



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SPRING 2020

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 call for an 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 Camps (5 - 10 yrs old)

March 16 - 20

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. See calendar inside this Program Guide for topics each day. Visit naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs to sign up.

Cost/Day:
\$55 member / \$65 non-member

After Care until 5:30 pm: \$20/day.

Even when camps are on Wait List status, we encourage you to sign up because cancellations may occur.



Spring Fling FREE

Saturday, April 25 - 10 am to 3 pm

Join us for a fun and informative family-friendly event to celebrate Spring and Earth Day with a day out in the park.

There will be nature and environmental activities crafts and exhibits for children, family nature hikes, live animals, and a food truck.

Activities will be spread out around the park, as we'll explore the pond, the forest, and the prairie gardens.

KIDS

Advance registration required unless otherwise specified. Register for kid 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)

Monthly, 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 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

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

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


Messy, sensory play is an important part of child development. Together we will explore and create with messy elements like clay and sand. We will make works of art with natural and man-made materials. We'll make beautiful messes together, but go home clean! See calendar for specific dates and topics.

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

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 bringing a large group. Meet at the Center unless otherwise noted.

FAMILIES

Interactive Nature Table

Second Sundays from 1 to 3 pm

Visitors of all ages 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 change monthly, but may include 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!

Upcoming Nature Table Topics:

March 8 - Invertebrates

April 5 - Snakes

May 10 - Wildflowers

Walk on the Wild Side

March 15, April 11, & May 17 at 10:30 am

Explore 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.

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

Meet the Animals

April 19 at 2 pm - Reptile Rendezvous

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

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

May 8 at 8 pm

May 22 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

Monday Morning Gardening

Every Monday through May 25 from 9 to 11 am

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 Monday mornings and help us care for the park.

This is a drop in program, no need to RSVP.

Park Work Days

3rd Saturdays March through May from 9 am to noon

Join Ranger and other volunteers in a family-friendly work day in Russ Pitman Park. The focus of each work day will differ (planting, weeding, trail work, etc.). This is a great opportunity to get outside and help the Center in a collaborative volunteer setting! Email Ranger in advance if you want to bring a large group: ranger@naturediscoverycenter.org

1st Saturday Tree Walks **FREE**

March 7, April 4, May 2 at 10:00 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.

Spring Migration Field Trip

Friday, April 24 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 online at my-ndc.org/activities/senior-birding-trip/.

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

Weekly Bird Walks **FREE**

We offer a variety of guided weekly bird walks during Spring Migration. Join us for a daytime or evening stroll in the park to enjoy our resident and migrant birds. Need to borrow binoculars? Contact Mary Ann by 10 am to let her know. mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org

Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Wednesdays, Feb 26 - May 6 from Noon to 1:15 pm
(We don't stop for lunch, but you can picnic before or after.)

Early Evening Birding (EEB)

Tuesdays, April 7 - May 5 from 6 to 7:15 pm

Chimney Swift Counts **FREE**

Center Staff, volunteers, and visitors keep track of migrating and nesting Chimney Swifts. Stop by to take part in some citizen science with us!

NDC Chimney Swift Counts

Tuesdays, April 7 - May 5 from 7:15 pm to dusk

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

Adults Only Owl Prowl

Friday, June 5 from 8 to 10 pm

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Summer is starting at the Nature Discovery Center, and the park comes alive at night. Join us for a night on the prow! for nocturnal animals. We'll have a brief presentation to learn about owls, and then head out on a night hike to see if we can find some nocturnal friends. Ages 18+.

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

Reservations are required. Visit us online at my-ndc.org/adults-programs/ to reserve your spots!



Mindfulness in Nature

A lunchtime series with Heather Sullivan

Fridays, February 21 – April 3* from 12:30 - 1:30 pm

*Skip 3/20 - Spring Break

Join Heather for weekly mindfulness classes in the urban oasis of Russ Pitman Park! She'll begin each class 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 while you seek respite from your hectic daily life.

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

Yoga in the Park

Saturdays through May 30, from 8:30 to 9:30 am

Yoga Instructor Melissa Mynatt invites you to flow with her during an hour-long, all levels vinyasa/flow class every single Saturday at the Nature Discovery Center! Bring a mat, water, a towel, and a donation for this donation based yoga class (\$5 to \$15 suggested). A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Center.

with PARTNERS

Bellaire Garden Club Meetings

First Thursdays at 7 pm

The Bellaire Garden Club holds meetings at the Nature Discovery Center in March, April, May, September, October, and November. Everyone is invited!

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey **FREE**

March 21 at 8am, April 18 & May 16 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.

1	2 Monday Morning Gardening 9a MM: Clay Play 10:30a	3 CK: Bones & Skeletons 10a, 4p	4 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	5 Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	6 Mindfulness in Nature 12:30p	7 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Tree ID Walk 10a
8 Interactive Nature Table: Invertebrates 1p	9 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	10 CK: Homes & Habitats 10a, 4p	11 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	12	13 Mindfulness in Nature 12:30p	14 Yoga in the Park 8:30a
15 Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a	16 Scaly & Slimy 9a Monday Gardening 9a	17 Go Green 9a	18 Wild in the Woods 9a Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	19 Naturally Creative 9a	20 Pond Camp 9a	21 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a Park Work Day 9a - noon
22 JS: Nature Art & Artists 2p	23 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	24 CK: Seasons & the Sun 10a, 4p	25 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	26	27 Mindfulness in Nature 12:30p	28 Yoga in the Park 8:30a
29	30 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	31 CK: Pleasing Plants 10a, 4p	MARCH			

APRIL			1	2	3	4
			Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	Mindfulness in Nature 12:30p	Yoga in the Park 8:30a Tree ID Walk 10a
5 Interactive Nature Table: Snakes 1p JS: Outdoor Fun & Games 2p	6 Monday Morning Gardening 9a MM: Smashing Flowers & Chlorophyll Creations 10:30a	7 CK: Leaves & Trees 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	8 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	9	10 Summer Teen Volunteer Applications Due TODAY	11 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a
12 CENTER CLOSED	13 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	14 CK: Beautiful Bees 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	15 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	16	17	18 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Yoga in the Park 8:30a Park Work Day 9a - noon
19 Meet the Animals: Reptile Rendesvous 2p	20 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	21 CK: Spring Wildflowers 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	22 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	23	24 Spring Migration Field Trip for Senior NDC Members 7:30a - 7:30p	25 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Spring Fling 10a - 3p
26	27 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	28 CK: Spring Birds 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	29 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	30		

MAY						1	2
							Yoga in the Park 8:30a Tree ID Walk 10a
3	4 Monday Morning Gardening 9a MM: Exploring Sand & Water 10:30a	5 CK: Spring Butterflies 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	6 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	7 Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	8 Park After Dark Owl Prowl 8p	9 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	
10 Interactive Nature Table: Wildflowers 1p	11 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	12 CK: Lovely Lizards 10a, 4p	13 Nature Story Time 4p	14	15	16 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Yoga in the Park 8:30a Park Work Day 9a - noon	
17 Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a JS: Spineless Wonders: Inverts 2p	18 Monday Morning Gardening 9a	19 CK: Frogs & Friends 10a, 4p	20 Nature Story Time 4p	21	22 Park After Dark Owl Prowl 8p	23 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	
24	25 CENTER CLOSED	26	27 Nature Story Time 4p	28	29	30 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	
31							

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP (AGES 5 - 10)

Camp Details

Ages: 5 to 10*

(8 - 12 for Wilderness Adventure 101 camp)

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
9 am to 3:30 pm

Cost:

\$260/wk members or
\$330/wk non-members

What to bring:

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

After Care

(Add on option)

Days & Times:

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

Cost:

\$75/week or \$20/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!*



2020 Dates & Camp Descriptions:

Jun 8 - 12 & Jun 15 - 19 Wild Encounters

Join us for a fun exploration of the animals in our park and around Texas. We'll learn the animal groups and learn how to study them (as well as some basic animal science) by encountering live animals in the classroom and out in the field. Become a junior zoologist at the Nature Discovery Center!



Jun 22 - 26 & Jun 29 - Jul 3 Can You Dig It?

Create your own garden at Nature Discovery Center. Nurture plants while learning about what makes them special, play in the mud, even craft your own gardening tools!



Jun 29 - Jul 3 Wilderness Adventure 101 (ages 8 to 12)

From climbing Everest to paddling the Amazon, we'll spend the week imagining and preparing for all the grand outdoor adventures we will go on! We'll test our survival skills, build our own shelters and campfires, learn to navigate out on the trails, make tasty snacks from plants (and bugs!), and prepare our packs with all the needed tools for adventure! And, there will of course be S'mores!

Jul 6 - 10 & Jul 13 - 17 Art in Nature

Explore the beauty in nature all around us. We'll spend the week adding to our nature scrapbooks, painting watercolors, designing crafts and sculptures using natural materials, and we'll even create our own whimsical masterpieces in the park!

Jul 20 - 24 & Jul 27 - 31 Hide and Seek Week

Learn strategies animals and plants use to hunt and locate each other in the wild. Put those strategies into practice in a multitude of games. Create camouflage crafts and build hiding spots in the woods.

Aug 3 - 7 Habitat Hideaways

Set your city kids loose in this action packed week of adventure in the woods! We'll climb trees, build tee-pees, and learn to live like our woodland animal neighbors! In this jungle construction camp, we'll build like a beaver and nest like a newt! We'll create kid-size forts out in the forest. We'll spin giant spider webs along the trail and design terrariums to take home! Join us for the habitat-building fun!



Aug 10 - 14 & Aug 17 - 21 Water Wonders: Wet & Wild

Put water to the test in a series of aquatic games and activities to discover the properties of water, observe aquatic habitats and the living things that call water home. Learn firsthand what it takes to be an aquatic biologist. Get ready to get wet and make a splash!

SNEAK-A-PEEK

Sneak-a-Peek summer 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!

Ages: 3 to 5 with an adult caregiver

Days & Times:

Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:45 am

Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:45 am

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.

2020 Dates & Topics:

Jun 9, 10	Lizard Life
Jun 16, 17	Animal Dads
Jun 23, 24	Glorious Mud
Jun 30, Jul 1	Wiggly Worms
Jul 7, 8	Sensational Senses
Jul 14, 15	Wind, Wings, & Airborne Things
Jul 21, 22	Marvelous Mammals
Jul 28, 29	Animal Antics: Disguises & Tricks
Aug 4, 5	Animal Homes



TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Wanted: Teen Counselors! & Summer Volunteers

We're looking for quality counselors to help with our School Break Camps and 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 16 - 20)**, please email:

Ms. Bethany at bfoshee@naturediscoverycenter.org.

We also welcome teen volunteers to assist us with our other summer opportunities: hosting visitors to the nature center Tuesday-Sunday; caring for our park; assisting with our Sneak-a-Peak Preschool Summer Classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and caring for our education animals.

If you are interested in being a Summer Camp Counselor or Teen Volunteer, complete our online Summer Teen Volunteer Application by April 10. Camp Counselor & Summer Volunteer Trainings will be held on May 30 and 31, 2 - 4 pm. Summer volunteers are required to attend one of these trainings.





HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

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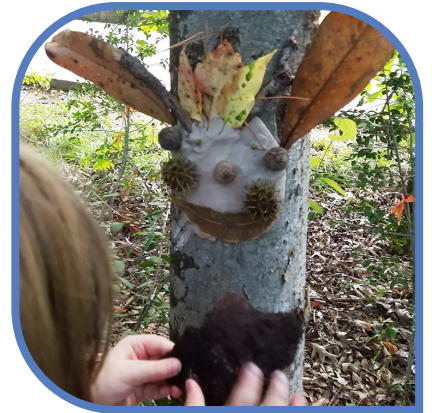
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**SPRING 2020
PROGRAM GUIDE**
with Summer Camp
& Class Schedules



SAVE THE DATES

Summertime Family Nature Nights

Jun 10, Jul 8, Aug 12
6:30 to 8 pm

Topics will include:
Reptiles, Furry Animals, & Insects



This program guide is generously sponsored by:



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