



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

WINTER 19-20

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

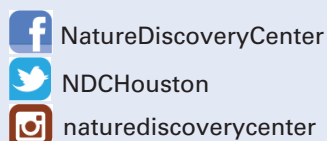
Donations are appreciated.
Groups of six or more children by appointment.

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



NEW PROGRAM

Mess Makers (3 - 7 yrs old with adult)
with Ms. Mo

First Mondays, from 10:30 to 11:45 am

January 6 - Snow & Ice

February 3 - Beautiful Branches: Collaborative Art

March 2 - Clay Play

April 6 - Smashing Flowers & Chlorophyll Creations

May 4 - Exploring Sand & Water

Messy, sensory play is an important part of child development. Together we will explore and create with messy elements like homemade snow, clay, and sand. We will make works of art with natural materials (like plant pigments), and with a mix of natural and man-made materials (like branches, paints, and fun embellishments). We'll make beautiful messes together, but go home clean!

Cost/Class: \$18 member / \$22 non-member



KIDS

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

Winter Day Camps

(5 - 10 yrs old)

Dates & Topics

December 20 - Winter Adaptations *with Bethany*

December 30 - Wild Winter Birds *with Ranger*

January 2 - Into the Trees *with Eric*

January 3 - Habitat Hideaways *with Bethany*

January 20 - TBA

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/



Campfire Night! (6 - 12 yrs old)

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

Friday, December 13 from 6 to 9 pm

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

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

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

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: \$225

Winter/Spring 2019 Class Topics:

01/14 – Squeaky Squirrels	03/24 – Seasons and the Sun
01/21 – Awesome Owls	03/31 – Pleasing Plants
01/28 – Underground Animals	04/07 – Leaves and Trees
02/4 – Dynamic Dinosaurs	04/14 – Beautiful Bees
02/11 – Fruits and Veggies	04/21 – Spring Wildflowers
02/18 – Animal Parents	04/28 – Spring Birds
02/25 – Magnificent Marsupials	05/05 – Spring Butterflies
03/03 – Bones and Skeletons	05/12 – Lovely Lizards
03/10 – Homes and Habitats	05/19 – Frogs and Friends

Junior Scientists (6 - 10 yrs old)

NEW Format: Select Sundays from 2 to 3:30 pm

Junior Scientists explore the natural world and examine a variety of science themes through hands-on investigations, experiments, and lessons enriched with crafts, games, and more!

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

01/19 - Animals With Backbones – Come discover the lives of vertebrates (animals with backbones): fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. We'll learn what makes each group unique, meet and handle live animals from each group, and explore the park for wild creatures.

02/16 - Fun with Fruits & Veggies – Bring your appetite and your curiosity, as we learn about the science behind the food plants we eat. We'll learn basic plant biology, and figure out what's a leaf, stem, root, or fruit... eating our way through plant parts as we go. At the end we'll look for wild edible plants, and then plant a fruit or veggie to take home. (Please let us know if you have any food allergies).

Upcoming Topics: March (Nature Arts & Crafts), April (Outdoor Games), & May (Insects & other Invertebrates)

Nature Story Time **FREE**

Every Wednesday at 4 pm

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

See page 3 for a very special Winter Wonderland Nature Story Time on December 18!

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

FAMILIES

Special Winter Wonderland Nature Story Time 💧 **FREE**

December 18 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Come celebrate winter with Center staff during a special Winter Wonderland Nature Story Time. We'll share winter nature themed stories, and guide you through simple seasonal crafts. As an added treat, we'll serve hot cocoa with fun mix-ins and festive cookies.

Though Nature Story Time is typically for preschoolers, this special event is open to elementary ages as well.

Walk on the Wild Side 💧

December 14, January 12, & February 15 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, spy on honey bees, butterflies, or birds, search for colorful leaves or flowers, and investigate more seasonal nature surprises! Learn tips to explore nature with your family in your own backyard or on your travels. These walks last about an hour.

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

Meet the Animals 💧

January 26 at 2 pm - Warm Blooded: Mammals & Birds

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



Bubble Day 💧 **FREE**

Sunday, February 9 from 1 to 3 pm

The Center's front lawn, Pecan Grove, and the sidewalks around the Center will be set up with everything your kids need for a fun filled afternoon of outdoor play! You can feel like a kid again, too, if you join them playing with bubbles, hula hoops, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, and more.

Kids should bring refillable water bottles.

Note: This is NOT a drop off event. Adult supervision is required.



Great Backyard Bird Count 💧 **FREE**

Friday, February 14 from 9 to 10:30 am

Join us at the Nature Discovery Center to help out with the Great Backyard Bird Count. This count is part of a global effort to get a "snapshot" of bird populations worldwide in one weekend. Families are welcome. No registration required. We will meet at the front porch of the Center.

Bring a pair of binoculars. If you need to borrow a pair, please e-mail Mary Ann ahead of time so she can have a pair ready for you. (mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org)

Visit our website at www.naturediscoverycenter.org for a link to the Great Backyard Bird Count website for more information about it.

Interactive Nature Table

Second Sundays from 1 to 3 pm

Visitors of all ages are invited to engage with volunteers and staff naturalists at our new themed demo and activity Nature Table in our large Discovery Room. The themes and activities offered at this station will change monthly, but may include live animal interactions, experimental demonstrations, "how to" lessons on using tools of the trade in nature study, themed crafts, and other opportunities for hands-on learning. Stop by and visit with a volunteer or naturalist!

Upcoming Nature Table Topics:

January 12 - Mammals

February 9 - Reptiles

March 8 - Invertebrates



Discovery Room Changes

We are making mission driven changes to our Discovery Rooms this winter that will take the rooms back to the Center's roots as a place of exploration and discovery. Visitors will notice a shift in focus from indoor play to hands-on learning at activity and observation stations designed to ignite curiosity, understanding, and respect for nature. We want to provide for nature based imaginative exploration, but also encourage best practices in the handling of specimens and in the use of Discovery Room tools.

We are excited by these changes, and we can't wait to see our visitors make new discoveries as they interact with natural objects, explore with kid friendly tools of the trade, "research" areas of interest in resource books and create simple nature crafts. There will be opportunities to engage with volunteers and naturalists at themed demo and activity tables as well.

Be on the lookout for a "Stars of the Park" exhibit space where kids can bring in and display small curiosities and interesting objects they have discovered while exploring the park. Please do encourage your kids to participate!

ADULTS

Adult Crafting Workshop *with Craft Labs Studio's Khanh Ho*

Branch Weaving BYOB Event

Thurs, December 12 from 7 to 9 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. **This is a BYOB event intended for adults.** Come relax and visit with others over drinks as you create your woven masterpiece.

Ages: Must be 21+

Cost: \$25 / person



Tree Identification Walks

Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, & Mar 7 at 10:30 - 11:30 am

Join Master Naturalist and tree lover, Jim McKee, for his monthly Tree Walks. Learn how to identify trees in winter and discover some fun facts about the many species of trees that live in Russ Pitman Park. Jim is always happy to share his knowledge and interesting historical info about trees.



Monday Morning Gardening

New Weekly Format: Every Monday from 9 - 11 am

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.

Upcoming Bird Walks **FREE**

Join us in the park to look for some of our winter visitors and spring migrants. Call by 10 am to borrow binoculars. We don't stop for lunch, but you can picnic before or after these lunchtime walks.

Monthly Winter Bird Walks

Weds, Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5 from Noon to 1:15 pm

Weekly Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Weds, Feb 26 - May 6 from Noon to 1:15 pm



Willow Waterhole Bird Survey **FREE**

Jan 18, Feb 15 & Mar 21 from 8 - 10:30 am

The Nature Discovery Center and Houston Audubon partner to conduct the Willow Waterhole bird survey on the 3rd Saturday of each month **except December**. This roughly 2 hour monthly survey lets both researchers and birders study how the creation of retention ponds can attract birds to urban areas as well as how populations of species change over time in this urban setting.

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.



Mindfulness in Nature

A lunchtime series with Heather Sullivan

Fridays, February 21 – April 3 (skip 3/20 - Spr Brk)
from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

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.

Cost: \$12 per person/class OR \$60 for the 6 week series

Annual Member Meeting & Holiday Gathering

Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 pm

Join us for a cup of cider and some winter cheer at the Annual Member Meeting to learn what the Center has been doing this year and to hear some of our plans for next year. Meet and vote on the slate of officers for our 2020 Board of Directors.

This is a Members-only event, and we look forward to sharing the evening with some of our favorite people!

1	2 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	3 CK: Water Wonders 10a, 4p	4 Monthly Winter Bird Walk 12n Nature Storytime 4p	5	6	7 Tree ID Walk 10a
8	9 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	10 CK: Weather Wonders 10a, 4p Member Mtg 6:30p	11 Nature Storytime 4p	12 Adult Crafting Workshop: Branch Weaving BYOB 7-9p	13 Campfire Night 6-9p	14 Walk on the WILD Side 10:30a
15	16 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	17 CK: Winter Crafts 10a, 4p	18 Winter Wonderland Nature Storytime 4p	19	20 Winter Break Camp Winter Adaptations 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	CENTER CLOSED					
29	30 Winter Break Camp Wild Winter Birds 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	31 CENTER CLOSED	DEC			

JAN			1 CENTER CLOSED	2 Winter Break Camp Into the Trees 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	3 Winter Break Camp Habitat Hideaways 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	4 Tree ID Walk 10a
5	6 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a Mess Makers 10:30a	7	8 Monthly Winter Bird Walk 12n Nature Storytime 4p	9	10	11
12 Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a Interactive Nature Table: Mammals 1-3p	13 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	14 CK: Squeaky Squirrels 10a, 4p	15 Nature Storytime 4p	16	17	18 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a
19 JS: Animals with Backbones 2p	20 Winter Break Camp 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	21 CK: Awesome Owls 10a, 4p	22 Nature Storytime 4p	23	24	25
26 Meet the Animals Warm Blooded: Mammals & Birds 2p	27 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	28 CK: Underground Animals 10a, 4p	29 Nature Storytime 4p	30	31	

FEBRUARY						1 Tree ID Walk 10a Spr Brk & Member Summer Program Registration Opens
2	3 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a Mess Makers 10:30a	4 CK: Dynamic Dinosaurs 10a, 4p	5 Monthly Winter Bird Walk 12n Nature Storytime 4p	6	7	8
9 Bubble Day 1 - 3p Interactive Nature Table: Reptiles 1-3p	10 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	11 CK: Fruits & Veggies 10a, 4p	12 Nature Storytime 4p	13	14 Great Backyard Bird Count 9 - 10:30a	15 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a Non-member Summer Registration Opens
16 JS: Fun with Fruits & Veggies 2p	17 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	18 CK: Animal Parents 10a, 4p	19 Nature Storytime 4p	20	21 Mindfulness in Nature 12:30-1:30p	22
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SAVE THE DATES

Spring Break Day Camps

Spring Break Camps will be offered **March 16 - 20** from 9 am to 3:30 pm each day with optional after care until 5:30 pm for an added fee. Look for registration to open **February 1**.

Summer Program Registration

Registration for our Summer Science Camps and Sneak-a-Peek preschool summer science classes will open to members on **February 1** and non-members on **February 15**. Look for dates and topics on our website at <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/>

Summer Teen Volunteer Position Announcements & Application Deadline

We will announce our Summer Teen Volunteer Positions in **mid-March**. **Applicants for our Summer Teen Volunteer Program will fill out online applications this year. The deadline to submit applications will be April 10.** We will then begin reviewing applications, contacting teens for interviews, and scheduling required training sessions.

Spring Fling

Saturday, April 25 from 10 am – 3 pm

Join us for our annual Spring Fling event celebrating nature in the park, this year in conjunction with Evelyn's Park and the City of Bellaire Earth Day Festival.





HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



WINTER 2019-2020 Activity Schedule

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Photo by Cletus Lee



Many thanks to all who supported the
Center in 2019 and to those who
contributed to our 2019 Twilight Gala:
Doorway to Discovery!



Norma Barnes
2019 Twilight
Gala Honoree

This program guide is generously sponsored by:



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