





june: july: august 2015

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



nature discovery center

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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 \$2/child.

MISSION

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

naturediscoverycenter.org

nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE BELLAIRE, TX 77401 T 713.667.6550 F 713.667.7654







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







center news

Staff

Henry Owen, *Director*Mary Ann Beauchemin
Maura Denman
Eric Duran
Anne Eisner
Ronnie Renick
Michelle Vryn

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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.



Center Welcomes New Development Director



Michelle Vryn, Director of Development 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 Details

Ages:

5 to 10 year olds

Days & Times:

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

Cost:

\$230/wk Members or \$290/wk Nonmembers

After Care (optional)

Days & Times:

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

Cost: \$60/week

What to bring:

Kids bring lunches (we provide snacks/water)

Registration

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

naturediscoverycenter.org

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION UPDATE for MEMBERS

Members, we are now registering kids for camp under your Member profiles. You no longer need to log in as each child to register them for camp!

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

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!



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.

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 naturediscoverycetner.org to register.

June 12 at 8:30 pm Nocturnal Animals

June 26 at 8:30 pm Owls in the Park



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



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/

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

volunteer news

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 enrtance Bryan Dunn

Spring Quarter Volunteers

Animal Care

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

Aviary Care

Ellen Hastedt Karen Borovsky Dr. Dan Jordan

Birdwalks, Field Trips, & Great Backyard Bird Count

Betsy Black Marcy Brown Gary Gray

Discovery Rooms

Riya Varadhachary

General Handymen

Gary Gray Sword Plumbing

Hummingbird Feeders

Sherri Chilivetis

NAYD Field Trips

Betsy Black Debbie Lancaster

Park & Plant Care

Don Verser John Willis

Special Projects

Frank Farese Roland Groenenboom Mary Jiang A. D. Patton

Tree Walks in the Park

Jim McKee

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

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 Seav 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 Alsup Catharine & Eric Anderson Cathy & David Beathard Bellaire Young Mothers Vicki & John Brentin Brenda & Greg Cauthen CenterPoint Energy Chrsiti & Sacha Clark Christiane & James Copeland Jennifer & Benjamin Cowan Lisa & Steven Derenthal Durio & Company, P.C. 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*

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Venetian Blind & Floor Carpet One Geraldine Waters & Louis Waters, Jr.

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* denotes In-Kind donations

Wildlife Guardian \$500 - \$999

Barb & Jonathan Baliff Kristin Berry Lynda Clemmons Arthur Feldman Marvbeth & 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 Lilienstern Beth & Tim Logan Diane & Pat McLaughlan Sandra & Dr. Philip Nauert Melanie & Michael Norton

Carol Phillips & Richard Phillips, Jr. Samuels Foundation Brook & Ryan Shelton Eileen & Mitch Shults

Pam & Chad Thayer

In Memory Of... **Eugene Bullard** Michael Casev Richard Foster Steven Ginzbarg Marie LaPlante Taylor Mahinda

> Russ Pitman Beverly Roberts **Doris Taylor**

Wildlife Supporter \$250 - \$499

Debbie & John Adams Kelly Apple & Jason Orsak Betsy & David Black Christine Bourget & Andrew Zimper Lagenia & 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 Mehlhoff

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

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 Aby 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 Julie Gold & Terrell Sword Monique Green & Cedric James Kamilla & Clay Guinn Pamela & Pat Hughes Alicia Jarmon Debra & Darayus Kolah Meiyee Ku & Raymond Chung Fei & Wenliang Li Teresa Lin & Stephen Lai Danielle & Marcus Litofsky Amy Lopez & Elaine Spruce Sheryl Maruca Laura & Martin Mathus Florencia Mcallister & Ismet Sahin Azi Motekallem & Shervin Assassi Eduardo Ranon Martha & Walter Richardson Chris Robins Jennifer & Jason Rosenzweig Belinda & Alan Rossiter Pam Smolen Tonya & Bill Spell Pamela Steele Celia & Michael Vieau

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 & Rion 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 Genrty & Steve Lorch Ann & David Goldfarb Jenny & Jeff Gorski Lauren & Wadie Habiby Amanda & Robert Halbert Krystal Hatchett & Robert Jacobs Ann & David Heikkinen Jane Herring & John Baird Laura & Mark Hobeika Burdette & Monica Huffman Tina & Jaison 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

Kenneth Loiselle Katharine Martin Alicia & Hunter Mcintosh Monica & Lance Meyer Veronica & Peter Nasser Cyndie Orton & Lyndale Newcomb Teala & Cole Parish Brianne & Miguel Perez Kathy Ploch & Jennifer Stagner Tiffany & Brett Podolsky Katharine & Steven Powell Sara & David Pybus Don Quaintance Brooke & Jonathan Reichek Samina & Suhel Sanwarwala Melissa Schepps & Mark Feferman Suzy & Herb Shapiro Amy Shore & Matt Weston Victoria & Chris Skinner Neeta Somaiah & George Simon Beverly & Dave Sufian Candace & Brian Thomas Monika Tume Sudhakar & Chiranjeevi Tummala Stephanie & Matthew Turk Irma Ugalde Monika Ummat & Pankaj Satija Melissa & Frank Vasquez Tricia & Edward Wade Diane & Craig Wooten Lori & Alexander Yi Zerong Yu & Daoyun Ji Rong Zhou & Yuxing Du Lesley & Rodrick Zvavaniania

Student/Senior/ Individual \$35

Grace Beam Charlie Brasier Leslie Calvert Fred Campbell Connie Clark Reta Daugherty Paula Dittrick

Marilyn Emerich Melissa Geis Steven Ginzbarg Sandra Hale Annette Kavin Mark Kulstad Amy Lara Peggy McGuire Scott Miller Shirley A. Nix Leora Nowitz Susan Pierce Linda Rippert Ed Robinson Anna Russo Jane Schnell Gloria Smith Billie Strickland Les Wolf Nora Wolff Xinna Zhang



Family Members & Higher

receive discounts on classes, camps, and field trips.

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

Angela & Andrew Wainright

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

Name		Addresss		City	Zip
Phone O Your	may acknowledge my gift (of \$	Email	the Nature Discovery Cente	er newsletter	
	Student/Senior/Individua Family Wildlife Partner Wildlife Supporter Wildlife Guradian		O Wildlife Benefactor O Explorer Circle O Investigator Circle O Discovery Circle		Will your employer match your tax-deductible dues and gift?



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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.



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!

