



september : october : november 2010

HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 CENTER NEWS
- 3 VOLUNTEER NEWS
- 4 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
- 5 ADULT PROGRAMS
- 6 SPECIAL EVENTS
- 7 FALL BIRDING
- 8 TEACHERS' CORNER
- 9 NATURE KIDS
- 10 DONORS
- 11 MEMBERS & RENEWALS

DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

NOON-5:30 DAILY
CLOSED MONDAYS

ADMISSION FREE

Donations are appreciated.
Groups of six or more
children by appointment.
Cost is \$2/child.

MISSION

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

naturediscoverycenter.org

nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550
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Swift Night Out Events Planned

Join us for our family friendly 'Swift Night Out' events this fall. Check your calendars and see if you can help count the swelling numbers of Chimney Swifts migrating through Houston. *For more details, see page 7.*

Upcoming Dates & Locations:

Aug. 31, 7:15 pm – Whole Foods Market or Pershing Middle School
Sept. 24, 6:45 pm – St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Sept. 26, 6:45 pm – Nature Discovery Center

Pumpkin Patch



**Saturday & Sunday,
October 9th & 10th from 11 am - 4 pm**

You'll love the pumpkins and games at our famous Pumpkin Patch! Take a wagon ride and enjoy our obstacle course and carnival. Don't miss the new attractions, a rock wall for older kids and the rejuvenated Devil's Bridge. We'll also have jewelry, photography, and toy vendors, as well as the Bellaire Garden Club's annual plant sale! Food, games and activities will require the purchase of tickets and pumpkins will be sold. Bring the whole family and have fun while supporting the Nature Discovery Center. Purchase a Pumpkin Pass or buy individual tickets. *See page 6 for more.*

Twilight Gala - Save the Date

**Saturday, November 6th from 6:30 pm - midnight
at the Westin Galleria Plaza Ballroom**

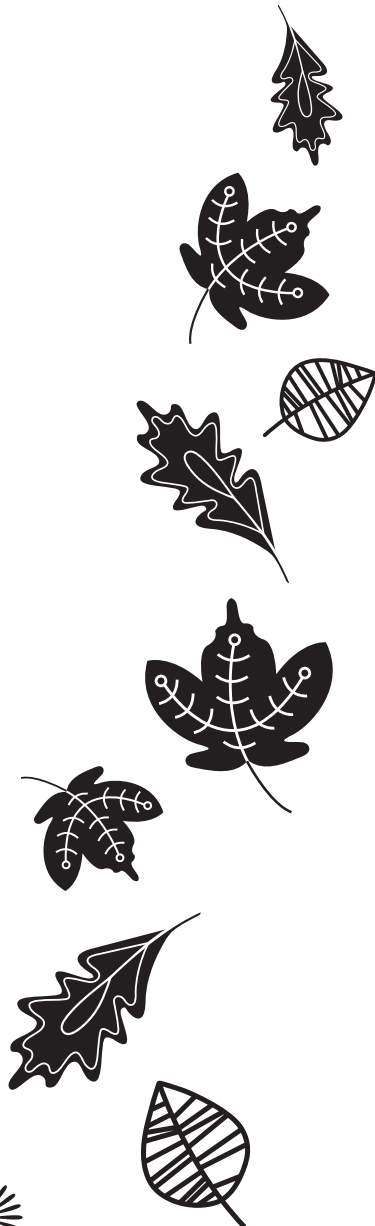
Celebrate with us the official unveiling of our new look at our Butterfly Gala. Be there to support us and witness our transformation as we take wings with our new image. Your support is instrumental in allowing us to help children explore and build a life-long connection with nature. We're thrilled to have Ellen Cohen as this year's Honorary Chair. The dinner with a live and silent auction will be emceed by our very own Channel 13 anchorman and neighbor Tom Koch. The band is Doppelganger. You won't want to miss this event! *See page 6 for table sponsorship and ticket information.*

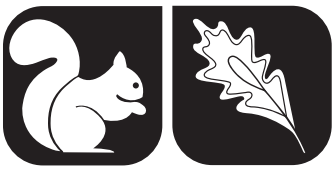
Holiday Market

December 1st - 23rd from 10 am to 5 pm daily

For the nature lovers in your life - we have a delightful selection of animal puppets, insect nets and bug boxes, stickers and science toys, wild bird feeders, and field guides to enhance your wildlife watching enjoyment.

Bring the whole family for **Photos with Santa, Saturday, December 4th from 10 am - 1 pm.** Visitors will receive a free photo, courtesy of **John Daugherty Realtors.** Check out the Discovery Rooms and get some shopping done in the market while you wait for your turn with Santa.





Jenni Malone
Director

Staff

Mary Ann Beauchemin
Maura Denman
Eric Duran
Anne Eisner
Joanne Go
Jessica Lozano
Cindy Sherman
Laura Stokes

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Hana Ginzburg
Millie Hast
Lucinda Kontos
Grady Paris

From the Director's Desk: New Program to Launch this Fall

Summer programs are packed away, the kids are getting used to school. You might think that things would be settling down at the Center - but they're not.

This fall the Nature Discovery Center is launching **Science on the Go!** - a new outreach program for schools that will bring hands-on science experiments and investigations into 3rd through 8th grade classrooms. Students will have the opportunity to explore the process of photosynthesis and discover how that process connects to the water and carbon dioxide cycles. They will be able to examine how genes mix and change over time leading to new adaptations and even new species.

If you think your child's teacher would be interested in one of our new in-class hands-on lessons, let us know. We are piloting **Science on the Go!** this year, so we are actively looking for teachers who will give us feedback on the success of the activities. Maybe your child's class can be one of the first to help us test our active learning lessons.

Jennifer Gillespie-Malone, Director

Did you know ...?
... we are becoming an AMAZON Associate!
You'll soon be able to visit Amazon.com via the NDC website and support the Center while shopping at Amazon!

We will miss Lenora Carlson

We are sad to report that Lenora Carlson, former president of the Board of Directors of the Nature Discovery Center, passed away on July 30 after a brave battle with cancer. Lenora was the wife of Dave Carlson and loving mother of Ben and Grace Carlson. She was actively involved in the success of the Nature Discovery Center, as a Board member, as Board President, and as chair of the annual Twilight Gala. Passionate about her family and about nature, she and her children were frequent visitors to the Center, where she encouraged them to learn through hands-on exploration. We are blessed to have been counted among Lenora's friends, and we'll miss her.



Fall Wish List

We just might want what you don't anymore!

House/Garden Needs

- ___ Animal carrier large enough for our bunnies
- ___ Working sprinklers
- ___ 100 foot garden hose
- ___ Shovels - specifically spades & sharp shooters
- ___ Hand trowels
- ___ Rakes in good condition
- ___ Heavy duty wheelbarrow
- ___ Working weed eater
- ___ Native plants (call for list)
- ___ Wood chip mulch for trails
- ___ Garden/work gloves (all sizes)
- ___ Power drill/drivers (electric or battery operated)
- ___ Drill bits
- ___ Extension ladder

Class/Camp & Exhibit Needs

- ___ Empty thread spools
- ___ Clear acrylic display boxes (like those used for footballs, baseballs, etc.)
- ___ 10' x 13' rug - green or brown, lightly used is ok

Birding Needs

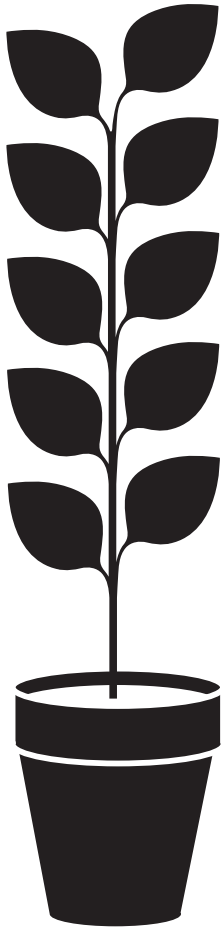
- ___ Binoculars in "good condition"

In-Kind Donations Needed

- ___ General carpentry
- ___ Plumbing repair
- ___ Professional electrical repair



Lenora Carlson
1961 - 2010



Summer Quarter Volunteers

Animal Care

Marley Flowers
Christiaan Khurana
David Leventon
Allison Shay
Sara Sii
Chris Turrand

Bird Care

Norma Barnes
Colton Borovsky
Theresa Hagstrom
Ellen Hastedt

General Handymen

Gary Gray

Grounds Task Force

Beth Debenport
Betsy Black
Hana Ginzburg
Millie Hast
Cletus Lee
Don Verser

Multi-taskers

Betsy Black
National Charity League

Park & Plant Care

Jeff Gotsdiner
Don Verser

Willing Wednesday Workers

Norma Barnes
Eugene Bullard
Fred Campbell
Marcelle Daniel
Beth Debenport
Rosemary Gendusa
Beth Murphy
Jim Murphy
Debbie Patton
Michael Patton
Pat Roberts
Adrienne Vecchio
Nora Wolff

Summer Positions

Forty teen volunteers volunteered this summer, guiding visiting groups through the park and Discovery Rooms, creating and upgrading exhibit activities, helping with summer programs as camp counselors and Sneak-a-Peek assistants, and Nature Story Time presenters.

Group Guides & Discovery Rooms Interpreters

Emma Bennett
Will Bennett
Claire Dameris
Korelle Dickson
Dee Dee Han
Elyse Hanse
Blake Kushwaha
Brooke Kushwaha
Zachery Long
Hannah Lu
Helen Lu
Pooja Salhotra
Katherine Ten Eyck
Natalie Twyman
Nicholas Twyman
Mackenzie Ward
Raymond Yuan
Sean Yuan

Science Camp Counselors

Courtney Buaas
Charlotte Campbell
Teddy Farnham
Amara Ghorbani
Rachel Hager
Meghan Hager
Christy Jacobs
David Leventon
Shannon Martin
Maggie McGuffie
Hanna Moffett
Blake Sandeen
Ellie Serra
Brittney Sheena
Michelle Sheena
Chad Stevenson
Christina Whitehouse

Sneak-a-Peek Assistant

Samantha Mangum

Nature Story Time Leaders

Halle Brazda
Isabelle Draper

Special Thanks to the Following

Eagle Scouts with Projects in Russ Pitman Park

Native plant landscaping
_Ahsan Khan
_Michael Griffin
_Zachary Mathew
_Ryan Rasey

Our Summer Teen Interns

Grayson Adolph
Megan Smith
Connor Stevenson

Our Development Committee

Cecilia Alatriz
Alexis Harrigan
Claudia Montenegro McCabe
Amanda Shagrin

Volunteer for Pumpkin Patch



Friday, October 8th - Pumpkin Unloading from 3pm to 5pm

Saturday & Sunday, October 9th & 10th - Event shifts from 10:45am to 1:45pm & 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Scout groups, school clubs, service organizations, families and individuals all make great volunteers for this annual event. We need people to help with set up, clean up, and a variety of activities during the event. Contact Anne Eisner for more information about volunteering (aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org).

Visit our website at www.naturediscoverycenter.org or call 713-667-6550 to find out more about the many volunteer opportunities we have available for individuals and groups.



children's programs

Registration Policy For All Classes

Registration for children's programs is available online. Please call if you need assistance. Class fees are due prior to the start of class. No walk-ins.

FREE Nature Story Time

Stories, puppets, specimens, songs and more for preschoolers.
Every Wednesday
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm



Scout Programs

Bring your scout group to the Nature Discovery Center! See our website for complete Scout Program offerings. Scout Programs are offered Friday - Sunday. Dates fill quickly - call soon for best availability. Advance reservations are required.

Nature Detectives

Ages 3.5 - 5
Nature Detectives is our fun-tastic school year program for 3.5 to 5 year olds and their parents, grandparents or caregivers. Children are introduced to basic science concepts with animals, natural objects, crafts, puppets, stories, songs, and nature walks.

October—Archeology

Come and discover what is and isn't archeology. Each class will be a different field in archeology. Come and uncover more than just bones!
\$30 members / \$45 nonmembers

Tues. - 5, 12, 19 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Wed. - 6, 13, 20 1:00 - 2:00 or
4:00 - 5:00 pm
Thur. - 7, 14, 21 3:00 - 4:00 pm

November—Texas Traditions

Become a frontier pioneer and journey through Texas. Taste some old fashioned recipes! Learn the daily crafts and much more!
\$30 members / \$45 nonmembers

Tues. - 2, 9, 16 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Wed. - 3, 10, 17 1:00 - 2:00 or
4:00 - 5:00 pm
Thur. - 4, 11, 18 3:00 - 4:00 pm

December—Nature's Gifts (2 weeks only)

Come and make some wonderful gifts for your family and nature this Holiday Season!
\$20 members / \$30 nonmembers

Tues. - 7 & 14 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Wed. - 8 & 15 1:00 - 2:00 or
4:00 - 5:00 pm
Thur. - 9 & 16 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Eco Explorers

Ages 6 - 10
"Explorers" examine nature and science topics in some depth through experiments, crafts, and hands-on investigations. Classes meet for 1 hour each week, 2 or 3 weeks of the month. Classes run September through May.

September—Life in the Pond

Come discover the world of freshwater plants and animals found above and beneath the surface of Texas ponds. We'll explore through art, experiments, and observations of pond life in the classroom and out in the park.
\$30 members / \$45 nonmembers

Tues. - 7, 14, 21 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Wed. - 8, 15, 22 1:30 - 2:30 pm

October—Prehistoric Animals, Beyond Dinosaurs

Join us for an adventure in prehistoric times. Did you know that giant armadillos once roamed Texas, or about the giant predatory birds that hunted tiny horses? Everyone knows dinosaurs, but we'll learn about the prehistoric birds and mammals that are lesser known and sometimes forgotten.
\$30 members / \$45 nonmembers

Tues. - 5, 12, 19 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Wed. - 6, 13, 20 1:30 - 2:30 pm

November—The Planets

Why do we call some objects in space "planets"? Come find out as we explore the Solar System and visit the planets that orbit our sun. We'll learn what makes each planet unique, and imagine what other planets far away from us might be like.
\$30 members / \$45 nonmembers

Tues. - 2, 9, 16 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Wed. - 3, 10, 17 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Winter Break Camps

Ages 5 - 10
One day camps meet from 9:30 - 3:30 each day. Register online by signing in as the child who is coming to camp.
Cost per day:
\$40 member / \$50 nonmember.

Monday, December 20th Caves

Come learn what life is like in the dark and damp underground.

Tuesday, December 21st Insect Invasion

Explore insects with us and discover their purpose. What good are they?

Tuesday, December 28th Let's Hear it for Habitats!

Come join in our examination of the who, what, when, where, why and how of habitats.





Adult Lectures

For the Inquisitive Naturalist

First Wednesday of every month
from 7:00 - 8:30 pm
FREE. Light refreshments are served.

September 1st

Local Spiders

with *Cletus Lee*



Exotic wildlife is as close as your own backyard or a cozy place like Russ Pitman Park. The focus this month is on spiders that you might expect to find in here or in your own backyard. Come learn about spiders and see photos of a few that you might have missed on your last walk through the park. If the weather and the spiders are cooperative, the speaker will lead a walk to take a peek at some of our nighttime spider residents after the talk - so bring your flashlight just in case!

Cletus Lee is a native of Virginia and received a BS in Geology from Virginia Tech. After an interesting career in the oil and gas industry, followed by another in information sciences, he retired in 2008. He is now pursuing nature photography, cycling, and other long time hobbies. He is an amateur arachnologist and resides in Bellaire just a few blocks from the Nature Discovery Center.

October 6th

Texas Prairies An Historical Perspective

with *Dennis Jones*

Would you like to know what this area was like long before Europeans stepped foot here? Dennis Jones, from Brazos Bend State Park, will unweave the ecological history of Bellaire and the surrounding area with a look at prairies (or grasslands) and how they have changed and disappeared over the past several generations.

Dennis Jones has worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 25 years; the majority at Brazos Bend State Park. His current title is Resource Management Specialist. He is the former Assistant Superintendent, retired and rehired. Now he gets to do the things he joined TPWD to do and it has very little to do with bean counting!

November 3rd

Terrestrial Mollusks of the Houston Area

with *Max Anton*

Who's that leaving slime trails in your back yard? Join Max Anton as he acquaints us with the snails and slugs of the Houston area. This is an excellent chance to get educated about a group of animals often overlooked and not well known, terrestrial gastropods.

Max Anton is a Houston native who spends the majority of his time exploring the outdoors or engrossed in his artwork. He has studied land snails for three years, an avocation that began while volunteering at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Max is currently completing his freshman year at Houston Baptist University, where he is studying philosophy and classic literature. Check out Max's website: www.molluskman.com

December 1st

Foraging Houston - There is Such a Thing as a Free Lunch

with *Dr. Mark Vorderbruggen*

We are surrounded every day all over Houston with food and sources of medicine, and most of us don't even know it. Dr. Mark Vorderbruggen will show us some examples of edible and medicinal plants from right here in Houston. We'll have a lecture as well as a tasting of plants from Russ Pitman Park.

Dr. Mark Vorderbruggen earns his keep as a research chemist for a Houston oil company but his true passion is the world of wild edible and medicinal plants. His weekends are spent searching Texas for new wild edibles, working on his plant blog, cultivating wild medicinal and edible plants in his suburban permaculture food forest, or teaching foraging at the Houston Arboretum and other parks and nature preserves throughout Texas.



Bellaire Garden Club Meetings

The Bellaire Garden Club holds their monthly meetings at the Nature Discovery Center at 7 pm on the first Thursday of every month. Everyone is invited!

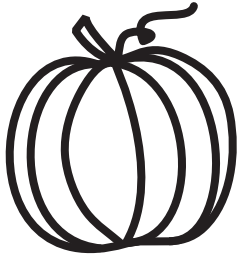
Annual Meeting for Members

**Wednesday, December 1st
6:30 pm**

Join us at the annual 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 2011 Board of Directors.



special events



Pumpkin Patch 2010

Coming October 9th & 10th from 11 am - 4 pm

Our 17th annual Pumpkin Patch, a fundraiser to support our programs, will be Saturday, October 9th and Sunday, October 10th from 11am to 4pm. Admission is FREE. Tickets are required for food, games and activities. Pumpkins will be sold for cash or tickets. Purchase a Pumpkin Pass to save money! Passes are especially popular with families attending the event with several children, and with children who have lots of energy to burn on all of our fantastic Pumpkin Patch activities!

PUMPKINS! Big and small.

HAYRIDE! Horse-drawn wagon ride through the neighborhood.

FOOD! Popcorn, pizza, drinks, and sweet treats.

ACTIVITIES! Just to name a few: rock climbing wall, a 65-foot obstacle course, moonwalk, tombstone painting, goody bag decorating; fabulous carnival games like the ring toss, rat-tac-toe, and the wildly popular can crush!

CRAFTS AND MORE! Vendors sell their wares: books, toys, jewelry, art.

PLANT SALE! Shop the Bellaire Garden Club's plant sale from 8 am - 3 pm under the pavilions out back.

Twilight Gala Ticket Information

Saturday, November 6th from 6:30 pm - 12 midnight

The Underwriting Form for tickets and table sponsorships for our Twilight Butterfly Gala is now available at www.naturediscoverycenter.org/page/twilight. Table sponsorships will be available at the following levels:



- Monarch \$8,000** Premier seating for ten; recognition in the invitation and at the event; full-page space in the auction program; newsletter listing; NDC t-shirts; post-auction cocktail party with local celebrities.
- Viceroy \$5,000** Reserved seating for ten; recognition in the invitation and at the event; half-page space in the auction program; newsletter listing; NDC t-shirts.
- Swallowtail \$3,000** Reserved seating for ten; listing in the auction program and at the event; newsletter listing.

Individual tickets may be purchased for \$175.

Nature Discovery Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The value of all contributions over the fair market value may be tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Fair market value for this event is \$150 per person. For more information please contact Adrienne Brown-Franklin at (832) 283-6233.

Community Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages

Wednesday, December 8th from 6 pm to 8 pm

The Nature Discovery Center is partnering with **Ten Thousand Villages** for a special Community Shopping Night at their store in Rice Village (2424 A Rice Boulevard). Buy unique, eco-friendly gifts from around the world and benefit the Nature Discovery Center at the same time. *15% of net sales during the shopping night will be donated to the Center.*



Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit, self-supporting, non-governmental, and fair trade organization designed to benefit artisans, not to maximize profits. They market hand-made products from artisans in low-income countries and provide consumers around the world with products that have been fairly purchased from sustainable resources.

Family Fun Day Thanks

A special thanks to our summer interns Connor Stevenson, Grayson Adolph, & Megan Smith for overseeing our Family Fun Day volunteers. The event would not have been possible without the wonderful volunteers who painted faces, helped with crafts and games, guided visitors in the Discovery Rooms and more!

We are grateful to **ACME Party and Tent Rental** for sponsoring the event and providing tents, drinks and food: hotdogs, sno-cones, popcorn.



fall birding

Lunch with the Birds

**Wednesdays,
Noon to about 1:00 pm**

Interested in birdwatching? Whether you are a novice or an expert, join our free guided bird walks through Russ Pitman Park.

Warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, orioles and buntings are just a few of the types of fall migrants you may see. If you bring your lunch, plan to eat it before or after the hour long walk.

Dates: September 22nd, through November 3rd, 2010.
Where: Meet us on the front porch. Just drop in!
Bring: binoculars.

Nature Discovery Center will Co-sponsor Several 'Swift Night Out' Events this fall!

Join us for our family friendly 'Swift Night Out' events this fall. Check your calendars and see if you can 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 mosquito repellent and a folding chair, if you care to sit down! Binoculars are optional (the swifts are visible with the naked eye as they enter the chimney). For more details and updates, see www.naturediscoverycenter.org.

Tuesday, August 31st, 2010: Swift Night Out at Whole Foods Market / Pershing

Activities will begin at 7:15 pm. Check our website www.naturediscoverycenter.org the weekend before to see which site the Swifts are using! The site (Whole Foods Market or Pershing Middle School) will be determined depending on Swift roosting numbers. Whole Foods Market will provide refreshments. At the end of August and early September we typically count over 500 Chimney Swifts.

Co-sponsored by the Nature Discovery Center, Houston Audubon Society, Whole Foods Market and Pershing Middle School.

Friday, September 24th, 2010: Swift Night Out at St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Meet at 6:45 pm in the parking lot on the east side of St. Paul's Methodist Church (across from the Museum of Fine Arts). Last year's Swift Night Out at St Paul's SNO netted 346 swifts. Bring any non-alcoholic drinks and snacks if you'd like.

Co-sponsored by St. Paul's, the Nature Discovery Center, Houston Audubon Society and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Sunday, September 26th, 2010 – Swift Night Out at the Nature Discovery Center

Meet at 6:45 pm in front of the Nature Discovery Center for special activities and information about chimney swifts just before the count. The Nature Discovery Center will provide light snacks and drinks. There were between 100 and 150 Chimney Swifts roosting here in 2009. The great advantage of this site is that the Chimney Swifts fly low – right over your head and are easy to get a good look at!

Co-sponsored by the Nature Discovery Center and Houston Audubon Society.

Smith Point Hawk Watch Birding Trip for Senior Members

Monday, October 11, 8 am – 6 pm

At the request of many birders, Mary Ann Beauchemin has arranged to lead a Hawk Watch birding trip to the Smith Point Hawk Watch for Senior Members of the Nature Discovery Center. **This trip will be open to any Nature Discovery Center Member who is age 50 or over by October 11, 2010. Advance registration required.**

We will leave from the Evergreen Pool parking lot at 8 am and will return about 6 pm. Hawks utilize rising thermals from the heated ground to soar, so we will not need to arrive at Smith Point until about 9:30 or 10 am. After 2 or 3 pm it usually slows down. At that point we will take a little tour around Smith Point itself to look for other birds and migrating butterflies, and (if there is time) then move on to Anahuac until it is time to return to the Nature Discovery Center.

For more trip details visit us at www.naturediscoverycenter.org. You may register online or call us at 713-667-6550 and we will be happy to assist you.

Our thanks to Steve Radack and Harris County, Precinct 3, for providing bus service for this trip.

Just ask!



We keep binoculars on hand at the Center for visitors to borrow while birding in Russ Pitman Park. Call ahead to check availability.

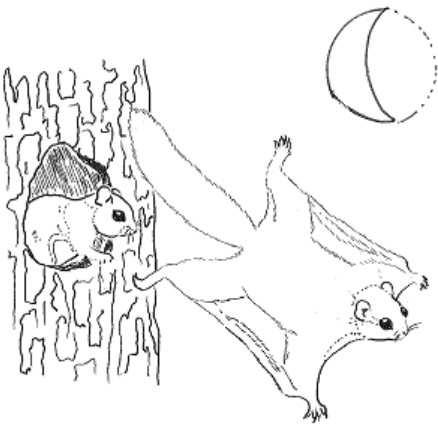


Squirrels, Squirrels, Squirrels

By Jenni Malone

Squirrels seem to be everywhere at this time of year: tearing around in the trees, making breath-taking leaps from limb to limb; poking around on the ground sniffing out nuts and seeds; or perched on a branch pulling the petals off pine cones to get at the seeds. We may notice them daily and even chuckle at their antics, but we rarely realize they can be wonderful subjects for children to observe and investigate. (see this issue's Nature Kids for more squirrel observation ideas)

In Houston, we have three species of squirrels.



Southern Flying Squirrel

Small enough to hold in your hand, the flying squirrel is our one nocturnal (active at night) member of the squirrel family. It has a furry membrane that stretches from wrist to ankle. It glides rather than truly flying and steers by manipulating its tail and wrists.



Eastern Gray Squirrel

Possibly the most common squirrel here, this is the squirrel you see playing "chase" up and down tree trunks. They are brown and gray above and white beneath. Gray squirrels eat a variety of nuts and seeds. They are most active in the morning and late afternoon.



Fox Squirrel

This is the largest of our local squirrels. It is sometimes called a "red squirrel" because of its reddish coat. It has a heavier build than the Eastern Gray Squirrel, tends to move more slowly, and spends more time on the ground. It buries its nuts in hoards, or caches, rather than singly, like the gray squirrel.

Squirrels are members of the order rodentia, the largest group of mammals with over 1500 species worldwide, ranging in size from the 2 ounce harvest mouse to the 146 pound capybara. They are characterized by continuously growing incisors (front teeth), two in the top jaw and two in the bottom. These teeth require constant use to wear them down as they grow.

There are three groups of rodents: mouse-like rodents; porcupine-like rodents, and squirrel-like rodents (our topic here). Squirrels and their close relatives have four toes on each front foot and five on each hind foot. Except for the flying squirrels, they are all diurnal (active in the daytime).

Getting started observing squirrels with children

Try these ideas or begin with the investigation on the Nature Kids page.

Investigations can begin with single questions or you can brainstorm with your child several questions you can answer through observations:

Do squirrels use their front paws to help them eat? If so how?

What kinds of sounds do squirrels make?

How do they behave when they are "talking"?

Add your questions to the list on the Nature Kids page.

One good resource for other ideas is *We Watch Squirrels* by Frank Graham.



How squirrel smart are you?

We see squirrels all the time: running and leaping in the trees, digging in the ground, playing chase. Have you been watching closely? Take this squirrel smart quiz then go out and watch some squirrels to find out just how "squirrel smart" you are. Add your own questions if you think of new ones.



Fill in your guess (hypothesis) in the first column. Write your observations in the second column. Do they match? Why or why not?

Squirrel Smart Quiz

Question	Hypothesis	Observation
How does a squirrel move on the ground: walk, run, leap?	_____	_____
How does a squirrel climb a tree: straight up, zig-zag, spiral?	_____	_____
How does a squirrel climb down a tree: head first, tail first?	_____	_____
Do squirrels have claws?	_____	_____
Do squirrels make noises?	_____	_____
<i>Add your own questions</i>	Hypothesis	Observation
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

How did you do? Were you able to learn something new about squirrels?

If you enjoyed watching squirrels, you might try putting some seeds or nuts outside near a window for more interesting watching. You could even build an obstacle course for them to go through to get the food. You can test the squirrels to find out just how smart THEY are!



The Hana and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center is most grateful to the following corporations, foundations, and individuals for their generous support between August 15, 2009 and August 15, 2010:

Discovery Circle

Harris County
Commissioner
Precinct 3,
Steve Radack

HOUSTON ENDOWMENT INC.

A PHILANTHROPY ENDOWED BY MR. AND MRS. JESSE H. JONES

Investigator Circle



The Albert and Ethel Herzstein
Charitable Foundation

Explorer Circle



Wildlife Benefactor

Bellaire Young Mothers
Boy Scouts of America Troop 266*
City Wide Tree Services*
Ray C. Fish Foundation
Charles R. & Tracy Hallenberger
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
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Les & Mary Puckett Foundation
Marathon Oil Company Foundation
Edward & Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
Scurlock Foundation
W. Dennis Shepler*

Wildlife Guardian

Will Fleming*
Susan & Michael Hawes
Herman Family Fund
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Don Verser

Wildlife Supporter

Dr. Ed Biegert & Cathleen Trechter
BP Fabric of America Fund
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* denotes In-Kind donations

Special In-Kind Gifts

We thank Mrs. Lisa Smith, who donated three butterfly nets and two spider bubble wands for use in our programs for children.

We are grateful to Ms. Elizabeth Asnes for donating field guides, children's science and nature books, as well as Montessori teaching activity books.

We appreciate the support of donors Fran and Frank Stokes, who donated toys and a variety of office supplies.

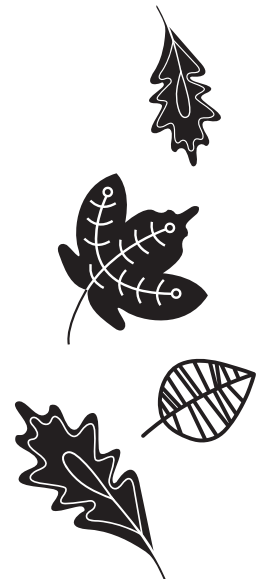
In Memory Of...

Lenora Carlson
Russ Pitman

Anne Stern
Russ Pitman

The Nature Discovery Center relies on contributions from the community in order to continue offering quality science and nature programs to children and families throughout the Houston area.

We thank you all for your support!





New & Renewing Members

The Hana and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center is pleased to welcomes the following new and renewing members from May 15, 2010 to August 15, 2010.

Wildlife Benefactor

Chris & James Copeland
Lucinda & Thanos Kontos

Wildlife Supporter

Marcy & Gerald Brown
Jennifer & Ben Cowan
Kay Kamas & James Porter
Stuart & Janie Mitcham

Wildlife Partner

Lynda Clemmons & Susan Wood
Halley & Steven Erickson
Cookie & Ben Portnoy

Family

Melissa Aguilar
Joyce Almaguer-Reisdorf
Angela & James Avant
Jeannine & David Bergt
Frances & Mark Biegler
Danya Blair & Charles Lunsford
Tenille & Josh Brown
Carolyn Carlson
Dr. Faride Certuche
Barkha Chandwani
Susan & Suneel Chilukuri
Dave & Lagenia Clark
David Colley & Mary Oxford
Bill Davenport & Francesca Fuchs

Alicia Escamilla
Denise Gandolfi & Alberto Castelli
Roger Goddard
Eron Grant
Kristin & Fawaz Hashimi
Caroline & Jim Hassell
Susan & Michael Hawes
Diane & Stephen Hecht
Stephenie Hooker
Shelley & David Huff
Demi & Alex Jessett
Janet & Mario Kapusta
Stephen Ellis & Mary H. Lasley
Kelly & Jon Levitt
Andrea & Brad Mills
Angela & Scott Minard
Stacey & John Moffet
Dr. Ted & Gabrielle Pate
Elaine & Vytas Petruslis
Marla & Karl Poirot
Lisa & Gregory Shurter
Imelda R. & David Smith
Harriet Spain
Tracee & Jeff Tallas
Heather & Brian Trachtenberg
Julie & Joe Wakil
Dr. Thomas & Becky Wheeler
Dr. William Whitehead & Anna Illner
Caressa Hughes Young

Individual

Paul Duke
Jennifer Macia
Mara Turner

Student/Senior

Grace Beam
Robert Goodfellow
Gwen Kunz
Shelly & Tom Ratkovich
Herman Schultz
Claire & Joe Williams
Li Xu

Family Members and higher

receive discounts on classes, camps, and field trips, and have early registration and pavilion reservation privileges.

Membership and Gift Form

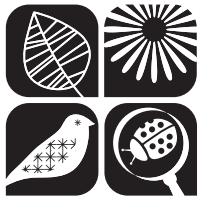
Name	Address	City	Zip
<hr/>			
Phone	Email		

You may acknowledge my gift (of \$150 or more) in the Nature Discovery Center newsletter.

- | | | | |
|--|-------|---|--------|
| <input type="radio"/> Student/Senior | \$ 20 | <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Guardian | \$ 500 |
| <input type="radio"/> Individual | 30 | <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Benefactor | 1,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | 50 | <input type="radio"/> Explorer Circle | 5,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Partner | 100 | <input type="radio"/> Investigator Circle | 10,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Supporter | 250 | <input type="radio"/> Discovery Circle | 15,000 |

Will your employer match your tax-deductible dues and gift?

Enclosed is my matching gift form. My employer's name is _____



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

nature discovery center

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Fall Classes

page 4

Fall Birding Opportunities

page 7

Pumpkin Patch

Saturday & Sunday
October 9th & 10th
11 am - 4 pm

Bellaire Garden Club
Fall Plant Sale
8 am - 3 pm

Fall Events



Twilight Butterfly Gala

Saturday
November 6th

6:30 pm to midnight
Westin Galleria Plaza
Ballroom

Holiday Market

Daily
December 1st - 23rd

10 am to 5 pm
Gifts for nature lovers!