



september : october : november 2016

We believe a personal connection to nature is an essential part of life. Come connect at the Center!



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

# nature discovery center

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 CENTER NEWS
- 3 SPECIAL EVENTS
- 4 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
- 5 FAMILY FUN
- 6 WALKS, TALKS & MORE
- 7 FALL BIRDING
- 8 SUMMER SCIENCE FUN
- 9 VOLUNTEER NEWS
- 10 DONORS
- 11 MEMBERSHIP

### DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

NOON - 5:30 TUE - FRI  
10 - 5:30 SAT & SUN  
CLOSED MONDAYS

### ADMISSION IS FREE

Donations are appreciated.  
Groups of six or more  
children by appointment.

### MISSION

*To ignite lifelong curiosity,  
understanding, and respect  
for nature through education.*

[naturediscoverycenter.org](http://naturediscoverycenter.org)



NatureDiscoveryCenter



NDCHouston



naturediscoverycenter

### nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401  
T 713.667.6550



## Gateway Project is Underway!

Construction has begun on our much anticipated renovation project. We are excitedly looking forward to touring the improvements: a new bathroom, sensory garden, enhanced native plantings, directional park signage, and more when the project is completed in late December. The Center and the majority of Russ Pitman Park are open for visitors and programs during the construction period. **Visitors should park in our south parking lot off of Evergreen St. and enjoy a walk down the main path to the Nature Center.** For more details visit [my-ndc.org/gateway](http://my-ndc.org/gateway)

## Save the Dates!

### Pumpkin Patch (p 3)

2 Days of Fall Festival FUN!  
October 15 & 16 from 11 am to 4 pm



### 22nd Twilight Gala (p 3)

*From the Roots Up*

at the Houstonian Hotel  
November 18 at 6:30 pm

### Swift Night Out

**Nature Discovery Center** Sep 2 at 7:30 pm (p 7)

**Lakeview Elem. in Sugarland** Sep 18 at 7:30 pm (p 7)

**Park After Dark** Sep 30 at 8 pm & Oct 21 at 8 pm (p 5)

**Meet the Animals** Sep 11 & Nov 13 at 2 pm (p 5)

**Nature Walks on the Wild Side with Mary Ann**

Oct 22, Nov 6, & Dec 10 at 10am (p 5)

**Nature Bike Tour** Nov 6 at 2 pm (p 5)





## Staff

Henry Owen, *Executive Director*  
Mary Ann Beauchemin  
Kate Carney  
Maura Denman  
Pam Dunker  
Eric Duran  
Anne Eisner  
Michelle Vryn

## Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Ben Cowan, *President*  
Chris Copeland, *Vice President*  
Brenda Cauthen, *Treasurer*  
Stephen Louis, *Secretary*  
Lisa Derenthal, *Past President*

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Spencer Curry  
Blayne Gunderman  
Clay Lilienstern  
Aileen McCormick  
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Bill Whitlock  
Craig Wooten  
Kristen Buck, *Junior League*  
Ann Ratliff, *Rice MBA*

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W. Ed Michna, Jr.  
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Sumita Prasad  
Martin Reiner  
J. Victor Samuels  
Cindy Siegel  
Elizabeth Blanton Wareing

## Top 3 Things I Learned as an NDC Intern

by Tyler Richards

Lizards aren't so frightening. Going into this internship I had an irrational fear of lizards, especially the little ones, which I found out are called Anoles. I didn't like how they look, move, eat, and everything in between. While working at the Nature Discovery Center, I was able to spend more time observing them than I ever had before. It turns out these little critters are kind of cute. I've seen them jump from branch to branch, drink from a leaky hose, and hunt for food. I was even lucky enough to watch a Carolina Green Anole catch and eat a spider. Gross, but exciting.

Plants look sad when they need water. When a plant is lacking sufficient amounts of water, their leaves lose what is called turgor pressure and will then wilt, meaning they look droopy. One could even feel bad for them at that point. This helps the Park Steward know which areas need watering on any given day.

Non-native organisms are a problem in Houston. Before the introduction of people, the Houston area used to be a grand playground for the various organisms that populated it. When non-native plants and animals were introduced here, our natives were easily out competed. If non-native species are not soon controlled, then we will continue to see fewer of our native plants and animals.

Hogs, Nutria, Chinese Tallow, and bamboo are some examples of non-native organisms in Texas. In the park, we are working to remove Chinese Privet and Ligustrum, non-native species that were brought in by previous landowners.

Interning at the Nature Discovery Center has been a fun and intriguing way to spend my summer. In particular, our Park Steward and my mentor Mary Ann Beauchemin made me feel welcome, happy and useful in this NDC family. Russ Pitman Park is a hidden treasure in Houston and everyone should take some time to come experience the wonders within.

**We are so grateful for Tyler and all of his hard work out in the park this summer! His positive attitude, his willingness to jump right in and help wherever help was needed, and the way he took initiative when tackling projects in the park will really be missed. Thanks, Tyler!**



**Tyler Richards**

## Center Welcomes New Weekend Naturalist

### Kate Carney



Kate hails from Wisconsin and recently made Houston her home. She was formerly the Lead Educator for an environmental nonprofit in Milwaukee, and loved creating opportunities for people to connect to their environment. She is in awe of the beauty of nature and finds inspiration in the moments when she helps make connections between people and the natural environment. She started at the Nature Discovery Center as a volunteer and is excited to share her love of the outdoors and animals at the center with the families that visit on the weekends.





# special events

3



## Don't Miss Pumpkin Patch

**Winner of the 2014 Macaroni Kid Gold Daisy Award  
for Best Fall Festival in SW Houston/Fort Bend County**



**Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16 from 11 am to 4 pm both days rain or shine!**

Our Pumpkin Patch fall festival will return to Russ Pitman Park this fall despite the ongoing construction around the Nature Discovery Center building. Come experience the fun in picking out and buying the perfect pumpkins for your porch, taking wagon rides, and playing games. Vendors will be selling bows, wreaths, sea glass and other wonderful items. Don't miss the food trucks, bounce houses, and the Tub of Fun.

The main entrance will be on Evergreen street and we will be selling tickets for games, activities and food under the tent in the Evergreen parking lot. Ticket prices for activities, games, food and pumpkins vary, but admission is free. See you there!

Call 713-667-6550, email Anne at [aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org), or visit us online at [my-ndc.org/pumpkin-patch](http://my-ndc.org/pumpkin-patch) for more information.

*See page 9 for information about volunteering at this year's Pumpkin Patch.*



## Reserve Your Seat at the "From the Roots Up" Twilight Gala

Urban parks are experiencing a renaissance across the United States and Houston is no exception. Communities agree that we need nature nearby – this allows us to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, feel the seasons change and hear the birds sing. It also encourages physical activity, brings back memories of forgotten childhood adventures, and offers rare moments of tranquility that serve as an antidote to the daily hustle and bustle.

While this wave of park support is a great step, the founding donors of Russ Pitman Park were undoubtedly park trailblazers for their time. We owe our existence to a remarkable grassroots effort, which began in 1979 with the formation of Friends of Bellaire Parks, Inc., now Nature Discovery Center, Inc. In the early 1980s, the organization raised the funds for the acquisition of the then million dollar 4-acre Henshaw estate, now Russ Pitman Park. Today, the Nature Discovery Center serves Greater Houston with a dual mission of park preservation and nature science programming. Each year over 40,000 lives are touched through the Nature Discovery Center's year-round classes and events.

**Please join us on Friday, November 18th, 2016, as the Nature Discovery Center celebrates the 22nd annual Twilight Gala at the Houstonian Hotel.** The theme this year, *From the Roots Up*, is in recognition of the founding donors of Russ Pitman Park. Jayne and Garrett Johnston are the gala chairs. All funds raised support science and nature education and outreach programs.

"Hands down, this is the most important fundraising activity of the year for the Center, which provides a unique hands-on learning experience for children throughout Greater Houston," remarked Henry Owen, Nature Discovery Center Executive Director. "We are an accessible greenspace for kids and their families, schools, and groups serving underprivileged youth, and many other organizations. The money raised this evening allows us to continue this vital educational programming that uses Russ Pitman Park as an outdoor teaching tool."

Last year's gala raised in excess of \$110,000. More than 300 guests attended this evening featuring live and silent auctions, as well as dinner and dancing.

For more information including table purchases, tickets, and donations see the Twilight Gala website at [www.naturediscoverycenter.org/twilight](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/twilight)

*From the Roots Up*  
**at the Houstonian Hotel  
November 18 at 6:30pm**

### 2016 Gala Chairs

Jayne & Garrett Johnston

### Emcee

Tom Koch

### Host Committee

Rachel & Todd Auwarter  
Terry Levitt-Chavez  
& Anthony Chavez  
Michelle & Chance Comstock  
Denise & Chad Joost  
Lisa & Steve Lim  
Julie & Doug McNee  
Brooke & Ryan Shelton  
Elizabeth & Ben Smith  
Sheena & Selin Varughese





# children's programs

4



Kids develop their skills as young scientists in our unique outdoor classroom.

## FREE PROGRAM

### Nature Story Time

Stories, puppets, specimens, songs & more for preschoolers & their caregivers.

**Every Wednesday at 4 pm**

## PLAYDATE IDEA?

### Tour the Park & Discovery Rooms

Schedule a play date for your child's playgroup. **Play Date in the Park** packages may include Discovery Room tours, nature walks, themed activities, and stories in a 30 - 45 minute program specially geared for your group.

Play group visits are scheduled Tuesday - Sunday between 9:30 am - 4:30pm.

**Advanced reservation is required.**

\$8 per child (\$40 minimum)

Call us at the Center at 713.667.6550 to schedule.

## Fall Children's Classes with Mr. Eric

Sign-up for individual classes that meet your hectic schedules, or for a full semester of topics that will inspire your children! *To become a Member before registering and receive Member discounts, visit [my-ndc.org/join](http://my-ndc.org/join) To register for classes, visit [my-ndc.org/classes-camps](http://my-ndc.org/classes-camps)*

### Curious Kids

**Ages: 3 - 5 years old with adult**

Preschoolers and their parents or adult caregivers will learn basic science concepts in hands-on classes that encourage and celebrate natural curiosity! Curious Kids lessons may incorporate live animals, plants, natural objects, crafts, puppets, stories, songs, and nature walks.

**Cost per Class:**

**\$15 Member OR \$20 Non-member**

**Members-Only Full Semester**

**Discount Price: \$195**

**Tuesdays - 10 am or 4 pm (1 hr 15 min)**

**Dates & Topics:**

09/13 - Plant Power  
09/20 - Fantastic Fruits  
09/27 - Investigating Insects  
10/04 - Amazing Beetles  
10/11 - Animals in Autumn  
10/18 - Awesome Owls  
10/25 - All About Bats  
11/01 - Meet the Mushrooms  
11/08 - Flying Animals  
11/15 - Water Animals  
11/22 - Thanksgiving Nature  
11/29 - Bunny Basics  
12/06 - What Is Wild?  
12/13 - What Is Winter?  
12/20 - Winter Nature Crafts



### Junior Scientists

**Ages: 6 - 10 years old**

Our Junior Scientists explore the natural world and examine a variety of science themes through hands-on investigations and experiments, and in lessons enriched with crafts, games, and more!

**Cost per Class:**

**\$15 Member OR \$20 Non-member**

**Members-Only Full Semester**

**Discount Price: \$190**

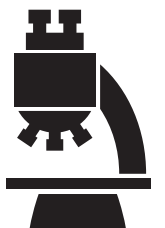
**Thursdays - 4 pm - 5:30 pm**

**Dates & Topics:**

09/15 - The Plants: Basic Botany  
09/22 - The Science of Fruit  
09/29 - Entomology: The Insects  
10/06 - Basic Beetle Biology  
10/13 - Animals in Autumn  
10/20 - Our Amazing Owls  
10/27 - All About Bats  
11/03 - Mycology: The Mushrooms  
11/10 - Animal Flight  
11/17 - Aquatic Animals

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

12/01 - The Habits of Rabbits  
12/08 - Wild and Domestic  
12/15 - The Science of Winter  
12/22 - Nature Crafts for Animals



**If you have a group of 5+ kids (5-10 yrs old), you can request a class, or a series of classes on most nature/science topics. Call Staff Naturalist, Eric Duran at 713.667.6550 for more info.**

## Winter Break Day Camps Coming in December

**Ages 5 - 10**

One day camps meet from 9:00 - 3:30 each day, with optional After Care until 5:30. Kids bring a lunch and we provide snacks and water.

**Cost/day:** \$49 member / \$59 nonmember

**After Care/day:** \$15

*Camp dates and topics will be announced this fall. Look for camp announcements on our website, on Facebook, and in your email, and register for our Winter Break Camps online later this fall.*







## NEW PROGRAM



### "Camping 101" Family Escape

Join us for a new overnight program for your family! Partnering with **Escape the Pavement**, we will host a "Camping 101" Family Escape. This program will provide you with an opportunity to learn how to camp confidently with your family, enjoy an adventure on the wild side right in the neighborhood, spend the night "behind-the-scenes" at the Nature Discovery Center, and see Texas wildlife up close! Tree-climbing, slack lining, night hiking, campfire singalong, morning yoga & Camping 101 Workshops are all included! Cost includes gear use, classes, and meals.

#### Register online:

<https://escapethepavement.org/ndc/>

#### Date TBA

**Cost:** \$75/adult; \$45/child



## Meet the Animals Sunday Afternoon

Spend a Sunday afternoon at the Center getting to know our animals with up close and personal animal encounters! Each family friendly Meet the Animal session includes: hands-on exposure to live animals and/or specimens, an informal discussion about the animal's basic biology and behavior, and a question and answer period with one of our Staff Naturalists. Some sessions may also include surprises like opportunities to feed the animals or guest appearances by animals not usually seen in our Discovery Rooms.

**Sunday afternoons at 2 pm**

#### Upcoming Dates:

**September 11 - Furry & Feathery Friends**  
**November 13 - Insects & Creepy Crawlers**

**Cost:** \$10/family

**This is a drop-in program. Advanced registration is not required.** As a courtesy, please call us at 713.667.6550 if you know you plan to come with a group of 6 or more.

## A Walk on the Wild Side! *with Mary Ann Beauchemin*

Come explore and learn more about the wild side of nature in the city with our fun, family friendly nature walks in Russ Pitman Park. Join us while we sneak up on lizards, peer through a spotting scope for close up looks at honey bees or birds, discover the latest blooms and their pollinators in our Pocket Prairie, spy on the secret life of animals that hide under logs, and investigate more seasonal nature surprises! Learn some tips to explore nature with your family. Walks are about an hour long.

#### Upcoming Dates:

**Saturday, October 22 at 10 am**  
**Sunday, November 6 at 10 am**  
**Saturday, December 10 at 10 am**

**Cost:** members - FREE  
nonmembers - \$5/family

**Meet:** on the front porch of the center

**Registration is not required.** As a courtesy, please call us at 713.667.6550 if you plan to come with a group of 6 or more.



## Park After Dark Night Hikes

**September 30 at 8 pm**  
**October 21 at 8 pm**

Come learn about the animals that are out and about in Russ Pitman Park once the sun goes down. Bring your family and join us for a guided night walk through the park. These night "hikes" are perfect for adults and children ages 4 and up.

**Night walks will begin at the Evergreen Street parking lot.** Programs include an introduction to the animals we are likely to find and the best ways to find them, followed by a guided exploration through the park.

**Cost:** members \$8; nonmembers \$10

**Reservations required.** Visit [my-ndc.org/night-hike](http://my-ndc.org/night-hike) to sign up.

**Bring:** Bug spray & a flashlight



## Family Nature Bike Tour of Brays Bayou

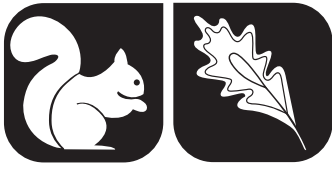
**November 6 at 2 pm**

Join us for a leisurely nature oriented biking tour of Brays Bayou with Staff Naturalist Eric Duran. We'll learn about the nature and ecology of the bayou, and identify the wildlife that share this urban habitat. There will be wildflowers and summer waterbirds along the path to learn about. It will be a fun and informative tour, good for the whole family.

**Cost:** members \$8; nonmembers \$10  
ages 4 years old & up

**Advance registration required.** Register online at [my-ndc.org/bike](http://my-ndc.org/bike) soon to reserve your spots!





# walks, talks, & more

6

## Annual Members Meeting



**Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 pm**

Join us for a cup of cider and some winter cheer at the annual meeting to learn what the Center has been doing this year and to hear some of our plans for next year. Meet and vote on the slate of officers for our 2017 Board of Directors.

**This is a Members-only event**, and we look forward to sharing the evening with some of our favorite people!

## Monday Morning Gardening with Mary Ann Beauchemin

Are you an adult who is interested in gardening? Want to learn more about native plant gardening, non-native invasive species and help us care for the park at the same time?

Adults are welcome to join us on the first Monday of the month, starting in October when the weather cools down a bit, for some light gardening that helps us care for the park. We'll be removing some invasive species, growing out & planting natives, watering plants and more.

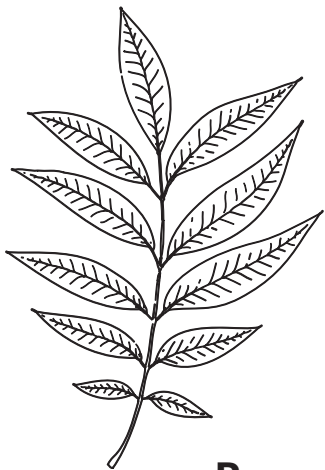


- No experience necessary. Experienced staff will work with you & guide you through projects.

Please contact Mary Ann Beauchemin, our Park Steward, in advance if you are interested in coming or have any questions.  
[mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org)

Note: If you are interested in volunteer gardening, but cannot make it on the dates below, contact Mary Ann. Perhaps you can help on another day!

**October 3, November 7, & December 5 from 9:30 am to Noon**



**Pecan**

*Carya illinoensis*

## Did you know?

The pecan trees growing in Russ Pitman Park give away a piece of the park's history. They were part of a plantation on the old Sealy family estate. If you look closely, you will find that they were planted in rows.

## Tree Identification Walks

**Saturdays, 10 am to 11 am**

**Upcoming Dates:**  
**September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3**

Interested in learning how to identify local trees? Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher will once again be leading tree identification walks in the park each month this fall. Jim shares lots of interesting information and historical facts about the many species of trees we have in Russ Pitman Park as well as how to identify them. You might even have some of the same kind of trees in your own yard. Come learn more about them. Join us for one or all of the walks!

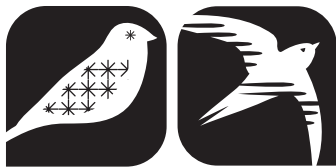
**NEW MEETING SPOT (due to our construction project):** Meet by the bulletin board next to the Russ Pitman Park parking lot on Evergreen Street across from Evergreen Pool.

## Willow Waterhole Bird Surveys

The **Nature Discovery Center** is partnering with **Houston Audubon** to conduct the monthly urban Willow Waterhole bird survey. Mary Ann Beauchemin, Senior Naturalist at the NDC is leading these surveys on the **3rd Saturday of each month except December**. The monthly Bird Survey at Willow Waterhole lets both researchers and birders study how the creation of retention ponds can attract birds to urban areas as well as how populations of species change over time in this urban setting. Visit [my-ndc.org/willowwaterhole](http://my-ndc.org/willowwaterhole) for details.

**Upcoming Saturday Surveys:**  
**September 17 at 7 am,**  
**October 15 and November 19 at 8 am**

We would love to have you volunteer to help out with this survey! Beginning birders can help spot birds and more experienced birders can help with identification. We break into 3 or 4 groups to try and cover a good portion of the park. Trails are fairly easy walking and the survey takes about 2 hours. **We meet in the parking lot of the Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow Drive, Houston.**



# fall birding

7

## NOTE:



Until construction in the park is done, meet us for our Wednesday bird walks at the bulletin board at the south end of the park near the playground (next to the parking lot off Evergreen St).

## Lunch with the Birds Starts in September

**Wednesdays,  
September 21 through  
November 2  
Noon to 1 pm**

Interested in birdwatching? Whether you are a novice or an expert, join our **FREE** guided bird walks through Russ Pitman Park. Warblers, vireos, thrushes & flycatchers are just a few of the types of fall migrants you may see. If you bring your lunch, plan to eat it before or after the hour long walk.

## Monthly Winter Bird Walks



**Wednesdays,  
December 7, January 4,  
& February 1  
Noon to 1:15 pm**

Mary Ann Beauchemin leads **FREE** monthly bird walks in Russ Pitman Park throughout the winter. In addition to our winter songbirds, we have had some interesting "migrants" overwinter in the past. Most years have some very interesting hummers visiting the park like Rufous, Black-chinned, a few Calliopes and once in a while some others.

## Nature Discovery Center Co-sponsors Family Friendly 'Swift Night Out' Events

Join us for our family friendly 'Swift Night Out' events this fall. Check your calendars and see if you can help count the swelling numbers of Chimney Swifts migrating through Houston. We will watch Chimney Swifts swoop and soar over their roosts and count them as they enter their chimneys. It's great, free, family fun!

Bring a folding chair (if you care to sit down) and mosquito repellent! Binoculars are optional (the swifts are visible with the naked eye as they enter the chimney). For all of the details and updates about these events, see [my-ndc.org/swifts](http://my-ndc.org/swifts).



**Friday, September 2 - Swift Night Out - Nature Discovery Center - 7:30 pm**

**Friday, September 18 - Swift Night Out - Lakeview Elementary (Sugarland) - 7:30 pm**

We are proud to co-sponsor these annual 'Swift Night Out' events with our partners Houston Audubon, Lakeview Elementary, Whole Foods Market - Bellaire, and Whole Foods Market - Sugarland.

## Swifts Over Houston

Who doesn't love a bird that eats mosquitoes! **Every Tuesday evening at dusk, from the beginning of April through October 18th**, a team of volunteers count Chimney Swifts as they enter chimneys to roost for the night in the Houston area. Please feel free to drop in any evening and join us!



### Count Locations:

1. **SW corner of the Whole Foods Parking Lot**, 4004 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX
2. **Parking lot on the north side of Pershing Middle School**, entrance off of Stella Link.

## Smith Point Hawk Watch Birding Trip for Senior Members

**Friday, October 7, 8 am – 6 pm**

Mary Ann Beauchemin will lead a fall birding trip for NDC Members to the Smith Point Hawk Watch at the height of raptor migration. This trip will be open to any NDC Member who is age 50 or over by October 7, 2016.

We have scheduled a free Seniors' bus from Harris County, Precinct 3. Our thanks go to Steve Radack and Harris County, Precinct 3, for providing this service. In order to ride on the bus, county regulations require that you must be at least 50 years old on or before the trip to be eligible to join us.

We will leave at 8 am and will return about 6 pm. As hawks utilize rising thermals from the heated ground to soar, we will not need to arrive at Smith Point until about 9:30 or 10 am. After 2 or 3 pm, when it slows down, we can take a little tour around Smith Point itself to look for other birds and migrating butterflies. If there is time, we'll move on to Anahuac until it is time to return to the Center.

**This popular trip will soon be FULL.** If it is full when you go to register, please do join the Wait List for it online. There are often cancellations as the trip date nears.

For more information and/or to register online, visit [my-ndc.org/hawk-watch](http://my-ndc.org/hawk-watch)



**Be sure to check out our upcoming Willow Waterhole Bird Surveys on the 3rd Saturdays of every month (except December). See page 6 for details.**





# summer science fun

8

## Ms. Anne's Summer Outreach Programs Were in High Demand!

Ms. Anne took science shows on the road to libraries, day care and learning centers, and summer camps throughout the Greater Houston Area and beyond this summer. Along with our bunnies, turtles, tarantula, snake, and bearded dragon, Anne gave over 50 summer outreach presentations!

Bellaire Methodist  
Power Camp  
Barbara Bush Library  
Behavior TLC  
Camp Buckaroo/Easter Seals  
Shepherd of the Heart,  
Pearland  
Westbury Methodist Church  
Children's Courtyard  
Spring  
The Woodlands  
CyFair College Library  
DAV Montessori  
Faith Lutheran  
Francis Elementary  
Fulshear Library  
Girls Inc. Camp  
Houston Public Libraries  
Bracewell Library  
Dixon Library  
Heights Library  
Hillendahl Library  
Johnson Library  
Lakewood Library  
Mancuso Library  
Oak Forest Library  
Park Place Library  
Pleasantville Library  
Smith Library  
Southwest Express Library  
Walter Branch Library  
Jacinto Library  
Memorial Lutheran School  
Munchkinland  
Montessori Learning Institute  
Beechnut  
Maple  
Pace Prep  
Smaller Scholars Montessori  
Dairy Ashford  
Grisby  
St. Helen Summer Camp  
St. Marks Lutheran  
St. Nicholas School  
UOS Montessori  
West University Baptist

## Thank You for a Fabulous Summer of Science Camps & Sneak-a-Peek Classes!



## Don't Miss Our Fall Classes & Winter Break Camps!

Members enjoy savings on all classes and camps. Join in the savings and join in the fun today! Visit [www.naturediscoverycenter.org](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org) to join, to browse our fantastic fall lineup of activities and events, and to register for programs today.



## Special Thanks to ...

**Tyler Richards** for his help this summer as our Assistant Park Steward. In 8 short weeks Tyler was happy to help care for the park, work on any and all projects, and help prepare for Gateway Phase Two. He also devised a method of estimating the number of park visitors, supervised volunteers, and much more! Tyler's position was funded through the Shell Nonprofit Internship Program, which is managed by Volunteer Houston.



**Terrell Sword** for helping us obtain an estimate for irrigation throughout the park, assessing the condition of our water lines, and repairing our drinking fountains! He also repaired a leak at a main valve and updated the system.

**Ian Robbins** for the many tedious hours he spent renaming photos for our new photo library.

Huge thanks to our **Head Counselors Amara Ghorbani** and **Christina Whitehouse** for their dedication to this very important position! From 8:30am to 5:30 pm, they helped our Summer Science Camp teachers make sure that all of our campers were safe and fed and that they had fun!

## Summer Quarter Volunteers

### Animal Care

Paris Brown  
Mariana Deleon  
William He  
Jaka Tanugraha  
Christina Wang  
Patrick Zhang

### Family Fun Night

Amy Chittenden  
Amber Kittles

### General Handymen

Gary Gray  
AD Martinez  
Terrell Sword & Sword Plumbing

### Park & Plant Care

Connally Bell  
Roland Groenenboom  
John Willis

### Summer Interns

Ian Toubin  
Tyler Richards

### Wednesday Willing Workers

Norma Barnes  
Fred Campbell  
Beth Debenport  
Beth Murphy  
Jim Murphy  
Debbie Patton  
Michael Patton  
Pat Roberts  
Nora Wolff

### Welcome Volunteers

Yasmine Almutairi  
Margaret Dybala  
Roland Groenenboom  
Jiajun He  
Sheetal Jammi

### Willow Waterhole Bird Survey

Ben Hulsey  
Mark Meyer  
The more than 35 volunteers who have helped with the survey!

### Discovery Room Docents

Brandon Aultman  
Kathleen Connell  
William He  
Jose Hernandez  
David Ilouz  
Alexander Lee  
Lauren Lee  
Emily Martinez  
George Mills  
Sophia Rebello  
Emily Recendez  
Catherine Ribbeck  
Molly Ribbeck  
Nicole Rosenfeld  
Sarah Seeliger  
Patrick Zhang  
Zoe Zhang

### Group Guides

Somkar Dey  
Joey Englehart  
Scott Gold  
Meghan Nagia  
Isha Popat  
Tabitha Pravinkumar  
Nathan Reichert  
Sandy Song  
Blaise Tsai  
Rhea Vikas  
Zoe Zhang  
Emily Zhou

### Sneak-a-Peek Assistants

Alexys Almeida  
Sarah Eknoyan  
Nick Favoriti  
Pranutha Punukula  
Gabriela Mendoza  
Nathalia Mendoza  
Aya Wen

### Summer Science Camp

#### Head Counselors

Amara Ghorbani  
Christina Whitehouse

### Summer Camp Counselors

Luis Abete  
Zeshan Ali  
Victoria Barboza  
Emma Barrall  
Claire Betzer  
Jasmine Campuzano  
Johana Cisneros  
Kaleb Cole  
Carrie DelaRosa  
Juliette Draper  
Izel Fernandez  
Lily Flexon  
Chandler Gartner  
Isaac Gateno  
Daniel Gross  
Blaine Hashmi  
Brett Hauser  
Brooke Hoepfl  
Ja'Nyaha Jenkins  
Emily Kernell  
Samik Khosla  
Sophia Kontos  
Tony Liu  
Rachel Lu  
Bailey Maierson  
Morgan Matheny  
Margaret Mentz  
Zak Moore  
Vivian Nguyen  
Pranutha Punukula  
Allison Purcell  
Gelila Raneri  
Bridget Rasmussen  
Angela Rodriguez  
Kai Sawyer-Harris  
Nicole Sax  
Lena Shadow  
Kinsey Shine  
Tessoria Stefan  
Alexandra Vail  
Riya Varadhachary  
Maya Venkateswaran  
Zofia Villarreal  
Jonathan Westveer  
Julia Wu  
Cindy Xia  
Meghna Yennu

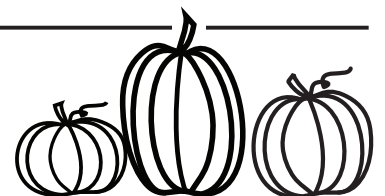
## Get Involved in Pumpkin Patch!

**Friday, October 14 - Pumpkin Unloading from 4 pm to 5 pm**

**Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16**

**Event shifts from: 8:30 am to 10:45am, 10:45 am to 1:45 pm, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm**

Scout groups, school clubs, service organizations, families and individuals all make great volunteers for this annual event. We need people to help with set up, clean up, and a variety of activities during the event. Call Anne Eisner at 713.667.6550 for more information about volunteering, or email Anne at: [aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org). You may also visit [my-ndc.org/pumpkin-patch](http://my-ndc.org/pumpkin-patch) to learn about the event.



**Calling  
All  
Volunteers**







*The Hana and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center is most grateful to the following corporations, foundations, and individuals for their generous support between August 15, 2015 and August 15, 2016:*

*\* denotes In-Kind donations*

## Discovery Circle \$15,000

Anonymous  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
Chevron  
Houston Endowment Inc.  
Wortham Foundation, Inc.

## Investigator Circle \$10,000

Acme Party & Tent\*  
Ginzburg Family Fund administered by the  
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Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable  
Foundation  
Aileen & Andy McCormick  
Richard & Karen Mullineaux Living Trust  
Seay Foundation

## Explorer Circle \$5,000

Ben & Jennifer Cowan  
Eurocar-Werk  
Houston Bar Association  
Mark & Lisa Livingston  
Locke Lord, LLP  
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Chris & Debbie Patton  
Whole Foods Market-Bellaire

## Wildlife Benefactor \$1,000

Dr. Robert & Mrs. Jamie Allen\*  
Jill Almaguer  
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Lisa & Steven Derenthal  
Robert Finch  
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Beth Robertson  
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Ben Samuels & Marci Rosenberg  
Edith Shreeve  
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Marc Steinberg  
Strake Foundation  
Otto & Cathleen Trechter  
Winston & Strawn Foundation  
Winston & Strawn LLP  
Robert & Edith Zinn  
Ed & Sue Zinni

## Wildlife Guardian \$500

David & Cathy Beathard  
Andrew & Jennifer Friedberg  
Jeryl & Jeffrey Golub  
Herman Family Fund  
Houston Public Library  
Thanos & Lucinda Kontos  
Randy & Kathy Lake  
Nikky Lawell\*  
Louma Contracting\*  
Pat & Diane McLaughlan  
Donald & Barbara Ostdiek  
Dr. Charlene & Mr. Scott Owens  
Molly Richardson\*  
Ernie & Lucy Seward  
Scott Wizig

## Wildlife Supporter \$250

Anthony Chavez &  
Terry Leavitt-Chavez  
Rodney & Judy Creel  
Lesia Curry  
Gerard & Deborah Del Junco  
Durio & Company, P.C.  
Cynthia Edmondson  
Dan & Ruth Flournoy  
Janis & Robert Frank  
Melissa Geis  
Dr. Cullen Geiselman  
Steven Ginzburg  
Joanne & John Go  
Dr. Richard & Mrs. Ann Goldfarb  
Mary Green  
Michael & Susan Hawes  
The Herb Society of America,  
South Texas Unit  
Larry & Lynne Hoffman  
Gwen Kunz  
Daniel & Melissa Levin  
Mark Lowes &  
Kimberly Godfrey Lowes  
Katharine Martin  
MinuteMan Press of Bellaire  
Todd and Jean Nunnally  
Mellody Panzer  
Trisha Pollard  
Sumita Prasad  
Martha & Walt Richardson

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Michael Scarbrough  
Edward Schreiber  
Michael & Janine Schueppert  
Dennis Shepler\*  
Mary Sisson  
Lee-Hwei & Hsiang-Ning Sun  
Jennifer Takagi & Brian Taylor  
Sherelle Thomas  
Troop 266 Boy Scouts of America  
Village Plumbing & Home Services  
Kathleen Wiesenthal  
Craig & Gayle Wooten  
Andrew Zipper & Christine Bourget  
Hilary Zuzawa

## In Memory Of

### Don H. Daniel

Marcelle Daniel

### Hana & Arthur Ginzburg

David & Mindy Klein

*The Nature Discovery Center relies on contributions from the community in order to continue offering quality science and nature programs to children and families throughout the Houston area.*

*We thank you all for your support!*



**We invite you to join us in maintaining the Nature Discovery Center's place as a unique, natural learning environment by making a gift.**

**For more information, contact:**

**Michelle Vryn**

*Director of Development*

**[mvryn@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:mvryn@naturediscoverycenter.org)  
713.667.6550**

**To make a tax deductible donation online today, visit [my-ndc.org/support](http://my-ndc.org/support)**

**Thank you!**





## New & Renewing Members

*The Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members for the Summer Quarter from May 15, 2016 to August 15, 2016.*

### Wildlife Guardian

Gwen Kunz

### Wildlife Supporter \$250

Michelle & Chance Comstock  
Judi Owens & Jim Garza

### Wildlife Partner \$100

Drew Baird  
Elsa & Jorge Bernal  
Tiffany & Martin Espinosa  
Hayley & Aaron Green  
Michelle Hinojosa  
Nell Lukosavich & David Pavlick  
Lisa Makarenko  
Sheryl Maruca  
Carmen Ng & Andy Lu  
Gabrielle & Ted Pate  
Cookie & Ben Portnoy  
Nicole Zaza & Jeff Lusk

### Family \$65

Cora & John Abbott  
Shefali Aggawal & Mohit Bansal  
Melanie & Bill Austin  
Rachel Cruz Auwarter & Todd Auwarter  
Sudha & Prakash Balan  
Tanya Barbouti  
Grace & John Beam  
Jennifer & Kevin Blessington  
Elizabeth Cortez & Jose Akamine  
Kelly & Julian Dent  
Natasha Erskine & Rosario Lucas  
Cyndy & William Firkus  
Jane & Aaron Foster  
Danielle From & Holly Ward

Libby Garza & Simon Alitavoli  
Shailja Ginwala  
Stephen & Rebecca Grant  
Susan & Michael Hawes  
Kristina & Clare Hawkins  
Anna & Raghu Kalluri  
Donna & John Lin  
Ekaterina & Rostislav Loshak  
Shelley & Tracy Ludwick  
Sreedhar Mandayam & Anupama Hiremaglur  
Lindsay & John McBride  
Silvia & Reggie Michael  
Tonyamas & Paul Moore  
Bethany & Adam Morris  
Unnati & Sagar Naik  
Tu Nguyen & Maria Joya  
Sharon & Brian Ogren  
Teala & Cole Parish  
Paige & Doug Pecore  
Samina Quddos & Zafar Ali  
Meghan & Jason Rathke  
Klaire & Michael Rhodes  
Jan Rose  
Megan & Matt Rovelli  
Barbara Samuels & Liliana Patil Nunez  
Julie & Richard Schwarz  
Nancy & Jon Sheiman  
Chiranjeevi & Sudhakar Tummala  
Shanna & Peter Vanderschans  
Anna Winter  
Zayne Wong

### Student/Senior/Individual \$35

Kurt Brown  
Cynthia Edmondson  
Deborah Lancaster  
Carolie Martin  
Janet Neath  
Gary Olson  
Ed Robinson  
Margaret Swarts

**Family Members & Higher**  
... receive discounts on classes, camps, and field trips.

**Wildlife Partners & Higher**  
... have pavilion reservation privileges for parties

## Membership and Gift Form

(To become a member or renew online, visit [www.naturediscoverycenter.org/join](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/join))

Name Addresss City Zip

Phone Email

☐ You may acknowledge my gift (of \$250 or more) in the Nature Discovery Center newsletter.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Student/Senior/Individual \$ 35 | <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Benefactor \$ 1,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family 65                       | <input type="radio"/> Explorer Circle 5,000        |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Partner 100            | <input type="radio"/> Investigator Circle 10,000   |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Supporter 250          | <input type="radio"/> Discovery Circle 15,000      |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Guradian 500           |  |

Will your employer match your tax-deductible dues and gift?

☐ Enclosed is my matching gift form. My employer's name is:



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

## nature discovery center

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**Walks & Talks**  
*page 6*

**Fall Birding  
Opportunities**  
*page 7*

### **2 Days of Fall Festival Fun! Pumpkin Patch**

Saturday & Sunday  
October 15 & 16  
11 am - 4 pm

# Fall Activities



### *From the Roots Up* **22nd Anniversary Twilight Gala**



Friday  
November 18  
6:30 pm  
Houstonian Hotel

**Fall Classes  
for Children**  
*page 4*

**Family Fun**  
*page 5*

**Summer Collage**  
*page 8*



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