



march : april : may 2016

We believe a personal connection with 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 WALKS & TALKS
- 4 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
- 5 SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP
- 7 BIRDING ACTIVITIES
- 8 PARK & GARDEN NEWS
- 9 VOLUNTEER NEWS
- 10 DONORS
- 11 MEMBERS & RENEWALS

## DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

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

## ADMISSION FREE

Donations are appreciated.

Groups of six or more  
children by appointment.  
Cost is \$3/child.

## MISSION

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

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



NatureDiscoveryCenter



NDCHouston



[naturediscoverycenter](https://www.instagram.com/naturediscoverycenter)

## nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401  
T 713.667.6550  
F 713.667.7654

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



## Summer Science Programs Announced

### Summer Science Camp (for ages 5 - 10)

We've got a fantastic line-up of six different camp themes that explore organisms and habitats in the natural world, chemical reactions, and a little physics, too! Hands-on, creative science fun awaits our campers in: *Light ... Sound ... Science!*; *Texas Nature Explorers*; *Water, Water Everywhere!*; *Messy Chemistry*; *Sargasso Sea Life*, & *Birds of a Feather*. See page 5 for more.

### Sneak-a-Peek (for ages 3 - 5 and their caregivers)

Preschoolers and their caregivers will meet for 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! We'll investigate *Animal Dads* in time for Father's Day, celebrate International Mud Day with *Glorious Mud!*, experiment with *Fizz, Foam, Bubble Pop!*, and take a closer look at the lives of frogs, reptiles, mammals & fish. See page 6 for details.

## Spring Fling Festival

### Earth Day Celebration in the Park

Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 3 pm

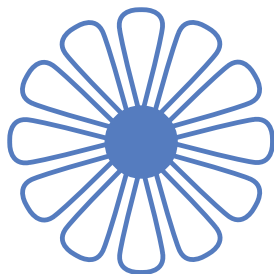


Come celebrate Earth Day with us in the park at our Spring Fling Festival. This year we are excited to be partnering with the **Bellaire Environmental and Sustainability Board**, who will be bringing in new and different environmental exhibitors and activities in addition to providing invaluable recycling tips and other information at their booth.

We're thrilled to announce that **Bayou City Play** will be out leading a nature oriented "adventure play" session as part of the event. Kids will have the opportunity to build structures and play with a wide variety of natural and reused materials, learning valuable skills like independent decision making, planning, and problem solving.

Our Spring Fling Festival will also feature live animal encounters, children's crafts and activities, food and drink from PUCS Pop Up Coffee Stop, and live music. Some familiar exhibitors and some newcomers to Spring Fling: Cool Down World, Native Plant Society of Texas, Plant it Forward, Urban Harvest, & Wildlife Center of Texas.

We hope you'll join us! This is always a fun and educational day for kids and adults to spend time together out under the trees in the park. Activities and parking will be at the south end of the park near Evergreen Street.





## Staff

Henry Owen, Director  
Mary Ann Beauchemin  
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*

### Members At Large

Mara Andersen  
Spencer Curry  
Blayne Gunderman  
Clay Lilienstern  
Aileen McCormick  
Jennifer Nelsen  
Craig Wooten

### Advisory Council

Cecilia Alatriz  
Dr. Robert & Jamie Allen  
Kathleen Ballanfant  
Kristin Berry  
Jane Dembski  
Marybeth Flaherty  
Dr. Johnnie & Winfred Frazier  
Terese T. Hershey  
Tom & Brenda Koch  
R. W. McKinney  
W. Ed Michna, Jr.  
Janie Mitcham  
Sumita Prasad  
Martin Reiner  
J. Victor Samuels  
Cindy Siegel  
Elizabeth Blanton Wareing

## Gateway Phase 2 Renovation Project Update

We are excited to announce that we have a preliminary agreement with a contractor for our Gateway Renovation project. We are currently working on the contract and look forward to sharing more with you soon. The Nature Discovery Center staff and volunteers are working hard to prepare for the renovations. When you visit you may notice a few changes like colored plastic tree tags, removed brick pathways, and a storage POD in the south parking lot. A BIG thank you to the PODS storage company for donating the use of a storage container. We will use this container for onsite access to park maintenance supplies while our shed is under construction.

Remember, the nature center and park will remain open during construction. We have some great programs planned (just read this newsletter) and look forward to seeing you. Please park in the south parking lot to access the park and nature center once construction begins. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to purchase your engraved brick for our new entryway. More info can be found at <http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/bricks>

## Pick up your Produce in the Park: We are Partnering with Plant it Forward Farms

Plant it Forward Farms is a Houston based nonprofit that works with refugee farmers helping them establish small businesses and connecting them with customers.

We are excited to be their newest pick up site for their Farm Share program. Customers sign up ahead of time and then pick up their farm share box of fresh, locally grown veggies once per week at the Nature Discovery Center. This fits perfectly with our mission to connect people to nature. Every 30 farm shares sold provides a refugee farmer with a living wage. For more information, visit their website [plant-it-forward.org](http://plant-it-forward.org) or email [randi@plant-it-forward.org](mailto:randi@plant-it-forward.org)



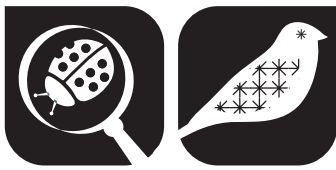
## Welcome Amy, Our Spring U of H Intern

This Spring, Nature Discovery Center welcomes Amy Chittenden as our new Intern! Amy is a Human Development and Family Studies Major at the University of Houston, minoring in Nonprofit Management through the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA) program. NLA is a national organization whose mission is to "strengthen the social sector with a talented, prepared workforce." Amy will be fulfilling her last requirement for NLA by completing a 480-hour internship with us. This is our first NLA intern and we are excited to welcome her to our team! Amy's passion is to help strengthen the education of children in the areas of science and math. When Amy toured Nature Discovery Center for the first time, she absolutely fell in love. "When I'm here, I don't even remember that I live in the 4th largest city in America." Armed with knowledge in the nonprofit sector, Amy is excited to bring new ideas, strategies, and personality to Nature Discovery Center.



*Amy Chittenden,  
University of Houston Intern*





# walks & talks

3

## Monthly Center Tours

**March 17, April 21,  
& May 19 at 8:30 am**

On the 3rd Thursday of each month, join Executive Director, Henry Owen, for a tour of the Center.

Who should come:

- Old Center friends to visit and hear updates
- Current members to say Hi
- Brand new visitors to learn more about how they can get involved
- Representatives from other organizations hoping to partner with us

Kids are always welcome.  
No need to RSVP.

## 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](mailto:aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org) for more information about the books selected each month.

## 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 19 at 10 am**

**Sunday, April 10 at 10 am**

**Sunday, May 1 at 10 am**

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

This is a drop-in program. Registration is not required. As a courtesy, please call Mary Ann at 713.667.6550 if you plan to come with a group of 6 or more.

## Tree ID Walks



**March 5, April 2, & May 7  
from 10 to 11 am**

Spring is a great time to learn more about trees! Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher will be leading more Saturday morning 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!

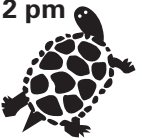
**Cost:** FREE

**Where:** Meet us on the front porch.

This is a drop-in program. No registration required.

## Meet the Animals

**March 13 Reptile Rendezvous at 2 pm  
May 8 Frogs & Friends at 2 pm**



Spend a Sunday afternoon at the Center getting to know our animals with up close and personal animal encounters! Each family friendly Meet The Animals 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 us at 713.667.6550 if you plan to come with a group of 6 or more.

## 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](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/night-hike) to sign up.

**Cost:** \$5/person

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

**Spring Dates/Times:**  
**May 6 & 20 at 8 pm**

Photo credit  
Keith Kingdon





# children's programs

4

## Spring Break Day Camps

### Ages 5 - 10

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

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

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

**After Care** is available until 5:30 pm for \$15/day.

### Mon, March 14 Birds in Spring



Learn about birds and what they are so busy with in the spring! Some are nesting, laying eggs & raising young while others are migrating north!

### Tue, March 15 Trees are Terrific

Join us for a fascinating exploration of trees in the park including the life and biology of trees, as well as the animals that use them and call them home. From furtive forest fauna to tall, tantalizing trees, it'll be a fun day in the woods.

### Wed, March 16 It's Spring!



Let's explore spring through the birds, the bees, and the weather. Spring welcomes new birth, rejuvenation, and new growth. Let's find out what is changing in the world around us.

### Thu, March 17 Native Texas Animals

Come explore the fantastic fauna of the Lone Star state from deserts to pineywoods, and from prairies to marshes. Through art projects, lessons, and nature hikes, we'll discover the animals of this massive and varied state.

## Spring Children's Classes *with Mr. Eric*

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

## Curious Kids

### Ages: 3 - 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:

\$12 Member OR \$20 Non-member

**Tuesdays - 10 am - 11:15 am OR  
Tuesdays - 4 pm - 5:15 pm**

### Dates & Topics:

03/01 – The Sun in the Sky  
03/08 – Living Underground  
03/22 – Wiggly Worms  
03/29 – Colonies: Queens & Workers  
04/05 – Crocs and Gators  
04/12 – Lovely Lizards  
04/19 – Flowers in Springtime  
04/26 – Birds in Springtime  
05/03 – Bugs in Springtime  
05/10 – Slimy Salamanders  
05/17 – Fabulous Frogs



## 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 \$20 Non-member

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

### Dates & Topics:

03/03 – Sun Science  
03/10 – Underground Animals  
03/24 – World of Worms  
03/31 – Colonial Animals  
04/07 – Crafty Crocodilians  
04/14 – Lizard Life  
04/21 – Springtime Wildflowers  
04/28 – Springtime Birds  
05/05 – Springtime Insects  
05/12 – Amphibian Science  
05/19 – Frogs and Toads

**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. Call us at 713.667.6550.**

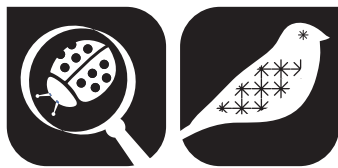
## Nature Story Time

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

### Every Wednesday at 4 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  
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

### Cost:

\$250/wk Members or  
\$320/wk Nonmembers

### What to bring:

Kids bring lunches  
(we provide snacks/water)

### After Care (optional)

### Days & Times:

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

**Cost:** \$60/week  
or \$15/day

## Registration

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

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

*Call us at 713.667.6550 if  
you need assistance with  
registration and we will  
be happy to help you!*

# Summer Science Camps

## 2016 Dates & Topics:

### Lights ... Sounds .... Science!

**June 6 - 10 OR June 13 - 17**

Investigate and create with lights and sounds using a bit of science and your own imagination! Learn how lights and sounds are generated and how they behave in our everyday world. Make a rainbow and build an instrument and strike up a tune in this creative camp filled with hands-on explorations!



### Texas Nature Explorers

**June 20 - 24 OR June 27 - Jul 1**

Come discover the wide and varied wildlife of the great state of Texas. We'll explore the plants, animals, and ecosystems of this expansive state, from the deserts of West Texas to the East Texas Piney Woods. Jackrabbits, armadillos, and rattlesnake, oh my!



### Water, Water, Everywhere!

**Jul 11 - 15**

Put water to the test in a Water Olympics to discover the properties of water, observe aquatic habitats and the living things that call water home, and learn what it takes to be an aquatic biologist. Get ready to get wet and make a splash!



### Messy Chemistry

**Jul 18 - Jul 22 OR Jul 25 - 29**

Join the fun as we make things fizz, explode or ooze (safely of course)! Use everyday products to create some interesting concoctions and generate super cool reactions in this camp that lets you learn from your messes.



### Creature Feature: Sargasso Sea Life

**Aug 1 - 5 OR Aug 8 - 12**

Dive in to the Sargasso Sea to discover the animals that call it home! And use your imagination as you hitchhike your way from the Bermuda Triangle to the shores of Texas on a floating raft of seaweed teeming with life. Sea creatures will be the feature of the week in this camp filled with specimens, crafts, and games!

### Birds of a Feather

**Aug 15 - 19**

Flock to us with your friends for a fun and interesting week of exploring the biology of birds. We'll learn about the birds of the world, bird anatomy, and about the fascinating lives that birds lead. Get ready to go into the field and study these wonderful and active animals.



## Sneak-A-Peek Pre-K Classes

**Ages 3 - 5**

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

**Classes meet on Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays, OR Thursdays**

**10 - 11:15 am**

**Cost/Class:** \$12 member  
or \$20 non-member



### 2016 Dates & Topics:

Jun 14, 15, 16	Animal Dads
Jun 21, 22, 23	Fantastic Frogs
Jun 28, 29, 30	Glorious Mud!
Jul 12, 13, 14	Bugs & Blooms
Jul 19, 20, 21	Reptile Round Up
Jul 26, 27, 28	Fizz, Foam, Bubble, Pop!
Aug 2, 3, 4	Marvelous Mammals
Aug 9, 10, 11	Something's Fishy

**Advance registration strongly encouraged. Each class period is limited to just 10 students.**

Register at [www.naturediscoverycenter.org](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org) or call the Center at 713.667.6550. Members you may now register under your own profile. Please email Mrs. Maura, a.k.a Ms. Mo, at [mdenman@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:mdenman@naturediscoverycenter.org) 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. 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.

## Summer Family Nature Nights

**2nd Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 pm**

Family Nature Nights are packed with opportunities for experiential learning, creative expression, and exposure to the natural world through live animal interactions and nature walks.

Activities begin with themed crafts and fun snacks at 6:30 pm, followed by a brief nature walk before a 7:00 pm presentation by Staff Naturalist Eric Duran or a kid-friendly guest speaker. We wrap things up at 8:00 pm.

Mark your calendars for these Wednesdays:

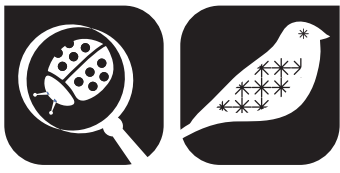
**June 8 - Snakes**

**July 13 - Reptiles**

**August 10 - Birds**

**Cost: \$5/person**





# 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 24 - May 11

**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 5 - May 3

**Times:** 6 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. These counts will meet at the Swift tower at the south end of Russ Pitman Park next to the Evergreen Parking Lot 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 29**

**Time: 7:30 am to 7:30 pm**

### Age requirement:

Seniors only, any person 50 or over (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.

Online at [www.naturediscoverycenter.org/birding](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/birding). If you have any problems call 713-667-6550. If the trip is full when you try to sign up, please put your name on the wait list as there are people who have to cancel every year.

**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 to organize and lead this trip 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.*



## Bellaire Garden Club Plant Sale

**Saturday, March 19  
from 8 am - 3 pm**

Mark your calendar for the Bellaire Garden Club's Spring Plant sale. This year the plant sale will take place in the south end of the park just next to the parking lot off of Evergreen St. As always, neighborhood favorites and proven plants for our area will be available. Longtime Bellaire area gardeners will be available for questions. Come early for the best selections.

## 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!



## Monday Morning Gardening



**Mondays, March 7, April 4, & May 2 from 9:30 am to Noon**

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?

Join us on the first Monday of the month this winter when the weather is cooler, for some light gardening and help us care for the park. We'll be removing some invasive species, growing out & planting natives, watering recently planted plants and more.

- No experience necessary. Experienced staff will work with you & guide you through the projects.
- Come dressed for the weather and prepared to get dirty.
- Bring your own gloves and gardening gear or use ours.

Please contact Mary Ann Beauchemin, our Park Steward, in advance if you are interested in coming or have any questions. Email [mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org) or call 713.667.6550.

If you are interested in volunteer gardening, but cannot make it on the 1st Monday morning of the month, contact Mary Ann. She can probably use your help on another day!

*Note: We will skip the hot summer months, and will pick up this program again in early October!*

## Volunteers Make Valuable Contributions

The Nature Discovery Center values the long hours and abundant energy that our many volunteers collectively contribute to the care and maintenance of our outdoor classroom, Russ Pitman Park. Whether they water plants, help plant native plants, maintain the prairie, work on park trails, or grow plants at home for transplant in the park, each and every volunteer makes a difference to our nature park and to the enjoyment our visitors have here.

Our Park Steward, Mary Ann Beauchemin, accepts individuals and groups of volunteers from teens to adults for a variety of projects year-round. If you are interested in being a park volunteer, make an appointment to stop by the Center to see Mary Ann. Email her at [mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org) or call her at 713.667.6550.

## Eagle Scout Park Projects

**Building moveable boardwalks:**  
**Erik Andrade**

**Construction of decomposed granite trail:**

**James Carter**  
**Charles Deltz**  
**Wolffy Neukomm**

**Park drainage project:**  
**Jack Mason**

**Planting of native plants:**  
**Joseph Hlavinka**

## Special Thanks To:

**Don Verser** – for his continual help in caring for native plants in the park.

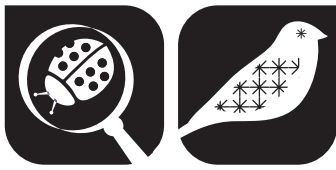
**Brith Shalom Mitzvah Day group** - for help with planting over 100 pots of wildflower seeds for us to grow out for upcoming park plantings.

**Norma Barnes** - for watering and caring for over 100 pots of wildflower starts for us!

The great group of professionals listed below - for volunteering their time to assist Jack Mason with his Eagle Scout drainage project in the park: **Fred W. Lawton and South Texas Surveying Associates Inc.** provided surveying services; **Christopher P. Loudermilk and Gay & Loudermilk Engineers, Inc.** provided engineering services; and **Dan Galvin and U.S. Landscape Inc.** provided labor & expertise on drainage layout and tie into the storm drain.







## Special Thanks to the Following

**Bellaire/Southwest Houston Rotary Club** for funding 20 pairs of binoculars. They will be used for child and adult programs like science camps and bird walks! Speaking of programs, we're offering Early Evening Birding walks this spring and we hope that you'll join us.

**Terrell Sword and Sword Plumbing** for repairing broken pipes and leaky faucets in the park and for cleaning out the water recycling tanks for Terrell Springs!

## Winter Quarter Volunteers

**Animal Care**  
Mariana Deleon  
William He  
Jaka Tanugraha  
Arthur Yang

**Aviary Care**  
Ellen Hastedt

**Birdwalks & Great Backyard Bird Count**  
Betsy Black  
Deborah Lancaster

**Discovery Room Docents**  
Ja'Nyah Jenkins  
Tony Liu  
Kai Sawyer-Harris  
Sarah Seeliger  
Riya Varadhachary

**General Handymen**  
Gary Gray  
AD Martinez  
Sword Plumbing

**Hummingbird Feeders**  
Sherri Chilivets

**NAYD Field Trips**  
Betsy Black  
Debbie Lancaster

**Park & Plant Care**  
Roland Groenenboom  
Don Verser  
John Willis

**Tree Walks in the Park**  
Jim McKee

**Welcome Volunteers**  
Margaret Dybala  
Roland Groenenboom

**Monday Morning Gardeners**  
Betsy Black  
Kate Carney  
Candy Chin  
Debbie Lancaster  
Celeste Mead  
Shannon Morrison  
Phyllis Rogers  
Belinda Rossiter  
Mary Ellen Taylor  
Don Verser

**Wednesday Willing Workers**  
Norma Barnes  
Fred Campbell  
Beth Debenport  
Beth Murphy  
Jim Murphy  
Debbie Patton  
Michael Patton  
Pat Roberts  
Nora Wolff

## Calling All Volunteers

### Welcome Volunteers Needed

We are looking for friendly people who are passionate about the work we do at NDC to welcome individuals and groups as they arrive.

- The Welcome Volunteer will sit at the front door welcoming individuals and groups to the Center and directing them to the appropriate location, person, or information.
- We are looking for volunteers who can serve in the afternoons from noon to 5:30.

If you are interested in this volunteer role, please email Henry Owen at [howen@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:howen@naturediscoverycenter.org)

### Wanted: Teen Counselors!

We're always looking for quality counselors to help with our one day break out camps over **Spring Break** (March 14 - 17 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).

If you are interested in serving as a counselor for **Spring Break Camp**, please email Anne Eisner at [aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org) or call her at 713.667.6550.

If you are interested in being a **Summer Science Camp Counselor**, download our **Summer Teen Volunteer Application** and return it by April 1. Candidate interviews will be held in April.

### 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 am to 1 pm or 1 pm to 5 pm. We require a minimum commitment of two weeks to be scheduled in advance. Perfect for teens or adults!

If you are a teenager interested in serving as a **Volunteer Discovery Room Docent**, please download our **Summer Teen Volunteer Application** and return it by April 1. Candidate interviews will be held in April.

Adults interested in this position, download and fill out our **General Volunteer Application** form and return it to Anne Eisner.

**Summer Volunteer Applications are available online.**

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

### Teen or Adult Plant Watering Help Needed

Park Steward Mary Ann Beauchemin needs volunteers to water plants in the park during our hot summer. Schedule to be arranged.



# donors

10

*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, 2015 and February 15, 2016:*

## Discovery Circle \$15,000 & up

Anonymous  
Chevron  
George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation  
Houston Endowment Inc.

## Investigator Circle \$10,000 - \$14,999

ACME Party & Tent Rental\*  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
Ginzburg Family Fund  
administered by the Greater  
Houston Community Foundation  
Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation  
The Richard & Karen Mullineaux Living Trust  
Seay Foundation

## Explorer Circle \$5,000 - \$9,999

Benjamin & Jennifer Cowan  
Mark & Lisa Livingston  
Locke Lord, LLP  
Aileen & Andy McCormick  
Patrons for Bellaire Parks\*  
Chris & Debbie Patton

## Wildlife Benefactor \$1,000 - \$4,999

Dr. Robert & Jamie Allen\*  
Jill Almaguer  
Bentley Custom Homes  
Greg & Brenda Cauthen  
CenterPoint Energy  
Christiane Copeland & James Copeland  
Spencer & Elizabeth Curry  
Lisa & Steven Derenthal  
Durio & Company, P.C.\*  
Eurocar-Werk  
Robert Finch  
Dr. Johnnie & Winfred Frazier  
Frost Banking, Investments, Insurance  
The Garden Club of Houston  
Gimmel  
Kevin & Susan Golden  
Goodman Financial Corporation  
Tracy & Charles R. Hallenberger  
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation  
Houston Grand Opera\*  
John Daugherty Realtors  
Matthew & Lisa Kornhauser  
O. Clayton & Rebecca Lilienshtern  
Stephen & Laura Louis  
Bob & Pat Lunn  
Taft & Dana McWhorter  
(Merrill Lynch) Bank of America  
David Monague  
Lee Norris & Linda Steen Norris  
K. Cody & Kusum Patel  
Russ Pitman  
PODS Moving & Storage Solved\*  
Posoli Family Foundation  
Prosperity Bank  
Queen of Heirs\*  
Ben Samuels & Marci Rosenberg

Cynthia & Robert Siegel  
Marc Steinberg  
Strake Foundation  
Tejas Custom Boots\*  
Tootsies\*  
Tradition Bank  
Cathleen Trechter  
Village Plumbing & Home Services\*  
Winston & Strawn Foundation  
Winston & Strawn LLP  
Robert & Edith Zinn  
Ed & Sue Zinni

## Wildlife Guardian \$500 - \$999

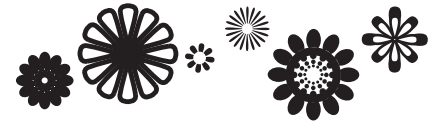
Azuz\*  
David & Cathy Beathard  
Bellaire Family Eye Care\*  
Elaine Turner Designs\*  
Andrew & Jennifer Friedberg  
Golf Club of Houston\*  
Jeryl & Jeffrey Golub  
Ira & Patricia S. Gruber  
Houston Public Library  
I.W. Marks Jewelers, LP\*  
Thanos & Lucinda Kontos  
Gwen Kunz  
Randy & Kathy Lake  
Nikky Lawell\*  
Louma Contracting\*  
Pat & Diane McLaughlan  
Molly Richardson\*  
Edith Shreeve

## Wildlife Supporter \$250 - \$499

Aquarium Design Group\*  
Armando's\*  
Bering's\*  
BreakAway Speed Sports Training\*  
Cammarata Pediatric Dentistry Group\*  
Carrabba's\*  
Anthony Chavez & Terry Leavitt-Chavez  
Rodney & Judy Creel  
Lesia Curry  
Gerard & Deborah Del Junco  
Cynthia Edmondson  
Fiori Spa\*  
Meredith Flaherty\*  
Robert & Janis Frank  
French Cuff Boutique\*  
Melissa Geis  
Dr. Cullen Geiselman  
Steven Ginzburg  
John & Joanne Go  
Google, Inc.\*  
Highlands Presbyterian Camp & Retreat Center\*  
Hotel Granduca\*  
Houston Ballet\*  
Mavis & Wendy Kelsey  
Mark Lowes & Kimberly Godfrey Lowes  
Mariquita Masterson\*  
Dr. William Murphy, Jr. & Judy Murphy  
Dr. Charlene & Scott Owens

Mellody Panzer  
Trisha Pollard  
Sumita Prasad  
Martha & Walt Richardson  
Ellis & Beverly Rudy  
Michael & Janine Schueppert  
Dr. Dan Seilheimer & Barbara Reid  
Lee-Hwei & Hsiang-Ning Sun  
Doris Taylor  
Venetian Blind & Floor Carpet One\*  
Kathleen Wiesenthal  
Craig & Gayle Wooten  
Andrew Zipper & Christine Bourget  
Hilary Zuzawa

*\* denotes In-Kind donations*



## In Honor Of...

**Steven Ginzburg**  
Melissa Levin

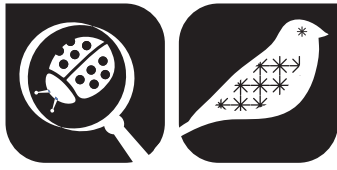
## In Memory Of...

**Hana & Arthur Ginzburg**  
John & Nancy Preston

*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

11

## New & Renewing Members

*The Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members for the Winter Quarter from November 15, 2015 to February 15, 2016.*

### Wildlife Guardian \$500

Gwen Kunz

### Wildlife Supporter \$250

Susan & Justin Caldwell  
Jennifer & Ben Cowan  
Lindsey & Nathan Shotwell

### Wildlife Partner \$100

Mara Andersen & Raji Alatassi  
Ginny & Richard Caminari  
Aliza Geretz & Ben Mayer  
Anna & Scott Goodman  
Mollie Gordon  
Blayne Gunderman & Christian Kovacs  
Jennifer & Sam Hansen  
Ayanna & Keneth Lee  
Rebecca & Clay Lilienstern  
Heather Mervis & Wade Clark  
Lisa Morgan  
Priya & Manjunath Shetty  
Pamela & Andrew Susman  
Lisa & Phillip Wright  
Shizhen Zhang & Travis Starnes

### Family \$65

Daniela & Toyin Adeola  
Adriana Atencio & Javier Gonzalez  
M. A. Beauchemin & G. Gray  
Ashley Beavan  
Salim Bessaoud  
Emily & Jayer Chung  
Meredith & James Clarage II  
Teresa Connell  
Maria Dajoyag-Mejia & Genaro Mejia  
Gina & Duane Dixon

Toria English  
Johnnie P. & Winfred C. Frazier  
Marci & Jeffrey Gilbert  
Rose & Christian Haddon  
Jennifer Herendeen  
Jane Herring & John Baird  
Paula & Geoffrey Hoffman  
Heather Kaiser-Hahn & Todd Hahn  
Fran Koiner & James Park  
Tracy & Adam Larson  
Marjorie & George Leventon  
Lisa & Steve Lim  
Laura & Stephen Louis  
Sabrina & Asif Mahmood  
Barbara & Richard Massey  
Aileen & Andrew McCormick  
Niharika & Maneesh Mehra  
Beth & Jim Murphy  
Linda Steen Norris & Lee Norris  
Amanda Olson & Sheila Pinyan  
Sonali & Parag Parekh  
Tiffany & Brett Podolsky  
Kimberly Roznowski  
Preeti Shah & Manich Vakil  
Dara & Kirk Sims  
Ashley Streetman  
Camille & Lee Tankersley  
Mary & Chan Tysor  
Iryna Vashkevich & Alex Autukhovich  
Janet Wagner & Tim Mayhle  
Larissa Washbourne  
Betsy & Jim Winn  
Naomi & Brian Wittlin  
Marissa & Todd Womble  
Rong Zhou & Yuxing Du

### Student/Senior/Individual \$35

Gerard del Junco  
Cindy Douglass  
Julie Gold  
Julie Grob  
Peggy McGuire  
Emily Martinez  
Johanna Moran  
Jennifer Nelsen  
Shirley A. Nix  
Kazumi Oka  
Kirk Poorman

## Member Benefits

### Family Members & higher

receive discounts on classes, camps, and field trips, and have early registration privileges.

### Wildlife Partners & higher

additionally have pavilion reservation privileges.



## Membership and Gift Form

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

Name Address City Zip

Phone Email

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

- ☐ Student/Senior/Individual \$ 35
- ☐ Family 65
- ☐ Wildlife Partner 100
- ☐ Wildlife Supporter 250
- ☐ Wildlife Guardian 500

- ☐ Wildlife Benefactor \$ 1,000
- ☐ Explorer Circle 5,000
- ☐ Investigator Circle 10,000
- ☐ 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

7112 NEWCASTLE ST  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BELLAIRE  
TEXAS 77401  
PERMIT NO. 356

### Spring Classes

*page 4*

### Walks, Talks, & Spring Birding

*pages 3 & 7*



### Summer Science Camp & Sneak-a-Peek Information

*pages 5 & 6*

# Spring Activities



### Spring Break Camps

Ages 5 to 10

Now from 9 am - 3:30 pm  
with optional After Care  
available til 5:30 pm

*page 4*



### Park & Garden News

*page 8*

