



September/October 2008
volume 60 ♦ number 1

Nature Notes

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
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story by Connie Blakley
photo by Wanda Smith

When you go looking for butterflies in East Texas, you will most likely see a skipper; but can you identify it? Some folks call them the “little brown jobbies” of the butterfly world, but occasionally you’ll find a skipper with distinct markings on the underside of the wings such as the Lace-Winged Roadside Skipper pictured here. This skipper is tiny, measuring only 1–1¼ inches and is found almost exclusively in bottomland forests and thickets—the habitat of its host plant, giant cane. John and Gloria Tveten, in their book *Butterflies of Houston & Southeast Texas*, said they have not seen this skipper in Harris County but have found sizable colonies north of Houston in San Jacinto County, which is the location of ONC’s Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS).

This one was found by Wanda Smith and Karen Stoley in early June at LTNS in The Cove garden. They spotted the skipper just as we were leaving to pick up trash along our adopted highway and feared it would be gone when we returned in a few hours. But we were lucky; the skipper was still there and was very active, flitting from leaf to leaf. It finally perched long enough for Wanda to get some great photos.

If you would like to see this specimen, join us for our next visitors weekend at LTNS on September 20. You, too, might be lucky and catch a glimpse of this lovely butterfly.

Group Activities

(All meetings are at Bayland Community Center unless otherwise noted)

September 2008

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				

October 2008

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	

November 2008

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 2008

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			

ONC Contact Information

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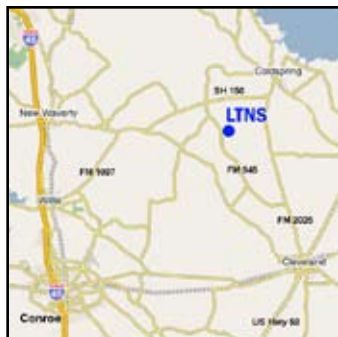
Adam Wood, 713-515-1692

Maps

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)



Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
2001 FM 945, Cleveland, TX



Botany/Entomology

SEPTEMBER 9, 7:30 pm

Plants & Insects from Smith Woods, Colmesneil, Texas, by Wanda Smith

OCTOBER 14, 7:30 pm

Wildflowers of Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary, by Dr. Larry Brown

Ornithology (OG)

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

SEPTEMBER 8

OCTOBER 6

Speakers to be announced—see OG website

OG Field Trips

Saturday, September 20

Hawk Watch at Smith Point

Saturday, October 18

Bolivar Bird Survey with Leader, Tom Khin

Quarterly Field Trip

October 23-26

West Texas—Concan and Uvalde; Leader, Bob Rasa

Saturday, November 15

Lake Texana & Surrounds with TPWD Guide

ONC Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting

SEPTEMBER 11

Refreshments: 7:00 pm

Program: 7:30 pm

An Introduction to Astronomy, to be presented by ONC president Dr. Calvin Blakley. Learn how to identify objects in the September sky with emphasis on Jupiter.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

September 20-21

Visitors Weekend & Trash Pickup
Saturday, 8:00 am, Fall Hiway Trash Pickup

Join us for our first visitors weekend of the new season. On Saturday we will pick up trash along our adopted highway, FM 945. The rest of the weekend is for nature study, walking, sitting, or whatever else makes you happy.

October 25-26

Halloween at LTNS

Our annual Halloween celebration at LTNS is very popular, especially with the kiddies! Bring your pumpkin and carving tools for our carving contest. Bring your sacks for trick-or-treat around the campfire.

Happenings at LTNS

Seismic Survey at LTNS

The gas exploration company conducting seismic surveys of San Jacinto County is in the process of working at LTNS and survey should be completed by end of September. If you've been to the sanctuary this summer you noticed flagging tape and stakes throughout the area. These will be removed when the survey is finished.

In exchange for access to our property, ONC received compensation in the amount of \$6592 which has been deposited in the Permanent Sanctuary Endowment Fund.

June Highway Trash Pickup

We had a good turnout of volunteers to help pick up trash along our adopted highway, FM 945, even though it was a typically hot summer day. Thanks to the following for their devotion to our community project: Calvin & Connie Blakley, Leland Day, Kellene Jarratt, Charlie & Wanda Smith, Aaron & Karen Stoley.

Next trash pickup is on Saturday, September 17. We could sure use some more volunteers—we old folk are getting tired! For more information, contact Aaron Stoley or Calvin Blakley.

Sightings



Wanda Smith always carries her trusty digital camera when walking the trails at LTNS. At our June Visitors Weekend, Wanda spotted a Northern Cricket

Frog. These frogs are fairly common in East Texas in the right habitat but are more likely heard than seen. Wanda heard the frog first then followed the sound and was able to get a nice photo showing the distinctive markings indicative of the species.

If you have a photo from LTNS that you would like to share with fellow members, please email to the editor (see back page for email address).

ONC Appreciates Your Donations

Donations to ONC are always appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Memorials and Honor Gifts are contributed to the Sanctuary Fund for Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Other gifts are used to fund special projects as designated by the donor. Thanks, everyone, for your generosity.

for Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

from Betty Cawfield

Ann & Arthur Jones

General Fund Donation

from Diane Kerr

In memoriam

for parents of Connie Blakley

from Charlie & Wanda Smith

for Avis Brister

from Charles & Priscilla Bauer

In memory of Avis Brister

All who knew her were saddened to hear of the death of Avis Brister in April. Avis had been a member of ONC for over 40 years and was a tireless volunteer. If there was an ONC event, whether it be manning a booth on Earth Day or teaching children at Spring Branch Science Center, Avis was always there with a smile and enough energy for three people.

Avis, along with husband Harry, was active in all the ONC study groups, but they were particularly fond of the Photography Group. They also founded the Richard L. Brister Memorial Library in memory of their son. The library resides at LTNS and is a source of reference materials and field guides used regularly by visitors.

Avis loved ONC as much as we loved her and she will be missed.



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Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, Texas
Permit No. 1063

Nature Notes is published bimonthly
September thru May

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Remember These Dates!

Thursday, September 11

**ONC Regular Meeting
Introduction to Astronomy**

Saturday, September 20

**Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
Highway Trash Pickup**

Saturday, October 25

**Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
Halloween Celebration**

Thursday, November 13

**Bayland Community Center
ONC's 85th Birthday Celebration
Potluck Dinner**