

THE VILLAGE BIRDING LIFE

“Audubon Places Tree ID Tags”

by HSV Audubon

Even though our Village trails are available year around, they are especially popular as Fall approaches. If you haven't been on the Magellan Beaver Dam Trail lately you'll find a new addition this Fall.

The connection between HSV Audubon and Beaver Dam Trail can't be over emphasized in that Audubon members originally designed and built the trail. Tribute to the mastermind of this project, Lou Leonotti, can be found at the trail's end. After designing some of the Cedar Creek trails, Lou, in 1998, had the vision to design and build a birding trail along the Beaver Dam ponds. Teams of Audubon members, with hand tools only, worked during the winter months for three years to complete the trail. Now today, thanks to the efforts of HSV Audubon and members Beverly and Keith Salisbury and Adolph Juarez, a number of prominent tress now have identification tags. Beverly and Keith, did the primary identifications. Adolph helped greatly with the installation of the tags and donation of the screws used to attach the tags.

An unexpected find was a Shumard Oak, a tree very similar to the more common Red Oak. Walkers will find this tree at the first bench after the bird blind (also installed by HSV Audubon Society several years ago). Keith said that they also were surprised to find so many American Hornbeam and Hop Hornbeam trees along the trail. A disappointment was not finding a Mockernut Hickory close enough to the path to put an ID on. Keith explained that the Mockernut has a very distinctive X pattern on its bark which makes it easy to ID in the winter when there are no leaves to go by.

Keith and Beverly began this project by gaining permission from the Trails Committee. After the 28 ID tags were installed, they went back to the Committee to show and explain the tags. Keith said the Committee was extremely enthusiastic about the project and now is contemplating a trails event based on the tags.

The Salisburys also have contacted Brent Hummel of the National Forest Service about further identification of the trail's trees. Of special interest are trees with distinctive bark patterns so that the tags would be useful and interesting during the winter months.

Next time you're on the trail, please take a moment to appreciate the beauty of all of the tress and Nature's splendor.

As always HSVBIRDS.ORG has a lot of information about everything you'd like to know about birds and some of Nature's other wonders. You will see on the website hsvbirds.org that HSV Audubon has available a Village birding checklist. It lists the over 200 species of birds that might be seen in the Village, when they might be seen and how common they are. It's a great way to keep track of the birds at your feeder.

HSV Audubon meets the 2nd Friday of each month, except in the summer, at 10:00 at the Coronado Center. Guests are always welcome.

Photos by Vic Prislipsky