  - Lifetime Achievement Award from Houston Wilderness
  - In 1991, inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame
  - In 1992, Houston Audubon named its Conservation Award, the Terry Hershey Conservation Award and is awarded to honorees at annual galas over the years
  - In 2015, Audubon Texas established the Terry Hershey Women in Conservation Awards which recognizes the outstanding contributions to the environment made by women in Texas and supports the development of the next generation of women in conservation
- Initiated Conservation Easements within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission
- In recognition of her work to save the bayou from being straightened and lined with cement, the Terry Hershey Hike and Bike Trail along Buffalo Bayou was established in her name
- Important Greenways were established in and around Houston as part of Terry's legacy
- Launched the modern conservation easement movement in Texas which allows private landowners to remain on the land while protecting their property in perpetuity