The dog days of summer are upon us. Most of us have heard that expression. Does it mean your dog is out swimming in your pool to cool off? The answer is in the stars and originated with the early Greeks. It's a great topic to explore with your kids or grandkids. On a rare clear August night, you may actually be able to go out and find Sirius – the "Dog Star". If things are too bright around your house, you might try venturing out on the Katy Prairie and stargaze from that relatively dark sky.

Cypress Top Historic Park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The buildings are only open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Formal tours of the museum complex led by staff or volunteers begin from Juergen's Store at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. However, we are happy to have you visit the store anytime while we are there on Tuesdays. Group tours may be booked Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Group tours are subject to staff availability, so we recommend you make reservations at least one month in advance. The park and museum buildings are open to all and, as with all events offered at Cypress Top Historic Park, admissions and tours are free.

Juergen's Hall is a community center. It offers many activities and classes for all ages. Please check the Precinct Three website at [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen's Hall Community Center.

This year marks the centennial of the convention between the United States and Great Britain (representing Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds. The so-called Migratory Bird Treaty was signed on Aug. 16, 1916. This was a hallmark for bird conservation and led to a series of acts that codified the protection of birds. Today almost all bird species are protected, yet feathers are still prominent in ladies fashion. The feathers utilized are chickens and other domestic species and therefore of no threat to wildlife anywhere. If you would like to learn more about this fashion craze and the acts that eventually protected the birds, we will have an exhibit at the park about the topic during August with a special open house from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6th.

The volunteer work day in July cleaned inside Juergen’s Store. Because of the vast quantity and array of items in the store, the job was unfinished even with the nice-sized group of volunteers. The work will resume in the air-conditioned store for our next work day Aug. 4th. Please come and join us. It will begin at 9 a.m. and end by noon. Please contact Jim Wilson at [cypressstop@pct3.com](mailto:cypressstop@pct3.com) if you would like to help.
A volunteer couple work together cleaning inventory from the shelves. Photo by Linda Martin-Rust.

The senior history bus trip in July visited the Houston Museum of Natural Science’s Fabergé Exhibit. Fabergé was the art jeweler to the Romanov Dynasty of Russia. They flourished and reached their zenith in the mid and late 1800s. Fabergé closed their shop in 1917, which is when communism swept across Russia and ended the opulence of the Monarchy.

At left, the Museum Curator tells about distinguishing real from fake Fabergé. At right, a classic clock and opulent binoculars. Photos by Jim Pulliam.
Following the tour of the museum and the Fabergé Exhibit, the group found a most interesting restaurant for lunch. It has more than the regular dose of ambience. You could guess the menu almost just by looking at the group posed at the entrance. But in addition to a hearty lunch, the seniors found some interesting Republic of Texas memorabilia fitting for any Texas museum.

The restaurant had a variety of typical Texan decorations, deer heads, rattlesnake hides, neon beer signs and the like. But it had some real Texana treasures too. Among them was a display of currency from the Republic of Texas. A considerable amount of this currency was printed between 1836 and 1845. Since it was usually worth only half what a U.S. dollar was worth and tended to fluctuate in value, few people wanted them. Consequently, they are quite rare today. Even more unusual was another display of Republic of Texas checks made payable to soldiers and suppliers of the Texas Army. Most of these were signed by George Washington Poe, who was appointed acting paymaster general and charged with creating a pay department.
At left, a display of Republic of Texas currency. At right, a display of Republic of Texas checks. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50-years-old to go on these trips)

There is a waitlist for the Aug. 5th trip to the Bryan Museum in Galveston. You may now sign up for the Sept. 30th trip for antiquing in Warrenton, the Oct. 14th trip to Hallettsville and the Nov. 4th trip to the International Quilt Festival in downtown Houston. You may be added to the waitlist or sign up for future trips by emailing cypressstop@pct3.com or calling (281) 357-5324.

You may only sign up yourself plus one friend/spouse. No multiple reservations. You will get a confirmation e-mail a week before the trip if you have a seat.

Members of the Cypress Historical Society are in the Cypress Train Depot (bright yellow building) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and also on the third Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. They have a great deal of genealogy information on most early Cypress area families. Drop in and visit them when you are in the area.

The calendars for July and August can be found on the website. There is a link from the park web page or you can look under the Community Center events calendar. The website is www.pct3.com

Save the dates for these special events at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve:
September 10, 2016 Hummingbird Festival
October 22, 2016 Diggin’ Old Stuff