You might think these leaves are dripping wet after a heavy rain, but in fact they are not. How can you tell? Look closely at the leaf surface and you’ll see it is dry; the drops only appear around the edges of the leaves. This phenomenon of nature is called guttation, from the Latin *gutta*, a drop.

Guttation occurs when fluid is exuded from leaves as a result of root pressure when more water is absorbed by the roots than is evaporated by the leaves. It is often seen during early morning hours in a humid atmosphere on young sprouts or new growth. The above photo was taken early in the morning and the humidity was high following a day of rain. If you look into the drops, you can see nearby trees through the fluid. This presents a challenge for all you nature photographers — try a close-up photo of a nearby subject through the fluid and see how many different effects you can achieve.

Sometimes we are so intent on our destination that we don’t take time to observe our surroundings. I would have missed these glimmering drops had one of my fellow hikers not stopped to observe. Next time you take a walk in the woods, be sure to pause occasionally and look around; you might be surprised by what you find.
Outdoor Nature Club Upcoming Activities

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).

May 2012

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

June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LTNS ACTIVITIES

19-20 Visitors Weekend and Camping (weather permitting)

19 Daily Days at LTNS, 10:00 am

Snake Identification with Orry Martin, self-dubbed “Texas Snake Hunter.” Orry is a teacher in Conroe who loves to research snakes and record their activities for educational purposes. He will give us a short presentation about snakes and then lead us on a snake hunt.

Study Group Activities

07 Ornithology (OG) Meeting
  6:30 pm—Learning Corner
  7:00 pm—Program
  See The Spoonbill for details

08 Botany-Entomology Meeting, 7:30 pm
  Dr. Larry Brown will give a presentation on the Euphorbiaceae family. Don’t miss this great opportunity to learn more about this family of plants.

19 OG Field Trip — Katy Prairie
  See The Spoonbill for details

16 Adopt-A-Road Trash Pickup, 8:30 am
  Saturday is our quarterly trash pickup along FM 945. Bring gloves, hat, water; the state provides trash bags. This will take about one hour, then we will join the field trip listed below.

16 Field Trip — Flowers & Fungi, 10:00 am
  We will visit Cullinan and Big Meadows in search of summer wildflowers; Texas Bluebells (Eustoma grandiflorum) should be in full bloom on Cullinan Meadow. David & Pat Lewis will join us in search of fungi in the wet, forested areas surrounding Mill Creek. Bring lunch and the usual accoutrements for a summer outing in East Texas.

See websites for additional details (www.outdoornatureclub.org or www.ornithologygroup.org)
ONC Appreciates Your Donations

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

in memory of Jane Rowland
Calvin/Connie Blakley
Leland Day
Aaron/Karen Stoley
Edith Waxman

for LTNS in honor of Aaron Stoley
Eric/Shelley Stoley

for LTNS Sanctuary Fund
Imogene Cummings
Jean Hackney
Ann Jones
Charles/Joanne Peterson
Mary Helen Pritchett
Milton Reim
Lucie Wray Todd
Norman Young

for Ornithology Group
Sue Schwaller
Jim/Betsy Winn
Norman Young

for ONC General Fund
Norman Young

Activities at LTNS

March Trash Pickup
March 24 was our quarterly highway trash pickup along FM 945 adjacent to the sanctuary. It was a beautiful spring day and we had a good turnout of volunteers. Thanks to the following for helping: Calvin & Connie Blakley, Leland Day, Mark Day and daughter Marlee, Kellene Jarratt, Bobby & Mary Jane Nelson, Charles Smith, Aaron, Karen, and Kristin Stoley.

The amount of trash seemed to be less than normal. We can only hope that our efforts set an example for folks in the area and they’ve become more conscientious about “pitching” stuff out their car windows!

More Donations
After trash pickup, Mark Day helped with some repairs to our aging tractor. With the help of Calvin Blakley and Aaron Stoley, Mark worked most of the morning adjusting the steering and brakes. “It drives like new,” said Aaron after the job was completed. Also thanks to Mark Day for donating a set of two-way radios. These will be helpful to folks hiking the wilderness trails and allow them to communicate with other members.

Dally Days
In the afternoon, Charles Peterson led a botany walk on Dillo Wallow Trail in search of early blooming wildflowers. The best finds were caterpillars, which seem to be everywhere this year. Photos of one of the species can be found on the back page of this issue.

April Feast Day
On April 21, ONC’s annual Feast Day was held at LTNS. There was lots of good food and about 15 members and guests in attendance on another beautiful spring day. After lunch, we divided into three teams for a nature scavenger hunt organized by Charles Smith. Each team was given the task of finding a plant or animal for every letter of the alphabet. As expected, the most difficult letters were X and Z and only the botanists who speak Latin were able to fill in those blanks! Questionable answers included Animal Kingdom for K and Uprooted Tree for U. A good time was had by all and we’re still discussing who won the event!

New Bluebird Houses
We have recently erected two new bluebird houses at LTNS on Martin Flat. One of the nest boxes was donated by Charles Peterson, who purchased the box from Texas Bluebird Society. It was erected in March.

The other box was built by a boy scout as a project toward earning a badge. This box was also erected on Martin Flat in November when the scout troop came to LTNS for a camping weekend.

Thanks to both for the nest boxes and for helping the bluebirds. We’ll keep an eye on them for activity.

Aaron Stoley and Charles Peterson erect new bluebird nest box at LTNS on Martin Flat during March visitors day. (photo by Calvin Blakley)
Outdoor Nature Club
P.O. Box 270894
Houston, TX 77277-0894
www.OutdoorNatureClub.org

Nature Notes
May/June 2012, Volume 63 • Number 5
Published bimonthly September through May

Editor:
Connie Blakley
(nature_notes1@outdoornatureclub.org)
2007 Wilderness Pt, Kingwood TX 77339

Address Changes:
Margret Simmons
(member1@outdoornatureclub.org)
6111 Bayou Bridge, Houston TX 77096

Memorials:
Karen Terrell
(memory1@outdoornatureclub.org)
c/o Outdoor Nature Club
P.O. Box 270894, Houston TX 77277-0894

Officers and Board of Directors
President ............................................ vacant
Executive VP ...................................... vacant
Membership VP .......... Margret Simmons
Sanctuaries VP (acting) ...... Aaron Stoley
Conservation VP ............... Sheryl Maruca
Past President ............... Sergio Henao
Secretary ......................... Andrew Beck
Treasurer .......................... Mike Correll
Custodian ............................... vacant
Botany-Entomology Rep ...... Leland Day
Ornithology Rep ............... 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.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary Sightings
Each time we visit the sanctuary we encounter something new, whether it be an insect, a plant, a snake, a bird, or even new people visiting LTNS for the first time. This back page is usually devoted to highlighting our encounters. If you find an interesting species at LTNS and would like to share, please send your photo with a brief description to the editor. We hope you will learn something here and also be encouraged to visit the Little Thicket!

Larva of the Ilia Underwing Moth (Catocala ilia)
This larva was found along Dillo Wallow Trail in March. It was wriggling and flopping about, evidently preparing to pupate underground. The underside is quite distinctive with rose/lavender coloring between dark vertical bands. If not for the “flopping” we would have walked right past this lovely caterpillar.

Ilia Underwing Moth (Catocala ilia)
The adult Ilia Underwing moth is just as striking as its larva, albeit with different coloring. This moth came to our lighted sheet in April … hmmm, I wonder if it emerged from the pupa of the above caterpillar!