



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

FALL 2019

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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

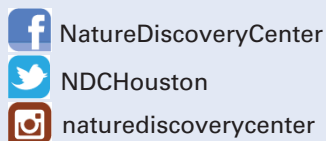
Donations are appreciated.
Groups of six or more children by appointment.

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

PROGRAM GUIDE



Campfire Night!

Drop off the kids for a night of fun in the great outdoors!

Friday, Oct 11 from 6 to 9 pm

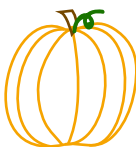
Ages: 5 to 12 years old

Cost: \$30 per child / \$20 sibling discount

Naturalist Craft • Night Hike & Black Lighting for Bugs • Animal Encounters • Pond Fishing • Hot Dogs & S'mores (V/GF options available) • Outdoor Games!

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

Pumpkin Patch



October 19 & October 20
from 11 am to 4 pm

Come pick out pumpkins, play festival games, ride the horse drawn wagons, and more at one of Houston's most treasured events! Don't miss the food trucks, bounce house, obstacle course, and everyone's favorite, Sno Balls! Vendors with bows, jewelry, wreaths and more will be here, and LaWell Photography can take your fall family photo at her outdoor photo booth.

NEW! Wildlife Partner level members have early access to the Pumpkin Patch at 9:30 am for photos, to buy pumpkins, and to pick up Pumpkin Pouches!

Thank you to our donors for their generous support: ACME Party & Tent, Prosperity Bank, Village Plumbing & Air, and The Zoller Group of Keller Williams Realty. To sponsor, email bkinney@naturediscoverycenter.org.



KIDS

Advance registration required unless otherwise specified. Register for kids' 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 adult caregivers 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: \$180

Fall 2019 Class Topics:

09/10 – Reptile Roundup	10/29 – Beautiful Bats
09/17 – Crocs and Gators	11/05 – Autumn Nature
09/24 – Beetle Basics	11/12 – Babies Growing Up
10/01 – Birds and Beaks	11/19 – Slugs and Snails
10/08 – Magnificent Mammals	12/03 – Water Wonders
10/15 – Cats of the World	12/10 – Weather Wonders
10/22 – Dogs of the World	12/17 – Winter Crafts

Junior Scientists (6 - 10 yrs old)

NEW Format: Monthly on Sundays from 2 to 3:30 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

09/22 – **Aquatic Animals** - Join us as we dip net in the pond, set up aquariums, and have a look under the microscope. We will study all kinds of water creatures.

10/27 – **Cold Blooded Critters** - Explore the world of reptiles and amphibians, as we look for wild animals in the park, handle them in the classroom, and set up toad terrariums.


11/17 – **Digging in the Dirt** - Grab your shovel and head into the garden for a fun field study of plants. We'll learn some basic botany, sow flower seeds, plant fruits and veggies, dig in the dirt, and pot a plant to take home.

12/15 – **Messy Science** - Foam, bubbles, fire, and minor explosions! Join us for a fun (and safe) time as we make a mess and learn some basic science concepts on our front lawn.

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 & Winter Day Camps

(5 - 10 yrs old)

Dates & Topics

October 9 - Texas Mammals with Eric Duran

November 25 - Fall Nature with Eric Duran

November 26 - Nature Games with Anne Eisner

November 27 - Flying Feast with Ranger

December 20 - Winter Adaptations with Anne Eisner

December 30 - Wild Winter Birds with Ranger

January 2 - Into the Trees with Eric Duran

January 3 - Habitat Hideaways with Bethany Foshée

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 Campers made their own snow last year!

FAMILIES

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

Friday, September 20 at 8:00 pm

Friday, October 4 at 8:00 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/

*Whooooooo will we
encounter on our
next night hike?*

*Register online and
join us to find out!*



Walk on the Wild Side

**Saturday, September 28, Sunday, November 24, and
Saturday, December 14 at 10:30 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

October 13 at 2 pm - Animals with Backbones - Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds & Mammals

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 talk about the animal's basic biology and behavior
- a Q/A period with one of our Staff Naturalists.

Cost: \$10/family



Swift Night Out Events

FREE

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

**St Paul's United Methodist Church
Tuesday, August 27 – 7:30 pm**

**Pershing Middle School
Tuesday, September 3 – 7:30 pm**

**Nature Discovery Center
Saturday, September 7 – 7:15 pm**

**Sky High Sports in Spring Branch
Sunday, September 8 – 7 pm**

**Lakeview Elementary in Sugar Land
Friday, September 20 – 7:15 pm**

**Kleb Woods Nature Center
Friday, September 27 – 6:30 pm**

ADULTS

25th Twilight Gala

Doorway to Discovery



November 15 from 6:30 to 11 pm
at
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 and tables online at:
my-ndc.org/event/twilight-gala

Gala 2019 Chairs

Melissa & Grant Ashlin

Emcee

Tom Koch

Host Committee

Mona Parikh & Ram Allada
MJ & Jason Berryman
Lisa & Brian Fahey
Cathy Furrh
Jennifer & Greg Gallegos
Lisa Burns & Kim Heffernan
Stacy Koetsier & Marko Hirvensalo
Catherine & Grant Hunter
Jayne & Garrett Johnston
Lisa & Steve Lim
Meghan & Ken Lutschg
Lisa & Eric McCarthy
Katie & Ben Wiley

Monday Morning Gardening

New Weekly Format: Every Monday from 9 - 11 am
Starting September 9

Calling all gardeners, from experts to beginners! If you would like to learn more about native plant gardening, non-native invasive species, and help us care for the park at the same time, join Park Steward Ranger and our dedicated volunteers as we complete gardening projects in the park on Monday mornings from September-May.

Email Ranger if you are interested in coming,
ranger@naturediscoverycenter.org.

Tree Identification Walks **FREE**

**Saturdays, September 7, October 5, November 2,
December 7 at 10:30 am**

Join Master Naturalist and tree lover Jim McKee, for his monthly Tree Walks to discover more about some of the many species of trees that live in Russ Pitman Park. Jim is always happy to share his knowledge and interesting historical facts about trees as well as help you learn how to identify them.

Mindful Mondays in Russ Pitman Park *with Heather Sullivan*

Mondays, September 16 – November 11
(skipping 10/14) **from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**

Cost: \$15 per person/class OR \$95 per person/series

Join Heather for weekly mindfulness classes in the urban oasis of Russ Pitman Park! She'll begin each class in the Nature Discovery Center classroom with a guided 15-minute lesson. Then you will each go to a quiet spot in the park to practice simply being mindful not mind-full. Heather will meet you back at the Center with wild-collected tea for sharing.

These mindfulness classes will provide you with the tools you need to Be. Here. Now. You'll find it to be a restorative time in nature, a chance to focus your awareness on the present moment, calmly acknowledging and accepting your feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations while you seek respite from your hectic daily life. Practicing mindfulness in nature can lower your blood pressure and heart rate, as well as decrease levels of stress hormones in your body.

Adult Crafting Workshops

with *Craft Labs Studio's Khanh Ho*

Branch Weaving

Sunday, September 22 from 1 to 3 pm

Turn branches into fine art with this craft project! Focusing on sustainably sourced supplies and items from around the home, each student will leave with a beautifully crafted piece to hang on their wall or to give as a gift.

Cost: \$25 / person



Save the Date:

Specific Craft Project TBA

Sunday, December 8 from 1 to 3 pm

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey

Saturdays, September 21 at 7:30am, & October 19 & November 16 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. Call by 10 am to borrow binoculars. We don't stop for lunch, but you can picnic before or after these lunchtime walks.

Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Wednesdays, September 25 - November 6 from Noon to 1:15 pm

Monthly Winter Bird Walks

Wednesdays, December 4, January 8, & February 5 from Noon to 1:15 pm

Hawk Watch Field Trip

Friday, September 27 from 8 am to 6 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



1	2	3 SNO @ Pershing 7:30p	4 Nature Storytime 4p	5	6	7 Tree ID Walk 10:30a SNO @ NDC 7:15p
8 SNO @ Spr Branch 7p	9 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	10 CK: Reptile Roundup 10a, 4p	11 Nature Storytime 4p	12	13	14
15 Sprinkler Day 1pm - 3 pm	16 Monday Morning Gardening 9a Mindful Mondays 12:30p	17 CK: Crocs & Gators 10a, 4p	18 Nature Storytime 4p	19	20 Park After Dark Night Hike 8:00p SNO - Lakeview Elementary 7:15p	21 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7:30a
22 Adult Crafting Workshop 1-3p JS: Aquatic Animals 2-3:30p	23 Monday Morning Gardening 9a Mindful Mondays 12:30p	24 CK: Beetle Basics 10a, 4p	25 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	26	27 Hawk Watch Senior Birding Trip 8a SNO @ Kleb Woods 6:30p	28 Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a
29 Fall Volunteer Orientation 1-3p	30 Monday Morning Gardening 9a Mindful Mondays 12:30p	SEPTEMBER				

OCT		1 CK: Birds & Beaks 10a, 4p	2 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	3	4 Park After Dark Night Hike 8p	5 Tree ID Walk 10:30a
6	7 Monday Morning Gardening 9a Mindful Mondays 12:30p	8 CK: Magnificent Mammals 10a, 4p	9 Fall Break Day Camp Mammals 9-3:30 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	10	11 Campfire Night! 6-9p	12
13 Meet the Animals 2p	14 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	15 CK: Cats of the World 10a, 4p	16 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	17	18	19 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a Pumpkin Patch 11a-4p 
20 Pumpkin Patch 11a-4p 	21 Monday Morning Gardening 9a Mindful Mondays 12:30p	22 CK: Dogs of the World 10a, 4p	23 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	24	25	26
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NOVEMBER						1	2 Tree ID Walk 10:30a
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2am	4 Monday Morning Gardening 9a Mindful Mondays 12:30p	5 CK: Autumn Nature 10a, 4p	6 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Storytime 4p	7	8	9	
10	11 Monday Morning Gardening 9a Mindful Mondays 12:30p	12 CK: Babies Growing Up 10a, 4p	13 Nature Storytime 4p	14	15 Twilight Gala 6:30p <i>Deerway to Discovery</i>	16 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a	
17 JS: Digging in Dirt 2-3:30p	18 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	19 CK: Snails & Slugs 10a, 4p	20 Nature Storytime 4p	21	22	23	
24 Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a	25 Fall Break Camp 9a - 3:30p/5:30p Monday Morning Gardening 9a	26 Fall Break Camp 9a - 3:30p/5:30p	27 Fall Break Camp 9a - 3:30p/5:30p Nature Storytime 4p	28 Thanksgiving Holiday CENTER CLOSED	29 CENTER CLOSED	30	

NEW & DIFFERENT

Join us for our Fall Volunteer Orientation!

Work in the Woods with Us!
Conserve Nature! Learn new things!

Sunday, September 29 from 1 to 3 pm

Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Leading Children's Programs
- Hosting Nature Center Visitors
- Gardening & Park Care
- Nature Playground Host
- Festivals & Outreach Booths
- Assisting in the office
- Animal Care
- Birding & Naturalist Events
- Arts & Crafts
- Annual Gala & Fundraising

Email **Bethany, bfoshee@naturediscoverycenter.org** to **RSVP**, and, if you haven't already, submit a Volunteer Application online if you plan to attend.

Visit mjj-ndc.org/volunteer for more information and for the online form.

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

Sunday, September 15 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.





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7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

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FALL 2019 PROGRAM GUIDE Activity Schedule & Special Events



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