

Outdoor  
Nature Club



January/February 2012  
volume 63 ♦ number 3

# Nature Notes

## Outdoor Nature Club Upcoming Activities

See websites for additional details ([www.outdoornatureclub.org](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org) or [www.ornithologygroup.org](http://www.ornithologygroup.org))

### ONC Contacts

#### ONC General Information

Sergio Henao, 713-729-2385

#### Botany/Entomology Group

See our website

#### Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

Aaron Stoley, 713-781-1372

#### Ornithology Group (OG)

Marcy Brown, 713-664-5206

### Meeting Place, Bayland Community Center

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at Bayland Community Center, 5400 Bissonnet at Hillcroft.

### Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary Events

All LTNS events are held at the sanctuary, 2001 FM 945, Cleveland, TX (map is available on our website).

## Time To Renew

Membership Dues  
are due January 1

Renewal Form Enclosed

PLEASE RENEW TODAY

**THANK YOU!**

### January 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### February 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

#### 02 Ornithology (OG) Meeting

6:30 pm—Learning Corner

7:00 pm—Program

*Colonial Nesting Birds of Galveston Bay Area, by Winnie Burkett*

#### 07 Botany-Entomology, noon-4:00 pm TWELFTH NIGHT PARTY (Saturday!)

*Join us at the home of the Blakleys for our annual after-holiday party and potluck lunch. For more information, contact Connie at 281-358-5407.*



### LTNS ACTIVITIES

#### 21 LTNS Adopt-A-Highway, 8:30 am

Come help pick up trash along our adopted highway two miles either side of LTNS along FM 945.

#### 21 Dally Days at LTNS, 10:30 am

Winter Tree Identification

#### 06 Ornithology (OG) Meeting

6:30 pm—Learning Corner

7:00 pm—Program

#### 14 Botany-Entomology, 7:30 pm

Program to be announced.



### LTNS ACTIVITIES

#### 25 Dally Days at LTNS, 10:00 am

On The Ground and In The Sky; Mushrooms and Astronomy. With a little luck and a little rain, we should find some interesting mushrooms along the trails. We'll also be on the lookout for early-flying Falcate Orange-tip Butterflies. After dark, clear skies permitting, we'll do some star gazing.



Outdoor Nature Club  
 P.O. Box 270894  
 Houston, TX 77277-0894  
[www.OutdoorNatureClub.org](http://www.OutdoorNatureClub.org)

## Nature Notes

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## Officers and Board of Directors

President .....Sergio Henao  
 Executive Vice President ..... vacant  
 Membership Vice President.....Margret Simmons  
 Sanctuaries Vice President (acting).....Aaron Stoley  
 Secretary..... Andrew Beck  
 Treasurer .....Mike Correll  
 Custodian ..... vacant  
 Botany•Entomology Representative ..... Leland Day  
 Ornithology Representative ..... Marcy Brown

### our charter...

*A nonprofit educational and scientific organization established in 1923 to protect and conserve natural resources by fostering an interest in nature study.*

### our sanctuary...

*ONC owns a 700-acre nature preserve, Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS), 11 miles northwest of Cleveland, TX. All members and guests are invited to attend monthly open houses.*

## ONC Appreciates Your Donations

Donations to ONC are always appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Thanks, everyone, for your generosity.

*In honor of Calvin Blakley*

*Gwen Kunz*

*In memory of David Marrack*

*Charles & Wanda Smith*

## Berries for the birds



If you're thinking of using more natives in your landscape, why not use plants that produce berries for local wildlife. One of our showiest natives is American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*). In the fall and winter it dons clusters of bright magenta berries that are

favorites of our local birds. The territorial mockingbird guards ripe beautyberries so that other species don't dare to try and snatch one for a meal.

This deciduous plant is an understory shrub that can get rather large and needs lots of room to spread its branches. The fruits will last until new leaves sprout in the spring — that is, unless they're all eaten by the birds.

Another favorite of local bird life is the Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), but be sure to plant a female if you want berries. Birds seem to prefer these berries in late winter after they've fermented. Watch for Cedar Waxwings to descend on your yaupon. They'll strip it bare within a day and, if you're lucky, you might get to watch them line up along a branch and pass the berries down the line.

Yaupon wants to be a shrub, but if you prune carefully you can train it into a lovely small tree. It's tolerant of most any conditions, from sun to shade and poor drainage to drought. What a great plant for those of us with a "black" thumb!

**OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB**  
**New/Renewal Membership Form**  
([www.outdoornatureclub.org](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org))

**NOTE:** Dues are paid January 1 of each calendar year. To join ONC, please mail your check with this completed form to: Outdoor Nature Club, PO Box 270894, Houston TX 77277.

CATEGORY 1 – ONC Parent Organization (please circle one)

- \$8 Individual
- \$15 Family
- \$40 Supporting
- \$250 Life Member

**SUB TOTAL Category 1**

CATEGORY 2 – OG Ornithology Study Group (optional - please circle one)

- \$14 Individual OG — with mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter
- \$19 Family OG — with mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter
- \$10 Individual OG — e-mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter
- \$15 Family OG — e-mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter

**SUB TOTAL Category 2**

CATEGORY 3 – Botany/Entomology Study Group (optional)

- \$2 Individual

**SUB TOTAL Category 3**

CATEGORY 4 — DONATIONS (please specify)

- |                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| ONC                             | \$ _____ |
| ORNITHOLOGY (OG)                | \$ _____ |
| Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary | \$ _____ |

**SUB TOTAL Category 4**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED (Add Categories 1+2+3+4)**

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**NEW MEMBERS:** How did you hear about us?

- Friend told me
- Saw newsletter in library (which one? \_\_\_\_\_)
- Saw poster at Bayland Community Center
- Found you on internet
- Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Thank you!**

We appreciate your support and hope to see you at our next meeting.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_