

Outdoor
Nature Club



March/April 2010
volume 61 ♦ number 4

Nature Notes

Outdoor Nature Club

our charter...

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

ONC

Outdoor Nature Club
P.O. Box 270894
Houston, TX 77277-0894
www.OutdoorNatureClub.org



Bringing Nature Home

a lecture co-sponsored by Outdoor Nature Club
in lieu of our March meeting

Speaker: Dr. Douglas Tallamy

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Time: Social 6:30 PM,

Lecture 7-8 PM, Panel Discussion 8-8:30 PM

Place: Hamman Hall, Rice University

Parking: There is a \$5 parking charge—credit card only—
for the lot next to Hamman (see map below)

Douglas Tallamy, Chair of the University of Delaware's Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Department, presents what individuals can do to stem biodiversity loss. Dr. Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home*, has sparked a national conversation about the link between healthy local ecosystems and human well-being.

This event is co-hosted by : Houston Audubon, Center for the Study of Environment and Society, Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum of Rice University, Outdoor Nature Club, ONC—Ornithology Group, David and Linda Knowles, Don Verser, Katy Prairie Conservancy, Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston, Nature Discovery Center, and Shell Center for Sustainability.



Group Activities — March/April

All meetings at Bayland Community Center unless noted

ONC Contacts

ONC General Information

Calvin Blakley
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Botany/Entomology Group

Russell Jeffords
713-504-9215

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

Aaron Stoley
713-781-1372

Ornithology Group (OG)

Pam Smolen
832-212-1368
Adam Wood (Field Trips)
713-515-1692

ONC Board Meeting

APRIL 8, 7:00 pm

Board meeting at Bayland Community Center; all members are welcome.

ONC Meeting

MARCH 31, Rice University

NOTE DATE & VENUE CHANGE

Joint meeting/lecture with Houston Audubon.

See details front page.

March 2009

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			

April 2009

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	

Botany/Entomology

MARCH 9, 7:30 pm

Dragonflies & Damselflies of Houston, by John Schneider.

APRIL 13, 7:30

Flora of the Texas Big Bend, by Dr. Larry Brown.

Ornithology (OG)

MARCH 1 : OG Meeting

Program to be determined; see *The Spoonbill* for additional information.

MARCH 20 : OG Field Trip

Birding Sheldon Lake State Park. Details to be published in *The Spoonbill*.

APRIL 5 : OG Meeting

Program to be determined; see *The Spoonbill* for additional information.

APRIL 17 : OG Field Trip

Birding Matagorda County Nature Center & Jetty. Details to be published in *The Spoonbill*.



Calling volunteers!

Join us for Texas' statewide Trash-off and ONC's trash pickup Saturday, April 10 8:30 am at LTNS

ONC Field Trip

APRIL 23-25 : Smith Woods, Colmesneil, TX

RSVP by April 20 to the Smiths (409-837-4406) or wsmith0709@yahoo.com

Charlie and Wanda Smith are hosting a field trip to their new place in East Texas. They have 77 mostly wooded and secluded acres that includes a 2-acre pond and creeks. There's something for everyone: plants, birds, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, and critters. For accommodations, there are several beds available and room for small campers and tents. Please RSVP to the Smiths by April 20 to reserve a bed or camp site (409)837-4406 or email wsmith0709@yahoo.com. There will be happy hour Friday night and potluck lunch on Saturday at noon. Refrigerators, stoves and microwaves are available.

From Woodville, take Hwy 69 north to Colmesneil and continue another 2.7 miles to CR 2900. Turn left on CR 2900 and go 0.4 miles to PR 6905. Turn right on PR 6905 and go 0.9 miles to the end of the road. Call the Smiths for a map, detailed directions, or more information. We are hoping for a big turnout.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

MARCH 20-21, Visitors Days

Join us for a day of relaxation in the woods. Dogwoods and redbuds should be blooming and we hope to see (or hear) some migratory song birds. If skies are clear, we'll do some stargazing Saturday night.

APRIL 10-11, Visitors Days and Highway Trash Pickup

This month's trash pickup coincides with the Texas Trash-Off on April 10. Bring hat, gloves, water, etc. The state provides bags and safety vests. After trash pickup, we'll hike the trails in search of butterflies and spring migratory birds. Stargazing Saturday night weather permitting.

**Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)**



**Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
2001 FM 945, Cleveland, TX**



Other Notes of Interest

(Submit news and articles to editor – see back page for contact info)

ONC Appreciates Your Donations

Donations to ONC are always appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Memorials and Honor Gifts are used to support Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary or to fund special projects as designated by the donor. Thanks, everyone, for your generosity.

In memory of Ellen Red

*Philip & Karen Beekman
Irene Leslie*

In memory of John Tveten

Irene Leslie

In memory of Marlene Donahue

*Calvin & Connie Blakley
Charles Peterson
Mary Helen Pritchett
Charles & Wanda Smith
Farrar Stockton*

For ONC General Fund

*Bill Clendenen
Heather & Derrick George
Jerry Gips
Jean Hackney
Kathy Lord
Elena Parmesan
Ann & Hooker Wood
Norman Young*

For LTNS Sanctuary Fund

*Ron Anderson
Chuck & Priscilla Bauer
Robert & Lynn Forster
Walt & Carolyn Hesson
Ann & Arthur Jones
Lois Lentz
Thomas Maddux
Sheryl Maruca
David & Iris Poteet
Bill Saulmon
Aaron & Karen Stoley
Billie Strickland
Phyllis Thompson
Monroe & Edith Waxman*

Notes from Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS)

Winter is a slow time at the sanctuary. Most of the flora and fauna are dormant, but community service never stops and so we always schedule a trash pickup in January. This year we had an excellent turnout despite the potential for rain. Volunteers included: Calvin & Connie Blakley, Larry Brown, Leland Day, Sean Harper, Mary Jane McCartney, Charles & Wanda Smith, and Aaron & Karen Stoley. After lunch, several of us went on a bird walk. We scared up a woodcock on Wild Vines Trail and a Leconte's sparrow on Big Meadow.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who have helped with highway trash pickup since we implemented the program in 1994. For the past 15 years we've kept track of the amount of trash and, for a rural road, it is eye opening. As of January, 2010, the total removed since 1994 is an astonishing 7300 pounds of trash and nearly 600 pounds of aluminum cans. Won't you consider helping? Our next pickup coincides with the statewide Texas Trash-Off and we sure would like to have a good turnout.

Nature Fest, Saturday, March 6

ONC is once again hosting a booth at Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center in Humble, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm. This is a popular event and draws several hundred people from surrounding communities. We have participated in this event for the past five years and our shell exhibit is one of the most popular items on display. Volunteers are always needed, even if you can only work the booth for an hour or two. In addition to exhibits, Nature Fest offers lectures by local naturalists, bird walks, pontoon boat rides, and a fun and festive atmosphere.

If you can help with ONC's booth, please contact Calvin Blakley (281-358-5407) or just come on out to the park, located at 20634 Kenswick Drive in Humble, a few miles west of U.S. Highway 59 and FM 1960.

Time To Renew Membership Dues

If you haven't already renewed, please take a few moments to mail your dues check. There's a form included with this issue or a form can be found on our website. Thanks to everyone for your continued support!





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Member Renewal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City/St/Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Regular (\$8) _____

Family (\$15) _____

Supporting (\$40) _____

Life (\$250) _____

Ornithology Group (you must be member of ONC to join OG Study Group)

Add \$14-individual, \$19-family _____

DONATION _____

TOTAL DUES/DONATIONS =====

Mail to: Outdoor Nature Club, PO Box 270894, Houston, TX 77277-0894