



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SPRING 2018

PROGRAM GUIDE

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MISSION

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

DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

NOON to 5:30 pm TUE - FRI
10 am to 5:30 pm SAT & SUN
CLOSED MONDAYS

ADMISSION IS FREE

Donations are appreciated.
Groups of six or more children by appointment.

PARK & NATURE PLAY AREA HOURS

5 am to 9:30 pm DAILY

Russ Pitman Park is a City of Bellaire Park. Dogs, alcohol, and smoking are prohibited by city ordinance.

naturediscoverycenter.org



NatureDiscoveryCenter



NDCHouston



naturediscoverycenter

nature discovery center
7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550



Spring Break Day Camp (5 - 10 yrs old)

Themed day camps full of games, crafts, and hands-on nature activities meet from 9 am to 3:30 pm each day. Kids bring lunch and a water bottle and we provide snacks. Camps are offered March 12 - 16. See calendar inside this Program Guide for topics each day. Visit our website for full descriptions.

Cost/Day:
\$49 member / \$59 non-member

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

Though some camps are already full and on Wait List status, we encourage you to sign up because cancellations may occur.

Spring Fling

**Saturday, April 7
from 10 am to 3 pm**

Join us for a celebration of nature in the park at our annual Spring Fling Festival.

This year's festival will feature interactive nature stations, live animal encounters, and children's crafts and activities. We will also have a food truck. This is always a fun and educational day for kids and adults to spend time together out in the park, learning about nature.

**Planning ahead for summer?
Summer Camp & Class Info Inside!**

KIDS

Advance registration required unless otherwise specified. Register for kid's programs online at: naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs
Call 713.667.6550 for assistance.

Curious Kids (3 - 5 yrs old with adult)

Tuesdays - 10 to 11:15 am or 4 to 5:15 pm

Preschoolers and their parents or 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, and nature walks. See calendar for specific dates and topics.

Cost/Class: \$15 member / \$20 non-member

Junior Scientists (6 - 10 yrs old)

Thursdays - 4 to 5:30 pm

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! See calendar for specific dates and topics.

Cost/Class: \$15 member / \$20 non-member

Spring Holiday Camp

(5 - 10 yrs old)

Friday, March 30 from 9 am to 3:30 pm

Nature Caretakers - Find out how you can become a caretaker of nature and learn how animals care for their environment too.


Cost: \$49 member / \$59 non-member

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

Nature Story Time **FREE**

Every Wednesday at 4 pm

Stories, simple crafts, specimens and more for preschoolers and their caregivers.

 = Drop in program. Call 713.667.6550 if you are coming in a large group. Meet at the Center unless otherwise noted.

FAMILIES

Meet the Animals

March 11 at 2 pm - Reptiles & Amphibians

Get to know our animals with up close and personal animal encounters! Each family-friendly Meet the Animals session includes: 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

Walk on the Wild Side

Mar 31, Apr 15, & May 6 at 10 am

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 to sneak up on lizards, peer through a spotting scope for close up looks at honey bees or birds, search for colorful spring flowers, and investigate more seasonal nature surprises! These walks are about an hour long.

Cost: FREE member / \$5/family non-member

Park After Dark (adults & kids ages 4 & up)

May 4 at 8 pm

Learn about the owls that are out in Russ Pitman Park once the sun goes down. Bring your family for a guided night walk through the park. 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. Register online at my-ndc.org/activities/night-hike/

Cost: \$8 member / \$10 non-member



ADULTS

New Adult Nature Series

Welcome to our Adult Nature Series, a set of talks, workshops, and events for adults. This series will include quarterly adult only evening hikes, talks, and socials, as well as weekend natural history workshops. It will be interesting, educational, and a lot of fun!

Space is limited to ensure a high quality experience for all. **Reservations are required.** Visit us online at my-ndc.org/adults-programs/ to reserve your spots!

Backyard Composting Workshop

Saturday, May 5 from 10 am to Noon

Learn how to turn your kitchen scraps into valuable compost! You already recycle your paper and plastic. At this hands-on workshop you will learn how to recycle your food scraps and yard waste as well by building an outdoor compost pile. You will come away with all the knowledge you need to start a compost pile in your own backyard.

Cost: \$15/person

Birds & Booze Owl Prowl

Friday, May 19 at 7:30 pm

Come celebrate Spring with us as we have a drink or two, learn about owls and other nocturnal creatures, and then head out to the park on a fun nature night hike. We anticipate spots to fill up quickly!

Ages 21+. Adult beverages and snacks will be provided.

Cost: \$20/person



Monday Morning Gardening 💧

April 2 & May 7 from 9:30 am to Noon

Do you 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.

Email Mary Ann Beauchemin if you are interested in coming at mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org.

Tree Identification Walks 💧 **FREE**

March 3, April 7, May 5 at 10 am

Interested in learning how to identify local trees? Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher leads monthly springtime tree identification walks in the park. Jim shares lots of interesting information and historical facts about the many species of trees we have in Russ Pitman Park as well as how to identify them.

Spring Migration Field Trip

Friday, April 27 from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

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! It is a great time to look for many species of warblers, vireos, buntings, orioles and other migrants.

Age requirement: Seniors only, ages 50+

NDC Membership required.

Advance registration required. Register at my-ndc.org/activities/senior-birding-trip/.

Cost: \$8/person for Audubon Sanctuary Day Pass OR free with Audubon Sanctuaries Season Pass.

Upcoming Bird Walks 💧 **FREE**

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

Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Weds, Feb 28 - May 9 from Noon to 1:15 pm

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

Early Evening Birding (EEB)

Tues, April 3 - May 1 from 6 to 7:15 pm

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey

March 17 at 8am, April 21 & May 19 at 7 am

The Nature Discovery Center and Houston Audubon partner to conduct the monthly Willow Waterhole bird survey on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We invite you to help out with this survey, whether you're a novice or have birding experience!

Meet in the parking lot of the Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow Drive, Houston, TX 77035.

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

Tuesdays, April 3 - May 1 from 7:15 pm to dusk

Meet us at one of the two Swift towers in the park.

Swifts Over Houston

Tuesdays, early April - late Oct. at dusk

Meet volunteers at one of two count locations:
1. SW Corner of Whole Foods Parking Lot - Bellaire
2. Parking Lot on the north side of Pershing MS

with **PARTNERS**

Yoga in the Park **FREE**

Sundays at 8:30 am

Come out for weekly power yoga in the park with Laura Gabriel! Designed to make you sweat, these classes are a great way to connect with community while enjoying the park. Follow "Yoga at Nature Discovery Center" on Facebook for scheduling info. Yoga meets in Pecan Grove in front of the Nature Discovery Center building.

Bellaire Garden Club Meetings

First Thursdays at 7 pm

The Bellaire Garden Club holds monthly meetings at the Nature Discovery Center. Everyone is invited!

Bellaire Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, March 17 from 8 am to 3 pm

Mark your calendar for the Bellaire Garden Club's Spring Plant sale in the pavilion 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.

MARCH				1	2	3
				Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p		Tree ID Walk 10a
4 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	5	6 CK: Animal Families 10a, 4p	7 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	8 JS: Animal Families 4p	9	10
11 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Meet the Animals 2p	12 Animals of Texas 9a Spring Break Week Day Camps M - F 9a - 3:30p	13 Wiggly Worms 9a	14 Feathered Friends 9a Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	15 Flowers & Friends 9a	16 Creepy Crawlies 9a	17 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a Garden Club Plant Sale 8a
18 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	19	20 CK: Prehistoric Animals 10a, 4p	21 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	22 JS: Prehistoric Animals 4p	23	24
25 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	26	27 CK: Fruits & Veggies 10a, 4p	28 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	29 JS: Fruits & Veggies 4p	30 Day Camp: Nature Caretakers 9a - 3:30p	31 Walk on the Wild Side 10a

1 CENTER CLOSED TODAY	2 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	3 CK: Plants 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	4 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	5 JS: Botany: Plant Science 4p Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	6	7 Tree ID Walk 10a Spring Fling 10a - 3p
8 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	9 Summer Teen Volunteer Applications Due Tomorrow	10 CK: Terrific Trees 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	11 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	12 JS: Terrific Trees 4p	13	14
15 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Walk on the Wild Side 10a	16	17 CK: Insects 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	18 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	19 JS: Insect Science 4p	20	21 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
22 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	23	24 CK: Springtime: Wildflowers 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	25 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	26 JS: Springtime: Wildflowers 4p	27 Spring Migration Field Trip for Senior NDC Members 7:30a - 7:30p	28
29 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	30	APRIL				

		1 CK: Migrating Birds 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	2 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	3 JS: Springtime: Migrating Birds 4p Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	4 Park After Dark 8p	5 Tree ID Walk 10a Adult Backyard Composting Workshop 10a
6 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Walk on the Wild Side 10a	7 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	8 CK: Springtime: Butterflies 10a, 4p	9 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	10 JS: Springtime: Butterflies 4p	11	12
13 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	14	15 CK: Awesome Armadillos 10a, 4p	16 Nature Story Time 4p	17 JS: Awesome Armadillos 4p	18	19 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Birds & Booze Owl Prowl 7:30p
20 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	21	22 CK: Leaping Lizards 10a, 4p	23 Nature Story Time 4p	24 JS: Leaping Lizards 4p	25	26
27 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	28	29	30 Nature Story Time 4p	31	MAY	

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP (AGES 5 - 10)

Camp Details

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
9 am to 3:30 pm

Cost:

\$250/wk members or
\$320/wk non-members

What to bring:

Kids bring lunches and
a water bottle.
(we provide
snacks/water)

After Care

(Add on option)

Days & Times:

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

Cost:

\$60/week or \$15/day

Registration

Advance registration

is required. Register
online at:
[my-ndc.org/activities/
summer-science-camps](http://my-ndc.org/activities/summer-science-camps)

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



2018 Dates & Topics:

Jun 4 - 8	Bugs & Blooms
Jun 11 - 15	Oceans
Jun 18 - 22	Oceans
Jun 25 - 29	Bugs & Blooms
Jul 9 - 13	Sand & Sun: Exploring Deserts
Jul 16 - 20	The Nature of Engineering
Jul 23 - 27	The Nature of Engineering
Jul 30 - Aug 3	Weather Wonders
Aug 6 - 10	Forests & Their Trees
Aug 13 - 17	Wildlife Habitat Explorers
Aug 20 - 24	Forests & Their Trees



Camp Descriptions:

Bugs & Blooms

Do insects and others animals rely on flowers, or do flowers rely on animals? Learn all about pollinators and the plants they pollinate with investigations, crafts, and games.

Oceans

Oceans, seas, gulfs: What is really out in that big body of water? Learn about animals, plants, and plant-like organisms that rely on the water for habitat. Not all of the animals are fish, find out what else there is!

Sand & Sun - Exploring Deserts

What makes a desert, where are they, and what are some of the exceedingly cool animals that can live in these hot places?

The Nature of Engineering

Beavers, ants, spiders, and birds provide us with awe inspiring examples of engineering – and so can you! Join us to discover the science of nests, burrows, webs, and more. And then exercise your biomimicry techniques as you engineer your own creations!

Weather Wonders

Discover how the clouds and wind work together to help create the water cycle. What is precipitation and what can it look like? Weather is an important part of our life, so let's get to know it.

Forests & Their Trees

Into the woods we go! Join us for a fun, educational week to learn about trees, forests, and forest animals. Explore the forests of the world, as well as those right here in Texas. Be a junior scientist and study the trees and woodland ecosystem in our very own park.

Wildlife Habitat Explorers

Come explore biomes, the habitats where animals live. Each biome has distinct plant and animal inhabitants. Why? Learn more about the plants and animals that live in scorching deserts, vast grasslands, beautiful forests, mysterious waters and the freezing tundra.

SNEAK-A-PEEK (AGES 3 - 5 WITH ADULT)

Sneak-a-Peek classes for preschoolers (with adult caregivers) 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!

Days & Times:

Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:45 am

Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:45 am

Wednesdays from 2 to 3:15 pm

Cost/Class: \$15 member / \$20 non-member

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

Register at my-ndc.org/activities/sneak-a-peek/ or call the Center at 713.667.6550.



2018 Dates & Topics:

Jun 5, 6	Wiggly Worms
Jun 12, 13	Simple Machines
Jun 19, 20	Flutterby Butterflies
Jun 26, 27	Mud Day Celebration!
<i>4th of July Break Week</i>	
Jul 10, 11	Something's Fishy!
Jul 17, 18	Mammal Friends
Jul 24, 25	Wind, Wings & Airborne Things
Jul 31, Aug 1	Turtle Time
Aug 7, 8	Arctic Animals

SPRING/SUMMER TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Wanted: Teen Counselors!

We're always looking for quality counselors to help with our school holiday camps and with our 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 for their assigned camp days.

If you are interested in being a counselor for **Spring Break Camp (March 12 - 16)**, please email Anne Eisner at 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 10**. Candidate interviews will be held in April.

Summer Teen Volunteer Docents Needed

Are you a natural leader with an outgoing personality? Would you enjoy helping groups of children learn about science and nature? We need volunteer docents, ages 13 and older, 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 9:30 am to noon or 1 pm to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday.

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 10**. Candidate interviews will be held in April.

Watering Volunteers Are Always Welcome! Contact Mary Ann at 713-667-6550 to learn how you can help!



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nature discovery center

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BELLAIRE, TX 77401

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SPRING 2018 PROGRAM GUIDE with Summer Camp & Class Schedules



SAVE THE DATES

Summertime Family Nature Nights

Jun 13 - People in Space
Jul 11 - Furry Friends
Aug 8 - Texas Snakes



This program guide is generously sponsored by:

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