

**Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc.**  
**Strategic Plan**  
**2010-2015**

*The mission of the Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc. is twofold: 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.*

- A. Practice and encourage stewardship of natural and cultural resources in the Aransas County area as exemplified by Connie Hagar
  - 1. Develop and manage the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary as a nature/outdoor educational center to preserve and increase public awareness about Connie Hagar's contribution to ornithology, birds and their habitat
    - a. Fence the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary to protect the cultural and natural resources within the site and to manage human use of the site for those activities that are conducive to the purpose of the Sanctuary
    - b. Design, manufacture and install an entrance sign stating visiting hours and permitted activities within the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary
    - c. Conserve existing oak motte and native prairie habitats in the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary using ecosystem-based management
    - d. Develop and implement a master plan for the development of the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary into a nature/outdoor education center for the conservation of bird habitat unique to Aransas County and for increasing stewardship of those resources by local residents and visitors
    - e. Acquire adjacent properties from willing sellers to increase amount of conserved habitat and to develop facilities to support the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary including parking, sanctuary operations, meetings and trainings in accordance with the master plan
  - 2. Participate in and encourage partnerships that foster the conservation of healthy ecosystems and bird habitat on public and private lands in Aransas County
- B. Increase access to and participation in birding and other nature-related opportunities in Aransas County
  - 1. Provide opportunities for guided birding walks at the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary for beginner birders during bird migration periods
  - 2. Provide opportunities for plant identification walks at the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary
  - 3. Design, manufacture and install interpretive signage at the site about Connie Hagar, birds and their habitats within the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary
  - 4. Conduct a Connie Hagar Appreciation Day in June (near Connie's June 14<sup>th</sup> birthday) with outdoor educational programs for families at the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary
  - 5. Encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to experience birding and nature related activities
- C. Inform Aransas County citizens and visitors about Connie Hagar and encourage support for birding, habitat conservation and the Friends of Connie Hagar
  - 1. Increase membership and volunteerism in Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc.
  - 2. Provide interpretive and educational programs to local organizations and schools
  - 3. Provide hands-on conservation activities at the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary
  - 4. Design and develop a mobile booth display for use at nature-related festivals and school functions
  - 5. Develop an informative website about Connie Hagar, the area's birds and the Friends of Connie Hagar