

Outdoor
Nature Club

Nature Notes

April '07
volume 58 • number 8

our charter ...

Outdoor Nature Club

was established in

1923 as a nonprofit

organization with the

purpose of protecting

and conserving our

natural resources by

fostering an interest

in nature study

ONC

Outdoor Nature Club
P.O. Box 270894
Houston TX 77277-0894

our websites ...

OutdoorNatureClub.org
OrnithologyGroup.org



Celebrate Earth Day Every Day

When the idea was conceived of a global holiday to celebrate life on our planet, Earth Day founder John McConnell thought long and hard about the day on which it should fall. It must be a day that might be universally accepted. Finally it came to pass that March 21—the Vernal Equinox and first day of spring—was designated as Earth Day.

While March 21 is officially Earth Day, other dates have been called by the name and many events leading up to or following Earth Day are held to increase awareness and care for our planet and its people. Earth Day 1970—the first Earth Day—generated widespread public support to create a national environmental agenda. This support led to enactment of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act, as well as creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Our country has made remarkable progress in protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment. As Earth Day 2007 approaches—officially April 22—we thought we'd dwell on the positive. So, on page 3 we've summarized a few of the accomplishments achieved by our government and the EPA over the past 37 years.

On an individual level, many of us recycle, purchase energy efficient products, and contribute in numerous other ways to conservation efforts. But there's always room for education and improvement. To find out more, visit the EPA's website: www.epa.gov/earthday.

Group Activities

Botany•Entomology

Tuesday, April 10 , 7:30 pm

Bayland Community Center

Spring Wildflowers, presented by Dr. Larry Brown. Here is an opportunity to learn ID marks for spring flowers.

Ornithology (OG)

Monday, April 2

Bayland Community Center

Learning Corner: 6:30 pm

Program: 7:00 pm

Birds of Alaska, presented by OG member Bob Ohmart.

OG FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 21

Birding at Sabine Woods and McFadden NWR with Leader Steve Mayes.

See *The Spoonbill* for details.

ONC Board Meeting

Thursday, April 12

Bayland Community Center 7:30 pm

ONC Regular Meeting

NO MEETING IN APRIL.

MAY 10, East Texas Bats

Be sure to join us in May for a fascinating program about bats, being presented by Joanna Foss of Texas Parks & Wildlife. Did you know there is a rather large colony of Mexican Free Tail Bats living right here in Houston? Join us in May to learn about this and other bat colonies found around our state. More details next month.

Mark Your April Calendars

Saturday, April 14 : SPRING FEAST

Little Thicket Nature Sancturay

Formerly known as "Reunion Day"

this is our most popular event at LTNS. Everyone brings a covered dish and we eat to our heart's content—thus the new name—then we walk the trails so we don't feel so guilty! Mark your calendars and be sure to join us.

LTNS Visitors Weekend

April 14-15

April is a busy month and you won't want to miss all the activities at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.

On Saturday, we'll pick up trash along our adopted highway. This month it coincides with the state-wide Texas Trashoff when folks around the state pitch in to clean up our highways.

Following trash pickup will be a short wildflower walk to King's Hill and Martin Flat. Our bluebonnets should be in full bloom along with other native wildflowers.

Then it's back to Camp Cove for Spring Feast, our annual potluck pig-out! Bring your favorite covered dish and be prepared to eat plenty.

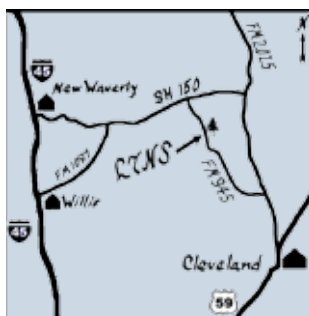
After lunch, assuming everyone's not napping!, we'll take a tractor ride to the meadows for more nature activities and education.

Please join us for this fun-filled weekend. Plan to camp in the Cove or join us for the day.

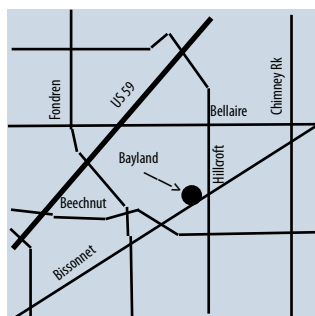
April 2006

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					

Map to LTNS



Map to Bayland



Contact Persons

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Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

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Earth Day Trivia

A summary of the EPA's environmental progress since 20 million people celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970

1972 | EPA bans DDT and requires extensive review of all pesticides.

As a result, in 1996 the bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list, reflecting its recovery.

1974 | Safe Drinking Water Act allows EPA to regulate public drinking water quality.

1976 | EPA begins phase-out of cancer-causing PCB production and use.

1980 | Congress creates Superfund to clean up hazardous waste sites.

1982 | Congress enacts laws for safe disposal of nuclear waste.

1988 | Congress bans ocean dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste.

1992 | EPA launches the Energy Star® Program to identify energy-efficient products.

1993 | EPA reports secondhand smoke poses serious health risks to nonsmokers.

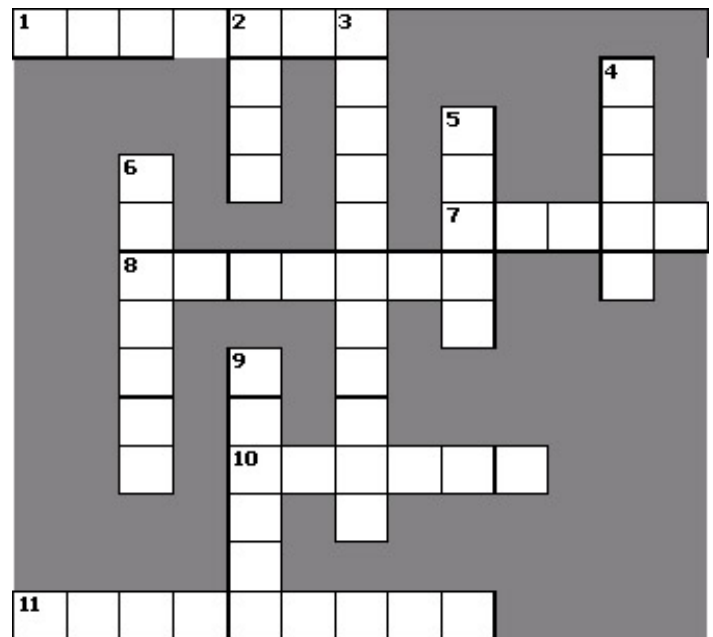
Today, more than 80 percent of Americans protect their children from secondhand smoke exposure at home.

1994 | EPA issues new standards for chemical plants to reduce toxic air pollution.

1999 | EPA announces new requirements to improve air quality in national parks.

2004 | EPA requires cleaner fuels and engines for off-road diesel machinery

Here's an Earth Day brain teaser for our puzzle lovers. The answers and more are available at: www.EarthDay.gov.



Across

1. A product can be considered ____ when it lasts a long time.
7. To use something again for the same or for a new purpose.
8. What a pile of decayed food scraps, leaves and grass turn into.
10. You can ____ old toys to needy children instead of throwing them away..
11. Comes in disposable and rechargeable varieties.

Down

2. If you buy 1 large bag of potato chips instead of 5 small bags, you are buying in ____.
3. Your world, surroundings, and source of life and health.
4. Many items found in your ____ can be recycled into valuable new products.
5. Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, come from the ____.
6. To collect used materials to make into new products rather than throw them away.
9. To decrease the amount of trash you throw away.



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