



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

FALL 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

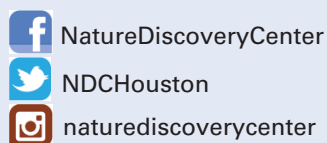
Donations are appreciated.
Groups of six or more children by appointment.

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



nature discovery center
7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550



Pumpkin Patch

October 20 & October 21
from 11 am to 4 pm

What started out as a one afternoon community event has morphed into a full-blown festival, and one of Houston's most treasured events. Come pick out pumpkins, play festival games, ride the horse drawn wagons, and more! Don't miss the food trucks, bounce house and obstacle course by Texas Moonwalks, Firehouse Pizza, and everyone's favorite Sno Balls! Vendors with bows, jewelry, wreaths and more will be here, and LaWell Photography will be here to take your fall family photo at her outdoor photo booth.

Join us during a weekend packed with fall family fun!

24th Twilight Gala

Something to Hoot About

November 9
from 6:30 pm to 11 pm

The Briar Club

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year, a night of dinner, drinks, dancing and bidding to win at the auction!

Purchase tickets & tables online at:
my-ndc.org/event/twilight-gala



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.

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

Members-Only Semester Discount: \$175

Fall 2018 Class Topics:

09/11 – Frogs and Friends	11/06 – The Story of
09/18 – Slithery Snakes	Dinosaurs
09/25 – Animals with Bones	11/13 – Bird Basics
10/02 – Forest Friends	11/20 – Thanksgiving Break
10/09 – Water Creatures	11/27 – Squeaky Squirrels
10/16 – What Animals Eat	12/04 – Animal Homes
10/23 – Autumn Nature	12/11 – Winter Nature
10/30 – Nocturnal Creatures	12/18 – Winter Crafts

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!

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

Members-Only Semester Discount: \$175


Fall 2018 Class Topics:

09/13 – The Amphibians	11/15 – Bird Basics
09/20 – Science of Snakes	11/22 – Thanksgiving Break
09/27 – Vertebrate Animals	11/29 – Squirrels
10/04 – Forest Science	& other Rodents
10/11 – Aquatic Animals	12/06 – Habitats & Homes
10/18 – Carnivores	12/13 – Winter Science
& Herbivores	12/20 – Winter Animals
10/25 – Autumn Science	
11/01 – Nocturnal Creatures	
11/08 – The Story of Dinosaurs	

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.

Fall Day Camps

(5 - 10 yrs old)

Dates & Topics

September 10 - Autumn Nature

November 19 - Wild Wetlands

November 20 - Aquatic Animals

November 21 - Navigating Nature

Camps run from 9 am to 3:30 pm

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

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

Advance registration required. Register online at naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/

Winter Break Camps

TBA later this fall. Check my-ndc.org for updates.

NEW AGES 10-16

Youth Naturalist Workshop

"Snakes, Lizards, & Turtles"

Sept 16 from 2 pm to 4:30 pm

Learn all about the common snakes, lizards, and turtles of the Houston area. The workshop will be in 3 parts; a reptile presentation with live animals, a slide show where we will learn some common species in the Houston area, and a reptile hike through the park. Snacks will be provided during breaks.

Cost: \$20/member or \$30/non-member

Advance registration is required. Limit 12 kids.
Visit naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/

FAMILIES

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

September 14 at 8 pm

Learn about the animals that are out in Russ Pitman Park once the sun goes down. Bring your family for a guided night hike through the park. Programs include an introduction to the animals we are likely to find and the best ways to find them, followed by a guided walk through the park. Register online at my-ndc.org/activities/night-hike/

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

Advance registration required. Register online at naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/night-hike/

Nature Bike Tour (adults & kids ages 4 & up)

October 14 at 2 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 shares this urban habitat. It will be a fun and informative tour, good for the whole family.

Cost: Members \$8; Nonmembers \$10 (ages 4 y.o. & up)

Advance registration required. Register online at naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/bike/



Walk on the Wild Side

October 27, November 11, December 8 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 leaves or flowers, and investigate more seasonal nature surprises! These walks last about an hour.

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

Meet the Animals

November 4 at 2 pm - Reptiles

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



Photo by Frank Farese

Swift Night Outs

Join us for a family friendly 'Swift Night Out' (SNO) event. Mark your calendars and come help count the swelling numbers of Chimney Swifts migrating through Houston. We will watch Chimney Swifts swoop and soar over their roosts and count them as they enter their chimneys. We often count over 500 Chimney Swifts in some locations at this time of year!

Bring a folding chair if you care to sit down and mosquito repellent! Binoculars are optional. For more details, see naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/swifts

Nature Discovery Center
Fri, Sept 7 - 7:15 pm

Sky High Sports, Spring Branch
Fri, Sept 14 - 7:00 pm

Lakeview Elem, Sugarland
Sat, Sept 15 - 7:15 pm

Kleb Woods
Fri, Sept 28 - 6:30 pm

ADULTS

New Adult Nature Series

Welcome to our Adult Nature Series, a set of talks, workshops, and events for adults. This series includes quarterly adult only evening hikes, talks, and socials, as well as weekend natural history workshops. It's 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 naturediscoverycenter.org/adults-programs/ to reserve your spots!

Adult Workshop: Gardening for Pollinators

Saturday, Oct 13 from 9:30 am to 12 noon

Do you like hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators? Join us for a hands-on morning workshop to learn how to grow and incorporate native plants into your yard or create a "pollinator garden."

You can make a big difference for native wildlife by adding native plants to your gardens. An additional benefit of planting native plants is that they are adapted to our "gumbo" soils, and survive both drought and floods.

Mary Ann Beauchemin, our park steward, will share tips on choosing and planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in your yard that these animals depend on. She will discuss natives for both shady and sunny areas, blooming seasons, plant and seed sources, and where to get more information.

In the "hands on" portion of this workshop you will plant some native wildflower seeds to take home, grow out, and add to your gardens! Additional wildflower seeds for some of the species you see at the Nature Discovery Center will be available for those who want some.

Cost: \$15 / person

What to wear/ bring: garden gloves; wear tie shoes and comfortable clothing appropriate for the outside portion of the workshop

Age requirements: Geared to adults, but ages 14 & up are welcome.

Adult Nature Night: Creatures of the Night

Friday, October 26 at 7:30 pm

Join us for a Halloween celebration of the various creatures and critters that prowl the night, as we learn about the lives of owls, Flying Squirrels, and other nocturnal animals! Spirits, snacks, and table games will be followed by a brief presentation and a hike. We anticipate spots to fill up quickly!

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

Cost: \$20/person

*Whooooooooo will we
encounter on our
adult night hike?*

*Register online and
join us to find out!*

my-ndc.org/activities/adult-nature-series/



Educator Workshops

Advance registration required. Register online at my-ndc.org/activities/science-educator-workshops

Growing Up WILD (4 hours SBEC credit)
Saturday, September 15 at 9:30 am

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, Growing Up WILD provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills.

Cost: \$35/teacher

Project WILD (6 hours SBEC credit)
Sunday, October 7 at 9:30 am

An interdisciplinary, supplementary, environmental education program for teachers and other educators wishing to incorporate nature and science in their teaching. The workshop provides everything necessary to use this K-12 curriculum, which teaches how to think, not what to think

Cost: \$35/teacher

Tree Identification Walks **FREE**

Sept 8, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 at 10 am

Interested in learning how to identify local trees? Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher leads monthly 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.

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey

Sept 15 at 7am, Oct 20 & Nov 17 at 8 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.

Upcoming Bird Walks **FREE**

Join us for a daytime stroll in the park to enjoy our resident and migrant birds this fall and winter.

Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Weds, Sep 26 - Nov 7 from Noon to 1:15 pm

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

Monthly Winter Bird Walks

Weds, Dec 5, Jan 9, Feb 6 from Noon to 1:15 pm



Hawk Watch Field Trip

Friday, September 28 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Our annual birding trip for seniors to the Smith Point Hawk Watch will take place at the height of the raptor migration season. Falcons, Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures gather here before crossing Galveston Bay. Other migrating birds like Hummingbirds, Warblers & Vireos are found here eating as much as possible before they migrate south as well. When time allows, we also stop later to look for nearby shorebirds and take a tour around Shoveler Pond at Anahuac NWR.

Age requirement: Seniors only, ages 50+

NDC Membership required.

Advance registration required. Register and learn more at naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/hawk-watch



Monday Morning Gardening

Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3 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 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.

SEPTEMBER						1 Tree ID Walk 10a
2	3	4	5 Nature Storytime 4p	6	7 SNO @ NDC 7:15p	8
9 Sprinkler Day 1pm - 3 pm	10 Autumn Nature Camp 9:30a	11 CK: Frogs & Friends 10a, 4p	12 Nature Storytime 4p	13 JS: Amphibians 4p	14 SNO @ Spr Branch 7p Park After Dark Night Hike 8p	15 WW Bird Survey 7a Growing Up WILD 9:30a SNO - Lakeview Elementary 7:15p
16 Youth Naturalist Workshop: Snakes, Lizards, & Turtles 2p	17	18 CK: Slithery Snakes 10a, 4p	19 Nature Storytime 4p	20 JS: Snakes 4p	21	22
23	24	25 CK: Animals with Bones 10a, 4p	26 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	27 JS: Vertebrate Animals 4p	28 Hawk Watch Senior Birding Trip 8a SNO @ Kleb Woods 6:30p	29
30						

	1 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	2 CK: Forest Friends 10a, 4p	3 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	4 JS: Forest Science 4p	5	6 Tree ID Walk 10a
7 Project WILD 9:30a	8	9 CK: Water Creatures 10a, 4p	10 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	11 JS: Aquatic Animals 4p	12	13 Adult Workshop: Gardening for Pollinators 9:30a
14 Family Nature Bike Tour 2p	15	16 CK: What Animals Eat 10a, 4p	17 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	18 JS: Carnivores & Herbivores 4p	19	20 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a Pumpkin Patch 11-4
21 Pumpkin Patch 11-4	22	23 CK: Autumn Nature 10a, 4p	24 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	25 JS: Autumn Science 4p	26 Adult Nature Night: Creatures of the Night 7:30p	27 Walk on the Wild Side 10a
28	29	30 CK: Nocturnal Creatures 10a, 4p	31 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	OCT		

NOVEMBER				1 JS: Nocturnal Creatures 4p	2	3 Tree ID Walk 10a
4 Meet the Animals - Reptiles 2p	5 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	6 CK: The Story of Dinosaurs! 10a, 4p	7 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	8 JS: The Story of Dinosaurs 4p	9 Twilight Gala 6:30p	10
11 Walk on the Wild Side 10a	12	13 CK: Bird Basics 10a, 4p	14 Nature Storytime 4p	15 JS: Bird Basics 4p	16	17 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a
18	19 Fall Break Camp 9a WILD Wetlands	20 Fall Break Camp 9a Aquatic Animals	21 Fall Break Camp 9a Navigating Nature Nature Storytime 4p	22	23	24
25	26	27 CK: Squeaky Squirrels 10a, 4p	28 Nature Storytime 4p	29 JS: Squirrels & Other Rodents 4p	30	Note: Curious Kids & Junior Scientists Classes continue through December 20.

NEW & DIFFERENT

NDC Excited to Offer NEW Birthday Party Program

Butterflies & Blooms

Celebrate your child's birthday at the Nature Discovery Center and enjoy our brand new birthday party program: Butterflies & Blooms! Your child's party guests will enjoy learning about butterflies and other pollinators in an interactive program with one of our naturalists. Every child will then participate in a hands-on butterfly-friendly activity planting native flowers to take home. We'll finish this special program with a walk in our flower gardens to look for bees, butterflies, and other local pollinators.

Note: Due to the timing of pollinator activity in the park, this program is recommend for parties held from March through October.

To learn more about the party programs we offer both on site at the Center and at off-site locations, visit naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/birthday-parties/

Sprinkler Day at the Nature Discovery Center **FREE**

September 9 from 1 pm to 3 pm

School may have started, but here in Texas our summer heat is not quite over yet. Bring your children to the Center to cool off with a favorite summer passtime - running through sprinklers! The Center's front lawn, Pecan Grove, will be set up with sprinklers and kiddie pools of water and water toys for a refreshing morning of water play!

Kids should bring or wear their bathing suit and should bring a towel and a change of clothes. Some kids may prefer wearing water shoes on wet grass.





HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

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7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FALL 2018 PROGRAM GUIDE Activity Schedule & Special Events



Photo by Terrell Sword



**Pumpkin Patch
Oct 20 & 21**



**Twilight Gala
Nov 9**



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