Summer Program Registration

Don’t miss out on summer science fun at the center! Register online at www.naturediscoverycenter.org.

Registration is as easy as 1-2-3.
1. Follow links to our Summer Camp/Class Registration Forms & login or create a login if you don’t have one yet.
2. Select camps or classes you want to sign up for.
3. Choose your method of payment.

Summer Science Campers (ages 5 - 10) will travel around the world exploring 5 Continents in 5 days, learn about pioneers on the Texas frontier, make fizzy, bubbly chemical reactions, and get to know different animal groups as they investigate Insects: Our Six Legged Friends, or Vertebrates: Animals with Bones. Our camps will actively engage kids in these immersive topics through hands-on investigation, group games, crafts, and more! Camp details are listed on page 3.

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 4 for details.

Save these dates!

Family Nature Nights  (see page 4 for details)
Wednesdays, June 3, July 8, & August 5 at 6:30 pm

Park After Dark Night Hikes  (see page 4 for details)
Fridays, June 12 & 26 at 8:30 pm

Bees You Never Hear About (see back cover for more)
Saturday, June 27 at 10 am

Summer Foraging in Houston (see back cover for more)
Sunday, June 28 from 1 - 4 pm

Meet the Animals - Amphibians
Sunday, July 12 at 2 pm, $5/person paid at the door

Upcoming Special Events for Fall 2015

Pumpkin Patch
Saturday & Sunday, October 17 & 18, 11 am - 4 pm

21st Annual Twilight Gala at the Houstonian Hotel
Friday, November 20
6:30 pm - Midnight
From the Director’s Desk:

Dear Friends,

We had a wonderful and busy spring. I am thrilled with the positive response many of you have shared about the completion of Phase One of the Gateway Project, the renovations to the historic Henshaw House that serves as our nature center. I often hear comments like:

“The building is so much brighter and more open”

“It feels more welcoming”

“The redesigned classrooms are great for kids”

We aim to create that same, bright, fresh, and welcoming feeling in the one acre surrounding the Nature Center by renovating animal enclosures, adding a new outside bathroom, redesigning the native landscaping, and building new sensory gardens during Phase Two of the project.

Each of these updates will create a more enjoyable experience for our visitors. The redesigned animal enclosures will provide enlarged space for our outdoor animals in a more natural environment making viewing more accessible for kids of all ages. The new bathroom building will help us better accommodate large groups: the deck of the new outdoor bathroom will feature a trough sink at child height that will allow 4 kids to wash their hands at the same time, and added bathrooms will reduce strain and wait time for our three current restrooms.

The Gateway Project is committed to preserving the character of the Henshaw House and surrounding grounds while providing for its current function as a premier science and nature education facility. The careful planning is now complete, and we are planning a celebratory groundbreaking event to kick off the Phase Two renovations. Be on the look out for more details soon. I look forward to seeing you there.

Henry Owen

Center Welcomes New Development Director

This spring, the board and staff of the Nature Discovery Center welcomed Michelle Vryn as our new Director of Development. In this role she manages all fundraising efforts including annual funds, major gifts, grant writing and donor relations. Born in the Texas Hill Country, Michelle has always had a love for natural space. While earning her M.A. in environmental anthropology, Michelle conducted research on the role that values play in private landowners’ conservation activities. This work provoked her strong belief that the future of our natural resources is directly dependent on how well youth understand and appreciate the importance of their natural world. She has found a great fit in the Nature Discovery Center’s dedicated team that works to enhance visitors’ connection with nature. Armed with a passion for parks and nonprofit management, Michelle is eager to use her background to help Nature Discovery Center articulate its programmatic impact and vision to the community.
Summer Science Camp 2015

5 Continents in 5 Days: Habitats Around the World with Mica Segal
Jun 8 - 12 WAIT LIST ONLY OR Jun 15 - 19

Take a journey around the globe to investigate the unique habitats of 5 of the 7 continents. What makes life so different in Australia and Africa? What kinds of animals can be found on each continent and why are they there? Get ready for a globe-trotting adventure full of games, crafts, animals and more!

Vertebrates: Animals with Bones with Eric Duran
Jun 22 - 26 OR Jun 29 - Jul 3

Come explore the world of animals with backbones. We’ll spend each day of camp with a different group of vertebrates from around the world: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. We’ll learn what makes each group of vertebrates unique and wonderful.

Wild West in Texas with Laura Lopez
Jul 6 - 10 OR Jul 13 - Jul 17

Embrace the wild west as you learn about life on the frontier in this camp that will have you playing the part of a Texas pioneer. Discover the hardships pioneers faced as they lived off the land and relied on their knowledge of plants and animals to survive. How did they do it? Could you have survived the 1800s in Texas? Come find out during this wild week camp!

Fizz, Bubble, Pop! with Jenni Malone
Jul 20 - 24 OR Jul 27 - 31 - BOTH WAIT LIST ONLY

From baking powder and vinegar volcanoes to “magic” paper that can turn green or pink and back again, chemical reactions are fizzy, fun, and surprising! Sign up for a week of hands-on scientific discovery, interactive games, chemical inspired crafts, and more!

Insects: Our Six Legged Friends with Eric Duran
Aug 3 - 7 OR Aug 10 - 14

Join us for a fascinating week uncovering the most varied group of animals on Earth, the insects. Whether they creep and crawl under ground, fly through the air, or glide across the water, these animals have amazing life histories and survival stories! We’ll learn all about them in the classroom and outside.
summer family fun

Sneak-A-Peek Pre-K Classes

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. 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 am - 11:15 am

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

2015 Dates & Topics:

- Jun 9, 10, 11: Flutterby Butterflies
- Jun 16, 17, 18: Wonders of Water
- Jun 23, 24, 25: Life Under Logs
- Jun 30, Jul 1, 2: Sparkly Science
- Jul 7, 8, 9: Ladybugs (& Other Beetles)
- Jul 14, 15, 16: Life in the Ocean
- July 21, 22, 23: Fun with Fossils
- July 28, 29, 30: Soap Bubble Science
- Aug 4, 5, 6: Busy Bees

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

Register at 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 mmaple@naturediscoverycenter.org if you need assistance.

Outdoor Adventure Play Day

Saturday, June 20 from 10 am – noon

FREE - For Kids Ages 5 to 10

Spend a day in the sun with the Girl Scouts of Cadette Troop 21182. The scouts will lead a lesson all about healthy eating as well as play games for exercise. All who attend will be provided snacks, a healthy eating pamphlet, and FUN!

For more information: gs21182@yahoo.com

FREE - For Kids Ages 2 to 4

The Nature Discovery Center will host area preschoolers for a morning of adventure play using earth’s elements. Sand and water will be available for fun, messy play at the south end of Russ Pitman Park near the playground.

Family Nature Nights Pack in Science Fun!

Select Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 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.

Cost: $10/family (Drop in program)

June 3 - Terrific Texas Turtles
July 8 - Owls & other Urban Birds
August 5 - Slithery Snakes

Park After Dark Hikes

Our night walks give you and your family a unique opportunity to explore Russ Pitman Park after dark with a center staff member to guide you. Come learn about the nocturnal animals that call Russ Pitman Park home!

Cost: $5/person
Advance registration required. Visit us at naturediscoverycenter.org to register.

June 12 at 8:30 pm
Nocturnal Animals

June 26 at 8:30 pm
Owls in the Park
fall birding activities

**Hawk Watch Birding Trip**

**Friday, September 25**
8 am – 6 pm

Mary Ann Beauchemin will lead a birding trip for NDC Senior Members to the Smith Point Hawk Watch at the height of raptor migration. Full trip details can be found on our website: www.naturediscoverycenter.org/hawk-watch

Advance registration required. Register and become a member online, or call us at 713-667-6550 to sign up.

**Center to Co-sponsor ‘Swift Night Out’ Events**

Join us for our family friendly ‘Swift Night Out’ events. Mark your calendars and come 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. We often count over 500 Chimney Swifts in some locations at this time of year!

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 more details and updates closer to the date, see www.naturediscoverycenter.org.

**Dates & Locations for 2015:**

**Tuesday, August 25 at 7:45 pm – Swift Night Out at Whole Foods Market**
OR Pershing Middle School (Exact location TBD in August.)

**Friday, September 4 at 7:30 pm – Swift Night Out at the Nature Discovery Center**

**Friday, September 18 at 7:30 pm – Swift Night Out at Lakewood Elementary in Sugar Land**

**Spring Quarter Volunteers**

**Animal Care**
William He
Hannah Radcliffe
Jonathan Radcliffe
Dana Shay
Jaka Tanugraha
Cate Urbani
Matthew Urbani
Mary Grace Urbani
Arthur Yong

**Hummingbird Feeders**
Sherri Chilivitis

**NAYD Field Trips**
Betsy Black
Debbie Lancaster

**General Handymen**
Gary Gray
Sword Plumbing

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

**Aviary Care**
Ellen Hastedt
Karen Borovsky
Dr. Dan Jordan

**Special Projects**
Frank Farese
Roland Groenenboom
Mary Jiang
A. D. Patton

**Birdwalks, Field Trips, & Great Backyard Bird Count**
Betsy Black
Marcy Brown
Gary Gray

**Tree Walks in the Park**
Jim McKee

**Discovery Rooms**
Riya Varadachary

**Monday Morning Gardeners**
Betsy Black
Debbie Lancaster
Jenni Malone
Celeste Mead
Shannon Morrison
Belinda Rossiter
Mary Ellen Taylor
Miao Wang

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

**Welcome Volunteer**
Margaret Dybala

**Special Thanks to the Following**

**Larry Dybala** for caring for our Purple Martin house.

**Terrell Sword & Sword Plumbing** for continuing repairs and upkeep to pipes, leaky faucets and fountains in the park and house!

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

**Eagle Scout Projects**
Removing bamboo & planting native plants
Brendan Miller

Constructing a section of decomposed granite trail
Michael Schmitt

Removing non-native plants & planting a native plant garden at the south entrance
Bryan Dunn

**Calling All Volunteers**

**Teen or Adult Plant Watering Help Needed this Summer**

Park Steward Mary Ann Beauchemin needs volunteers to water plants in the park during our hot summer. Schedule to be arranged. If you are interested in this volunteer role, please email Mary Ann Beauchemin at mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org
The Hana and Arthur Ginzbarg Nature Discovery Center is most grateful to the following corporations, foundations, and individuals for their generous support between May 15, 2014 and May 15, 2015:

**Discovery Circle $15,000 & up**
- Anonymous
- The Cullen Foundation
- Steve Raddack, Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 3
- Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
- Houston Endowment Inc.
- Patrons for Bellaire Parks
- Russ Pitman

**Investigator Circle $10,000 - $14,999**
- ACME Party & Tent*
- The Brown Foundation, Inc.
- Ginzbarg Family Fund administered by the Greater Houston Community Foundation
- Aileen & Andy McCormick
- R.D. Mullineaux
- Seay Foundation

**Explorer Circle $5,000 - $9,999**
- Knox Foundation
- Pat & Bob Lunn
- Janie & Stuart Mitcham
- Debbie & Chris Patton
- Bruce Storts

**Wildlife Benefactor $1,000 - $4,999**
- Sharon & Jeffrey Addicks
- Jamie & Dr. Robert Allen
- Mike Aisup
- Catharine & Eric Anderson
- Cathy & David Beathard
- Bellaire Young Mothers
- Vicki & John Brentin
- Brenda & Greg Cauthen
- CenterPoint Energy
- Chrishi & Sacha Clark
- Christiane & James Copeland
- Jennifer & Benjamin Cowan
- Lisa & Steven Derenthal
- Durio & Company, PC.
- Eurocar-Werk
- Exxon Mobil Foundation
- Robert Finch
- Dr. Johnnie & Mr. Winfred Frazier
- Dr. Cullen Geiselman
- Gimmal
- Susan & Kevin Golden
- Jeryl & Jeffrey Golub
- Tracy & Charles R. Hallenberger
- Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
- Kinder Morgan Foundation
- Kroger*
- Brenda & Nicholas Lanza
- Lewis Law Firm
- Locke Lord, LLP
- Laura & Stephen Louis
- Kimberly Godfrey Lowes & Mark Lowes
- Linda Steen Norris & Lee Norris
- Barbara & Donald Ostdiek
- Bela Patel
- Elaine Pickle
- Prosperity Bank
- Marci Rosenberg & Ben Samuels
- Davene & Kevin Schroder
- Thor Schuler
- Cynthia & Robert Siegel
- Lynne Skinner
- Cindy & Alan Taylor
- Cynthia Rowan Taylor
- Tradition Bank
- Cathleen Trechter & Dr. Ed Biegert
- Cathleen & Otto Trechter
- Venetian Blind & Floor Carpet One
- Geraldine Waters & Louis Waters, Jr.
- Winston & Strawn Foundation
- Winston & Strawn LLP
- Edith & Robert Zinn

**Wildlife Guardian $500 - $999**
- Barb & Jonathan Baliff
- Kristin Berry
- Lynda Clemmons
- Arthur Feldman
- Marybeth & Thomas Flaherty
- Lisa Gauthier
- Patricia S. & Ira Gruber
- Herman Family Fund
- Terese Hershey
- Austin Hill
- Karen & Alan Howard
- Lynsey Jackson
- Brenda & Thomas Koch
- Lucinda & Thanos Kontos
- Gwen Kunz
- Suzanne Kupiec
- Kathy & Randy Lake
- Deborah LaMonica
- Nikky Lawell
- Rebecca & O. Clayton Lillianstern
- Beth & Tim Logan
- Diane & Pat McAulagn
- Sandra & Dr. Philip Nauert
- Melanie & Michael Norton
- Carol Phillips & Richard Phillips, Jr.
- Samuels Foundation
- Brook & Ryan Shelton
- Eileen & Mitch Shults
- Pam & Chad Thayer

**Wildlife Supporter $250 - $499**
- Debbie & John Adams
- Kelly Apple & Jason Orsak
- Betsy & David Black
- Christine Bourget & Andrew Zimper
- Lagnia & David Clark
- Judy & Rodney Creel
- Sarah Davis & Kent Adams
- Becky Galloway
- Cynthia & Robert Haines
- Susan & Michael Hawes
- Katherine & William Head
- Mary & Carl King
- Kathy & Nam Le
- Pamela Lewis & Chris Collins
- Meghan & Ken Lutschg
- Laura & Price Magness
- Janet Ann & Dr. Thomas Mehloff

* denotes In-Kind donations

**In Memory Of...**
- Eugene Bullard
- Michael Casey
- Richard Foster
- Steven Ginzbarg
- Marie LaPlante
- Taylor Mahinda
- Russ Pitman
- Beverly Roberts
- Doris Taylor

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!
New & Renewing Members

The Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members for the Spring Quarter from February 15, 2015 to May 15, 2015.

Wildlife Supporter $250
Patricia & Michael Atkins
Betsy & David Black
Brenda & Greg Cauthen
Dr. Richard Goldfarb
Charlene Kline Owens & Scott Owens
Barbara Reid & Dan Seilheimer
Hsiang-Ning & Lee-Hwei Sun

Wildlife Partner $100
Abby Abraham & Anita Toth
Ana Alvarado & Edgardo Melendez
Cheryl Bright-West & Patrick West
Laura Conely
Marina & Vladimir Crkvenjakov
Deepali & Matthew Cykowski
Megan & James Engelbrecht
Viviana Faillace
Asmait Gebrekristos & Petros Keleta

Family $60
Christine & Ralph Adams
Cat Anderson
Emily & David Anmuth
Karen & Larry Aptekar
M. A. Beauchemin & G. Gray
Sandra Belmont & Alfonso Fuentes
Esther Boender & Roland Groenenboom
Jody & Matthew Butler
Jennifer & Alan Cable
Virginia & Ron Camerlo
Kelly & Brian Chapin
Gretchen & Ian Cion
Leslie Clawson
Leslie & Myles Culhane
Maylis Curie & Hugh Hopewell
Mini Das & Howard Gifford
Heather & Michael Davis
Georgine De Roth & Henri Justino
Neda & Marko Dodig
Leslie & Jack Fields
Andrea & Ken Freedman
Misako Futamura
Brooke & Brian Gaddis
Clare Gentry & Steve Lorch
Ann & David Goldfarb
Jenny & Jeff Gorski
Lauren & Wade Habiby
Amanda & Robert Hallow
Krystal Hatchett & Robert Jacobs
Ann & David Heikkinen
Jane Herrin & John Baird
Laura & Mark Hobeika
Burdette & Monica Huffman
Tina & Jason Ipe
Janna Johnson
Kristi & Corey Johnson
Sandy & Kevin Jordan
Rita & Martin Keeler
Jennifer & Adam Kirk
Rachel Kosoy & David Schwartz
Jane Lesnick & James Schafer
 Shirley Li & David Matson
Henry Liddle

Student/Senior/Individual $35
Grace Beam
Charlie Brasier
Leslie Calvert
Fred Campbell
Connie Clark
Reta Daugherty
Paula Dittrick

Wildlife Guardian
Wildlife Benefactor $1,000
Explorer Circle 5,000
Investigator Circle 10,000
Discovery Circle 15,000

Wildlife Supporter $100
Marina & Vladimir Crkvenjakov
Deepali & Matthew Cykowski
Megan & James Engelbrecht
Viviana Faillace
Asmait Gebrekristos & Petros Keleta

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

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Discovery Circle 15,000

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Deepali & Matthew Cykowski
Megan & James Engelbrecht
Viviana Faillace
Asmait Gebrekristos & Petros Keleta

Faculty & Staff $25
Christine & Ralph Adams
Cat Anderson
Emily & David Anmuth
Karen & Larry Aptekar
M. A. Beauchemin & G. Gray
Sandra Belmont & Alfonso Fuentes
Esther Boender & Roland Groenenboom
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 Shirley Li & David Matson
Henry Liddle

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

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

Membership and Gift Form (To become a member or renew online, visit www.naturediscoverycenter.org/join)
Special Summer Talks

We’re offering some very special talks by guest speakers this summer. Visit us at naturediscoverycenter.org for more information about these talks and about the speakers we’ve invited to give them.

The Bees You Never Hear About
with Michael Eckenfels
Saturday, June 27 at 10 am
Local naturalist Michael Eckenfels will lead a fascinating exploration of local solitary bee species, bees that most of us never hear about. There will be an indoor talk, followed by a bee hike out in the park. Michael Eckenfels is a volunteer in the Texas Master Naturalist program and leads field walks and presentations on native bees throughout the region. FREE

Summer Foraging in Houston
with Dr. Mark “Merriwether” Vorderbruggen
Sunday, June 28 from 1 - 4 pm
Join Dr. Mark “Merriwether” Vorderbruggen for a fun, informative exploration of edible wild plants available in and around Houston in the summer. Bring your sense of adventure, and your culinary curiosity.

Advance registration required. Limited to 18 Adults.
$30/person.

We will be closed on July 4th.
We hope you and your family have a blast!