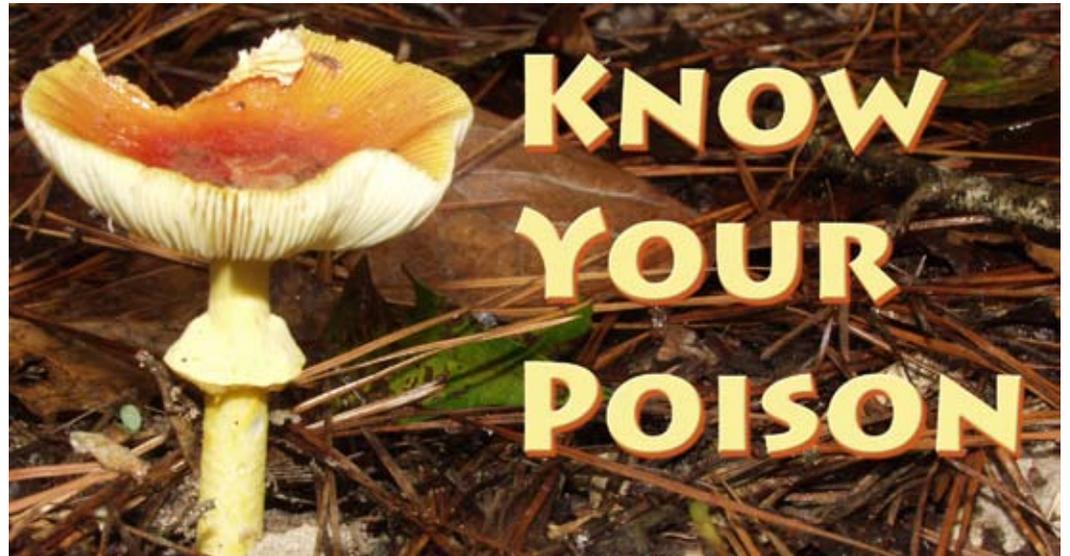


## our charter ...

**OUTDOOR NATURE  
CLUB IS A NONPROFIT  
EDUCATIONAL AND  
SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZA-  
TION ESTABLISHED IN  
1923 TO PROTECT AND  
CONSERVE NATURAL  
RESOURCES BY FOS-  
TERING AN INTEREST IN  
NATURE STUDY**

**ONC**

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



story by Connie Blakley  
photo by Calvin Blakley

Fall is in the air and if you spend any time in the forest during this season you'll probably encounter various mushroom species. Can you recognize the poisonous ones? No ... well, most of us can't and that's why it's important to look but not take. There is one genus, however, that's recognizable even to the amateurs among us and that's the Amanitas. This genus comprises some of the deadliest of all wild mushrooms, even though a few of the species are edible.

Texas Amanitas are mostly white to light brown in color, but a favorite among photographers is the *Amanita caesarea* group with their bright red-orange caps. Amanitas are fairly easy to identify. They are tall (by mushroom standards) with thin stalks, they have a ring which fre-

quently resembles a skirt on the stalk, and they have a rather large membranous sac at the base which may be hidden by leaf litter. Another distinguishing feature of *Amanita caesarea* is the edge of the cap which is striated. According to Susan and Van Metzler's book, *Texas Mushrooms*, "the mushroom was once denied to the common people and reserved for the Caesars."

This amanita appears in late summer and fall, usually in small crops in mixed woods. ONC's Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary provides ideal habitat and amanitas are usually plentiful during the fall months. How appropriate that this lovely little mushroom with its bright orange cap appears just in time for our Halloween weekend at LTNS. Join us on October 27 and see one for yourself.

# Group Activities

## Botany/Entomology

Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 pm  
 Bayland Community Center  
 6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)

*Flora of the Texas Coastal Bend*, by Dr. Larry Brown.

Although retired from Houston Community College, Dr. Brown continues to teach a botany course at University of Houston Clear Lake Campus. He is coauthor with Charles Peterson of "Vascular Flora of the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary" and with Hatch and Ghandi of the "1990 Checklist of the Vascular Flora of Texas" and has written numerous keys for plants of the Houston area. We are fortunate for all the contributions in field trips and programs he has made to our group.

## Botany Field Trips

Sunday, October 14  
 Big Thicket National Preserve

Sunday, October 28  
 West 11th Street Park

See details next page.

## Ornithology

Monday, October 1  
 Bayland Community Center  
 6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)

Learning Corner, 6:30 pm  
 Program, 7:00 pm

*Birding in the Amazon Rainforests*

by George Regmund

## OG Field Trips

BEGINNING BIRDER

Saturday, October 13

Galveston Island  
 Leader: Adam Wood  
 Meet in Lafitte's Cove parking lot at 8:30 am.

REGULAR MONTHLY FIELD TRIP

Sunday, October 20  
 Kleb Woods

Fred Collins, director of Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, will be our guide for the day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking. Kleb Woods Nature Preserve is in NW Harris County on FM2920 about a mile west of Muechke Road.

## ONC Regular Monthly Meeting

NO MEETING IN OCTOBER  
 NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 8  
 Houston City Parks — Bird, Bayous, and Nature Initiatives to be presented by Joe Turner, Director of the City of Houston Parks Dept. Details in next issue.

**PLEASE NOTE: The board meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 11, has been cancelled due to our room at Bayland Community Center will not be available.**

## ONC Field Trips

Thursday–Monday  
 November 30 – December 3

Join us in the Rio Grande Valley with leader Derek Muschalek for a weekend of birding and butterflies. Details available in November *Nature Notes*.

## Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

Halloween Weekend  
 October 27-28

Join us for our popular Halloween Weekend at LTNS. Bring a pumpkin to carve for our carving contest; kids - wear your costumes for trick or treating around the campfire; games, trail hikes, and tractor rides for the more adventuresome.

Primitive camping available in the Cove at LTNS or there is a motel in Coldspring. Contact Aaron Stoley for additional information.



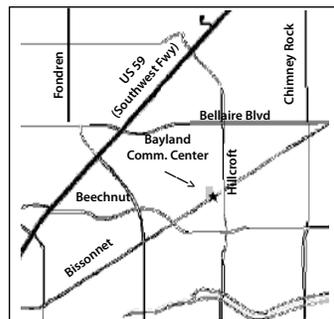
**At LTNS**

**October 27**

### October 2007

| 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 |    |    |    |

### Map To Meeting Place



## ONC Contact Information

**ONC General Information**  
 Calvin Blakley, 281-358-5407

**Botany/Entomology**  
 Russell Jeffords, 713-504-9215

**LTNS**  
 Aaron Stoley, 713-781-1372

**Ornithology**  
 Bernice Hotman, 713-782-7889  
 Adam Wood, 713-515-1692

# Notes of Interest

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## In memory of Kathleen Lewis, 1914-2007



ONC as well as the Houston environmental community lost a dear friend, an educator, and a magnanimous volunteer when Kathleen ("K") Lewis died September 15. During her 40 years as a member of ONC, Kay served as membership chair, secretary of the board, chair of the Botany Group, and a member of the LTNS sanctuary advisory committee.

Kay taught me more than I will ever remember about plants, birds, butterflies, and all other aspects of our natural world as I followed her around the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary during visitor weekends for the past ten years. She not only knew the common and scientific names of most of the species, but she usually had an anecdotal story to tell along the way.

I will miss her wit, her teachings, and her inspiration. Gatherings around the camp fire at LTNS will never be the same. Kay leaves behind a gaping hole in our hearts as well as our club. Alas ... who's going to judge the pumpkin carving contest!

— Connie Blakley  
a friend and admirer

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## ONC Botany & NPSOT Field Trips

Both Trips Meet at Houston Arboretum, 8:15 am

Leader: Dr. Larry Brown

**Sunday, October 14**

**Lance Rossier Unit of Big Thicket Natl. Preserve**

The Lance Rossier Unit encompasses over 25,000 acres in Hardin County, approximately 75 miles from Houston. The unit contains longleaf pine uplands at the northeast corner to the bayou and the bridge to nowhere on the southwest. A great variety of wildflowers abound in this unit as well as numerous mushrooms, slime molds, liverworts, mosses, and lichens.

**Sunday, October 28**

**West 11th Street Park, Houston**

We will be looking for native plants to see which ones exist in this greenery inside the Houston loop. The 21-acre nature park, only a block or two from White Oak Bayou, is reported to host 38 species of trees and over 50 species of wildflowers, along with over 100 species of birds and over 35 species of butterflies.

Field trips normally end after lunch. For additional information or questions, contact Paul Roling at 281-353-7413 or [PVRoling@att.net](mailto:PVRoling@att.net).

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## ONC Archives Club Records

At its regular board meeting in August, ONC's board voted to donate the club's historical records to the University of Houston, Center for Public History, Houston History Archives Repository. The club was approached by archivist, Terry Thomkins-Walsh, and asked if we were interested in archiving our records at U of H. Up to that point, our records were stored at LTNS in less than ideal conditions.

The club has minutes, newsletters, scrapbooks, and other memorabilia for ONC as well as special study groups dating back to the organization's origin in 1923. All the records will now be archived in perpetuity and available to future generations of nature lovers as well as history buffs. The records will eventually be scanned and made available electronically on the library's web site.



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

**Nature Notes** is published monthly  
September thru May

**Editor:**

Connie Blakley  
2007 Wilderness Pt  
Humble TX 77339  
nature\_notes1@outdoornatureclub.org

**Address Changes:**

Margret Simmons  
6111 Bayou Bridge  
Houston TX 77096  
member1@outdoornatureclub.org

**Memorials:**

Sylvia McCrevey  
P.O. Box 270894  
Houston TX 77277-0894  
memory1@outdoornatureclub.org

**Labels/Mailing:**

Russell Jeffords

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