



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

FALL 2023

# PROGRAM GUIDE

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## MISSION

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

## FALL 2023

### DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

Tuesday through Thursday  
10 am - noon and 4 - 6 pm

## 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.

## VISIT US ONLINE

[naturediscoverycenter.org](http://naturediscoverycenter.org)

 NatureDiscoveryCenter

 naturediscoverycenter

nature discovery center  
7112 NEWCASTLE  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401  
T 713.667.6550

## We're Excited to Announce Angelo's Alligator Enclosure!

A pair of baby alligators will be joining the Center's menagerie of ambassador animals in early fall 2023 thanks to generous donations made in memory of **Angelo McNulty-Portnoy**.

Angelo grew up as an engaged and active Nature Discovery Center program participant who also loved spending time in our nature park and visiting with our ambassador animals. Angelo particularly loved learning about and sharing his knowledge of reptiles with others, so the installation of **Angelo's Alligator Enclosure** is a perfect way to honor him!

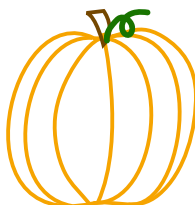
Please stop by to see our new alligator friends once they arrive. In the meantime, you can observe sunfish darting around in the beautiful enclosure designed and constructed by the crew from **BioDude** who also made in-kind donations to the project.

Donations in memory of Angelo were made by Shelia McNulty & David Portnoy, Toni Portnoy, Francis, Erin, & Megan McNulty, and Linda Hartley.



## Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival

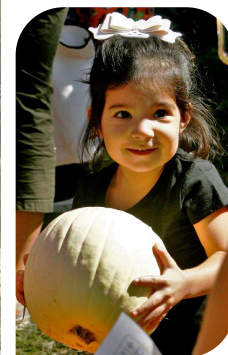
October 14 & October 15  
from 11 am to 4 pm



Come pick out pumpkins, play festival games, make fall crafts and more at one of Houston's most treasured events! Don't miss the food trucks, bounce house, obstacle course, vendors and exhibitor booths! Visit the pumpkin patch or our photo op spots in the park to snap cute fall family photos.

**VIP Early Access** - Wildlife Partner Level NDC Members and higher will have early access to the Pumpkin Patch on October 13 from 5 to 7 pm for photos, games, and pumpkin purchases, and to pick up Pumpkin Passes!

Thank you to our donors for their generous support. To sponsor this event, email [concal@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:concal@naturediscoverycenter.org).



Advance registration required unless otherwise noted.

## 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.

### 2023 Dates & Topics:

09/12 – Pond Pals	11/07 – Fall Nature
09/19 – Reptile Rendezvous	11/14 – Biodiversity
09/26 – Animal Colors	FALL BREAK - No Class
10/03 – Insects	11/28 – Furry Friends
10/10 – Funky Fungus	12/05 – Bird Adaptations
10/17 – Fruits & Veggies	12/12 – Winter Nature
10/24 – Owl be There!	12/19 – Winter Crafts
10/31 – Nocturnal Animals	

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



## Mess Makers (3 - 7 yrs old with adult)

**Sundays - 10 am or 1 pm**

Messy, sensory play is an important part of child development. Together with NDC staff and volunteers, you will explore and create with messy things like pumpkin guts, paint, and sticks. We will make works of art as well as just good old messy fun. We'll meet at the Pavilions behind the Center and plan to hold class outdoors.

### 2023 Dates & Topics:

<b>September Special</b>	10/08 – Stamp, Stomp, Smash
<b>2 Part Program - Special Rate*</b>	10/22 – Pumpkin Guts
<i>Must attend both sessions.</i>	11/05 – Fort Follies
09/10 – Paper Mâché Pt 1	11/19 – This Oat to be Fun
09/17 – Paper Mâché Pt 2	12/03 – Land Art & Loose Parts

**Cost/Class:** \$22 member / \$27 non-member

*\*see website for special rate for September*



## Fall Day Camps (5 - 10 yrs old)

Send the kids with their lunch and a refillable water bottle and we'll do the rest. Your children will be engaged and entertained as they play games, create nature crafts, encounter live animals, explore the park and more in our science and nature themed day camps.

Camps run from 9 am to 3 pm. We do not provide pre or post camp care.

### 2023 Dates & Topics:

09/04 - Magnificent Mammals
09/25 - Beautiful Birds
11/07 - Terrific Trees
11/20 - Radical Reptiles
11/21 - Texas Mammals
11/22 - Fall Nature

**Cost:** \$65 member / \$80 non-member per day

## Nature Story Time **FREE**

**Every Wednesday at 4 pm**

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

*Note that this program is occasionally canceled due to program conflicts and staffing shortages. Please keep your eye on Facebook or Instagram for schedule updates.*



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



Advance registration required unless otherwise noted.

## Sprinkler Day at the Center **FREE**

**Sunday, September 3 from 10 am to 2 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 wear their bathing suit and should bring a towel and a change of clothes. Some kids may prefer wearing water shoes on wet grass. Bring water bottles to stay hydrated!



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

**Friday, September 22 at 8 pm**

**Friday, October 20 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.

**Cost:** \$10 member / \$12 non-member

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

*Register online and join us to find out!*



## Meet the Animals

**Saturday, September 23 at 2 pm - Reptile Rendezvous**

**Saturday, November 18 at 2 pm - Marvelous 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:** \$5/person



## Walk on the Wild Side

**Saturday, October 7 at 2 pm**

**Saturday, December 16 at 2 pm**

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, search for colorful leaves or flowers, scan the trees for birds and squirrels, and investigate more seasonal nature surprises! These walks last about an hour.

**Cost:** \$5 member / \$10 non-member



# Family Friendly Birding Field Trips

with Cin-Ty Lee & Mary Ann Beauchemin

## Birding Bolivar Flats & Anahuac: The Return of the Waders

Sunday, October 22

Join us on a trip to see the shorebirds and waterfowl that have returned from the north. Houston Audubon's Bolivar Flats and the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge are two of the most famous migratory stopover spots in the country. We should see thousands of shorebirds on the Bolivar Flats. Early October is a good time for migrating passerines as well, and we will stop by small patches of trees in search of buntings, sparrows and immature warblers. At Anahuac, we will be treated to waders and waterfowl.

## Birding the Hotspots of Greater Houston

Saturday, November 11

Do you need to increase your Harris County bird list or do you want to know your local birding spots better? Join us where Galveston Bay meets Houston. This is the place to go for those hard to find waders, sparrows, gulls and vagrants that are difficult to find elsewhere in Houston. We will start early in the morning scanning the bay for terns, gulls, mergansers, shorebirds and maybe even a scoter. We will then head over to San Jacinto Monument, where we should see Vermilion Flycatcher, a variety of sparrows, waders, waterfowl, and rails. There's always the possibility of a rare warbler, towhee, tanager, and more.

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**Note:** *These trips are good for beginning birders as well as advanced birders, as there will be something for everyone.*

**Ages:** Adults and families with children ages 7 and up are welcome. All children must be registered attendees and be accompanied by a registered adult attendee.

Additional trip details, including meeting points and times, will be emailed to all registered participants.

**Cost:** \$75 member / \$95 non-member

**Advance registration required.** Register online at <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/birding-trips>

## Park Explorer Pack Loaner Backpack Program



PERFECT  
FOR  
FAMILIES!

We've loaded 5 themed loaner backpacks up with tools, educational resources, and fun activities that you can use to create your own adventure out on our trails. You get to decide which activities and tools look interesting to you! Complete one activity or do them all. We hope you have a great time exploring the park!



## Park Explorer Pack Themes

- **Birds** - Learn about basic biology and behavior of birds through investigations and games, try to identify birds in the park, design a new bird, try some bird yoga, & more!
- **Insects & Invertebrates** - Explore life under a log, catch and observe insects and their other invertebrate neighbors, play bug bingo, and learn a bee dance among other activities.
- **Pond Life** - Dipnet for fish, tadpoles, and aquatic insects, discover a food chain, survey pond life, use your senses to explore Cypress Pond, color a pond scene, and more!
- **Trees** - Examine tree cookies, strike a tree pose, go on a tree based scavenger hunt or two, make leaf rubbings, start a tree journal, or play a game with trees in the park.
- **Wildflowers & Pollinators** - Learn about the flowers pollinators prefer, go on a flower or pollination scavenger hunt, take a closer look at flower parts, catch a pollinator!

## Program Details

**Check Out/In:** at the NDC front reception desk

Fall hours - **Tuesday - Thursday 10 am - noon and 4 - 6 pm**

**Loan Period:** up to ONE week from date of check-out

**Cost:** NDC Family Members - FREE; non-members - \$5/family

**Suggested Ages:** Ages 4 to 10

*Note: Backpacks contain a variety of activities that range in needed skills.*

**Limitations:** Only ONE Park Explorer Pack may be checked out per family at a time. *Note: Additional paper activity sheets will be provided for siblings as needed.*



Advance registration required unless otherwise noted.

## Bats, Beers, & Bingo!

**October 6 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm**

Come have a fun night of bats, beers, and bingo! We will have beer and wine as well as some snacks while we learn all about our batty friends. We will be playing bingo while we answer any and all questions you might have about bats! We will end the evening with a night hike using our bat monitors to see (or hear!) who is flying around above our heads.

**Ages:** Adults only - ages 21 and up.

**Cost:** \$25 per person



## Halloween Horror Stories: An Adults Only Nature Night

**Friday, October 27 from 7 pm to 9 pm**

Join us for a fun and interesting night of creepy nature stories, games, and a night hike through the park. We will serve snacks and adult beverages, and this program is just for adults! Come and celebrate Halloween with us this year!

**Age Restrictions:** Adults only, ages 21 and up

**Cost:** \$25/person

## Tree Identification Walks **FREE**

**Saturdays, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 at 10 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.

## Willow Waterhole

### Monthly Bird Survey **FREE**

**Saturdays, September 16 at 7:30am,  
& October 21 & November 18 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 in the park before or after these lunchtime walks.

## Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

**Wednesdays, September 27 - November 1  
from Noon to 1:15 pm**

## Monthly Winter Bird Walks

**Wednesdays, December 6, January 10, & February 7  
from Noon to 1:15 pm**

SEPTEMBER					1	2 Tree ID Walk 10a
3 Sprinkler Day 10a - 2p	4 Fall Day Camp Magnificent Mammals 9a - 3p	5 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	6 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Nature Storytime 4p	7 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	8	9
10 MM: Paper Mache Part 1 10a, 1p	11	12 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  CK: Pond Pals 10a, 4p	13 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Nature Storytime 4p	14 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	15	16 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7:30a
17 MM: Paper Mache Part 2 10a, 1p	18	19 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  CK: Reptiles 10a, 4p	20 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Nature Storytime 4p	21 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	22  Park After Dark Night Hike 8p	23 Meet the Animals 2p
24	25 Fall Day Camp Beautiful Birds 9a - 3p	26 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  CK: Animal Colors 10a, 4p	27 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n  Nature Storytime 4p	28 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	29	30

1	2	3 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  CK: Insects 10a, 4p	4 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n  Nature Storytime 4p	5 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	6  Bats, Beers, & Bingo 7:30 - 9:30p	7 Tree ID Walk 10a  Walk on the Wild Side 2p
8 MM: Stamp, Stomp, Smash 10a, 1p	9	10 CK: Funky Fungus 10a, 4p	11 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n  Nature Storytime 4p	12	13 VIP Early Access to Pumpkin Patch 5p - 7p 	14 Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival 11a - 4p 
15 Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival 11a - 4p 	16	17 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  CK: Fruits & Veggies 10a, 4p	18 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n  Nature Storytime 4p	19 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	20  Park After Dark Night Hike 8p	21 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a
22 Anahuac & Bolivar Birding Trip  MM: Pumpkin Guts 10a, 1p	23	24 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  CK: Owl be There! 10a, 4p	25 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n  Nature Storytime 4p	26 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	27  Adult Nature Night Halloween Horror Stories 7 - 9p	28
29	30	31 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  CK: Nocturnal Animals 10a, 4p	OCTOBER			



NOV			1 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n  Nature Storytime 4p	2	3	4  Tree ID Walk 10a
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends 2a  MM: Fort Follies 10a, 1p	6	7 Fall Day Camp Terrific Trees 9a - 3p CK: Fall Nature 10a, 4p	8 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Nature Storytime 4p	9 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	10	11 Birding Houston Hotspots Trip
12	13	14 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p CK: Biodiversity Up 10a, 4p  Nature Storytime 4p	15 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Nature Storytime 4p	16 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	17	18  Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a Meet the Animals 2p
19 MM: This Oat to be Fun! 10a, 1p	20 Fall Break Camp Reptiles 9a - 3p	21 Fall Break Camp Mammals 9a - 3p	22 Fall Break Camp Fall Nature 9a - 3p  Nature Storytime 4p	23 Thanksgiving Holiday  CENTER CLOSED	24	25
26	27	28 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p CK: Furry Friends Up 10a, 4p  Nature Storytime 4p	29 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p  Nature Storytime 4p	30 Discovery Rooms 10a - 12n, 4 - 6p	Continuing in December: Discovery Room Hours & Nature Story Time Curious Kids & Mess Makers School Break Day Camps Walk on the Wild Side Tree ID Walk & Willow Waterhole Bird Survey <i>See Special Winter Save the Dates below!</i>	

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Volunteers are needed to work shifts for our annual **Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival on Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15. Shifts run 10 am - 2 pm and 1 to 5 pm.**

We are accepting both individuals and groups of volunteers to set up and run festival games, crafts, and other event activities as well as help us break down and clean up all event areas after the event.

**To volunteer as an individual,** sign up through our Better Impact Volunteer Site accessible via our website [naturediscoverycenter.org/volunteer/](http://naturediscoverycenter.org/volunteer/)

**To sign up your group of volunteers,** please contact NDC Executive Director DeAndra Ramsey directly via email at [dramsey@naturediscoverycenter.org](mailto:dramsey@naturediscoverycenter.org) to make arrangements.

**Volunteers are expected to arrive on time for volunteer check-in before their shift, and to work their entire shifts.**

**Important note: All volunteers will need to bring their own re-fillable water bottles. Disposable water bottles will not be provided.**

## SPECIAL WINTER DATES

### Annual Member Meeting

Tuesday, December 5 from 7 to 9 pm

### Special Winter Nature Story Time

Wednesday, December 13 from 4 to 5 pm

### Winter Day Camps

December Dates: 12/26, 12/27, 12/28, 12/29

January Dates: 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/8, 1/15

February Dates: 2/19, 2/20

### Bubble Day

Saturday, January 27 from 11 am to 1 pm



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

## nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE ST  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



### FALL 2023

#### PROGRAM GUIDE

Activity Schedule  
& Special Events



Pumpkin  
Patch  
Fall  
Festival  
Oct 14 & 15

