Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack and the Kleb Woods Nature Preserve staff hope you have a safe and glorious Fourth of July holiday. We also hope you remember the sacrifices our forefathers made so we can enjoy our freedom. One of Benjamin Franklin’s most famous quotes came when he was asked if the Constitutional Convention had given us a monarchy or a republic. His response: “A republic, if you can keep it!” As citizens of this great nation, we protect what the Founding Fathers left us and teach our children to appreciate the gift.

Volunteer activities
Our volunteers are concentrating on several projects for display or fixtures for the Nature Center. The new fixtures allow us to extend the interpretation of the Kleb farm and the objects found here in greater detail for visitors. Volunteers are already preparing for our fall festivals, for which we anticipate 2,000 visitors this year. The gardeners are finally making progress in the vegetable garden. It is a beautiful sight, even though we are a few weeks behind. Our master naturalist volunteers also continue their ongoing battle against invasive vegetation that has proliferated with the massive rainfall we have experienced.

History Discussion Group
The June meeting was about the role of Native Americans during the American Revolutionary War. This is an overlooked topic of that historical period. The actions or inactions of various tribes had a profound influence on the outcome of the War for Independence. The roots of the tribes’ loyalties stemmed from the French and Indian War. More real estate switched hands following this conflict than at any other time in history. The English replaced the French in North America, much to the detriment of the Native Americans. The English, unable to control the American colonists, were never able to solidify their relationship with the Native Americans. Consequently, many Native Americans did not support the British during the Revolutionary War in the fashion they had supported the French. Some tribes actually sided with the colonists. Regardless of their position, Native Americans were destined to lose their lands, dwindle in population and become overwhelmed by the expansion of the United States.

A Closer Look at Art classes
The “A Closer Look at Art” classes for the summer are a series of watercolor classes taught by Gary Spessard. The first class was an introduction to the wonderful world of colors. In this class, the kids learned the basics of taking three primary colors and making all the colors of a color wheel. This fascinated many of the children.

The next class was a special class about the American Flag in preparation for Fourth of July holiday. The kids had a great time getting into the patriotic spirit while painting the American flag. There will be four more art classes. Please check our web calendar for those dates.
“A Closer look at Nature” and “A Closer Look at History” are on summer hiatus and will return in September. Information on future classes can be found at the Nature Center. Check our calendar on the Precinct Three website at www.pct3.com.

**German classes**
The summer introduction to German classes have begun. Each class is similar and gives families an opportunity to try German out as a language and see if they are interested in starting formal classes in the fall. These introductory classes are also helpful to adults who might be planning a trip to Germany. Formal classes resume in September.

**Birding activities**
June is one of the slowest months of the year for birding at Kleb Woods. Migrants have passed to our north and only residents are present. The bird walks start earlier to finish before the heat sets in. The walks have managed to find between 30 and 36 species during the month. The biggest highlight was a family group of Swallow-tailed Kites cavorting off the hawk tower on the June 15th bird walk.

The June senior birding bus trip was our annual trek to find as many non-native bird species as possible in the Houston area. The trip’s first birding stop was Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Park, where the group found Scaly-breasted Munia, Northern Red Bishop, Monk Parakeet and Ring-necked Turtle-dove in addition to common exotic species like Eurasian Collared-dove, European Starling and House Sparrow.

Trip participants then visited a neighborhood in Memorial to observe a wild flock of Indian Peacocks. Always a favorite with the photographers on the trip, the birds again did not disappoint them.
Next the group traveled to the Heights, where they took a lunch break and then resumed their search for exotic species. They found the Red-vented Bulbul. This species, native to the Indian sub-continent, is well established in the Heights and surrounding area but nowhere else in the entire nation.

The bus then traveled to Summerwood near Lake Houston, where the group found their target bird – the Egyptian Goose. These geese have become established in the Texas Hill Country, the Houston area and in sections of southern California and Florida. The final birding stop of the day was Alexander Deussen Park on Lake Houston, where the group found Swan Goose, Graylag Goose and more Indian Peacocks. The final tally for the day was 67 species of which 14 are not native to the United States.
Signing Up for Senior Birding Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

Summer birding trips will be the **July 1**st trip to search for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Swallow-tailed Kites that nest north and east of Houston and **Aug. 19**th, when we will visit High Island, Bolivar Flats and ride the Bolivar Ferry on the way home. The **Sept.16**th trip will be to Quintana and the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. You may now sign up for these trips by emailing klebwoods@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.**

**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](http://www.pct3.com).

**Dog owners:** Pets are no longer allowed in Kleb Woods. For your convenience and enjoyment, Precinct Three maintains five popular dog parks where your dog can run free. They are the **Millie Bush Dog Park**, 16756 Westheimer Parkway, in George Bush Park; the **Danny Jackson Family Dog Park**, 4828 ½ Loop Central Dr., near Loop 610 and Westpark; a dog park in **Congressman Bill Archer Park**, 3201 Highway 6 North; **Deputy Darren Goforth Dog Park**, 9402 Barker Cypress Road and **Beverly Kaufman Dog Park** located in Katy at Paul D. Rushing Park, 9114 Katy Hockley Road. The dog parks have their own set of rules. Please visit the Precinct Three website [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) for more information.

Save the dates: September 10, 2016 Hummingbird Festival  
October 22, 2016 Diggin’ Old Stuff