

Membership Form

The Friends of Connie Hagar Inc., a 501 (c) (3) organization, chartered in 1990, has a twofold mission: The first is to preserve the history of the late Connie Hagar and her contributions to ornithology, and the second is to further public awareness, appreciation, and conservation of the birds of the Texas Coastal Bend and their habitat.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

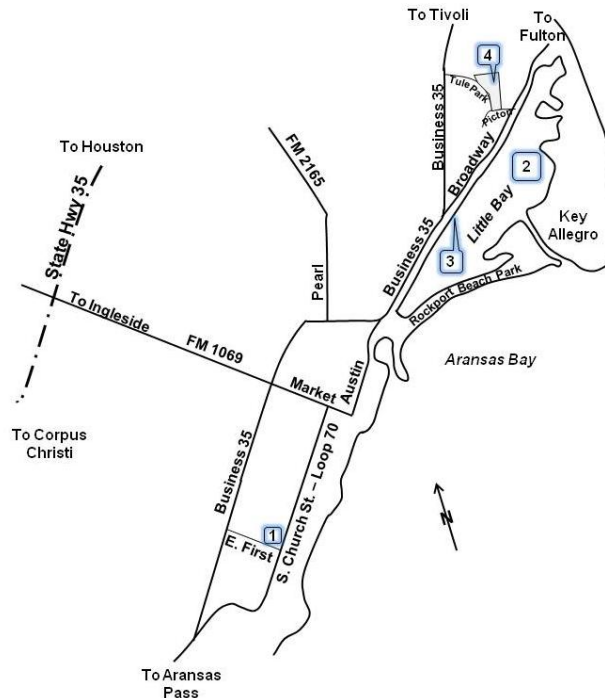
Membership Category and Annual Dues:

- Regular \$25.00
- Family (2 votes) \$50.00
- Donation \$ _____
- Please contact me about volunteering

Mail this form to Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc. PO Box 2465, Rockport, TX 78381

Connie Hagar Sites:

- 1) **The Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary**, at the corner of East First and South Church Streets.
- 2) **The Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary**- Little Bay was designated as the Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary by the Texas State Legislature in 1943.
- 3) **Historical marker** on the Little Bay waterfront near the McDonald's restaurant on Business Highway 35.
- 4) **Graves of Connie and husband, Jack**, in Rockport Cemetery, accessible via Picton Lane from Broadway or via Tule Park from Business Highway 35. From Broadway, bear left at the entrance, turn right at the fourth street (marked Sixth Street), and continue nearly to the end and the graves are on the left.



THE CONNIE HAGAR COTTAGE SANCTUARY

Site of Connie and Jack Hagar's Rockport Cottages

Born Martha Conger Neblett on June 14, 1886 in Corsicana, Texas, Connie enjoyed an aristocratic upbringing. After spending a month in Rockport with her sister in 1934, Connie convinced her husband, Jack, to move to Rockport in 1935. Not ready to retire, Jack bought and remodeled the Rockport Cottages on Church Street. It was from this site that Connie conducted her 35 years of twice-daily rounds, observing and recording her bird findings.

Little was known about the diversity of non-game bird species in the area before Connie began recording her findings. When questioned about the authenticity of her sightings by ornithologists in the Northeast, she challenged them to come see for themselves. Come they did, including Roger Tory Peterson, who later dedicated the site of Connie and Jack Hagar's Rockport Cottages as the first Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail site (C-51) in 1995

Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc.

The Friends of Connie Hagar purchased the site of Connie and Jack Hagar's Rockport Cottages in 1994 with private donations, funds from the Sid Richardson Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Meadows Foundation, and through a bridge loan from the National Audubon Society.

Goals of the Friends of Connie Hagar include:

- 1) Develop the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary as an outdoor education center to increase public awareness about Connie Hagar's contribution to ornithology, birds and their habitat,
- 2) Participate and encourage partnerships that foster the conservation of healthy ecosystems and bird habitat on public and private lands in Aransas County, and
- 3) Increase access to and participation in birding and other nature-related activities in Aransas County.

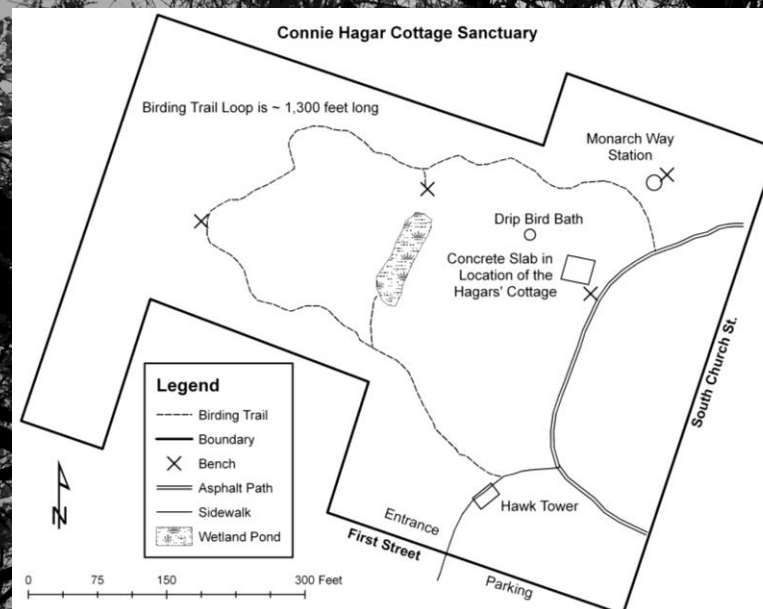
The Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc. depends on donations from individuals, organizations and businesses, and on the time and energy of volunteers willing to develop and maintain the site as an oak motte sanctuary for migratory and resident birds.

Gifts and contributions are gratefully accepted by the Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc. at P.O. Box 2465, Rockport, TX 78381.

For more information about volunteering please call 361-729-2780 or 361-790-6092.

OVERVIEW OF THE SANCTUARY

The sanctuary covers 6.25 acres and is an excellent representation of oak motte (remnants of woodland) and coastal prairie habitats, necessary for neo-tropical migrants and many resident birds.



Opened to the public in March 1995, the sanctuary is still in development. Trails are in place and habitat restoration continues.

Rockport-Fulton's temperate climate and varied habitat, and location at the confluence of major bird migrating routes, make it one of the best birding spots in the United States. The list of well-known ornithologists and naturalists who stayed at the Rockport Cottages and learned from Connie is impressive, as described in Karen Harden McCracken's *Connie Hagar, The Life History of a Texas Birdwatcher*, Texas A&M University Press.