



december 2014 : january : february 2015

HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

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OFFICE HOURS

TUE - SUN 9:30-5:30

DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

TUE - SUN NOON-5:30

CLOSED MONDAYS

ADMISSION FREE

Donations are appreciated.
Groups of six or more
are served by appointment
at a cost of \$2/child.

MISSION

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

naturediscoverycenter.org

nature discovery center

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Improvements Coming to Our Outdoor Classroom

With the first phase of our Gateway project completed (recent improvements inside and outside of the Henshaw House), plans are underway for the second phase which will renew and address landscaping and drainage on the grounds in the one-acre area around the Henshaw House. An outdoor restroom facility and new storage shed are in the plans. Minimal improvements will also be made at the south end entrance of the park. No modifications are planned at this stage within the heart of Russ Pitman Park. The goals of the Gateway project are to create a more open and inviting physical presence and enhance the ability of the Center to serve the needs of all visitors.

Earlier this year, the Center engaged SWA as landscape architects to design and oversee the construction of the Gateway project improvements. \$500,000 in City of Bellaire bonds issued in August 2014 and privately raised funds will be used to cover the cost of the capital improvements.

Continued on page 2.

Save the Dates!

Monday Gardening Dec 1, Jan 5, Feb 2 - 9:30 am (p5)

Annual Meeting Dec 3 - 6:30 pm (p5)

Photos with Santa by John Daugherty Realtors
Dec 6 from 10 am - 1 pm (p3)

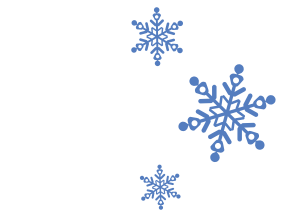
Winter Break Camps Dec 22, Dec 23, Dec 29, Dec 30
from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm (p4)

Nature Walks on the Wild Side with Mary Ann
Jan 24, Feb 8 - 10am (p5)

Sparrow Identification Workshop with Cin-Ty Lee
Feb 3 - 7 pm & Feb 7 - 7 am (p3)

Edible Plants of Houston with Merriwether
Feb 7 - 1 pm (p3)

Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 14 - 9 am (p6)



**Martin Reiner**

Interim Executive Director

Staff

Mary Ann Beauchemin
Maura Denman
Lesia Curry
Eric Duran
Anne Eisner
Ronnie Rennick

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Ben Cowan
Vice President
Chris Copeland
Secretary
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Aileen McCormick
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From the Director's Desk:

Dear Friends of the Nature Discovery Center,

Once again winter has arrived at the Nature Discovery Center. People living in our northern states are getting ready for cold and snow. Here in Houston, TX we may experience some cold, and in rare years even a snow flake or two, but preparing for winter does not mean getting out the snow shovels.

Some people actually miss shoveling, and for them we suggest gardening options. Children may have never seen snowflakes fall here, and for them we offer falling leaves, humming birds and squirrels above their heads.

This is a wonderful time at the Center. Flowers are blooming and our animals are welcoming visitors. Two new quail now reside in the outdoor enclosure north of the house. They share this space with two Three-toed Box turtles. You can visit them anytime the Park is open. They along with the rabbits, were a big hit at our fall Pumpkin Patch.

So while summer is time for camp and playing in the park and fall is time for pumpkins and our annual Twilight Gala, winter has its own highlights. Winter science camp and almost daily programs fill the schedule. And perhaps most exciting to people who love the Center, this winter will see the beginning of our next round of improvements to the site. Our Gateway Capital Project is set to move to the construction phase at the start of the new year. All the work is being scheduled to make sure we are ready for next summer and to begin the cycle of the year all over again.

So when you visit over the next several months, changes in nature will be accompanied by changes around the newly renovated Henshaw House. Please do not hesitate to stop by and say hello. Even if the place looks like a beehive of activity, you won't get stung.

Martin Reiner

Interim Executive Director

Improvements *(from page 1)*

While details of the enhancements are still being worked out, there is excitement in the air at the Center for the coming changes. Plans for the front yard area include a clearer view of the Henshaw House from Newcastle, new directional signage to assist visitors in finding their way through the park, new pathways in front of the House, and more manicured landscaping with native plants. The outdoor critters will be sporting new cages, and the sensory gardens will get new space to spread their roots. The pavilions will be cleaned and spruced up. Look for new path surfaces in and around the pavilions and house. The staff is excited about a newly constructed and organized work and storage shed on the north side of the property. Drainage and irrigation needs will also be addressed in the one-acre area around the house.

Construction will begin in the first quarter of 2015 and may be completed in phases to minimize the impact on Center programs. A majority, if not all, of the area should be completed prior to the beginning of Summer Camps.

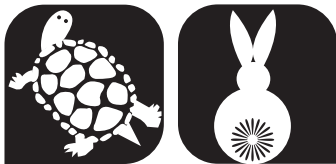
Ronnie Rennick Joins Center as a Weekend Naturalist

When you visit the Center on weekends this Winter, you'll notice a new friendly face. We are pleased to have Ronnie Rennick join us on staff part-time.

Ronnie is originally from Corpus Christi, but is here in Houston working on her bachelors degree in Environmental Science at HCC. She works part time at Whole Foods, but has also been volunteering her time at the Center working on gardening projects in the park.

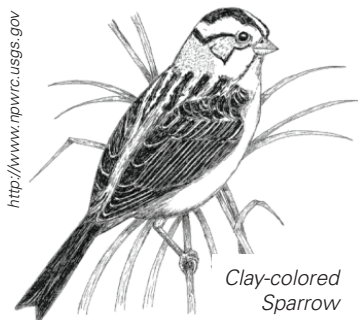
Ronnie enjoys birdwatching and gardening and is already at home at the Center and in Russ Pitman Park! She will be greeting visitors, working in the Discovery Rooms, helping with projects, and assisting us with our Birthday Party programs.





upcoming events

3



About Dr. Lee:

Cin-Ty started birding in California when he was just ten years old. He enjoys writing articles about bird identification, leading field trips, and sketching birds. He is currently a professor of geology at Rice, but also teaches a Field Bird Biology course for undergraduates each spring. Cin-Ty has given many talks and led field trips and workshops for the Texas Ornithological Society, Houston Ornithology Group, Houston and Los Angeles Audubon Society, and the Geological Society of America.

Sparrow Identification Workshop

with Dr. Cin-Ty Lee

Once again **Dr. Cin-Ty Lee** has volunteered to teach a bird identification workshop as a fundraiser to help support birding programs at the Nature Discovery Center - this one on wintering Sparrows in the area!

This workshop will consist of a one evening sparrow identification lecture, followed by an all day field trip to several places in the greater Houston area to look for some of our over-wintering sparrows.

Workshop Dates:

Lecture: Tuesday, February 3 - 7:00 pm at the Nature Discovery Center

Field Trip: Saturday, February 7 - 7:00 am and continue through lunchtime, with the possibility of going longer if people want to keep birding. *Car-pooling is recommended.*

Workshop Details:

Specific birding stop details will be determined by Dr. Lee closer to the date of the field trip.

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

Advanced registration required. *Class size is limited to 15 participants.*

What to Bring & Wear: Lots of water & drinks, lunch, snacks, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, binocs and bird books. Layered clothing, hat, closed toed shoes.

SAVE THE DATES

Photos with Santa

**Saturday,
December 6
10 am - 1 pm**

Bring the whole family for Photos with Santa.

Visitors will receive a **FREE** photo, courtesy of **John Daugherty Realtors**. Check out the Discovery Rooms while you wait for your turn with Santa.



Foraging Houston: Getting to Know the Free Edible and Medicinal Plants Around You

with Dr. Mark "Merriwether" Vorderbruggen

Saturday, February 7 - 1 pm

Join Dr. Mark "Merriwether" Vorderbruggen for a fun and informative exploration of edible wild plants available in and around Houston in the winter. We'll learn some important ID skills and info in the classroom and on the trails. Bring your sense of adventure, and your culinary curiosity.

Dr. Mark "Merriwether" Vorderbruggen is a Ph.D. chemist by day, rogue naturalist by night/weekends, and husband and father all the time. Mark says "I've been a forager all my life, having learned the skill as a child from my parents. Knowing how to harvest nature's free food fed me through the poverty years of childhood and on through getting a master's degree in medicinal chemistry and a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry."

For the last eighteen years he has worked as a research chemist in the oil industry using his knowledge of natural products to develop environmentally friendly replacements for traditional oil field chemicals. However, his evenings and weekends are spent "guiding people back to nature's bounty, not only teaching them which plants are edible and/or medicinal but also proselytizing how foraging heals the body, mind, and soul...and prepares them for the zombie apocalypse."



<http://www.foragingtexas.com/>



children's programs

4

Winter Camps

Ages 5 - 10

Camps meet from 9:30 - 3:30.

Register online. Members sign in as the child who is coming to camp. **Advance registration is required.**

Cost per day:

\$45 member / \$55 nonmember

Dec. 22 – Birds in Winter

Come learn about our feathered friends that call Houston home in the winter. Find out what they eat, how they stay warm, and what they do all winter at the nature center and in your own back yards!

Dec. 23 – Who has Fur?

Mammals of course. Come to winter camp and check out the animals you least suspect of being mammals. Are there any animals who do not give live birth, but are mammals anyway? Join in the fun to find out!

Dec. 29 - Art in Nature

Come outdoors and discover the methods and works of modern artists in a natural setting. We'll make the strange colors and designs of these artists accessible and fun.

Dec. 30 – Animals in Winter

Join us as we explore the park, and find out what Houston area animals do to cope with winter.



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:

01/13 – Trees and Leaves
01/20 – Mushrooms
01/27 – Armadillos
02/03 – Owls
02/10 – Animal Families
02/17 – What's Wild?
02/24 – Animal Bones
03/03 – Animals without Bones
03/10 – Insects
03/24 – Ocean Animals
03/31 – Fish
04/07 – Life in a Log
04/14 – Springtime: Flowers
04/21 – Springtime: Bugs
04/28 – Springtime: Birds
05/05 – Reptiles
05/12 – Snakes
05/19 - Turtles

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



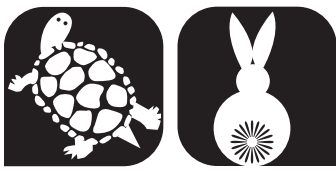
Members-Only Semester

Discount Price: \$190

Thursdays - 4 pm - 5:30 pm

Dates & Topics:

01/15 – Trees
01/22 – Fungi and Slime Molds
01/29 – Armadillos and Relatives
02/05 – Birds of Prey
02/12 – Animal Families
02/19 – What's Wild?
02/26 – Animal Skeletons
03/05 – Invertebrates
03/12 – Insects
03/26 – The World's Oceans
04/02 – The Fishes
04/09 – Life in a Log
04/16 – Springtime: Wildflowers
04/23 – Springtime: Insects
04/30 – Springtime: Bird Migration
05/07 – Reptiles
05/14 – Snakes
05/21- Turtles



walks, talks & more

5

Annual Members Meeting


**Wednesday,
December 3
at 7:00 pm**




Members, please join us for a brief Members-only meeting in which we will vote on the slate of officers for the 2015 Board of Directors. Directly following the meeting, Eric Duran, Staff Naturalist, will present a walkup demonstration for attendees to meet some of our local wildlife. The Nature Discovery Center is home to rabbits, quail, turtles, snakes, lizards and other animals that enthrall the children who visit here on a regular basis. This is a chance for their parents and other adults to see what makes the Center unique and such a draw for youngsters.

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! 

Bellaire Book Club Needs New Members

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

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

Monday Morning Gardening in the Park

with Park Steward & Senior Naturalist Mary Ann Beauchemin

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 1, January 5,
and February 2
from 9:30 am to Noon**



Tree Identification Walks *with Jim McKee*

**Saturdays,
10 am to 11 am**



Interested in learning how to identify local trees? Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher will continue leading tree identification walks in the park on the first Saturday of each month this winter. 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 6, January 3, February 7

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

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, January 24, 10am
Sunday, February 8, 10am**

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

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.



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:

Rufous Hummingbirds
Black-chinned Hummingbirds
Northern Flickers
Ruby-crowned Kinglets
Golden-crowned Kinglets
Orange-crowned Warblers
Pine Warblers
Yellow-rumped Warblers

Many winters we have also been lucky to see:

Calliope Hummingbirds
Broad-tailed Hummingbirds
Allen's Hummingbirds
Broad-billed Hummingbirds

And we have had over-wintering:

Summer Tanagers
Wilson's Warblers
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
Binoculars in good condition

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 interesting hummers visiting the park. Last year we had several Rufous, Calliope, and a few Black-chinned hummers!

Dates: December 3, January 7, & February 4

Where: Meet us on the front porch.

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

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 25 - May 13

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 2015 Global Great Backyard Bird Count!

Saturday, February 14, 9 am – 10:30 am

Once again, the Nature Discovery Center is excited to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Bird watchers from around the world will take part in this annual event sometime between Friday, February 13, and Monday, February 16, 2015. 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.

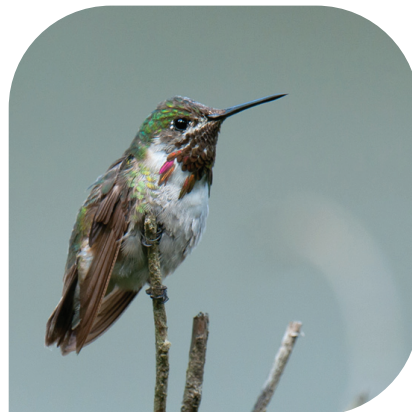


Join us on **Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 from 9:00 to 10:30 am** for the count here at the Nature Discovery Center. Families are welcome. Registration is not required. We will meet at the front porch of the Nature Discovery Center. If you are a little late, just find us in the park.

It would be good to bring a pair of binoculars, but we may 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 GBBC participants turned in more than 144,000 checklists from people in 135 countries. Even more amazing is that bird watchers reported 4,296 species worldwide! India recorded the greatest number of species at 819.

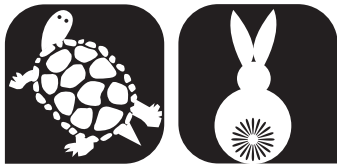
Visit our website at www.naturediscoverycenter.org for a link to more information about the Great Backyard Bird Count or how to have a count in your own backyard as well as joining ours.



Calliope Hummingbird
Photo by Terrell Sword

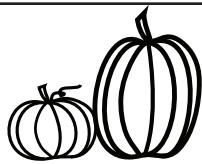


Wilson's Warbler
Photo by Richard Burton



special event thanks

7



Our 2014 Pumpkin Patch was Incredible! Many Thanks for Your Support



Our annual Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival, sponsored by **ACME Party and Tent**, has evolved into an amazing, award winning community event over its 21 year history! From a simple Saturday morning neighborhood event on the Center's front lawn, Pumpkin Patch has grown into an award winning two day festival that draws approximately 3,000 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. Funds raised at this year's event topped those raised last year by 20%!

Anne Eisner, Program Coordinator, and Pumpkin Patch Organizer, was surprised that we sold out of pumpkins even after she had ordered 1,500 pounds more than last year. But perhaps it isn't so surprising considering our recent **Macaroni Kid Gold Daisy Award for Best Fall Festival in SW Houston** and our ranking as #1 among top Houston area pumpkin patches and fall festivals by axs.com. It seems word is getting out about our own favorite family event!

"Pumpkin Patch may be the very best example Bellaire and Houston have to show for the strength and diversity of our community." said Martin Reiner, the Center's Interim Executive Director. "We had babes-in-arms, toddlers and school age kids along with teens and adults enjoying themselves picking out pumpkins and playing games."

The board and staff of the Nature Discovery Center would like to thank the community for coming out to support the Center. They'd also like to thank the many volunteers who made the event possible. Volunteers from our board of directors, local charity organizations, and local schools cheerfully unloaded pumpkins, assisted children with games and activities, passed out concessions, and made sure that everyone had a fantastic time at the festival. Many parents tell us how nice our Pumpkin Patch volunteers are with their children every year. Thank you for being here and helping us give a lot of cheer to the community!



Groups

Alexander Smith Academy
Bellaire HS Baseball
Freshman and Sophomore
Bellaire HS Leo Club
Fort Bend YES Club
Interact Club, Cy Ridge HS
Junior League of Houston
National Charity League
Bayou City
Bayou Villages
Heart of Texas
National Junior Honor Society
National Society of Collegiate Scholars
at Texas Southern University
U of H Delta Sigma Pi
Volunteer Match Houston

Individuals

Leena Al Ali
Letty Barriga
Rolla Elias
Karina Guerrero
William He
Maria Malik
Stephanie Orozco
Kish Pillai
Judy Reiner
Christian Sales
Monica Sales
Barbara Sarafim
Sobie Syed
Anthony Villareal
Peggy Villareal
Lynn Weeks

NDC Board of Directors

Brenda Cauthen
Chris Copeland
Ben Cowan
Lisa Derenthal
Steve Louis
Alex Tsui
Craig Wooten



We are indebted to our generous Pumpkin Patch sponsor **ACME Party and Tent**, and we want to thank them for donating tents, tables, and more! Also thank to **Bellaire Parks & Recreation** for the use of additional tables. We couldn't have pulled the event off without them!



special event thanks

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*Turning
A New Leaf*

**November 21, 2014
The Houstonian**

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

Many Thanks to Contributors to Our 20th Annual Twilight Gala

We want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone involved in this year's Twilight gala. Our generous volunteers and donors helped raise very important funds for our science and nature programming. We love celebrating the Nature Discovery Center while dancing the night away. What a special evening!

Gala Co-Chairs

Aileen McCormick
Andy McCormick

Auction Co-Chairs

Kristin Berry
Eileen Shults

Gala Committee

Brenda Cauthen
Christiane Copeland
Lisa Derenthal
Jennifer Nelsen
Eileen Shults

Host Committee

Cathy and David Beathard
Vicki and John Brentin
Dr. Johnnie and
Winfred Frazier
Jeryl and Jeff Golub
Brenda and Nick Lanza
Pat and Bob Lunn
Barbara and Don Ostdiek
Marci Rosenberg and
Ben Samuels
Cindy and Bob Siegel
Lynne Skinner

Houston CPA Society Members

Sue Andrus
Kathy Ploch, CPA, CPP

Gala Sponsors

Live Oak

Aileen and Andy McCormick
Family Fund

Red Maple

Patricia and Robert Lunn /
Cindy and Robert Siegel

Southern Magnolia

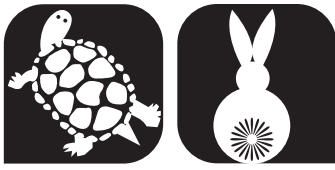
Kusum and K. Cody Patel /
Anat and Jay Zeidman

Cherry Laurel

Jamie and Robert Allen /
Lynne Skinner
Cathy and David Beathard
Bellaire Young Mothers
Vicki and John Brentin /
Porter Hedges LLP
John Carlross /
Venetian Blind Carpet One
Brenda and Greg Cauthen
Chris and Jim Copeland
Ben Cowan / Locke Lord LLP
Lisa and Steve Derenthal
EuroCar-Werk
Dr. Johnnie and Winfred Frazier
Cullen K. Geiselman
Gimmel
Jeryl and Jeff Golub
Kroger
Brenda and Nick Lanza
Laura and Steve Louis
Kim and Mark Lowes /
Janie and Stuart Mitcham
Ostdiek Family
Debbie and Chris Patton
Tradition Bank
Wednesday Willing Workers
Winston & Strawn LLP

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Councilmember James P.
and Dolores M. Avioli
Kristin and Kevin Berry
Claire Caudill
CenterPoint Energy
State Representative
Sarah Davis
Lyn Emerich
Ruth and Dan Flournoy
Councilmember Andrew
and Jennifer Friedberg
Dana Levy Germain
Steven Ginzburg
Susan and Kevin Golden
Mrs. David Green
Betty Janicek
Sara K. Johnson
Jessica Jubin
Wendy and Mavis Kelsey
Mary and Carl King
Lucinda and Thanos Kontos
Lewis Law Office
Rebecca and Clay
Lilienstern
Beth and Tim Logan
Janet Mehlhoff
Mayor Philip and
Sandra Nauert
Prosperity Bank
James L. Rice III
The Samuels Foundation
Pat Sweeney
Sandra and Ralph Weaver
Edith and Robert Zinn



volunteer news

9

Special Thanks to the Following

Ryan Harbert for creating a design for an upcoming boardwalk project.

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

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

Fall Quarter Volunteers

Animal Care

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

Aviary Care

Ellen Hastedt
Karen Borovsky
Dr. Dan Jordan

Birdwalks, Field Trips, & Swift Night Out

Betsy Black
Marcy Brown
Pam Smolen
Don Verser

Discovery Room Docent

Amber Kittles
Taylor and Kelly Smith

General Handymen

Gary Gray
Sword Plumbing

Hummingbird Feeders

Sherri Chilivets

NAYD Field Trips

Betsy Black
Debbie Lancaster

Park & Plant Care

Betsy Black
Hillary Keith
Ronnie Renick
Don Verser
John Willis

Tree Walks in the Park

Jim McKee

Monday Morning Gardeners

Betsy Black
Mina Kahn
Debbie Lancaster
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

Eagle Scout Projects

3 new potting/Planting Tables
Stuart Masson

Center Wins Good Brick Award

On December 3, 2014 **Preservation Houston** announced the recipients of the **2015 Good Brick Award**. To be presented at the annual Cornerstone Dinner in February, the award is recognition of local contributions to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of Houston's architectural and cultural heritage since 1979. The Nature Discovery Center is being honored for improvements made to our 1925 Henshaw House over the past year.

Special Thanks to **Reagan Miller** and **Bob Montgomery** for providing professional architectural and design services in our effort to update the Center. From painting, to wall paper, bathroom renovation, new furniture, shelving and filing, the craftsman style of the Henshaw House was preserved. The immediate difference and welcoming nature of the upgrading has been noticed by visitors and staff alike.

Stephanie Ann Jones, Executive Director of Preservation Houston wrote in the award letter "The Nature Discovery Center has been given new life! Congratulations on this most deserving honor!" As one of Bellaire's community treasures, the Nature Discovery Center is committed to providing a natural environment in which children are taught to appreciate nature and science.



Photos courtesy of Carl Mayfield Photography.



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, 2013 and November 15, 2014:

Discovery Circle \$15,000 & up

The Cullen Foundation
Steven Ginzburg
George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Houston Endowment Inc.
Patrons for Bellaire Parks
Steve Radack,
Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Wortham Foundation, Inc.

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

Acme Party & Tent Rental*
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Aileen & Andy McCormick
The Powell Foundation
Seay Foundation

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

Bellaire Young Mothers
John & Bridgette Goss
Knox Foundation
Bob & Pat Lunn
Chris & Debbie Patton
Samuels Foundation

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

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Ruth & Dan Flournoy
John Flournoy
Dr. Johnnie & Mr. Winfred Frazier
Dr. Cullen Geiselman
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Alex & Amy Tsui
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Winston & Strawn Foundation
Winston & Strawn LLP

Wildlife Guardian \$500 - \$999

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Carol Phillips & Richard Phillips, Jr.
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Shell Oil Company Foundation
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Geraldine Waters & Louis Waters, Jr.
Edith & Robert Zinn

Wildlife Supporter \$250 - \$499

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& Kent Adams
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Lucy & Ernie Seward
Maggie & Will Stacy
Dr. Ralph Weaver, Jr. & Mrs. Sandra Weaver
Karen & David Wolf

** denotes In-Kind donations*

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

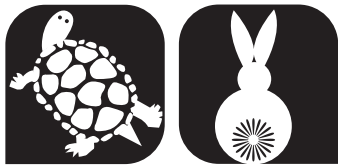


**in maintaining the Nature Discovery
Center's place as a unique, natural
learning environment by making a
gift.**

**To make a tax deductible donation
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naturediscoverycenter.org/support**

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

We thank you all for your support!



membership

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New & Renewing Members

The Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members from August 15, 2014 to November 15, 2014.

Wildlife Supporter \$250

Palmer Levy

Wildlife Partner \$100

Patty & Peter Busher
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Preeti Kodali
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Nancy & Mario Luca
Rani Maskatia
Sumita Prasad
Shilpan & Shweta Shah
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Terri Woodard

Family \$50

Elizabeth Andrews
Laura Arciniegas
Kersten & Neil Biehn
Jennifer Cabanas
Linda & Gary Cerasuolo

Elsa & Darren Chapman
Anik Desjardins
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Susan Levy
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Barbara & Richard Massey
Heather & Ryan McKenzie
Teresa Nunes
Teresa & Trey Palmer
Patricia & Benjamin Parrack
Diane & Bill Pray
Ginger & Mark Rubash
Stacy Sederis
Mitra & Josh Woody

Individual \$30

Jean Booth

Student/Senior \$25

Margaret & Larry Dybala
Eileen Glaser
Mary & Preston Mack
Lynn McBee
Celeste & Bill Mead
J.R. Ridgway
William W Willey III
Karen Willis
Mina Khan

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
Phone	Email		

☐ 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: _____



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nature discovery center

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Winter Classes
page 4

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

**Sparrow ID
Workshop/Trip**
Feb 3 & 7

Edible Plants
Feb 7
see page 3 for more

Winter Events




**Winter Break
Camps**

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

*see page 4 inside
for camp details*

**Annual
Member's
Meeting**



Wednesday, Dec 3
7pm