

Nature Notes

MUSHROOMS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES; some are edible, some are not. Learn to identify mushrooms and fungi that are found in East Texas at our November 11 meeting with special guest lecturer David Lewis, Texas Gulf Coast mushroom expert extraordinaire.

David is a retired chemist and avid mycologist. He has a B.S. and M.S. from Lamar University, Beaumont, TX,

where his master's thesis was based on a study of East Texas mushrooms. Lewis worked for Temple Inland as a chemist for 20 years and retired in 2004.

He is a Research Associate with the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL, where 5000 collections of his fungi are deposited. He is an honorary staff member associated with the Tracy Herbarium at Texas A&M University. Since 2006, he

has been the TWiG (Taxonomical Working Groups) fungal coordinator for mycologists for the Big Thicket National Preserve All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory.

David is president of the Gulf States Mycological Society, has authored several papers related to mycology, and discovered many new species of mushrooms; three species are named for him—*Cortinarius lewisii*, *Pulveroboletus lewisii*

and *Russula lewisii*.

He and his wife Patricia live on 65 heavily wooded acres in Newton County, Texas, where they study plants, fungi and wildlife.

As a follow-up to this program, David and Pat will lead a mushroom foray at ONC's Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary on Saturday, November 13 (details on page 3).

Please join us for this very special program.

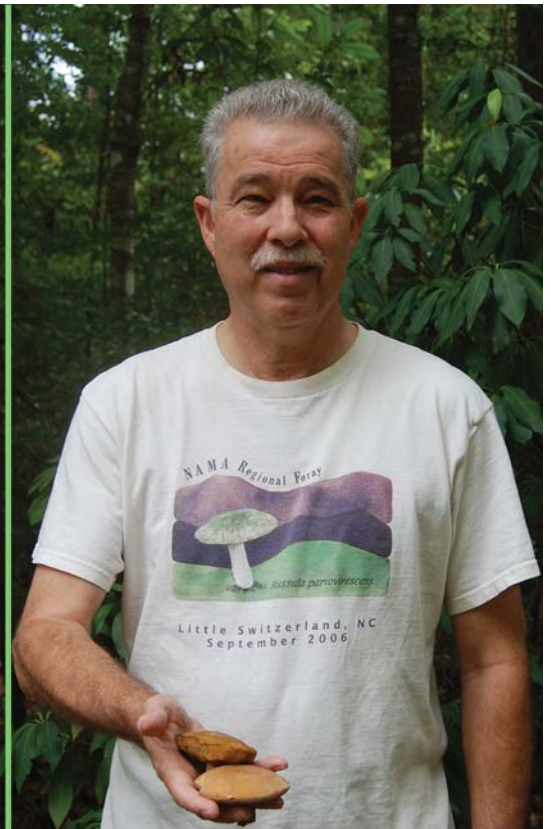


**ONC Meeting
November 11
7:30 p.m.**

**"Mushrooms
and Fungi
of East Texas"**

Guest Lecturer

**David Lewis
President
Gulf States
Mycological Society**



Group Activities – See websites for additional details

(www.outdoornatureclub.org or www.ornithologygroup.org)

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

OG Field Trips

Adam Wood, 713-515-1692

Meeting Place, Bayland Community Center

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at Bayland Community Center, 5400 Bissonnet at Hillcroft (see map)



Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary Events

All LTNS events are held at the sanctuary, 2001 FM 945, Cleveland, TX (see map)



November 2010

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				

December 2010

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	

- 1 Ornithology (OG) Meeting**
6:30 pm—Learning Corner
7:00 pm—Program
Hummingbirds of Houston and Southeast Texas, by Sumita Prasad
- 9 Botany-Entomology Meeting, 7:30 pm**
Flora of Pundt Park, by Paul Roling
- 11 ONC Meeting**
7:00 pm—Social; 7:30 pm—Program
Mushrooms & Fungi of East Texas, by David Lewis. See page 1 for details.
- 13 ONC Field Trip — Mushroom Foray**
9:30 am, Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
 Join David & Pat Lewis for a mushroom foray at LTNS. See details next page.
- 20 Ornithology (OG) Field Trip**
 Birding on Bolivar Peninsula, led by Tom Kihn. See details at www.ornithologygroup.org.
- 20-21 LTNS Open House Weekend**
 Come for the day or plan to camp in The Cove (primitive camping). Saturday, November 20, is Trail Maintenance Day; bring gloves and loppers and adopt a trail.
- 6 Ornithology (OG) Meeting**
6:30 pm—Learning Corner
7:00 pm—Program
Nesting Birds of America's Prairie Grasslands, by Greg Lasley
- 14 Botany-Entomology Meeting, 7:30 pm**
Asteraceae: Tips for Identification in the Field of Selected Members of the Aster Family, by Katy Emde
- 18 Houston Christmas Bird Count**
 The Houston area's oldest CBC, organized and conducted by ONC/OG members and friends. Contact David Sarkozi for more information about this count or to sign up.

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

Howard Kunz, Elizabeth Martin

Bobby Duryea, Ruby Pancoast

Mary Tigner, Mary Gillette

Marlene Donahue, John Tveten

Ellen Red, Karen Stockton

Kay Lewis, Avis Brister

Helen Wolfer, Ellen Red

from Russell Jeffords

Donation for General Fund

Stephen Der Tatevasion

John Sharp

Donation for LTNS Sanctuary Fund

Stephen Der Tatevasion



Membership Renewal Time

It's once again time to renew your ONC membership, which runs from January to December of each year. We've revamped our Membership Form (enclosed with this issue) to make it easier to pay all your dues — ONC and special study groups — with one check. If you have a friend who's interested in ONC, please give them a form. You can also pay your dues at any of our meetings. Thanks to everyone for your continued support!

Notes from Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS)

In September we had a good turnout for the quarterly Adopt-A-Road highway trash pickup. The following faithful volunteers were on hand to assist: Calvin & Connie Blakley, Leland Day, Cissy Donaldson, Kellene Jarratt, Charles & Wanda Smith, Aaron & Karen Stoley.

We spent the afternoon at Martin Flat and King's Hill and found a couple of new moth species. Saturday evening we set up the moth trap — a white nylon sheet and black lights — and attracted several more species new to LTNS (see back page for photos).

November 13 Field Trip Mushroom Foray at LTNS

Subsequent to our November program on mushroom identification, David & Pat Lewis will be leading a mushroom foray to ONC's Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary in San Jacinto County. November is normally an excellent time to find mushrooms at the sanctuary. Indian Pipes usually come up about mid-November so we might find those.

We will meet at the building in The Cove at 9:30 am and look for mushrooms along the trails for a couple of hours. After a break for lunch, we will display all of our findings and have a short identification seminar until about 2:00 pm. Plan to bring lunch and spend the day with us at the Thicket.

DIRECTIONS: There are multiple routes to LTNS (see map at left), but easiest route from downtown Houston is to travel north on U.S. 59 to Cleveland and exit at FM2025. Go left (north) on FM2025 about six miles to FM945 and turn left. Go about 11 miles to the entrance to LTNS on the right — watch for the LTNS sign. Follow the entrance road to The Cove.



Outdoor Nature Club
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 Ornithology Representative Pam Smolen

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.

Moths at Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

During the past several months, we've been erecting a "moth trap" (white sheet with black lights) at LTNS in order to accumulate data on the numerous moth species that reside at the sanctuary. So far, we have photographed and identified more than 80 species. This is a small number considering there are more than 10,000 moth species in North America (north of Mexico).

We hope to erect the moth trap during every visitors weekend at LTNS, so if you're interested in Lepidoptera please join us and help with this project. Below are a couple of the more attractive species we've found. A complete listing is posted on our website.



Zebra Conchylodes Moth (*Conchylodes ovulalis*)

This moth, with a wing span of 2.3-2.8 cm, is aptly named with its beautiful striped pattern. It was found on King's Hill in July. Food source is Asteraceae; the moth is fairly common in the right habitat and flight season (May-September).



Olive Shaded Bird Dropping Moth

(*Ponometia candefacta*)

This is another aptly-named moth with a wing span of 1.8-2.2 cm. It was also found on King's Hill in May. Food source is ragweed. This moth is common during its flight season of May-September.

OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB
New/Renewal Membership Form

(please mail your check to: Outdoor Nature Club, PO Box 270894, Houston TX 77277)

NOTE: Dues are paid January 1 of each calendar year. Dues structure & membership forms can be found at our website: OutdoorNatureClub.org

CATEGORY 1 – ONC Parent Organization (please circle one)

- \$8 Individual
- \$15 Family
- \$40 Supporting
- \$250 Life Member

SUB TOTAL Category 1

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CATEGORY 2 – OG Ornithology Study Group (optional - please circle one)

- \$14 Individual OG — with mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter
- \$19 Family OG — with mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter
- \$10 Individual OG — e-mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter
- \$15 Family OG — e-mailed "Spoonbill" newsletter

SUB TOTAL Category 2

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CATEGORY 3 – Botany/Entomology Study Group (optional)

- \$2 Individual

SUB TOTAL Category 3

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CATEGORY 4 — DONATIONS (please specify)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-------|
| ONC | \$ | _____ |
| ORNITHOLOGY (OG) | \$ | _____ |
| Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary | \$ | _____ |

SUB TOTAL Category 4

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TOTAL ENCLOSED (Add Categories 1+2+3+4)

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NEW MEMBERS: How did you hear about us?

- Friend told me
- Saw newsletter in library (which one? _____)
- Saw poster at Bayland Community Center
- Found you on internet
- Other (please specify: _____)

Thank you!

We appreciate your support and hope to see you at our next meeting.

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____ Email: _____