



march : april : may 2017

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



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

# 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.

## MISSION

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

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



NatureDiscoveryCenter



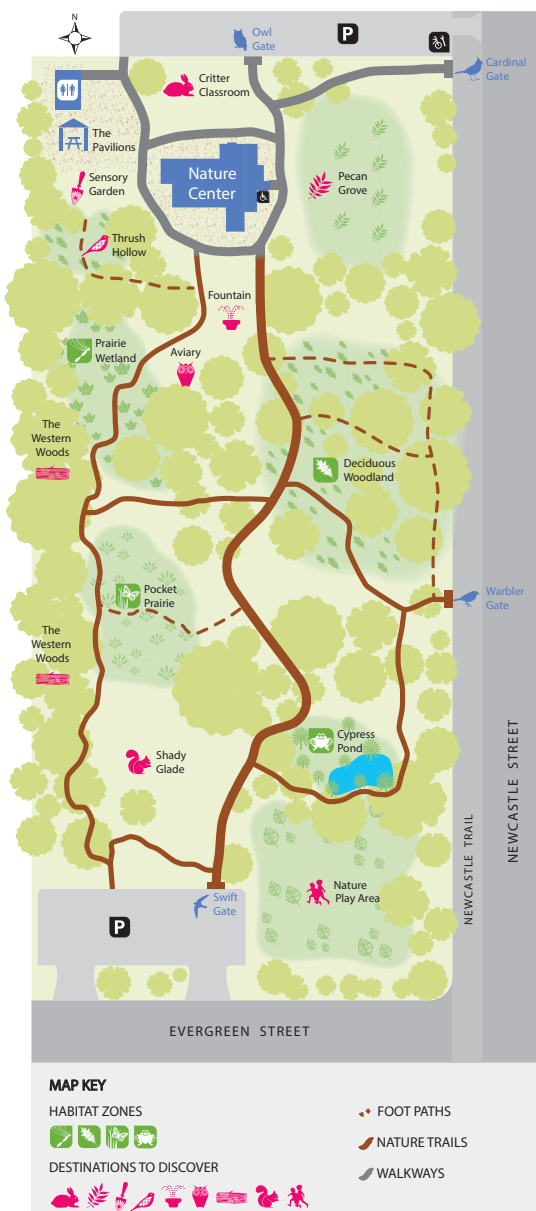
NDCHouston



naturediscoverycenter

**nature discovery center**

7112 NEWCASTLE  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401  
T 713.667.6550



*A sneak peak at our brand new park map!*

loop and provide a dry seating area for birdwatchers and photographers. We are also installing a wooden teaching deck in our Cypress Pond, allowing our naturalists to teach classes focused on pond life.

Finally, professionally designed, custom interpretive signage will be installed throughout the park to ensure all visitors to Russ Pitman Park have an opportunity to learn about its unique habitats.



We are so grateful for all the donors that have made these improvements possible. Once complete, we will have you over to experience it! **Mark your calendars for our reveal event on Saturday, May 6th at 10am, and see page 2 for more event details.**

## Park Transformation!

If you have visited recently you have seen that the final phase of our major capital renovation, the Gateway Project, is complete! We are thrilled with the addition of an outdoor restroom, a revamped pavilion area, and other transformative changes.

But we're not done! More park improvements are under way.

In 2010, we established a Grounds Task Force to develop a master plan for Russ Pitman Park. Steady progress has been made with native planting and trail development, in large part with help from Eagle Scout projects! This spring we will complete several game-changing nature park improvement projects. A key partner in these projects is Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) – the largest habitat restoration company in the country. RES has agreed to donate their services to enhance the 4 habitat zones in the park through pond restoration, nonnative plant removal, and native plantings throughout the park.

Additionally, as many of you know, our current center path floods each time it rains...and we're in Houston! We are replacing this path with a Porous Pave nature trail made from recycled rubber, saving 750 tires from the landfill. The new center trail will be porous, allowing water to flow through and allowing visitors to enjoy the park after a rain. This pathway will have a gentle curve through the middle of the park, creating a more natural experience and highlighting our mature pecan trees, Pocket Prairie, and other native plants.

A raised wooden boardwalk with a bench will be built through the prairie wetland area. This boardwalk will complete our ADA accessible trail



## Staff

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

## Board of Directors

## Executive Committee

Ben Cowan, *President*  
Chris Copeland, *Vice President*  
Brenda Cauthen, *Treasurer*  
Spencer Curry, *Secretary*  
Lisa Derenthal, *Past President*

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Blayne Gunderman  
Clay Lilienstern  
Jennifer Nelsen  
Bill Whitlock  
Craig Wooten  
Kristen Buck, *Junior League*  
Meredith Jeffrey, *Rice MBA*

## Advisory Council

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Kathleen Ballanfant  
Kristin Berry  
Jane Dembski  
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Marybeth Flaherty  
Dr. Johnnie & Winfred Frazier  
Tom & Brenda Koch  
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W. Ed Michna, Jr.  
Janie Mitcham  
Sumita Prasad  
Martin Reiner  
Cindy Siegel  
Elizabeth Blanton Wareing

## Celebrate Our Gateway Project Transformation

Saturday, May 6 from 10 am to 1 pm

The Nature Discovery Center is excited to reveal our completed Gateway Project and nature park renovations at our upcoming event, **Gateway to Nature: Experience our Park Transformation**. We hope you join us in this celebration!

We will have a short ceremony at 10 am to thank donors and contributors. Then, our education team will lead a series of family-friendly activities throughout our renovated nature park, highlighting the various improvements.



## Family Nature Play Day

Saturday, March 25 from 9 am to 12 pm

Are you ready to get outside and explore nature? The **Houston Zoo Family Nature Club** visits wild places around Houston to play and to engage families with natural surroundings. Book your family for these events ahead of time and your children will receive a free gift with your registration.

In March, the Family Nature Club will be at the Nature Discovery Center for three hours of exploration and child-directed fun in the Center's Nature Play Area! The Nature Play Area will be filled with loose parts (boxes, tape, pans, ribbon, bubbles, etc.), encouraging kids to use their creativity to build and imagine new possibilities under the trees. **PUCS Pop Up Coffee Stop** will have coffee and breakfast available for purchase to help keep your energy up. Stop by for a full morning of play!

Cost: \$10 per family

Register online at <http://www.houstonzoo.org/experiences/families/>

Cosponsored by:



## Welcome Chelsee, Our Spring U of H Intern

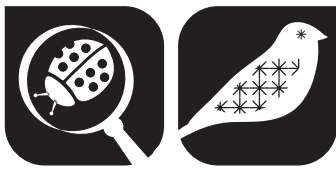
This spring the Center warmly welcomes Chelsee Balanciere to the staff as an intern. Chelsee is a senior at the University of Houston pursuing a bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a minor in Nonprofit Management through the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Program (NLA). The NLA program allows for students aspiring to work in the nonprofit sector the opportunity to earn the credential of becoming a Certified Nonprofit Professional. With a passion for creating a positive and engaging learning environment for youth, Chelsee looks forward to bringing her photography and marketing talents to the Nature Discovery Center staff as she completes her final year as an undergraduate. Welcome Chelsee!



*Chelsee Balanciere,  
University of Houston Intern*







# walks & talks

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## NEW PROGRAM

### Young Adult Nature Series for ages 21 & up

#### Owl Prowl



Friday, May 19 at 8 pm

Join naturalist Eric Duran for an evening of drinks and nocturnal wildlife. We'll provide wine and snacks, learn a little basic owl science, and head out into the night to encounter screech owls and other night time animals.

**Cost:** \$15/person

**Reservations required.** Visit [my-ndc.org/YA](http://my-ndc.org/YA) to reserve your spots!

### 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 - 9 pm.



Email Anne Eisner at [aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org) for more information about the books selected each month.

## Walk on the Wild Side!

with Mary Ann Beauchemin



Come explore and learn more about the wild side of nature in the city with our fun, family-friendly nature walks in Russ Pitman Park. Join us while we sneak up on lizards, peer through a spotting scope for close up looks at honey bees or birds, search for colorful spring flowers, 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 are about an hour long.

**Where:** Meet us on the Nature Discovery Center's front porch.

**Sunday, March 5 at 10 am**

**Saturday, April 8 at 10 am**

**Cost:** Members - FREE; Nonmembers - \$5/family

This is a drop-in program. No registration required. As a courtesy, please call Mary Ann at 713.667.6550 if you plan to come with a group of 6 or more.

## Tree ID Walks



**March 4 & April 1  
from 10 to 11 am**

Spring is a great time to learn more about trees! Some may even have blooms. Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher will be leading more walks in the park this spring to teach us how to identify the trees that live here in Russ Pitman Park. Jim shares lots of interesting historical and biological facts about the many species of trees we have in Russ Pitman Park as well as how to identify them. You are welcome to come to one or all!

**Cost:** FREE

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

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

## Meet the Animals

**April 9 Frogs & Friends at 2 pm**

Spend a Sunday afternoon at the Center getting to know our animals with up close and personal animal encounters! Each family-friendly Meet the Animals session will include: hands-on exposure to live animals and/or specimens, an informal discussion about the animal's basic biology and behavior, and a Q/A period with one of our Staff Naturalists.

**Cost:** \$10/family

This is a drop-in program. No registration required. As a courtesy, please call us at 713.667.6550 if you plan to come with a group of 6 or more.

## Park After Dark Family Friendly Night Hikes



## Join us for an Owl Prowl!



Come learn about the owls that are out and about in Russ Pitman Park once the sun goes down. Bring your family for a guided night walk through the park. These night "hikes" are perfect for adults and children ages 4 and up.

**Our night walks begin at the Nature Discovery Center.** Programs include an introduction to the owls we are likely to find and the best ways to find them, followed by a guided exploration through the park. **Reservations required.** Visit [www.naturediscoverycenter.org/night-hike](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/night-hike) to sign up.

**Cost:** \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

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

**Upcoming Dates/Times:**

**May 5 at 7:45 pm & June 9 at 8:30 pm**

Photo credit  
Keith Kingdon





# children's programs

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## Spring Break Day Camps

### Ages 5 - 10

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

### Register online.

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

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

### Mon, March 13 Rainforest Round-Up

Learn about the awesome critters and amazing plants that live in rainforests, tackle a Jungle Obstacle Course, and become a Spice-master, all in one fun-filled day.

### Tue, March 14 Animal Homes

We will learn about different homes that animals make in our park, construct or draw animal homes, and build forts in our nature play area.

### Wed, March 15 Plants & Animals Interact

Explore the relationships between plants and animals: Animals who help plants out, animals who eat plants, and plants who eat animals! We'll observe these interactions and eat a few plants in the park.

### Thu, March 16 Forest Explorers

Investigate forests and the animals who love them. We'll learn basic tree biology, how forests work, the habits of forest animals, and spend time hiking in the woods getting to know trees and animals.

### Fri, March 17 Rainforest Animals

What is a Quetzal? Why does a Howler Monkey howl? Come learn more about rainforest animals.

## Curious Kids Classes *with Mr. Eric*

### Ages: 3 - 5 years old with adult

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/Class:** \$15 Member OR \$20 Non-member

To become a Member before registering, visit [www.naturediscoverycenter.org/join](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/join).

To register for classes, visit [www.naturediscoverycenter.org/classes-camps](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/classes-camps).

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

### Remaining Spring Dates & Topics:

02/28 – Creature Colors

03/07 – Bones and Skeletons

SPRING BREAK

03/21 – Exploring Our Senses

03/28 – Feathered Friends

04/04 – What Animals Eat

04/11 – Life in a Log

04/18 – Animals Without Bones

04/25 – Spring: Wildflowers

05/02 – Spring: Butterflies

05/09 – Spring: Birds on the Move

05/16 – Reptile Roundup

05/23 – Turtle Time!



**If you have a group of 5+ kids (5-10 yrs old), you can request a class or a series of classes on most nature/science topics. Call Staff Naturalist, Eric Duran at 713.667.6550 for more info.**

## School's Out Special! Spring Day Camp April 14

Kids ages 5 to 10 are welcome to register for a special one-day camp that will meet from 9 am - 3:30 on Friday, April 14. Kids will need to bring a lunch and we'll provide snacks and water.

### Register online.

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

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

### Texas Birds

Discover the wide variety of birds who live in Texas, and the ways in which they live in the state's various habitats. We will study and encounter many of these species, as we take our binoculars and field journals out into the park.

## Scout Programs

Bring your Cub Scout or Girl Scout group to the Nature Discovery Center for a fun field trip that will help them achieve their scouting badge and/or patch requirements! See our website for complete Scout Program offerings.

Our scout programs are by appointment only. Dates fill quickly - call soon for availability.

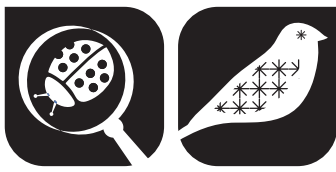
**Advance reservations are required. Call us at 713.667.6550.**

## Nature Story Time

**Every Wednesday at 4 pm**

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

This is a free, drop-in program. As a courtesy, please call the Center to let us know if you are coming with a group of 6 or more so that we can be sure to have enough materials on hand for everyone.



## Camp Details

### Ages:

5 to 10 year olds

### Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from  
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

### Cost:

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

### What to bring:

Kids bring lunches  
(we provide snacks/water)

### After Care (optional)

### Days & Times:

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

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

## Registration

**Advance registration  
is required. Register**

**online at:** [naturediscoverycenter.org](http://naturediscoverycenter.org)

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

# Summer Science Camps

## 2016 Dates & Topics:

### Tropical Rainforests

**June 5 - 9 OR June 12 - 16**

Adventure awaits you as you explore the layers of the tropical rainforest! Come learn about the amazing plants and animals that live in these places of tropical paradise through fun games, crafts and other activities. We'll find out what products we use that come from rainforests, including some foods we love to eat. Get a taste of the tropics with some rainforest treats!



### Spiders and other Arachnids

**Jun 19 - 23 OR Jun 26 - 30**

Are your spidey senses tingling? Get ready for a camp filled with games, crafts, and animal encounters with creepy crawlies of the Arachnid kind! Spiders, daddy-long-legs, mites, scorpions, and more make up the Arachnids. Are they all dangerous? Where do they live? What do they eat? Why are they so hairy? Come learn more about the features that make these organisms unique and interesting invertebrates.



### Animals Around the World: Vertebrates

**Jul 10 - Jul 14 OR Jul 17 - 21**

Come and explore the 5 groups of animals with backbones, spending each day of camp with a different group. Through art crafts, nature hikes, observation studies, and live animal lectures, the kids will get to know: Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals.



### Demolition - Nature's Way

**Jul 24 - Jul 28 OR Jul 31 - Aug 4**

It's one thing to build and create things, but it takes a good bit of engineering to destroy things well. Explore how our natural world takes care of its destruction business and try your hand at wrecking, ruining, and breaking things down! Caution: explosions may be necessary.



### Who's Hungry? - What Animals Eat

**Aug 7 - 11 OR Aug 14 - 18**

Animals eat all kinds of things, in all kinds of places. Some of those foods, we'd gladly partake of, and others would gross us out! Join us for an exploration of animals and what they eat. Each day we'll take a look at different foods animals choose and compare their preferences to ours.





## Sneak-A-Peek Pre-K Classes

**Ages 3 - 5**

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

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

**10 - 11:15 am**

**Cost/Class:** \$15 Member  
or \$20 Non-member



### 2017 Dates & Topics:

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Jun 13, 14, 15 | Simple Machines          |
| Jun 20, 21, 22 | Rainforest Adventures    |
| Jun 27, 28, 29 | Glorious Mud!            |
| Jul 11, 12, 13 | Mighty Magnets           |
| Jul 18, 19, 20 | Animal Homes             |
| Jul 25, 26, 27 | Sudsy Science            |
| Aug 1, 2, 3    | Leaping Lizards          |
| Aug 8, 9, 10   | Let's Explore Pond Life! |

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

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



Attention families! Get ready for a new set of exciting nature challenges this summer. The goal of Texas Nature Challenge is to get families and kids outdoors by visiting as many participating parks and nature areas in Texas as they can. At each site, participants complete activities designed for family fun and nature exploration.

Participation prizes will be awarded at the closing ceremonies for the most sites visited, best scrapbook, best photo and more.

Register at <http://naturechallenge.tamu.edu/>

Visit us at the Center to learn more and to complete our special challenge, which will be revealed later this spring when the official Texas Nature Challenge begins.

## Summer Family Nature Nights

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

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

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

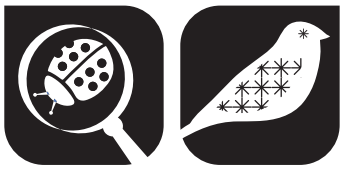
Mark your calendars for these Wednesdays:

**June 14 - Texas Turtles**

**July 12 - Reptile Roundup**

**August 9 - Texas Snakes**

**Cost:** \$5/person



# birding activities

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## Upcoming Bird Walks



We offer a variety of guided bird walks during Spring Migration. Join us for a daytime or evening stroll through the park to enjoy our resident and migrant birds.

Meet us on the front porch of the Center. Just drop in!

**Lunch with the Birds**  
**Weds, Feb 22 - May 10**  
**Noon to 1:15 pm**

*(We do not stop for lunch, but you can picnic here before or after the walk.)*

**Early Evening Birding**  
**Tues, April 4 - May 2**  
**6 to 7:15 pm**

## Chimney Swift Counts



Center Staff, volunteers, and visitors participate in a number of chimney swift counts. Stop by to take part in some citizen science with us!

**NDC Chimney Swift Counts**  
**Tues, April 4 - May 5**  
**7:15 pm to dusk**

*(We'll meet at one of the two Swift towers in the park.)*

**Swifts Over Houston**  
**Tues, early April - late Oct.**  
**Meet volunteers at dusk at one of two count locations:**

1. SW Corner of Whole Foods Parking Lot, 4004 Bellaire Blvd.
2. Parking Lot on the north side of Pershing Middle School (off of Stella Link)

## 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.

## Spring Migration Field Trip for Senior Members

Our annual Spring Migration Field trip for senior members to **Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge** and **High Island** during the height of spring migration is set to go! We are lucky to have the Harris Co., Precinct 3 free bus for seniors again this year for the trip! It is a great time to look for many species of warblers, vireos, buntings, orioles and other migrants.

**Friday, April 28**  
**Time: 7:30 am to 7:30 pm**

**Age requirement:**  
Seniors only, any person 50 or over  
(Harris County policy)

**Membership required:**  
This trip is offered to NDC Members only.  
If you are not already a member, you can join or renew online when you sign up.

**Advance registration required.**

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

**Cost:** \$8/person for Audubon Sanctuary Day Pass OR free with Audubon Sanctuaries Season Pass (\$30). *You must pay this fee or bring/buy your Season's Pass the day of the trip.* Donations to the Nature Discovery Center for staff time to organize and lead this trip are also appreciated.

**Meeting / Parking Place:** The bus will depart at 7:30 am from the Evergreen Pool parking lot, on Evergreen Street near Newcastle in Bellaire, across from Russ Pitman Park and return by 7:30 pm.

*When registering, please enter the name and number of your emergency contact person **who will not be on the trip** with us. This is a Harris Co. requirement!*

Our thanks to Steve Radack and Harris County, Precinct 3, for providing this bus service for seniors. The bus makes a great observation platform while birding Shoveler Pond and the roadside canals of Anahuac NWR. Although there is no bathroom on the county bus, we will make bathroom stops along the way.

The Nature Discovery Center will provide bottled water. Bring your own drinks, snacks, lunch, insect repellent, binoculars and field guides. (If you need to borrow a pair of binoculars please let us know when you register.) ***Rain will bring down more birds for us to look at, so this trip will go regardless of the weather. Dress and be prepared accordingly.***



## Willow Waterhole Bird Surveys

The **Nature Discovery Center** and **Houston Audubon** are partnering to conduct the monthly Willow Waterhole bird survey. Mary Ann Beauchemin, Senior Naturalist at the NDC leads these surveys on the 3rd Saturday of each month **except December**.



We would love to have you volunteer to help out with this survey! Beginning birders can help spot birds and experienced birders can help identify them. We break into groups to try and cover a good portion of the park. Trails are fairly easy walking and the survey takes about 2 hours.

**March 18 at 8 am and April 15, May 20, & June 17 at 7 am**

**Meet:** in the parking lot of the Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow Drive, Houston.

The Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve is a 290-acre park on the site of a Harris County Flood Control District retention pond project. It is an excellent birding area within the City of Houston, just outside the southwest corner of Loop 610. Over 200 species have been reported to eBird since this survey began. For a list of species reported to date, see [eBird.org](http://eBird.org)





## Bellaire Garden Club Plant Sale

**Saturday, March 25  
from 8 am - 3 pm**

Mark your calendar for the Bellaire Garden Club's Spring Plant sale. This sale will be held in our newly renovated pavillion area behind the nature center building. Both native plants, and other plants that do well in our area will be sold. Come early for the best selection.

## Bellaire Garden Club Meetings

The Bellaire Garden Club holds monthly meetings at the Nature Discovery Center at 7 pm on the first Thursday of every month. Everyone is invited!



## Monday Morning Gardening



**Mondays, March 6, April 3, & May 1 from 9:30 am to Noon**

Interested in gardening? Want to learn more about native plant gardening, non-native invasive species and help us care for the park at the same time?

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

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

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

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

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

## Volunteers Make Valuable Contributions

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

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

## Eagle Scout Park Projects

**Construction of decomposed granite trail:  
Conner Adzger**

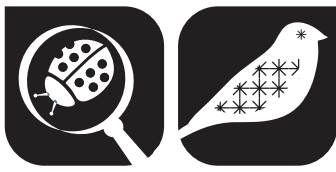


## Special Thanks To:

**Cameron Lewis** for his hard work on many projects while doing a 40 hour - week long internship here in January! Cameron stained and sealed some of our park chairs and benches, did some trail work, removed deep rooted sedge, watered plants, and helped with many other projects!

**Terrell Sword & Sword Plumbing** for repairing leaking pipes in the park, and consulting on other park plumbing issues.





## Special Thanks to our Twilight Gala Volunteers

Kristin Berry  
Zeina Bsaibes  
Jamie Duque  
Jason Gaswint  
Rosemary Gaswint  
Susan Levy  
Adrian Melissinos  
Xylina Rivera

## Winter Quarter Volunteers

**Animal Care**  
Lauren Darnauer  
William He  
Lydia Long  
Yamini Roy  
Jaka Tanugraha  
Patrick Zhang

**Birdwalks & Bird Counts**  
Betsy Black  
Deborah Lancaster

**Discovery Room Docents**  
Ciara Cloran  
Jacob Delmontes  
Maribel Espinoza  
Jessica Harry  
Jose Hernandez  
Kaitlyn Lizarondo  
Lydia Long  
Kaitlyn Oishi  
Emily Recendez  
Sarah Seeliger

**Educators**  
Betsy Black  
Debbie Lancaster  
Catherine Scott

**General Handymen**  
Gary Gray  
Mike Lothringer  
Sword Plumbing

**Hummingbird Feeders**  
Sherri Chilivets

**Monday Morning Gardeners**  
Betsy Black  
Candy Chin & Mom  
Keith Jones  
Debbie Lancaster  
Cameron Lewis  
Celeste Mead  
Shannon Morrison  
Mary Ellen Taylor  
Don Verser

**Park & Plant Care**  
Roland Groenenboom  
Keith Jones  
John Willis

**Tree Walks in the Park**  
Jim McKee

**Welcome Volunteers**  
Margaret Dybala  
Roland Groenenboom  
Alex Szoeko

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

**Summer Volunteer  
Applications are  
available online.**

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

## Calling All Volunteers

### Welcome Volunteers Needed

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

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

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

### Wanted: Teen Counselors!

We're always looking for quality counselors to help with our one day break out camps over **Spring Break** (March 13 - 17 this year), and with our week-long **Summer Science Camps**.

An ideal Nature Discovery Center counselor is at least 13 years old, is mature and responsible for his/her age, likes to work with kids, and can commit to being here from 8:30 am to 4 pm (one day for break out camps, at least two five-day weeks for summer science camps).

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

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

### Summer Volunteer Docents Needed

Are you a natural leader with an outgoing personality? Would you enjoy helping groups of children learn about science and nature this summer? We need volunteer docents to help us lead small, chaperoned school groups on nature tours of Russ Pitman Park and on visits to our Discovery Rooms.

**Volunteer Docents** work 9 am to 1 pm or 1 pm to 5 pm. We require a minimum commitment of two weeks to be scheduled in advance. Perfect for teens or adults!

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

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



## Teen or Adult Volunteers Needed to Help Water Plants

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



*The Hana and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center is most grateful to the following corporations, foundations, and individuals for their generous support between February 15, 2016 and February 15, 2017:*

## Discovery Circle \$15,000 & up

Anonymous  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
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## Investigator Circle \$10,000 - \$14,999

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

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## Wildlife Guardian \$500 - \$999

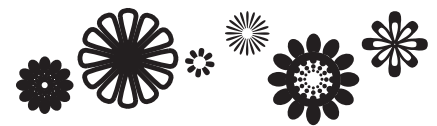
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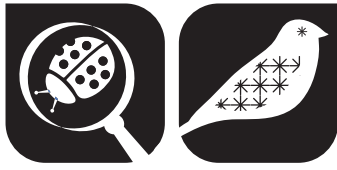
## In Memory Of...

**Davis Tullos**  
Malynda Clark

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

*We thank you  
all for your  
support!*





# membership

11

## New & Renewing Members

*The Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members for the Winter Quarter from November 15, 2016 to February 15, 2017.*

### Wildlife Supporter \$250

Christine Bourget & Andrew Zipper  
Dr. Dan Seilheimer & Dr Barbara Reid

### Wildlife Partner \$100

Ana Alvarado & Edgardo Melendez  
Mara Andersen & Raji Alatassi  
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Ashley Kaper & Katherine Thole  
Lena & Eric Lieb  
Rebecca & Clay Lilienstern  
Ellen Lin & Katya Kobayashi  
Carol & Ellie Loggins  
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Aileen & Andrew McCormick  
Dr. Susan McGovern & Joseph Duman  
Dr. Damineh Joseph  
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Shayna & Adam Pond  
John & Ashley Pope  
Rashell & Chad Robinson  
Susan & Weldon Taylor  
Sarah & Scott Vaughan

### Family \$65

Ting & John Bresnahan  
Liesel Burrows  
Nancy & Thomas Carter  
Amy & Michael Cerny  
Sherri Chilivets  
Meredith & Dr. James Clarage II  
Julie & John Cutrer  
Drs. Gerry & Deborah del Junco  
Dr. Johnnie P. & Winfred C. Frazier  
Samantha & Hunter Fuentes  
Misako Futamura  
Yvette & Mark Gaynor  
Aliza Geretz & Ben Mayer  
Jamie & Joshua Gibbon  
Marci & Jeffrey Gilbert  
Katherine & Xavier Gould-Marks  
G. Gray & M. A. Beauchemin  
Blayne Gunderman & Christian Kovacs  
Fran Koiner & James Park  
Marjorie & Dr. George Leventon  
Sabrina & Asif Mahmood  
Richard & Barbara Massey  
Beth & Jim Murphy  
Linda Steen Norris & Lee Norris  
Tiffany & Brett Podolsky  
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Andrea Seagraves & David Hickey  
Barbara & Paul Stern  
Camille & Lee Tankersley  
Gerry & Lou Waters  
Dr. Allison & Jesse Wells  
Naomi & Brian Wittlin  
Gayle & Craig Wooten

### Student/Senior/ Individual \$35

Edward Chan  
Teresa Connell  
Cindy Douglass  
Marilyn Emerich  
Julie Gold  
Johanna Moran  
Sandy Crystal Vaughn

## Member Benefits

### Family Members & higher

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



## Membership and Gift Form

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

Name Address City Zip

Phone Email

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

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

- ☐ Wildlife Benefactor \$ 1,000
- ☐ Explorer Circle 5,000
- ☐ Investigator Circle 10,000
- ☐ Discovery Circle 15,000

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HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

## nature discovery center

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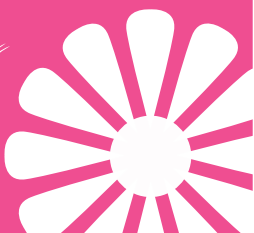
**Spring Classes**  
*page 4*

**Walks, Talks, &  
Spring Birding**  
*pages 3 & 7*

**Summer  
Science Camp  
& Sneak-a-Peek  
Information**  
*pages 5 & 6*



**Spring  
Activities**



**Spring Break  
Camps**

Ages 5 to 10

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

*page 4*



**Park &  
Garden  
News**



*page 8*



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