



december 2015 : january : february 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 SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
- 4 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
- 5 WALKS, TALKS & MORE
- 6 WINTER BIRDING
- 7 PUMPKIN PATCH THANKS
- 8 TWILIGHT GALA THANKS
- 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 \$2/child.


MISSION

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

naturediscoverycenter.org

 NatureDiscoveryCenter

 NDCHouston

 naturediscoverycenter

nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550
F 713.667.7654



Gateway Project Renovation Phase Two Begins

We are excited about our renovation project! The project is scheduled to last 4 – 6 months. The nature center, and the majority of Russ Pitman Park, will be open to the public during construction. Please use our South parking lot off Evergreen St. and enjoy the short walk through the park to the nature center.

For more details about the Gateway Project visit www.naturediscoverycenter.org/gateway

A Unique Opportunity to Leave Your Mark on the Park

Buy an engraved brick for our new entrance walkway!

See page 2 for more information.

Save the Dates!

Annual Meeting Dec 2 - 7 pm (p5)

Monthly Winter Bird Walks with Mary Ann
Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3 from noon - 1:15 pm (p6)

Photos with Santa by John Daugherty Realtors
Dec 5 from 10 am - 1 pm (p3)

Monday Gardening Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1 - 9:30 am (p5)

Nature Walks on the Wild Side with Mary Ann
Dec 12, Jan 23, Feb 21 - 10am (p5)

Winter Break Camps Dec 21, Dec 22, Dec 28, Dec 29
9:30 am - 3:30 pm; optional after care until 5:30 pm (p4)

Meet the Animals with Eric Duran
Jan 10 - 2 pm (p5)

Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 13 - 9 am (p6)





Staff

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

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Lisa Derenthal
President
Ben Cowan
Vice President
Steve Louis
Treasurer
Chris Copeland
Secretary
Aileen McCormick
Past President

Members At Large

Brenda Cauthen
Spencer Curry
Clay Lilienstern
Jennifer Nelsen
Alex Tsui
Craig Wooten

Advisory Council

Cecilia Alatriz
Robert & Jamie Allen
Kathleen Ballanfant
Kristin Berry
Jane Dembski
Marybeth Flaherty
Winfred & Johnnie 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

Leave Your Mark on the Park! Buy an Engraved Brick

Help support our renovation project and leave your mark by engraving a brick for our new entry path. We are repurposing our much loved bricks from the pavilion area behind the nature center and turning them into a beautiful entry path from Newcastle St. Single bricks are available for \$100 each, and three bricks are available for \$270. Learn more or place your order online at www.naturediscoverycenter.org/bricks



Bricks can be engraved with 2 lines of text, with up to 24 characters per line including spaces and punctuation.

NDC Seeks Volunteer Teacher for our Field Trip Program

The Nature Discover Center is looking for an energetic and enthusiastic individual who has a passion for science, nature, and children to volunteer with our field trip program. This volunteer will work closely with our staff naturalists and other volunteer teachers to lead our discovery-based field trip program **Nature at Your Doorstep**. This individual will be a crucial member of the team in adding to the overall Nature Discovery Center field trip experience.

Primary Responsibilities:

- * Co-lead our discovery-based field trip program Nature at Your Doorstep.
- * Lead interactive hands-on experiences in our science based Discovery Rooms.
- * Volunteers will lead a tour of the nature center and park to a small group (8-12) of early elementary students and their adult chaperones.
- * Field trips are scheduled weekday mornings. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour time blocks.
- * Frequency is flexible, weekly or monthly.

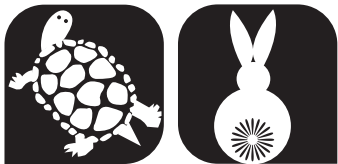
Qualifications:

- * Some College preferred with a focus in science, education, or related field
- * Enjoy spending time outdoors throughout all seasons
- * Ability to work well independently and in a team
- * Teaching experience preferred
- * Excellent oral communication skills with groups and individuals
- * Background check and in-house training required

To apply for this volunteer position, please send a cover letter and resume to Anne Eisner, Program Coordinator, at aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org.



For additional volunteer opportunities, see page 9.



special activities

3

NEW PROGRAM

Beginning Birding Program for Kids

Ages: 7 – 12 year olds

Dates: Saturdays; Jan 16, 30, Feb 13, 27 & March 12

Time: 9:00 am to 10:15 am

Class size: 5 - 8 kids

Cost: \$50



Bring: Students can bring a pair of binoculars or use ours. Please dress for the weather, wear closed toed shoes, a hat or visor, sunscreen and mosquito repellent as needed.

Do you have kids who are interested in birds? Do they like to get outside to learn more about nature?

This winter we are offering a new Beginning Birding program for kids, led by Senior Staff Naturalist and long time birder, Mary Ann Beauchemin. This series of 5 classes will be offered every other Saturday. Kids will learn how to use binoculars and bird books, and get some tips to help them identify different kinds of birds. We will also play some fun games to help kids practice learning how to identify local birds. Most classes will meet at the Nature Discovery Center, but a few of the classes will meet at other nearby sites, like Willow Water Hole, to look for birds like herons, egrets, and ducks. One adult is welcome to accompany each child at each of the class sessions at no charge.

Note: If there is interest to continue into the spring, we can schedule a second session of classes to do that!



SAVE THE DATE

Photos with Santa

Saturday, December 5

from 10 am - 1 pm



Bring the whole family for Photos with Santa. Visitors will receive a **FREE** photo, courtesy of **John Daugherty Realtors**.

Spring Fling

Saturday, April 16

from 11 am - 3 pm

Come celebrate Earth Day and the beauty of Spring at our family friendly Spring Fling community event.

After School Play Day



Wednesday, February 24 from 2 - 4 pm

Early Dismissal Again? Come to the Nature Discovery Center for a fun filled afternoon. Play games, meet the animals, listen to stories, and more.

Cost: Free for the whole family, donations welcomed. An adult must accompany children.

This is a drop in program, no advance registration required.

Nature Bike Tour of Brays Bayou

Sunday, February 28 from 2 - 3:30 pm

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

Cost: \$8 (members); \$10 (non-members) ages 4 years old and up

Advance registration required. Register online soon to reserve your spots!





children's programs

4

Winter Camps

Ages 5 - 10

Camps meet from 9:30 - 3:30.
Optional After Care until 5:30.

Register online. Members login under their member profile.

Advance registration is required.

Cost per day: \$45 member / \$55 nonmember; After care \$15

Dec. 21 – Animals in Winter

How do animals cope with the colder temperatures of winter? Migration, hibernation, and just bearing through it all, we'll explore these different ways that North American animals cope. Bring a warm jacket, and a sense of adventure.

Dec. 22 – Reptile Roundup

Explore the similarities and differences in different reptile groups. We'll take a look at scales, tails, and backbones in specimens and live animals.

Dec. 28 - Art in Nature

Come explore the park, and learn about contemporary and modern artists in a natural setting. We'll create some gorgeous art, learn a lot, and have fun with art projects, journaling, and outdoor games.

Dec. 29 – Sensational Senses

We'll test our noses, observe optical illusions, tickle our tastebuds, learn the limits of our hearing, and more!

FREE Nature Story Time

Every Wednesday at 4 pm

Preschoolers and caregivers enjoy nature stories, crafts, etc.

Scout Programs

Bring your scout group to the Center! See our website for our Scout Program offerings.

Scout Programs are offered Friday - Sunday. **Advance reservations are required.**

Mr. Eric's Children's Programs Continue

Sign-up for individual classes that meet your hectic schedules, for specific topics that inspire your children, or sign up now for the entire semester to enjoy enriching experiences January - May at a savings!

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:

\$12 Member
\$20 Non-member

Members-Only Semester

Discount Price: \$190

Tuesdays - 10 am - 11:15 am

Dates & Topics:

01/12 – Animals in Winter
01/19 – Homes and Habitats
01/26 – How Many Kinds of Animals?
02/02 – Who eats whom? Food Chains
02/09 – Fine Furry Mammals
02/16 – Animals with Shells
02/23 – DINOSAURS!
03/01 – The Sun in the Sky
03/08 – Living Underground

SPRING BREAK

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
\$20 Non-member

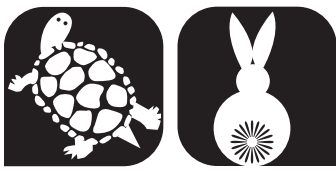
Members-Only Semester
Discount Price: \$190

Thursdays - 4 pm - 5:30 pm

Dates & Topics:

01/14 – Animals in Winter
01/21 – Animal Habitats
01/28 – Animal Diversity
02/04 – Food Webs – Who Eats Whom?
02/11 – Magnificent Mammals
02/18 – Animals with Shells
02/25 – DINOSAURS!!!
03/03 – Sun Science
03/10 – Underground Animals
SPRING BREAK
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





walks, talks & more

5

Annual Members Meeting

**Wednesday,
December 2
at 7 pm**



Members, please join us for a brief Members-only meeting in which we will vote on the slate of officers for the 2016 Board of Directors. Enjoy seasonal refreshments while you visit with the staff.

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! 🐞

Tree ID Walks

with Jim McKee

**Saturdays,
10 am to 11 am**



Interested in learning how to identify local trees? Jim McKee, a local Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher leads tree identification walks in the park, usually on the first Saturday of each month. 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. Join the walk to learn more about them.

Saturdays, 10 am - 11 am

Dates: December 5, January 9, February 6, March 5

NOTE: January's date is the second Saturday!

Where: Meet us on the front porch. Just drop in, it's free!

Monday Morning Gardening in the Park

with Park Steward & Senior Naturalist Mary Ann Beauchemin

Adults - 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 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.
mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org

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

**December 7, January 4,
and February 1, March 7
from 9:30 am to Noon**



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 walks will be about an hour long.

**Saturday, December 12, 10 am
Saturday, January 23, 10 am
Sunday, February 21, 10 am**

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

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

Meet the Animals

with Eric Duran

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

Sunday afternoons at 2 pm

January 10 - Furry, Frisky Mammals

Cost: \$5/person

This is a drop-in program. As a courtesy, please call us at 713.667.6550 if you know you plan to come with a group of 6 or more.



winter birding

6

Birds to Look For in the Park this Winter

Visit Russ Pitman Park and see if you can find some of our wintering birds!

Most winters we have:

Cooper's Hawks
Sharp Shinned Hawks
Rufous Hummingbirds
Black-chinned Hummingbirds
Northern Flickers
Ruby-crowned Kinglets
Golden-crowned Kinglets
Orange-crowned Warblers
Pine Warblers
Yellow-rumped Warblers
American Goldfinch

Some winters we have also been lucky to see:

Calliope Hummingbirds
Broad-tailed Hummingbirds
Allen's Hummingbirds
Broad-billed Hummingbirds
Brown Creepers
Blue-headed Vireos
Red-breasted Nuthatches
Winter Wrens

You never know what birds you will find when you visit the Nature Discovery Center and Russ Pitman Park in the Winter!

Visit our website to download a copy of the complete *Bird Checklist for Russ Pitman Park*. Find the link under "Resources for Birding" on the birding page: naturediscoverycenter.org/birding

Birding Wish-List

Black oil sunflower seeds

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.

Monthly Winter Bird Walks

**Wednesdays,
Noon to 1:15 pm**

Mary Ann Beauchemin will lead a monthly bird walk in Russ Pitman Park throughout the winter. In addition to our winter songbirds and hawks we have had some interesting "migrants" overwinter in the past. Most years have a variety of hummers visiting the park including several Rufous, Calliope and a few Black-chinned Hummers! We have had other winter hummer species over the years as well.

Dates: December 2, January 6, & February 3

Where: Meet us on the front porch.

Bring: Binoculars (call in advance to borrow ours)

Lunch with the Birds

**Wednesdays,
Noon to 1:15 pm**



Interested in birdwatching?

Join our free guided bird walks through Russ Pitman Park, looking for spring migrants. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles and buntings are just a few of the spring migrants you may see. We don't actually stop for lunch, but spend the hour birding instead.

Dates: February 24 - May 11

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

Bring: Binoculars, or call in advance if you need to borrow some from the Center.

Join us for the 2016 Global Great Backyard Bird Count!

Saturday, February 13, 9 am – 10:30 am

The Nature Discovery Center is excited to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) again!

Bird watchers from around the world will take part in this annual event sometime between Friday, February 12, and Monday, February 15, 2016. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers of all levels of birding experience to count birds in their own backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges.

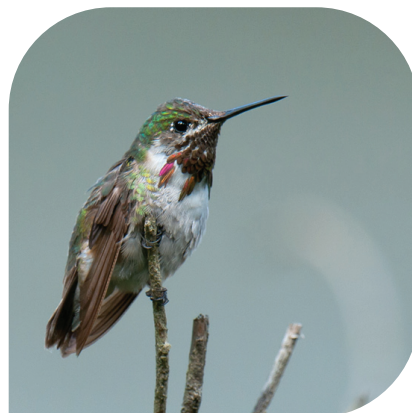


Join us on **Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016 from 9:00 to 10:30 am** for the count. We will meet at the front porch of the Nature Discovery Center. If you are a little late, just find us in the park. Families are welcome. Registration is not required.

Bring a pair of binoculars, but if you don't have any, we have a couple of extra pair here. Please call or e-mail Mary Ann ahead of time to make sure we have a pair for your use if needed. (mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org)

Checklists submitted by all "citizen scientists" help scientists and researchers learn more about how different bird species are doing, how their populations and ranges are changing, and how to protect them. Last year's record breaking GBBC turned in more than 147,265 checklists from people in over 100 countries. Even more amazing is that bird watchers reported 5,090 species with a total of 18,726,079 individual birds counted! Worldwide, Ecuador recorded the greatest number of species in 2015 with 784. A record 671 species were recorded in the United States.

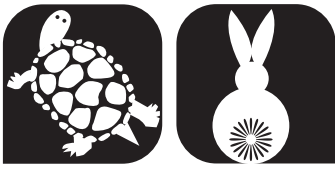
Visit our website at www.naturediscoverycenter.org for a link to more information about the GBBC!



Calliope Hummingbird
Photo by Terrell Sword



Wilson's Warbler
Photo by Richard Burton



special event thanks

7



Our 2015 Pumpkin Patch was Amazing! Many Thanks for Your Support

Our annual Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival has evolved into an incredible, award winning community event over its 22 year history! From a simple Saturday morning neighborhood event on the Center's front lawn, Pumpkin Patch has grown into a two day festival that draws approximately 4,000 visitors from throughout the Greater Houston Area to Russ Pitman Park.

Though the event is really intended to be a community event, a "friend-raiser" if you will, proceeds from Pumpkin Patch support the Center's educational programs for schools, families, children, and adults.

Pumpkin Patch makes children happy, provides family fun, and, even though the staff works very hard to put it all together, it is worth it! Over the years we have added rides, games, vendors and more and more pumpkins, but the event remains the same, just plain fun! Almost 20,000 pounds of pumpkins were sold, more pizza and sno balls eaten, food trucks enjoyed, and hay rides ridden.

Thanks to our local community for continuing to support us by attending Pumpkin Patch! We welcomed a new Pumpkin Patch sponsor, **Andrews Kurth**, and our longtime Pumpkin Patch supporter **ACME Party and Tent**, donated tents, tables, and more. Special thanks to the **Bellaire United Methodist Church** who offered free parking and ran a shuttle bus from their parking lot to our event which was a huge improvement. We also thank **Bellaire Parks and Recreation** for the use of additional tables. We couldn't have pulled off this event without them.

Our Pumpkin Patch volunteers, listed below, continue to make invaluable contributions to the event's success. We thank them for their positive attitudes, cheerful interactions with guests, and their hard work. We truly appreciate all that they do for us and for the event!

Volunteer Groups

Alexander Smith Academy Students
Angela Johnson, AT&T
Annunciation Orthodox Students
Baha'i Faith of Bellaire
Bellaire High School
Freshmen and Sophomore Baseball teams
LEO Club
National Honor Society
Bellaire Young Mothers
Beverly Hills Intermediate School students
Clear Lake ICERV Volunteers
Emery Weiner students
Energize for STEM students
Fort Settlement Middle School students
Harmony School of Science Key Club
Junior League of Houston
Lamar High School, Lets Have Courage Club

National Charity League
Heart of Texas
Bayou City
Bayou Villages
Nature Discovery Center Board of Directors
Nature Discovery Center teen volunteers
Purity With a Purpose Society
T.H. Rogers National Junior Honor Society
St. Francis Day School
Sharpstown International School students
Seven Lakes High School students
University of Houston Pre-Pharmacy students
University of Houston MVP students
University of Houston Clear Lake students
Volunteer Houston volunteers
Volunteer Match volunteers

Event Sponsors



**ANDREWS
KURTH**





special event thanks

8



Gateway to Green

November 20, 2015
The Houstonian

**Master of
Ceremonies:**
Tom Koch, Anchor,
KTRK-ABC 13 News

Many Thanks to Contributors to Our 21st Annual Twilight Gala

The spirit of this year's Twilight Gala, Gateway to Green, was evident as guests partied hard in support of our mission to ignite life-long curiosity, understanding, and respect for nature through education.

Our steadfast supporters, who make the gala our largest annual fundraiser, often have their own deep connection with nature. Contemporary visual artist Taft McWhorter is no exception. For the second year Taft has performed a live painting at the gala, benefiting the live auction. Taft's connection with nature is a deeply woven memory of his childhood.

"When I was growing up, my family used to go to Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas. I remember how peaceful it was being surrounded by nature ... I also remember that it was a place where we spent hours walking through the woods and just spending time together. The Nature Discovery Center is a similar space. It provides serenity in a city filled with busy lives."

It is through these kinds of experiences that the Nature Discovery Center helps to cultivate an understanding, appreciation and a personal relationship with the natural world. We're pleased to offer access to the sights and sounds of nature, as well as a space where wonder can reign.

We want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone involved in the success of this year's Twilight Gala. Our generous volunteers and donors helped raise very important funds to help us continue providing personal connections to nature for those that we serve.

Gala Chair

Lisa Kornhauser

Auction Co-Chairs

Ann Nguyen
Phuong Phan

Houston CPA Society Members

Sue Andrus
Kathy Ploch, CPA, CPP

Gala Sponsors

Olive

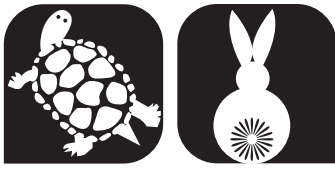
Lisa & Mark Livingston
Locke Lord LLP /
Jennifer & Ben Cowan
Aileen & Andy McCormick

Sage

Jill Bullard Almaguer
Bentley Custom Homes
Brenda & Greg Cauthen
Chris & James Copeland
Elizabeth & Spencer Curry
Lisa & Steve Derenthal
Eurocar-Werk LTD /
Cat & Eric Anderson
John Daugherty, Realtors
Johnnie & Winfred Frazier
Frost Bank
Susan & Kevin Golden
Lisa Kornhauser
with John Daugherty, Realtors
Rebecca & Clay Liliensern
Laura & Steve Louis
Patricia & Robert Lunn /
Cindy & Robert Siegal
Merrill Lynch
Patrons for Bellaire Parks
Debra and Christopher Patton
Marc Steinberg
Tradition Bank
Willing Wednesday Workers
Winston & Strawn LLP

Event Supporters

Apache Corporation
CenterPoint Energy
Janis & Bob Frank
Mayor Elect Andrew
& Jennifer Friedberg
Gimmel
Jeryl & Jeff Golub
Charlotte Jungen
Lucinda & Thanos Kontos
David Montague
Posoli Family Foundation
Prosperity Bank / Randy Dobbs
Kathleen Wiesenthal



volunteer news

9

Special Thanks to the Following

Boy Scout Troop 55 for their conservation project. Four Scouts and 3 adults removed old trail and tree sign posts from Russ Pitman Park.

Roland Groenenboom for the wonderful videos he makes for us, for his help watering plants, and for being a welcoming presence at our reception table.

Bruce Storts for replacing and refinishing the wood on 2 benches for the front porch. They look wonderful!

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!

Fall Quarter Volunteers

Animal Care
Mariana Deleon
William He
Dana Shay
Jaka Tanugraha
Arthur Yang

Aviary Care
Ellen Hastedt

Birdwalks & Hawk Watch Trip
Betsy Black
Marcy Brown
Gary Gray

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

General Handymen
Gary Gray
Terrell Sword
& Sword Plumbing

Hummingbird Feeders
Sherri Chilivets

Monday Morning Gardeners
Betsy Black
Beatrice Brown
Candy Chin
Debbie Lancaster
Donna Mayo
Celeste Mead
Shannon Morrison
Belinda Rossiter
Mary Ellen Taylor

NAYD Field Trips
Betsy Black
Debbie Lancaster

Park & Plant Care
Betsy Black
Roland Groenenboom
Amber Kittles
Don Verser
John Willis

Special Projects
Roland Groenenboom

Tree Walks in the Park
Jim McKee

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

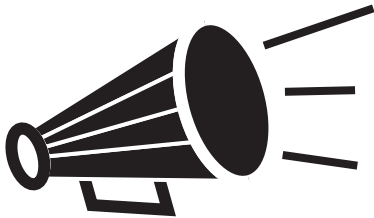
Welcome Volunteers
Margaret Dybala
Roland Groenenboom
Christina Fiorenza
Anthony Lu

Eagle Scout Projects

James Carter - built a section of decomposed granite trail.

Christian Stuart - built a section of decomposed granite trail.

Ben Portugal - replaced non-native invasive plants with native plants.



Calling all Volunteers

Winter Break Camp Counselors Needed

We're looking for counselors to help with our December Break-Out Camps over the winter break from school (Dec. 21, 22, 28 and 29). An ideal Nature Discovery Center Counselor is at least 13 years old, mature and responsible for his/her age, likes to work with kids, and can commit to being here from 9 am to 4 pm. Space is limited, so please call to interview for your spot as a Camp Counselor! On the job training will be provided.

Welcome Volunteers Wanted

The primary responsibility of our Welcome Volunteers is to welcome visitors to the nature center and assist them with their needs. They also inform visitors of ongoing events or programs, direct them to areas of interest, and answer questions about the center. During down-time, Welcome Volunteers often assist us with special projects, including things like prep for Story Time, or light database work. Our ideal reception volunteer is at least 16 years old, and is a people person. Typically, Welcome Volunteers work one specific day each week for a few hours during our normal Discovery Room schedule (12 - 5:30 Tu - Fri, 10 - 5:30 Sat/Su).



Visit our website at
www.naturediscoverycenter.org
or call 713.667.6550 to find out
more about the many volunteer
opportunities we have available
for individuals and groups.





The Hana and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center is most grateful to the following corporations, foundations, and individuals for their generous support between November 15, 2014 and November 15, 2015:

Discovery Circle \$15,000 & up

Anonymous
George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
Houston Endowment Inc.
Patrons for Bellaire Parks
Russ Pitman
Steve Radack,
Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 3

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

ACME Party & Tent*
Andrews Kurth LLP
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Ginzburg Family Fund
administered by the Greater
Houston Community Foundation
K. Cody & Kusum Patel
Seay Foundation

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

Susan & Kevin Golden
Locke Lord, LLP
Aileen & Andy McCormick
Janie & Stuart Mitcham
Bruce Storts

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

Sharon & Jeffrey Addicks
Jill Bullard Almaguer
Catharine & Eric Anderson
Bentley Custom Homes
Brenda & Greg Cauthen
CenterPoint Energy
Christy & Sacha Clark
Chris & James Copeland
Jennifer & Benjamin Cowan
Elizabeth & Spencer Curry
Lisa & Steven Derenthal
Durio & Company, P.C.*
Eurocar-Werk
Robert Finch
Johnnie & Winfred Frazier
Frost Banking, Investments, Insurance
The Garden Club of Houston
Gimmel
Susan & Kevin Golden
Goodman Financial Corporation
Tracy & Charles R. Hallenberger
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
John Daugherty Realtors
Lisa & Matthew Kornhauser
Gwen Kunz
Rebecca & O. Clayton Liliestern
Laura & Stephen Louis
Pat & Bob Lunn
Merrill Lynch / Bank of America
Bela Patel
Debra & Christopher Patton
Posoli Family Foundation
Prosperity Bank
Marci Rosenberg & Ben Samuels
Thor Schuler

Davene & Kevin Schroder
Cynthia & Robert Siegel
Linda Steen Norris & Lee Norris
Marc Steinberg
Cindy & Alan Taylor
Cynthia Rowan Taylor
Tradition Bank
Geraldine Waters & Louis Waters, Jr.
Winston & Strawn Foundation
Winston & Strawn LLP

Wildlife Guardian \$500 - \$999

Barb & Jonathan Baliff
Cathy & David Beathard
Exxon Mobil Foundation
Arthur Feldman
Marybeth & Thomas Flaherty
Jennifer & Andrew Friedberg
Jeryl & Jeffrey Golub
Patricia S. & Ira Gruber
Austin Hill
Houston Grand Opera*
Houston Public Library
Karen & Alan Howard
Lynsey Jackson
Brenda & Thomas Koch
Lucinda & Thanos Kontos
Suzanne Kupiec
Kathy & Randy Lake
Deborah LaMonica
Nikky Lawell
Diane & Pat McLaughlan
Melanie & Michael Norton
Carol Phillips & Richard Phillips, Jr.
Elaine Pickle
Lucy & Ernie Seward
Brook & Ryan Shelton
Eileen & Mitch Shults
Pam & Chad Thayer
Village Plumbing & Home Services*
Edith & Robert Zinn

Wildlife Supporter \$250 - \$499

Debbie & John Adams
Jill Bullard Almaguer
Kelly Apple & Jason Orsak
Christine Bourget & Andrew Zimper
Vicki & John Brentin
Lagenia & David Clark
Christiane & James Copeland
Judy & Rodney Creel
Janis & Robert Frank
Becky Galloway
Kimberly Godfrey Lowes & Mark Lowes
Rick Goldfarb
Cynthia & Robert Haines
Susan & Michael Hawes
Katherine & William Head
Charlotte Jungen
Wendy & Mavis Kelsey
Kathy & Nam Le
Meghan & Ken Lutschg
Laura & Price Magness
David & Mary Montague
Judy Murphy & William Murphy, Jr.

Jennifer Nelsen
Jean & Samuel Nunnally
Charlene & Scott Owens
Trisha Pollard
Sumita Prasad
Barbara Reid & Dan Seilheimer
Beverly & Ellis Rudy
Janine & Michael Schueppert
Lynne Skinner
Hilary Suzawa
Doris Taylor
Jennifer Taylor
Cheryl & William Turcotte
Don Verser

** denotes In-Kind donations*

In Memory Of

Johnny Dyson
H. Russell Pitman

Hana & Arthur Ginzburg
David Klein

In Honor Of

Brenda Cauthen
Patricia Lunn

Ben Cowan
Gregg Sheena

Aileen McCormick
Mike Scarbrough

Lisa Kornhauser, Gala Chair
Judy & Mark Mucasey

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

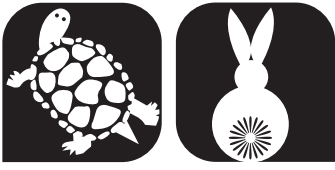
We thank you all for your support!

**We invite you
to join us ...**



in maintaining the Nature Discovery Center's place as a unique, natural learning environment by making a gift.

**To make a tax deductible donation to the Center today, visit us online
naturediscoverycenter.org/support**



membership

11

New & Renewing Members

The Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members from August 15, 2015 to November 15, 2015.

Wildlife Partner \$100

Farinaz Koushanfar & Farshad Raissi
Gretchen Farrell McIntire
Lourdes & Sanjay Remond
Pranika & Samir Sinha
Deborah & John Willis

Family \$60

Joyce Almaguer-Reisdorf
Elizabeth Andrews
Laura Arciniegas
Kiersten Bryant & Andre Hermann
Andrea Campbell
Kate & Matt Clower
Lisa Dell'angelo & Dave Olgaard
Margaret & Larry Dybala
Miriam Eber
Elisa Garber
Lindsay & Kevin Krauland
Bette & Paul Lester
Susan Levy
Sarah & Ryan McKenney
Katherine & Jon Palmer
Patricia & Benjamin Parrack
Ginger & Mark Rubash
Nancy & Jon Sheiman
Janet & David Starr
Barbara & Paul Stern
Danielle Tynes White
Laura & Marlen Whitley
Raina & Jason Willick
Nicole Zierlein

Student/Senior/Individual \$35

Anita Anderson
Jean Booth
Robert Herman
Mary Mack
Lynn McBee
Celeste & Bill Mead
Susan Pierce
J.R. Ridgway
Tracy Evans
Mark Meyer
Michelle Svay



*Nature art pieces created at the Nature Discovery Center.
Come for a visit and be inspired by the natural world!*

Member Benefits

Family Members and higher

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

Wildlife Partners and higher

additionally have pavilion reservation privileges.



Membership and Gift Form

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

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

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Student/Senior/Individual | \$ 35 | <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Benefactor | \$ 1,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | 60 | <input type="radio"/> Explorer Circle | 5,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Partner | 100 | <input type="radio"/> Investigator Circle | 10,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Supporter | 250 | <input type="radio"/> Discovery Circle | 15,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Guardian | 500 | | |

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

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



HANA AND ARTHUR 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



Winter Classes
page 4

**Walks, Talks,
Birding & More!**
pages 5 - 6

**Beginning Birding
Classes for Kids**

**After School
Play Day**

Bayou Bike Tour
see page 3 for more

NEW

Winter Events



Winter Break Camps

ages 5 to 10
9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Optional after care available.

*see page 4 inside
for camp details*

Annual Member's Meeting



Wednesday, Dec 2
7:00 pm