

ONC Nature Notes

March/April 2013


a bimonthly publication of Outdoor Nature Club

volume 64 ♦ number 4

ONC General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 pm

Please join us for a special presentation about alligators. The below poster says it all! Thanks to ONC President Olga Beishir for designing this beautiful poster. Hope to see you at the meeting.



Outdoor Nature Club
presents

FREE

Thursday, March 14
7:30-9pm
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonet, Houston TX

It's Hard To Be An Alligator
by Rick Dashnau

Adult alligators are apex predators- at the top of the food chain. Some people call them "monarchs of the swamp". During his 10 years of volunteering at Brazos Bend State Park, Rick has watched the alligators there & has come to learn that alligators are not born monarchs. Instead, they follow a difficult road to get to that station. The program consists of photos & video clips that Rick shot at Brazos Bend State Park & features alligators doing things not seen very often.

www.outdoornatureclub.org

Outdoor Nature Club Upcoming Activities

ONC Contacts

ONC General Information

Olga Beishir, 832-492-9174

Botany/Entomology Group

Katy Emde, 713-628-7575

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).



March 2013

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31						

April 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

ONC Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 14, Program: 7:30–9:00 PM

It's Hard To Be An Alligator

(details on page 1)



LTNS ACTIVITIES

16-17 Visitors Wkend & Hiway Trash Pickup

16th, 9:00 am — Meet at the entrance gate to LTNS for trash pickup along our adopted highway. It normally takes about 30-45 minutes.

16th, 10:00 am — Meet at The Cove for a nature walk. Dogwoods & redbuds are blooming. We should also see some early butterflies. Bring lunch, water, and other amenities for an outdoor adventure. In the evening we will set up an insect sheet (see more info, next page).

Study Group Activities

- 04 Ornithology (OG) Meeting**
Skip Almoney – "The Incredible Adventure: Birding in Alaska"
- 12 Botany-Entomology Meeting**
See website for details.
- 16 OG Field Trip — Jackson Cty Hot Spots**
Details and directions to meeting place are on the OG website.



LTNS ACTIVITIES

6-7 Visitors Weekend & Camping

6 FEAST DAY

Saturday is our annual FEAST Day; bring your favorite covered dish for a potluck meal at noon. There will be nature walks in the morning and possibly a scavenger hunt in the afternoon. In the evening we will set up an insect sheet (see more info, next page).

Study Group Activities

- 01 Ornithology (OG) Meeting**
6:30 pm—Learning Corner
7:00 pm—Program
Program details will be posted on the OG website.
- 12 Botany-Entomology**
See our website for program details.
- 20 OG Field Trip—Galveston & Bolivar Flats**
Details and directions to meeting place are on the OG website.

Other Notes of Interest

ONC Appreciates Your Donations

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

for LTNS Sanctuary Fund

Ron Anderson
Mike/Margarita Beathard
Cissy Donaldson
Ann Jones
Mary Jane Nelson
Carolyn Pepper
Charles/Joanne Peterson
David/Iris Poteet
Mary Helen Pritchett
Aaron/Karen Stoley
Phyllis Thompson

for ONC General Fund

Arlene Bennett
Edith Waxman

for OG General Fund

Cindy Douglass
Bob/Margret Simmons
Jim/Betsy Winn

Texas Bottle Bill

A new piece of legislation can use everyone's help. The Texas Bottle Bill would put a 5 cent deposit on the aluminum, glass and plastic containers that choke Texas roadways and end up in waterways, highways and landfills. Senate Bill 645 introduced by Senator Rodney Ellis and House Bill 1473 introduced by Representative Eddie Rodriguez would set up a system of deposits so that consumers could return bottles to receive the deposit back. It would be a great fund raiser for schools and would result in many people picking up bottles and returning them for money instead of allowing them to litter our state. Let's get behind the Texas Bottle Bill!

Moth Night at LTNS (March & April)

With the arrival of warmer weather, we're hoping to scare up some moths at LTNS in March & April. Weather permitting (read, no rain), we'll erect an insect sheet and black lights in the Cove on Saturday nights, March 16 & April 6, at sunset. We've had lots of interesting critters in the past and we almost always attract one or two species new to LTNS. If you want to stay late but not drive back to Houston, there are several name brand motels in Cleveland just 11 miles from LTNS. Hope you can join us for a night time adventure! Questions? ... contact Connie at 281-358-5407.



"The laugh at entomology is nearly spent. Known professors of the science, and members of its 'Society,' may now assemble in council and communicate their observations and inquiries without fear of becoming themselves subjects for commission *de lunatico inquirendo*, and butterfly hunters, net in hand, may now chase their game without being themselves made game of."
—*Acheta Domestica*. [From "The Moth Book" by W. J. Holland, pub. 1903.]



William T. Davis (1862–1945)
naturalist, entomologist, and
historian.

Help fill a void—we need a Publications Chair

We are still searching for someone to fill the position of Publications Chair so we can continue to publish our newsletter. If you're interested but not sure how much work is involved, you can call or email Connie Blakley and she'll be happy to provide more information. If you definitely want the job (we know someone's out there!), please contact ONC's president Olga Beishir.

TIME TO RENEW

If you've already paid your 2013 ONC dues, THANK YOU! If you haven't yet renewed, a membership form is included with your newsletter. Please take a few moments to complete the form and mail your dues. We appreciate your continued support of ONC.

Outdoor Nature Club
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PresidentOlga Beishir
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Membership VP Margret Simmons
Sanctuaries VP(acting)..... Aaron Stoley
Past PresidentSergio Henao
Secretary/TreasurerMike Correll
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.

Nature Sightings

Each time we venture outdoors to enjoy nature, we encounter something new. It might be an insect, a plant, a snake, a bird, or any other of the myriad species that inhabit our natural world. This back page is usually devoted to highlighting our encounters. If you find an interesting species 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 spend more time exploring!



📍 Moon-lined Moth (*Spiloloma lunilinea*)

This beautiful moth came to a porch light at Smith Woods in Tyler County last July. Wanda at first thought it was a Geometrid, similar to Blurry Chocolate Angle, but it turned out to be a Noctuid. No wonder we “mothers” have hundreds of photos (they all look the same) yet to identify!

Nature Dictionary

Occasionally we all encounter words that send us to the dictionary, especially scientific terms that are derived from Latin or Greek. Here’s a couple of words that I had to look up; hope you all learn something too! —Editor

Myrmecochory (mermeko’ koree), from the Greek *myrmeco-*: “ants” + *chory*: “dispersal” refers to seed dispersal by ants. Some plants, e.g. *Viola* species, have fleshy structures on their seeds that entice ants. Workers carry them to the colony, the fleshy part is removed for food, and the seed is discarded.

Ecdysis (ek’ de sez), from the Greek *ekduo*: “strip off” refers to the process of moulting or shedding an outer cuticular layer, as in insects and crustaceans. The cuticula of these animals often forms an inelastic exoskeleton which is shed during growth. If you’ve ever seen a beetle’s shell after moulting, you’ve seen the aftermath of ecdysis.