A record sighting for San Jacinto County was recently added to the Butterflies & Moths of North America (BAMONA) website thanks to the keen observations of Karen Stoley and Wanda Smith. On October 18, 2008, Karen and Wanda were butterflying at Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) when Karen spotted a butterfly she’d never seen at LTNS. Wanda photographed the butterfly and later identification revealed it to be a Ceraunus Blue (*Hemiargus ceraunus*). This species is more common in south and west Texas, but we now know it strays as far north and east as San Jacinto County. The butterfly was found on Martin Flat favoring Scratch Daisy for nectar although its larval food plant is flowers and buds of many legumes.

When Karen and Wanda found this tiny specimen (¾ to 1 inch), they had no idea it would be a county record. Since no one has reported a previous sighting at LTNS, Wanda decided to search the BAMONA website and did not find a listing for San Jacinto County. She submitted the sighting and her photographs were accepted and the sighting posted as a new record.

We don’t know if the Ceraunus laid eggs at Martin Flat, but we will surely be keeping a close watch for another sighting this fall. Join us for Visitors Weekend, September 19-20, and you might be lucky enough to see this species!
ONC Contacts
ONC General Information
Calvin Blakley
281-358-5407
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

Meting Places
All meetings are at Bayland Community Center (see map) unless otherwise noted.

Botany/Entomology
SEPTEMBER 8, 7:30 pm
Searching for the Wild Orchids of Texas
A presentation by Joe Liggio and Ann Orto Liggio are authors of the excellent publication Wild Orchids of Texas.

OCTOBER 13, 7:30 pm
Fabaceae, the Legume Family, presented by Dr. Larry Brown.

OG Field Trips
SEPTEMBER 13
Beginning Birder Trip I
Birding at Jesse Jones Park
SEPTEMBER 19
Birding in the Big Thicket: Hardin & Jasper Counties
OCTOBER 11
Beginning Birder Trip II
Birding on the Katy Prairie
Leader: Adam Wood

OCTOBER 17
Birding Palmetto State Park
OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 1
OG Quarterly Field Trip
NE Texas (Greenville/Dallas, Lake Tawakoni)

ONC Regular Bimonthly Meeting
SEPTEMBER 10
Introduction to Astronomy, by Dr. Calvin Blakley
7:00 pm - Refreshments
7:30 pm - Program
Calvin Blakley has studied astronomy most of his adult life. He will teach us how to navigate the night sky with emphasis on Jupiter, which can be easily found in September. Please join us!

ONC Board Meeting
OCTOBER 8, 7:00 PM
Bayland Community Center - All members are encouraged to attend ONC board meetings. See below map for directions to meeting place.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
SEPTEMBER 19-20, Visitors Day & Highway Trash Pickup (8:30 am)
Saturday is our quarterly trash pickup along FM 945. Bring gloves, hat, water; pickup takes about an hour, then enjoy hiking the trails at LTNS.

OCTOBER 24-25, Visitors Days and Halloween at LTNS
See details, back page.

Other Activities:
Native Plant Society 2009 Wildscapes Workshop & Plant Sale
SEPTEMBER 26, 9 am - 3 pm
Houston Comm College
West Loop Campus
5601 West Loop South @ Pin Oak Park, 77081
Pre-registration required. To register, go to: http://www.npsot.org/Houston/Wildscapesflyer2009.pdf
Questions? 281-558-3710, Dknowlespe@aol.com.

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)

In memoriam
Ellen Red
Long-time birder [and past president of ONC] Ellen Red passed away on July 16. Her family appreciates all the great friendships and fabulous life their mom had through her birding. She was the consummate mentor. Days before her passing she was still noting the Coopers Hawk that has frequented her yard for over a year.

Bob Martin
We will miss our good friend and hard worker Bob Martin who passed away this summer. Bob loved Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary and spent many hours there, not only to enjoy visitors weekends but also to help with trails and building projects.

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.

Donations to General Fund
Arlene Bennett
Frank Gregg
Jean Hackney
Terri Hurley

Donations to Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
Mike & Margarita Beathard
Ann & Arthur Jones

Mystery Photos Identified
Mystery photos published in the previous issue of Nature Notes were: #1 Porcupine quills; #2 Gall on Horsesugar plant.

Upcoming Joint Field Trips
ONC/Botany & Native Plant Society
The three below trips will be on SUNDAYS and led by Dr. Larry Brown. Please wear appropriate footwear for walking through wet or dry fields, bring drinking water, bug spray, and a packed lunch. There are no rain dates; if it’s raining, we will make a decision at the meeting about whether to proceed.

Meeting time/place:
Meet between 8-8:30 am and depart PROMPTLY at 8:30. Directions: from Houston Arboretum, go east on Woodway 0.4 mile then just before the light go right at split, then immediate right into parking lot.

Sunday, September 27 — Briarbend Park
This small City of Houston park is four miles west of the arboretum between Buffalo Bayou and Woodway. The park is partially wooded, has access to Buffalo Bayou, contains numerous hiking trails, and has picnic tables. Parking is very limited, so please plan to carpool.

Sunday, October 11 — Mound Road
About 37 miles northwest of the arboretum, the deep sand ditches and meadows along Mound Road come alive with many wildflower species. We should find many new and some quite rare species for our area. Just off the road, a cross marks the highest elevation in Harris county.

Sunday, October 25 — Watonga Park
This City of Houston park is located between White Oak Bayou and Watonga just north of 43rd Street and about five miles north of the arboretum. A large variety of plants should be found along and in the woods and over the abundant open ground. Parking is limited, so please plan to carpool.

For any questions or additional information about these field trips, please contact Paul Roling, 281-353-7413 or by email at PRoling@att.net.
Halloween at Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

Saturday, October 24, 9:00 am until …

Pumpkin Carving Contest
Tractor Hay Rides
Trick or Treat Around Campfire
Hike The Trails
Join us for the FUN!!