



march : april : may 2014



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

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DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

NOON - 5:30 DAILY
CLOSED MONDAYS

ADMISSION FREE

Donations are appreciated.

Groups of six or more
children by appointment.
Cost is \$2/child.

MISSION

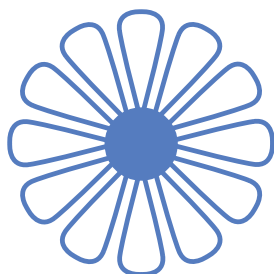
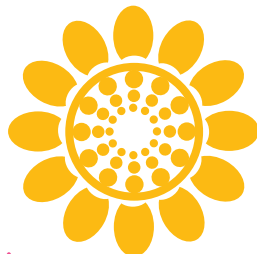
*To ignite lifelong curiosity,
understanding, and respect
for nature through education.*

naturediscoverycenter.org

nature discovery center

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DON'T MISS
OUR SUMMER
PROGRAM
LISTINGS ON
PAGES
5 & 6



Summer Science Programs Announced

Summer Science Campers (ages 5 - 10) will conduct sweet scientific experiments with candy, go on adventures to discover the animals of North America, have close encounters with reptiles, and participate in a boot camp designed specifically for budding junior biologists! *Camp details are listed on page 5.*

Preschoolers (ages 3.5 - 5) and their caregivers will **Sneak-a-Peek** at a variety of science and nature topics in weekly sessions that will excite them about the natural world, give them hands-on exposure to specimens and live animals, allow them to experiment, and more! *See page 6 for details.*

Save the Dates!

Art in the Park Art Installation

March 15 - May 4 during park hours (pg 3)

Spring Break Day Camps

March 18 - 21 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm (pg 4)

Spring Fling

April 19 from 10 am - 3 pm (pg 3)

Spring Migration Birding Field Trip

April 25 from 7:30 am - 7:30 pm (pg 7)

Shorebird Identification Lecture & Field Trip

April 29 at 7:30 pm & May 3 at 8:30 am (pg 3)

Tree ID Walks

March 1, April 5, & May 3 at 10 am (pg 8)

Walk on the Wild Side

March 15 & April 6 at 10 am (pg 8)

Meet the Animals - Snakes

March 22 at 10 am (pg 3)

Art Hike

April 2 at 7 pm (pg 8)

Park After Dark

May 9 at 7:30 pm & May 23 at 8:00 pm (pg 8)



Sarah Flournoy
Director

Staff

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Maura Denman
Eric Duran
Anne Eisner
Peggy Horn

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From the Director's Desk:

Ahhh the joys of spring! The trees are budding, birds are singing, wildflowers are blooming, and many happy families are enjoying the park. Here are a few of my favorite things to witness in the park during the spring. Come for a walk and see if you can discover them or find your own favorites.

The Big Burr Oak—Along the main path, this tree's large, dark green leaves (bigger than your outstretched hand!) provide shade and rich color for our visitors. Later in the year, I am fascinated by the moth larvae that eat all the juicy parts of the green leaves, leaving only a leaf skeleton behind.

Cerulean Warbler—When my binoculars land on an adult male cerulean, my heart skips a beat, and I feel thankful to witness a small piece of the wonderful spring bird migration that happens right outside my office window. Seeing its blue color and small shape is like discovering a gemstone in the trees.

Ten Petal Anemone—An early bloomer, the ten petal anemone reveals itself in late February in the pocket prairie. Finding its delicate white sepals (they look like petals to me) and cone-like yellow center say that spring is upon us and that soon the prairie—in the park and in remnants all over the Gulf Coast—will be covered in colorful wildflowers.

Our many programs this spring highlight the abundance of nature at this time of year. We encourage you to sign up for camp, take a tree ID walk, join us for Lunch with the Birds, attend discovery classes with Mr. Eric, explore Art in the Park, or prowl for owls at a Park After Dark program. Consider us your natural home away from home—come often and share your own discoveries and favorites with us!

With warmest spring wishes,
Sarah Flournoy, Director

Volunteer Spotlight: Marty Reiner

Marty Reiner always seems to have a spring in his step and a smile on his face. Whether he is harnessing up with rock-climbing equipment to paint the front of the nature center, selling tickets at Pumpkin Patch, designing storage and exhibit space, or coordinating budgets for capital improvements, Marty Reiner's positive spirit and broad skill set have helped the Nature Discovery Center in numerous ways.

Marty began volunteering for us in October 2011 at Pumpkin Patch, and he had so much fun at the event that he kept coming back for more. His wife Judy served as Director of Development, so Marty couldn't have escaped us if he tried—Judy often complained that Marty spent so much time working on projects for the nature center that he didn't have time to take care of all the projects in their own house!

*Volunteer
Spotlight
Continues
on page 9.*



Center Updates



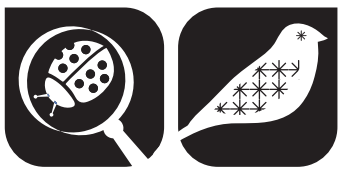
We're so proud to reveal our updates to the interior of the nature center. It has been a big work in progress, so thank you for your patience as we moved our furniture, packed up our files, and then moved back in! We did a complete spruce up of walls, floors, offices, and more. We can't help ourselves—we need to celebrate our freshened look! *Please check your email and our website for a spring open house celebration.*

We are also planning to update the surrounding landscaping, adding beautiful native plant beds, paths, lighting, and even a new work shed. These updates are made possible by funds we have raised from foundations, corporations, and individuals. In addition, the City of Bellaire residents voted to contribute to the effort with \$500,000 in bond funding. We continue to seek financial support to fulfill our vision to improve the Henshaw House and Russ Pitman Park. Check our website or come visit us to learn more.

The Nature Discovery Center offers a warm, community environment where everyone is welcome. All of our updates will enhance our ability to do what we do best—educate about nature and provide a bit of the natural and wild within this urban jungle called Houston.

The nature center's engaged board of directors, thoughtful staff members, willing volunteers, and generous donors deserve huge thanks for their creativity, initiative, foresight, and good spirit through this process.





special activities

3

Meet the Animals

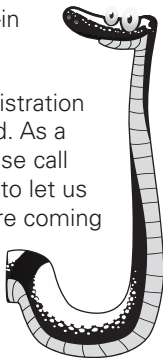
March 22
Slithering Snakes
at 10 am

Spend a Saturday morning at the Center getting to know our animals with up close and personal animal encounters! Each family friendly Meet The Animal session will include: hands-on exposure to live animals and/or specimens, an informal discussion about the animal's basic biology and behavior, and a Q/A period with one of our Staff Naturalists.

Cost: \$5/person

This is a drop-in program.

Advanced registration is not required. As a courtesy, please call 713.667.6550 to let us know if you are coming with a group of 6 or more people.



Art in the Park

March 15 - May 4



Every spring, we invite selected artists to install pieces in Russ Pitman Park, as part of our Art in the Park show. Artists will create and install site specific sculptures and other art specifically for this park and this show. The original art will only be up for 6 weeks, so come and see this gorgeous marriage of art and nature while you can! The installation will be open to the public during regular park hours.

Opening Night: Saturday March 15 from 5 - 7 pm at the Henshaw House

(See April 2 Guided Art Hike on page 8 for more...)

Bellaire Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, March 22 from 8 am - 3 pm

Mark your calendar for the Bellaire Garden Club's Spring Plant Sale in the pavilion area behind the Nature Discovery Center. This year's sale is being held independently of our Spring Fling event. The earlier sale date will give you more time to get your new plants in the ground this spring! As always, neighborhood favorites and proven plants for our area will be available. A good selection of native plants will also be offered. Longtime Bellaire area gardeners will be available for questions. Come early for the best selections.

Spring Fling Festival

Saturday, April 19 from 10 am - 3 pm

Join us in the park on for a fun and educational event celebrating Earth Day. There will be guided nature hikes, environmental and science exhibitors, fun kids crafts and activities, food, and music. This is always a great event for the whole family! **There's no entry fee, and the walks, activities and crafts are free!**

Call Eric Duran at 713.667.6550 for more information.



Children enjoy making crafts during a recent Spring Fling celebration in Russ Pitman Park.

Workshop Details

Lecture

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

7:30 pm

at the Nature Discovery Center

Field Trip

Saturday, May 3, 2014

8:30 am

meeting in the parking lot on the Bolivar side of the ferry. Car-pooling is suggested.

Details will be posted on our website.

Cost: \$60 members;
\$85 non-members

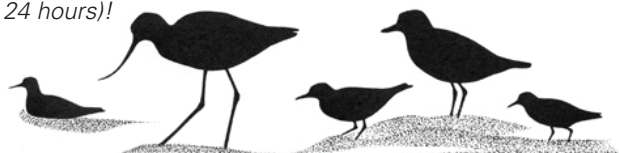
Registration required. Class size is limited to 20 people.

Shorebird Identification

with Dr. Cin-Ty Lee

Dr. Cin-Ty Lee has generously offered to teach a Shorebird Identification Workshop as a fundraiser to help support birding programs at the Nature Discovery Center! This workshop will consist of a one evening shorebird identification lecture followed by an all day field trip on the Bolivar peninsula.

Cin-Ty started birding in California when he was ten years old. He has lived in Houston for the last 12 years. He enjoys writing articles about bird identification, leading field trips, and sketching birds. Cin-Ty is currently a professor of geology at Rice University, but also teaches a Field Bird Biology course for undergraduates each spring. He has given many talks and led field trips and workshops for the Texas Ornithological Society, Houston Ornithology Group, Houston and Los Angeles Audubon Society, and the Geological Society of America. He was also part of the 2004 1st place team in the UTC section of the 2004 Great Texas Birding Classic (214 species in 24 hours)!





children's programs

4

Spring Break Day Camps

Ages 5 - 10

One day camps meet from 9:30 - 3:30 each day. Kids bring a lunch and we provide snacks and water.

Register online. Members - login as the child who will be coming to camp.

Cost/day: \$40 member / \$50 nonmember

Tue, March 18 Fly By Birdy



How do birds get from South America to Canada during migration? What do they eat? And where do they sleep along the way? Come find out!

Wed, March 19 Feeding Frenzy

It's eat or be eaten in a day filled with fun games and lessons about animal foraging behavior! Food webs, mouthpart match-ups, dietary dilemmas, and feeding strategies are all on the menu!

Thu, March 20 Butterflies and Bugs



Join us for fun and interesting explorations in the park, as we seek out butterflies and other awesome insects wherever they may be. We'll learn all about the lives of butterflies and their kin in the classroom and in the field. There will be hikes, art projects, games, and live insect friends!

Fri, March 21 Art in Nature

Come discover the world of nature through the imagination. We will learn about and create art, out in the park, while learning about the ideas and techniques of some famous modern artists. It's a fun and fascinating way to combine a love of art, with your love of nature!

Spring Children's Classes with Mr. Eric

Sign-up for individual classes that meet your hectic schedules, for topics that inspire your children! *To become a Member before registering, visit www.naturediscoverycenter.org/join. To register for classes, visit www.naturediscoverycenter.org/classes-camps.*

Curious Kids

Ages: 3.5 - 5 years old

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:

\$10 Member OR \$15 Non-member

Tuesdays - 10 am - 11:15 am

Dates & Topics:

3/04 - Poison & Venom
3/11 - Animals That Fly
3/25 - Animal Babies
4/01 - Forest Creatures
4/08 - Desert Dwellers
4/15 - Springtime in the Park
4/22 - Nature of the Prairie
4/29 - Animals Without Bones
5/06 - What's a Worm?
5/13 - Colony Life: Bees & Ants
5/20 - Lizard Tales



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:

\$12 Member OR \$18 Non-member

Thursdays - 4 pm - 5:30 pm

Dates & Topics:

3/06 - How Many Animals?
3/13 - Predators & Prey
3/27 - Symbiosis: Animal Relationships
4/03 - Texas Animals
4/10 - Invertebrates: Boneless Animals
4/17 - Life on the Prairie
4/24 - Springtime Wildflowers
5/01 - Springtime Insects
5/08 - Springtime Birds
5/15 - Terrific Turtles
5/22 - Life With Lizards



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.

Scout Programs

Bring your Cub Scout or Girl Scout group to the Nature Discovery Center for a fun field trip that will help them achieve their scouting badge and/or patch requirements! See our website for complete Scout Program offerings.

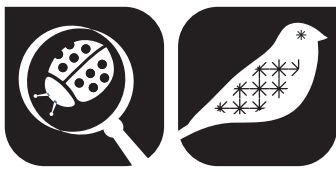
Our scout programs are by appointment only. Dates fill quickly - call soon for availability. **Advance reservations are required.**

Nature Story Time

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

Every Wednesday at 4:00 pm

This is a free, drop-in program. As a courtesy, please call the Center to let us know if you are coming with a group of 6 or more so that we can be sure to have enough materials on hand for everyone.



Camp Details

Ages:

5 to 10 year olds

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Cost:

\$220/wk Members or
\$270/wk Nonmembers

After Care (optional)

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Cost: \$50/week

What to bring:

Kids bring lunches
(we provide snacks/water)

Registration

**Advance registration
is required. Register
online at:**

naturediscoverycenter.org

*Members - remember to
login using your child's
profile and not your own
profile to register.*

*Call us at 713.667.6550 if
you need your child's
login information and we
will be happy to help you!*

Summer Science Camps

2014 Dates & Topics:

Sweet Science: Experiments with Candy

Jun 16 - 20 OR Jun 23 - 27

Engaging in experimental science can be sweet! This summer camp will be packed with creative experiments using an assortment of candies. Campers will practice the scientific method, learn some basic chemistry, and more as they carry out experiments that pop, crackle, fizz, ooze, swell, and erupt. Get ready for a colorful week full of sweet science experiences!



Animal Adventures

Jul 7 - 11 OR Jul 14 - 18

All ahead for exploration... of the continent we call home. Come along on a journey from the arctic circle to the deserts of West Texas to the wave battered shores of California, as we explore North America. There are so many habitats, animals, and plants to learn about. We'll delve in to the prehistoric origins of American animals, and discover the spectacular diversity. You may find some surprises along the way as we uncover the lives of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish, and invertebrates of our huge and varied land.



Reptile Roundup

Jul 21 - 25 OR Jul 28 - Aug 1

Come one, come all and learn about a diverse group of animals, the reptiles! Snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, and more! Learn about different types of reptiles, their characteristics, behaviors, and special adaptations. Be prepared for some close encounters with live reptiles and reptile specimens, this camp is hands-on! Creative reptile crafts and games will round out our reptile roundup.



Biology Boot Camp

Aug 4 - 8 OR Aug 11 - 15

Discover the exciting world of SCIENCE!!! Every day, we'll head out into the field and perform actual scientific studies of the natural world, while learning some fun and basic biology. Why wait til you grow up to be a scientist, when you can start this summer?! It's not just learning though, we'll have a lot of fun with plants and animals out in the park, as well as games and art projects.





summer science

6

Note: If you have a group of 5 – 10 kids and you want to try to set up a different time for your group, call 713.667.6550.

Sneak-A-Peek Pre-K Summer Science

Ages 3.5 - 5

Sneak-a-Peek classes for 3.5 – 5 year olds (with adult) meet for a little over an hour each week. You can pick the days and times that best fit your summer schedule. This summer's class topics include a mixture of fun animal themes and hands-on, experiment based classes designed to ignite your preschooler's natural curiosity!

Days & Times: Tuesdays OR Wednesdays from 10 am - 11:15 am

Cost per class: \$10 member or \$15 non-member

Advance registration strongly encouraged.

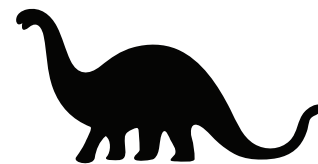
2014 Dates & Topics:



Jun 17, 18	Animal Dads
Jun 24, 25	Fantastic Frogs
Jul 8, 9	Fizz, Foam, Bubble & Pop!
Jul 15, 16	Marvelous Mammals



Jul 22, 23	Reptile Round-Up, Jr.
Jul 29, 30	Sink or Swim?
Aug 5, 6	Discovering Dinosaurs
Aug 12, 13	Shadows & Light



Register at www.naturediscoverycenter.org or call the Center at 713.667.6550. Members - remember to login with your child's username & password. Call us and we will be happy to look up your child's profile if you need assistance.



Attention families! Get ready for a new set of exciting nature challenges this summer. The goal of Texas Nature Challenge is to get families and kids outdoors by visiting as many participating parks and nature areas in Texas as they can this summer. At each site, participants complete activities designed for family fun and nature exploration.

Participation prizes will be awarded at the closing ceremonies for the most sites visited, best scrapbook, best photo and more.

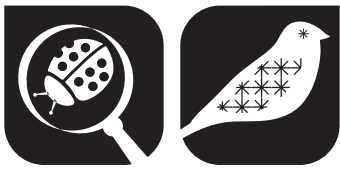
Register at <http://naturechallenge.tamu.edu/>

Visit us at the Center to learn more and to complete our special challenge, which will be revealed later this spring when the official Texas Nature Challenge begins.

Backyard Biology Exhibit

Come explore life in a backyard during dawn, day, dusk, and night without the summer heat or the mosquitoes! Our Backyard Biology Exhibit, which will stay in the large discovery room this summer, is the perfect place for children to engage in the hands-on study of life in a woodpile, how bees communicate, and which flowers beetles prefer. They can look in the trash can to find who's scavenging, peek under the porch to find decomposers, and use a pair of binoculars for some birdwatching!





birding activities

7

Lunch with the Birds



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, orioles and buntings are just a few of the types of spring migrants you may see. If you bring your lunch, plan to eat it before or after the walk.

Dates: Wednesdays,
February 26 - May 14

Times: noon to about 1:15 pm

Where: Meet us on the front porch. Just drop in!

Early Evening Birding

Our evening bird walks in the height of migration are a great way to leave work far behind!

Dates: Tuesdays,
April 1 - May 6

Times: 6 pm to 7:15 pm

Where: Meet us on the front porch. Just drop in!

Just ask!



We keep binoculars on hand at the Center for visitors to borrow while birding in Russ Pitman Park. Call ahead to check availability.

Chimney Swift Counts



We will have Chimney Swift Counts in the park just after the Early Evening Birdwalks mentioned above. The swift counts will meet at the Chimney Swift tower just south of the Nature Discovery Center at dusk. You do not have to come to the birdwalk to attend the swift count.

Spring Migration Field Trip for Senior Members

Our annual Spring Migration Field trip for senior members to **Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge** and **High Island** during the height of spring migration is set to go! We are lucky to have the Harris Co., Precinct 3 free bus for seniors again this year for the trip! It is a great time to look for many species of warblers, vireos, buntings, orioles and other migrants.

Friday, April 25, 2014

Time: 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Age requirement: Seniors only, any person 50 or over (a Harris County policy)

Membership required: This trip is offered to NDC Members only. If you are not already a member, you can join online when you sign up for the trip.

Advance registration required – on line at www.naturediscoverycenter.org/birding. If you have any problems call 713-667-6550.

Cost: \$7/person for Audubon Sanctuary Day Pass OR free with Audubon Sanctuaries Season Pass (\$25). *You must pay this fee or bring/buy your Season's Pass the day of the trip.* Donations to the Nature Discovery Center for staff time and water are also appreciated.

Meeting / Parking Place: The bus will depart at 7:30 am from Evergreen Pool parking lot, on Evergreen Street at Newcastle in Bellaire, across from Russ Pitman Park and return by 7:30 pm.

When registering, please enter the name and number of your emergency contact person who will not be on the trip with us. This is a Harris Co. requirement!

Our thanks to Steve Radack and Harris County, Precinct 3, for providing this bus service for seniors. The bus makes a great observation platform while birding Shoveler Pond and the roadside canals of Anahuac NWR. Although there is no bathroom on the county bus, we will make bathroom stops along the way.

The Nature Discovery Center will provide bottled water. Bring your own drinks, snacks, lunch, insect repellent, binoculars and field guides. (If you need to borrow a pair of binoculars please let us know when you register.) *Rain will bring down more birds for us to look at, so this trip will go regardless of the weather. Dress and be prepared accordingly.*

Swifts Over Houston

Who doesn't love a bird that eats mosquitoes?! Come join a team of local volunteers counting Chimney Swifts as they enter local chimneys to roost for the night. Drop in one evening or return throughout the season!

Tuesdays at dusk

Dates: early April - late October

Where: Join volunteers at either:

1. The SW corner of the Whole Foods Parking Lot, 4004 Bellaire Blvd
2. The parking lot on the north side of Pershing Middle School (off of Stella Link)



Chimney swifts circle this chimney at Pershing Middle School at dusk.

See page 3 for a special upcoming birding opportunity, a Shorebird Identification Lecture & Field Trip with Dr. Cin-Ty Lee





walks & talks

8

Tree Identification Walks

**Saturdays,
10 am to 11 am**



Dates: March 1, April 5, and/or May 3

Where: Meet us on the front porch.

Spring is a great time to learn more about trees! Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher will be leading more walks in the park this spring to teach us how to identify the trees that live here in Russ Pitman Park. Jim shares lots of interesting historical and biological facts about the many species of trees we have in Russ Pitman Park as well as how to identify them. You are welcome to come to one or all!

Bellaire Garden Club Meetings

The Bellaire Garden Club holds monthly meetings at the Nature Discovery Center at 7 pm on the first Thursday of every month. Everyone is invited!



Bellaire Book Club Needs New Members

Join a book club started by staff and volunteers. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30 - 9 pm.



Email Anne Eisner at aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org for more information about the book selected for March.

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 in your own backyard or on your travels.

These hour long walks will leave from the Nature Discovery Center's front porch.

Saturday, March 15 at 10 am
Sunday, April 6 at 10 am

Cost: members - free; nonmembers - \$5/family suggested donation

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.

A Guided Tour of Art in the Park

with Jo Zider

Wednesday, April 2 at 7 pm

Art in the Park Curator, Jo Zider, will take us on an evening tour of this year's Art in the Park installation pieces. She'll give us a handle on what the artists are thinking, and why they've created these original pieces for our park. This hike is always thought provoking, and gives us some perspective about the intersection of nature, public space, and art. This is a free event. Light refreshments will be served.

Jo Zider followed a passion for working with clay, studying with chemist/ceramist Peter Grams in Ann Arbor, MI from 1967-70. During seven months of 1970 with her architect husband and four year old son, she traveled throughout eleven countries in Europe and Scandinavia absorbing the air, the art, architecture and culture. She returned to formal studies in Texas graduating Cum Laude with a B.S. in Art Education and Ceramics in Fine Arts from the University Of Houston. Her professional career began in 1975, teaching, creating and exhibiting art with representation at one time ranging from New York to California and extensively in Texas. You might remember Jo's art piece, "The Labyrinth and the Mending Circle," that she presented as part of the 2013 Art in the Park Exhibit.

Park After Dark Family Friendly Night Hikes



**Join us for an
Owl Prowl!**



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

Our night walks begin at the Nature Discovery Center. 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. **Reservations required.** Visit www.naturediscoverycenter.org/night-hike to sign up.

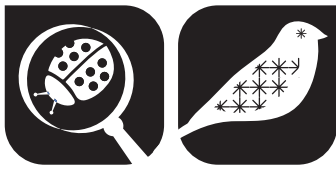
Cost: \$5/person

Bring: Mosquito repellent & flashlight (for adult use ONLY).

Spring Dates/Times:
May 9 at 7:30 pm
May 23 at 8:00 pm



Photo credit
Keith Kingdon



Special Thanks to the Following

Kim Godfrey for streamlining our volunteer program and leading the efforts for an updated volunteer training and management system.

Reagan Miller and Bob Montgomery for providing professional architectural and design services in our effort to update the Center.

Terrell Sword & Sword Plumbing – for repairing indoor plumbing and many broken pipes in the park, and for donating many hours of research, planning and hard work to design and install our new bubbling rock water feature in the park!

Robert Anderson for donating 40 lbs. of black oil sunflower seeds and a weatherproof wildlife camera.

Michael Copeland of Greenleaf Gardening Services for donating the removal of a Chinese Tallow tree and removing a few more for the cost of labor!

Dawn Durain for donating a Purple Martin house and pole and also to **Larry Dybala** for setting it up and getting it all spruced up with plastic martins to lure in the real ones. Let's hope to see some move in soon!

Don Verser for maintaining our beautiful Pocket Prairie and other areas in the park.

Summer Volunteer Applications are available online.

They are due by April 1st. Space is limited.

Winter Quarter Volunteers

Animal Care

Jackson Hassell
Melanie Lopez
Allison Shay
Sara Sii
Cate Urbani
Mary Grace Urbani
Aaron Warga

Aviary Care

Ellen Hastedt
Colton Borovsky
Karen Borovsky
Dr. Dan Jordan

Bird Walks in the Park & Great Backyard Bird Count

Betsy Black
Marcy Brown

Discovery Room Docent

Sarah Muschinske

General Handymen

Brith Shalom Mitzvah Group
Gary Gray
Terrell Sword & Sword Plumbing

Hummingbird Banding

Sumita Prasad

Hummingbird Feeders

Sherri Chilivets
Terry Kirschke
Don Verser

NAYD Field Trips

Betsy Black
Mary Meachum

Park & Plant Care

Jeff Gotsdiner
Debbie Lancaster
Mary Meacham
Ronnie Renick
Don Verser
John Willis

Tree Walks in the Park

Jim McKee

Wednesday Willing Workers

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

Winter Break Counselor

Kalim Mays

Winter Office Help

Kodi Snearly

Eagle Scout Projects

Native Plant Project
David Dotson

Volunteer Spotlight

Continued from page 2, Center News.

One lasting contribution of Marty's is the wooden storage cabinet in the library, a beautiful piece of furniture designed to keep our program materials organized while also complementing the craftsman-style look of the 1925 house. Marty and Frank Griffin designed and created the cabinet off-site, using drawings and mock-ups to ensure the final product would fit our needs. The day they delivered and installed the finished cabinet, the compliments from visitors started pouring in.

On an even larger scale, Marty spent many hours meeting with contractors and finalizing budgets as we prepared our materials for Bellaire City Council and ultimately for the bond election that resulted in our receiving \$500,000 in bond funds to enhance the Henshaw House and Russ Pitman Park. Marty's professionalism in meeting with these landscape designers and gathering important figures allowed us to seize an opportunity to update the facility and grounds of the Nature Discovery Center in the most significant way since 1985.

Marty is officially retired, but rumor has it he used to work in the non-profit arena. This does not surprise us one bit. Marty's sense of service, friendliness, organization, and logic are a gift to us all. Thank you, Marty, for the tangible ways you have improved the Nature Discovery Center, and also for your contagious spirit!

Calling All Volunteers

Teen Counselors Needed!

We're always looking for quality counselors to help with our one day break out camps over Spring Break (March 18 - 21 this year), and with our week-long summer science camps.

An ideal Nature Discovery Center counselor is at least 13 years old, is mature and responsible for his/her age, likes to work with kids, and can commit to being here from 9 am to 3 pm or 3 pm to 5:30 pm (one day for break out camps, at least two five-day weeks for summer science camps).

Summer Volunteer Docents Needed

Are you a natural leader with an outgoing personality? Would you enjoy helping groups of children learn about science and nature this summer? We need volunteer docents to help us by leading small, chaperoned school groups on nature tours of Russ Pitman Park and on visits to our Discovery Rooms.

Volunteer Docents work 9:00 am to 1:00 pm or 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. We require a minimum commitment of two weeks to be scheduled in advance. Perfect for teens or adults!



donors

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The Hana and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center is most grateful to the following corporations, foundations, and individuals for their generous support between February 15, 2013 and February 15, 2014:

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The Cullen Foundation
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In Memory Of...

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Amanda Nathan
Ted Pate
Miriam Portnoy
The Velzeboer Family Trust

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Robert Purcell

Evelyn Vecera

Russ Pitman

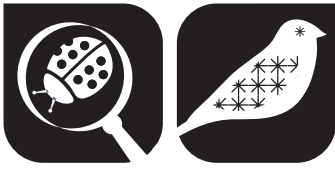
Dick Mullineaux

James & Christine Byerly
Mary Pedersen
Alexander Remenchik, MD

*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!*





membership

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New & Renewing Members

The Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members for the Winter Quarter from November 15, 2013 to February 15, 2014.

Wildlife Partner

Dr. Johnnie P. & Mr. Winfred C. Frazier
Drs. Rosa Hwang & Wayne Hofstetter
Julie Kauffman
Pack 266
Mary & Arthur Pedersen
Sukhpal Singh & Navdeep Boparai
Deborah & John Willis

Individual

Sherri Chilivets
Marilyn Emerich
Julie Gold

Family

Meredith & James Clarage
Drs. Allie Falender & Leon Rubinstein
Mandy Forbes
Marci & Jeffrey Gilbert
G. Gray & M. A. Beauchemin
Jacqueline Hsu-Hardy & Michael Hardy
Thomas Jones & Toby Turner
Cletus Lee & Becky Vance
Dr. George & Mrs. Marjorie Leventon
Dr. Nancy Luca & Mr. Mario Luca
Fiona McKone & Sarah Kaur
Beth & Jim Murphy
Lee Norris & Linda Steen Norris
Diane & Bill Okerlund
Amit Prakash & Madhulika Prakash
Barbara & Paul Stern
Naomi & Brian Wittlin

Student/Senior

Cindy Douglass
Sandra & Hulen Hale
Scott Miller
Linda Rippert
Gloria Scheel
David Swenson

Family Members and higher

... receive discounts on classes, camps, and field trips. Family Members and above also have early registration and pavilion reservation privileges.



Families share the joys of discovery at the Nature Discovery Center!

Membership and Gift Form

Name	Address	City	Zip
<hr/>			
Phone	Email		
<hr/>			

☐ You may acknowledge my gift (of \$150 or more) in the Nature Discovery Center newsletter.

- | | | | |
|--|-------|---|--------|
| <input type="radio"/> Student/Senior | \$ 25 | <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Guardian | \$ 500 |
| <input type="radio"/> Individual | 30 | <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Benefactor | 1,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | 50 | <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 |

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

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



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

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Spring Classes

page 4

Walks, Talks, & Spring Birding

pages 7 & 8



Summer Science Camp & Sneak-a-Peek Information

pages 5 & 6

Spring Activities



Spring Break Camps

ages 5 to 10
9:30 am to 3:30 pm

see page 4



Spring Fling Earth Day Celebration

April 19
10 am - 3 pm

see page 3

