



june : july : august 2010

HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

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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
F 713.667.7654

Summer Program Registration

Space is available in many of our Summer Science Camps and Sneak-a-Peek classes. Check your calendars, talk with your kids, coordinate schedules with your friends, and visit www.naturediscoverycenter.org or call 713-667-6550 to reserve your children's places in our outstanding summer programs today.

Summer Science Camps (for ages 5 – 10) combine active outdoor games, crafts, experiments and more into a week of hands-on learning fun. This summer campers will dig into Paleontology; explore the salty seas when they Dive into Oceans; discover the Mammals of the World; find out why Mountains Rock!; and learn their way around using Mountains, Maps & Compass Points.

Sneak-a-Peek Classes for 3.5-5 year olds (with an adult) meet for an hour each week. You can pick and choose the days and times that match your summer schedule. This summer we will dig into Backyard Gardening, explore Life Under Logs, have Fun With Fossils and more!

Look inside for details of our summer offerings and register soon!

Save these dates!

Friday, June 11th from 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Environmental Fair at the Nature Discovery Center
Details on page 4

Sunday, June 13th from 1 to 5 p.m.
5th Annual Family Fun Day in Russ Pitman Park
Details on page 4

Saturday & Sunday, October 9 and 10
Annual Pumpkin Patch

Saturday, November 6th
2010 Twilight Gala at the Westin Galleria





Jenni Malone
Director

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From the Director's Desk: Summer at the Center

Summer is one of our busiest times of year: we host our own week-long day camps and classes; we are a popular destination for field trips from other summer programs around town; families explore the Discovery Rooms as part of their visit to the park and playground; and our staff go to libraries, schools, churches, scout programs and more with a selection of our live animals and specimens, sharing our knowledge of and affection for nature with the greater Houston area.

This year we are adding something new to our summer schedule – SUMMER EVENING HOURS. Every Wednesday evening, beginning June 2nd, we will be open until 7pm. So stop by on the way back from the playground, the pool, or a game of catch in the park, and cool off while you explore the Sargasso Sea exhibit and try out our other Discovery Room activities for SUMMER EVENING FUN.


Jennifer Gillespie-Malone, Director



Summer Wish List

We just might want what you don't anymore!

House/Garden Needs

- Working sprinklers
- Shovels - specifically spades & sharp shooters
- Hand trowels
- Rakes in good condition
- Heavy duty wheelbarrow
- Native plants (call Mary Ann for list)
- Wood chip mulch for trail maintenance
- 4 inch to 1 gallon size plastic flower pots
- Garden/work gloves (all sizes)
- Power drill/drivers (electric or battery operated)
- Drill bits

Class/Camp & Exhibit Needs

- Shoeboxes
- Empty thread spools
- Clear acrylic display boxes (like those used for footballs, baseballs, etc.)
- Dinosaur related materials books, toys, posters, puzzles, etc.
- 10' x 13' rug - green or brown, lightly used is ok

Birding Needs

- Binoculars in "good condition"

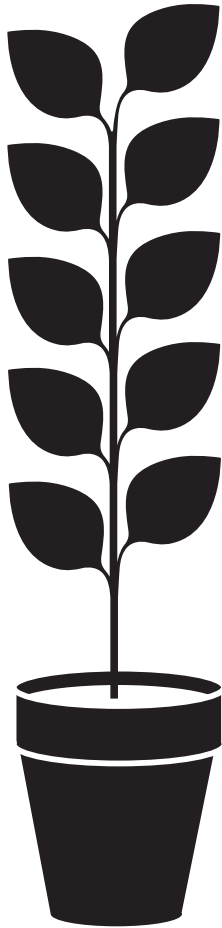
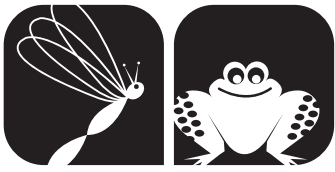
In-Kind Donations Needed

- General carpentry
- Storage space - at a storage facility near Bellaire
- Professional electrical repair

Did you know ...?

... that the Nature Discovery Center is part of the MISSION: POSSIBLE-Houston Nature Challenge 2010? From May 15 through August 14, you and your family are invited to check out wilderness areas in and around Houston. Make the Nature Discovery Center your first stop. We will fill you in on the details and give you your first Nature Challenge.





Spring Quarter Volunteers

Animal Care

Christiaan Khurana
Allison Shay
Sara Sii
Chris Tarrand

Bird Care

Norma Barnes
Colton Borovsky
Theresa Hagstrom
Ellen Hastedt
Don Verser

Discovery Rooms

Shannon Martin
Amy Shoebotham
Haley Shoebotham

Exhibits & Crafts

Anna-Noel Meade
Cecilia Rodrigues

General Handymen

Gary Gray

Multi-taskers

Betsy Black
Davis Griswold
National Charity League
Jenny Willis

Park & Plant Care

Stuart Douglas Ferrell
Jeff Gotsdiner
Flo Hannah
Millie Hast
Cletus Lee
Jonathan McAllister
William Marshak
Michael Newton
Belinda Schlak
Michael Schlak
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

Eagle Scout Projects

Native plant landscaping
_Robert Ford Anderson
_Evan Brown
_Louis Monroe

Park bench project

_Lee Pennebaker

Special Thanks to the Following Volunteers

For coordinating and writing a "Pocket Prairie" Booklet for the NDC - Richard Stade

For raising native plants from seeds for Russ Pitman Park – Don Verser, Betsy Black, Pam Smolen, Nancy Hannan, and Dianne Wells

For assisting with our Spring Migration Field Trips - Betsy Black, Marcy Brown, Bill Godley, Caitlin Gray, Pam Smolen, and Don Verser

For serving as Eagle Scout carpentry project advisors - William S. Bush, Gary Gray, and Richard Phillips

Welcome New Volunteers

Volunteer Photographers Answered Our Call

Several talented volunteers have responded to our request for help in developing a gallery of good quality images of Nature Discovery Center programs in action! We are thankful for their generous donation of time and talent. Look for the work of these photographers in our future publications as well as on our website: Piper Kinney, Lisa Shinsky, Sam Li, and Yvette Holzbach.

Several friends of the Center who have taken photographs of plants and wildlife in Russ Pitman Park during their many visits over the years have offered to donate photos as well. We look forward to sharing the beautiful photography of Debbie Chapman, Frank Farese, Cletus Lee, John Schneider, Richard Stade, and Don Verser on our website.

Calling All Volunteers

Volunteer for our Annual Family Fun Day—June 13th

Family Fun Day offers a wonderful opportunity for some fun summer community service. Help supervise games and activities for kids, pass out food and drinks to visitors, assist families in the Discovery Rooms, or lend a hand with set-up and take down for the event. Call Jenni Malone at 713-667-6550 to sign up or to get more information on how you or your group can help.

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.



Family Friendly Talks

For the Inquisitive Naturalist: Summer Nature Talks for the Whole Family

First Wednesday of every month from 7:00 - 8:30 pm
at the Nature Discovery Center
FREE. Light refreshments are served.

June 2

Dragonflies & Damselflies of Houston with John Schneider



Come learn about those amazing and beautiful aerial predators of the insect world, the odonates (dragonflies and damselflies). This presentation will cover some of their natural history, along with identification tips and a whole slew of photographs of the many species that can be found in the Houston area.

John Schneider is a local birder who became interested in insects in 2007. He has led bird and butterfly walks for the Nature Discovery Center, and is vice-chairman of the Outdoor Nature Club Ornithology Group.

July 7

Local Snakes

with Chaz and Clint Pustejovsky

Two for One! Kids get their own snake lesson with Chaz while their parents learn from Clint. Meet some live snakes that live in southeast Texas, learn about their lifestyles, how to be safe around snakes and how they impact our environment.

Clint has been a wildlife enthusiast since his toddling days. As a young boy of 11, he had the opportunity to meet Robert A. Vines, who taught him how to catch and handle snakes. He continues to study snakes and their benefits to ecosystems and human beings through current reports, books and by working with other professionals. Chaz Pustejovsky will be a senior at Lutheran High North next year. He is a Life Scout, and has been learning about snakes with his dad since he was a small child.

August 4

Beachcombing Adventures

with Cathy Yow

Help us celebrate our seaside summer with a presentation by Cathy Yow, longtime beachcomber and sea bean expert. If you are even a casual beachcomber, you won't want to miss Cathy's presentation. Bring the family, and come early for our Sargasso Sea Special Event.

Cathy Yow is a life-long beach enthusiast. She was challenged by her father as a child to find new things on the beach and try to figure out what they were. She has sprouted tropical seeds that washed up on shore as well as crafted jewelry from her finds. She brings a wealth of knowledge to her joy in beachcombing.

Special Summer Events

Environmental Fair at the Center

Friday, June 11th from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Samantha Maher, a Gold Award Girl Scout, is putting on a **Spread the Green Environmental Awareness Fair** here at the Nature Discovery Center. Bring a friend or family member and browse through exhibits on environmental health or participate in earth-friendly crafts. Come talk with representatives from other green organizations to discover what you can do around the home and garden to be greener. Gold Award Projects are sponsored in part by the United Way.



5th Annual Family Fun Day - FREE

Sunday, June 13th, 1 to 5 p.m.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fun at the Nature Discovery Center. Take a turn on the moonbounce, try your hand at Spin-Art or putt putt, stop by the face painting station, explore the Discovery Rooms, or relax while your youngster plays in the Toddler Zone. Generously sponsored by **ACME Party & Tent** – there is something here for everyone!

Sargasso Sea Members Only Event

Wednesday, August 4th, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Bring a mystery shell or other beachcombing find for our guest speaker, Cathy Yow, to identify, visit the Sargasso Sea exhibit upstairs, and munch on ocean-themed foods. Kids will also be treated to a special video during this family friendly reception leading up to Cathy's talk. RSVP to Jenni at 713-667-6550 by August 1st if you plan to attend this special Members Only event.

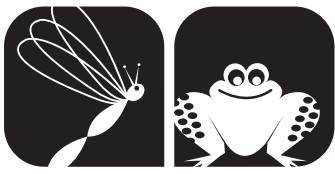
FREE

Nature Story Time

Stories, puppets, specimens,
songs & more for preschoolers.

Every Wednesday
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.





Summer Science Camps

Cost: \$190/week Members or \$240/week Non-members

Ages: 5 to 10 year olds

Days & Times: Monday - Friday 9:30 to 3:30 (sorry, no pre- or post-camp care)

What to bring: Kids bring lunches (we provide snacks and water)

Registration: Advance registration is required. Register online today!

June 7-11 (waiting list) & 14-18

Paleontology

Uncover dinosaur bones from 65 million years ago. Learn about volcanoes and other ancient animals that roamed the earth! Come and step back into the Jurassic time period!

June 21 – 25 (waiting list) & 28 – July 2

Dive into Oceans

Come explore the world’s oceans, from shorelines and estuaries to mid-ocean ridges and the deepest depths. We will dive into the biology, geology and geography of 70% of the Earth’s surface!

July 12 – 16 & 19 – 23

Mammals of the World

Join us as we discover the world’s mammals through art, games, lessons, and outdoor rambles. There’s more to our furry friends than meets the eye!

July 26-30 & Aug 2-6

Mountains Rock!

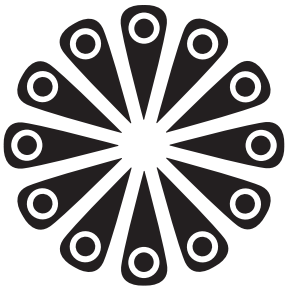
We will travel the globe and explore the highest peaks, discover the wide variety of plant and animal ecosystems, and visit the cultures and myths of the peoples who call the mountains home.

August 9-13 & 16-20

Mountains, Maps & Compass Points

How do you find your way around? Come explore the art of navigation - using compasses, stars, the sun, the moon, sound, smell, and more.

naturediscoverycenter.org



nature discovery center

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Sneak-A-Peek Classes

Ages 3 - 5

Sneak-A-Peek is our fun-tastic summer program for kids 3 to 5 years old and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers. Crafts, stories, nature walks and activities create an hour of learning fun each week.

Days & Times:

Tuesdays at 10:00 am or 2:00 pm or
Wednesdays at 10:00 am or 2:00 pm

Cost per class: \$10 member or
\$15 non-member

Advance registration required. No walk-ins. Register online at www.naturediscoverycenter.org or call the Center at 713-667-6550.

Dates & Topics:

- Jun 8, 9 Backyard Gardening
- Jun 15, 16 What's Wild?
- Jun 22, 23 Life Under Logs
- Jun 29, 30 Discovering Dinosaurs
- Jul 13, 14 Fun with Fossils
- Jul 20, 21 Flutterby Butterflies
- Jul 27, 28 Busy Bees
- Aug 3, 4 Life in the Ocean
- Aug 10, 11 Ladybugs & Other Beetles
- Aug 17, 18 Super Duper Poopers



Summer Snake Day Camp!

Have fun learning about snakes! You will learn about snake habitats, snake characteristics, and all about snake watching, and you will make a snake craft. You will also get to see, touch, and hold live snakes and other reptiles!

Dates: July 8 or 9

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Ages: 7+

Cost: \$65/child

Registration: Call 713-934-7668 or see texasnakes.net for a form.



Exhibit Re-Opening The Sargasso Sea Returns this Summer!

June 2nd - August 18th

Journey under the ocean to explore the amazing array of plants and animals living in this unique habitat. Come track the trail of Sargassum seaweed as it floats from the Sargasso Sea to the Gulf Coast shores, or explore sea shells and adaptations of sea animals through hands-on investigative activities.

Members Only Sargasso Sea Reception

A Family Friendly Event

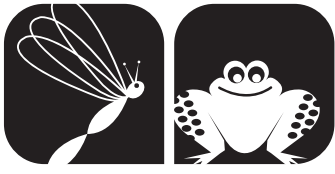
**Wednesday, August 4th
5:30 -7:00 p.m.**

Come meet our guest speaker, renowned beachcomber and sea bean jewelry maker, Cathy Yow. Bring a mystery sea shell or other Gulf Coast beach find for Cathy to identify. Enjoy ocean-themed noshes with juice, water, or iced tea. Kids can watch a special video, and everyone can tour the Sargasso Sea exhibit.

Please RSVP to Jenni at 713-667-6550 by August 1st if you plan to attend this Members only event.

The reception will be followed by Cathy's beachcombing presentation which is open to the public.





Alien Visitors at the Beach

By Jenni Malone

For much of the summer, a trip to the Texas coast leads you to open, sandy beaches with small waves sliding up the shore. But on occasion a different sight greets you: a beach littered with clumps of slimy seaweed. More seaweed floats in the water, drifting in and out on the waves lapping the shore. The kids may begin wrinkling their noses. Is the day a disaster in the making? Or could it be an adventure in the making? If you are lucky, it can be a chance to hunt for seaweed hitchhikers! All you need is a little curiosity and a bucket or other container.

These little clumps of seaweed have traveled thousands of miles from their home territory, the Sargasso Sea, a sprawling eddy, covering 2 million square miles in the Atlantic Ocean (see map). Hidden among the fronds and bladders of this floating seaweed, is a fascinating assortment of tiny sea creatures that make this unique region their home.



Sargassum is one of only a few species of seaweed that can survive without a holdfast anchoring it to a rock, coral or other hard substrate. Its grape-like air bladders keep it afloat as it drifts in huge circles pushed by the surrounding currents: the Gulf Stream, the Labrador Current and the North Equatorial Current. Bounded by these currents, the Sargasso Sea maintains several distinct characteristics: great depth (averaging over 3 miles), unusually clear water of a unique deep blue color, high temperature, and high salinity. Together, these characteristics inhibit plankton growth, usually the base of ocean food chains. Instead, the Sargasso Sea is home to animals especially adapted to its unusual conditions. It also functions as a nursery for species as diverse as fresh-water eels, flying fish, mollusks and sea stars.

When a clump of seaweed drifts out of the main eddy, it can end up in New England, Ireland, or the Gulf Coast. Many of the animals living within it stay along for the ride: pipefish, crabs, shrimp, Sargassum frog fish (a kind of anglerfish), even sea horses; each one is just a few inches long and can be virtually invisible within the seaweed. Their color patterns and sometimes even their body shapes, create an almost perfect camouflage. Check it out for yourself.

To investigate the animals in the seaweed, scoop up a clump floating in the water. Take a look. Can you see any animals? Shake it around in the water to unhitch the riders. Lift the seaweed out. What is left in the water? This exploration can result in a fascinating day and turn the reaction to seaweed at the beach from YUK! to WOW!

For a glimpse of some Sargassum animals you might find, check out Nature Kids.

Want to visit the beach without driving to the shore? Come to the Sargasso Sea exhibit at the Nature Discovery Center – here all summer long!



Seaweed Search

By Jenni Malone

When you go to the beach in late summer in Texas, there is a good chance you will be able to try a seaweed search. All you need is a bucket and some clumps of seaweed floating in the water.

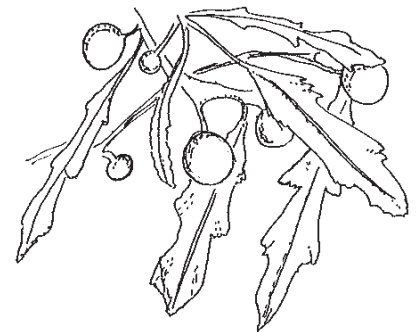
What to do:

1. Wade into the water with your pail. Scoop up a clump of seaweed and some water, too. You can investigate it right there or carry the pail back to the beach and share your discoveries with your friends and family.

Take a good look. Do you see any animals in there?

2. Shake the seaweed in the water gently and lift it out.

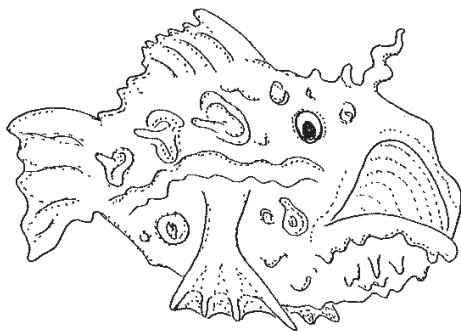
Now what do you see? You might find any of the animals pictured here, or others. Look very carefully, these are very tiny animals.



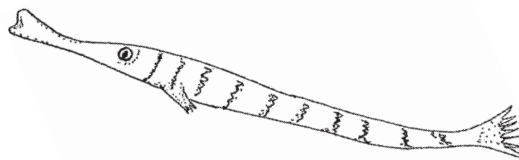
Sargassum Weed

After your seaweed search, color the animals drawn here that you found and draw in any others you discovered, too.

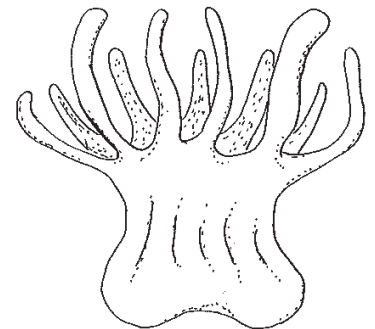
Good luck and happy seaweed searching!



Sargassum Fish



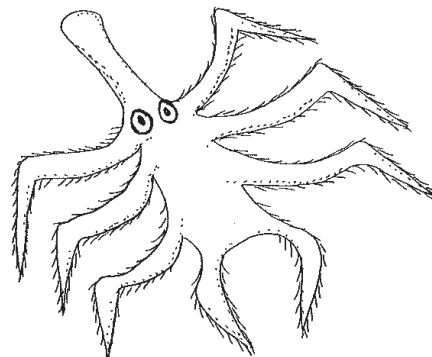
Pipefish



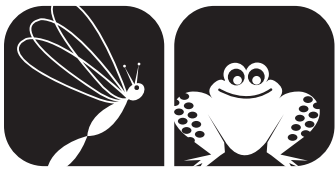
Sargassum Anemone



Flying Fish



Sea Spider



many thanks

28th Annual Bellaire Home Tour - Thanks!



We are grateful to the many sponsors and volunteers who made the 28th Annual Bellaire Home Tour a fun and successful event.

Event Chair Linda Miner's enthusiasm was evident when she started the planning for this year's event just three weeks after the completion of the 27th annual home tour. She and Promotional Sponsor, Steve Levine, got the word out to several media sources, including Great Day Houston on Channel 11. The media coverage along with unique homes and great weather resulted in increased ticket sales and attendance this year.

Charlotte Spradley matched florists with the five homes and Jud Haggard took fabulous photographs of the homes again this year.

Special thanks go to the homeowners who so generously opened their homes and shared them with the public in support of our science and nature programming for children, adults and families. Homeowners included: Joseph & Terri Agris, Brenda & Greg Cauthen, Ed Dumont, Vicki Gorske, and Deborah Hsu & Keith Jones.

We could not have accomplished this two day event without our volunteer docents and the Home Chairs who supported them and the home owners. Home Chairs this year include: Michael Johnston, Barbara & Steve Levine, Pat Lunn, Cindy Siegel, Lynne Skinner, Sharell Poth and Mike Gray.

We're thankful for the support and participation of the following:

Underwriters and Donors

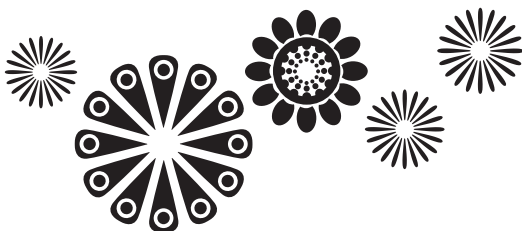
- Alternative Power Solutions
- Bellaire Broiler Burger
- Better Homes & Gardens - Anderson Properties
- COM FOR CARE
- Epic Custom Homes
- Eurocar-Werk, LTD
- FladGroup - Insurance, Mortgage, Property Management
- Frost Bank-Bellaire / Frost Insurance
- Green Builders Source
- HDR / Claunch & Miller
- Home Insulation
- Integrated Media Concepts
- Legal Eagle Contractors, Co.
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- Segreto Finishes / Segreto Studios
- Southwest Building Products, Inc.
- Studio Red Architects, LP
- Suzanne Longley Landscapes
- Venetian Blind Carpet One Floor & Home
- Village Plumbing & Home Services
- Women's Council of Realtors - Inner Loop
- XELLA AAC TEXAS, INC.

In Kind Donors

- Auntie Pasto's
- Axelrod Acupuncture
- Belden's Grocery
- Bering's Hardware Stores
- Day Spa @ Your Door
- Envoy Mortgage - Galleria
- Foundation Surgical Hospital
- Gallery Furniture
- La Madeleine
- Maggiano's Little Italy
- Maggies
- Minuteman Press of Bellaire
- Ruggles Green
- Simplify Home Life
- Whole Foods Market - Bellaire

Thanks for Another Wonderful Art In the Park Exhibit

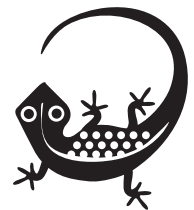
We at the Nature Discovery Center would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the artists who showed pieces in this year's Art In the Park exhibition, and especially to June Woest, who planned and curated the show. It was a wonderful success, and we can't wait to see what the artists come up with for next April's show.



Spring Fling Thank You

We'd like to thank all of the groups and individuals that helped to make this year's Spring Fling Earth Day event such a success this year:

- Acme Party & Tent Rentals
- City of Bellaire Parks and Recreation Department
- The Bellaire Garden Club
- The Silver Fox (musician)
- Gabriel Aparkar and friends
- Christiaan Khurana
- Hadley Rasmussen
- Bellaire High School Antares



We'd also like to thank all of the exhibitors without whom we could not have had this event:

- Bellaire Recycling Committee
- Texas Snakes
- Techs and Trainers
- Houston Electric Auto Association
- ITT Water and Wastewater
- Children at Risk



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



Explorer Circle



Wildlife Benefactor

Bellaire Young Mothers
City Wide Tree Services*
Exxon Mobil Foundation
Ray C. Fish Foundation
Helen Hager & Dr. Byron Bohnn
Tracy & Charles R. Hallenberger
Terry Hershey
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
Pamela S. & J. Patrick Hughes
Marathon Oil Company Foundation
Laurie & Bradley O'Halla
Edward & Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
Les & Mary Puckett Foundation
Marc Rosenber & Ben Samuels
Scurlock Foundation
Dennis Shepler*
Village Plumbing & Home Services*
The Williams Companies, Inc.

Wildlife Guardian

The Buzz Magazines*
Will Fleming*
Drs. Johnnie & Winfred Frazier
Greathouse Realtors*
Susan & Michael Hawes
Herman Family Fund
Home & Habitat
Houston Sign Company*
Joy Posoli
Bradley Raffle
Sword Plumbing Company*
Isabel Brown Wilson

Wildlife Supporter

Dr. Joseph Agris
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Michele & John Black
BP Fabric of America Fund
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Community National Bank
Judy & Rodney Creel
Cynthia Edmondson
Bernard Freeland*
Lynne & Larry Hoffman
Jutta Werebelow Jeschek
Carol Noel King & James Stephen King
Kelly Larkin & C. A. (Bubba) Beasley
Lalise Whorton Mason & R. Mason
George Mitchell
Linda Steen Norris & Lee Norris
Russ Pitman
Robyn & John Stevenson
Drs. Joan Strassman & David Queller
Cathleen Trechter & Ed Biegert
Sara Weinstein

* denotes In-Kind donations

Special In-Kind Gifts

We thank Terrell Sword of Sword Plumbing Company for finding and fixing a serious leak in the central area of the park.

We thank Curtis Rogers of City Wide Tree Services for tree trimming in the park.

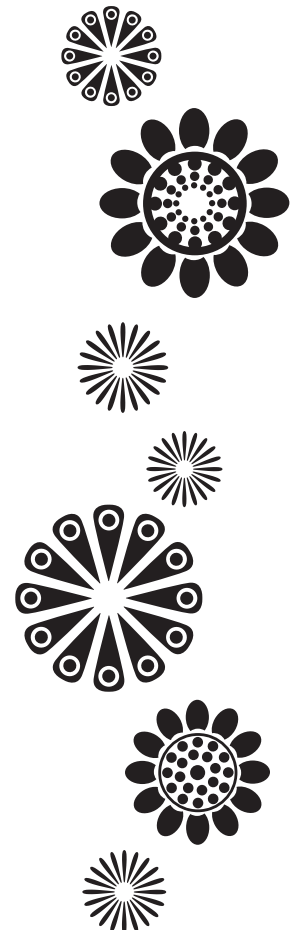
We thank Will Fleming, a native plant supplier, for donating native plants and shrubs for Russ Pitman Park. The plants he donated have been planted by Scouts.

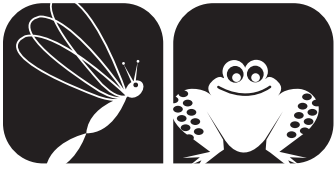
The Nature Discovery Center relies on contributions from the community in order to continue offering quality science and nature programs to children and families throughout the Houston area.

We thank you all for your support!

In Memory Of...

Beverly & DeWitt Van Siclen
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Van Siclen





membership

New & Renewing Members

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

Wildlife Supporter

Michael & Patricia Atkins
David & Betsy Black
Scott Owens & Charlene Kline Owens
Meredith & Raffi Tcholakian

Wildlife Partner

Elisa & Barry Donovan
Dr. Bruce Friedman
- Dentistry for Children
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Ginger & Simon Farrant
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Steven Ginzburg
Mia Vanessa Harpel
Arlette Keene
Peter Koeppen
Janet Neath
Shirley Nix

Student/Senior

Celia Catrett
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Helen & Jose Flores
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receive discounts on classes, camps, and field trips, and have early registration and pavilion reservation privileges.

Membership and Gift Form

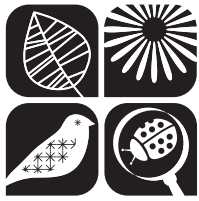
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You may acknowledge my gift (of \$150 or more) in the Nature Discovery Center newsletter.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sargasso Sea Exhibit Opens

June 2nd

Environmental Fair

Friday, June 11th
Noon to 6 PM

Summer Events



5th Annual Family Fun Day FREE

Sunday, June 13th
1 PM to 5 PM

Sargasso Sea Special Event

and Beachcombing Talk

Wednesday, August 4th
5:30 PM to 9 PM