

Outdoor
Nature Club

Nature Notes

November '06
volume 58 • number 3

our charter ...

Outdoor Nature Club

was established in

1923 as a nonprofit

organization with the

purpose of protecting

and conserving our

natural resources by

fostering an interest

in nature study

ONC

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

our websites ...

OutdoorNatureClub.org
OrnithologyGroup.org



ONC September Field Trip Report by Gwen Kunz

ONC's field trip to the grand opening of Kleb Woods Nature Center and Heritage Farm was very nice. Ray Miller was Master of Ceremonies. Other officials in attendance included: Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Ned Holmes; Al Davis, Chairman, Harris County Historical Commission; Steve Radack, Commissioner, Harris County Pct. 3; and of course, Fred Collins, Director of the Nature Center.

ONC had a good turnout of about 10 members. Margret Simmons contributed some plants and helped with the planting of the butterfly garden.

The Heritage Farm consists of the Kleb Farmhouse built in 1896, a mother-in-law house brought from another nearby German family property; likewise, a barn brought from another German family property with some old farm equipment. The houses have some of the original furniture in them. They still need a stove for the farmhouse. Elmer Kleb was sort of a recluse. His father was a prosperous farmer, but Elmer had no interest in farming. He enjoyed the company of the birds and wild animals. He planted trees all over the property and let the place go back to nature. He had no income and he let the property taxes go unpaid. By 1986 the taxes and penalties and interest totaled \$150,000. He didn't want to sell any of the land to pay the taxes, so he offered the property to the Audubon Society. They were interested but didn't have the money to pay off the taxes.

When Steve Radack took office as Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner in January 1989, he started working on finding a way to acquire the property and make it a nature preserve. A grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife eventually enabled the

Continued inside, page 3

Group Activities

Botany • Entomology

Tuesday, November 14

Bayland Community Center, 7:30 pm

Wildflowers of the Big Thicket,
presented by Paul Roling, volunteer at Jesse Jones Park & Nature Center

Ornithology (OG)

Monday, November 6

Bayland Community Center

Learning Corner: 6:30 pm

Program: 7:00 pm

Birding Panama,
presented by Howard Laidlaw

OG FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 18

Birding at Sheldon Lake State Park

Leader: TPWD Naturalist

ONC Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 9

Bayland Community Center

Pacific Northwest Volcanic Activity

Presenter: Farrar Stockton.

Farrar has traveled extensively in the Pacific Northwest, visiting numerous national and state parks to study the effects of volcanic activity in the area. His beautiful photographs and lively narrative are both entertaining and educational. Mark your calendars and join us in November.

Upcoming in December

December 4

OG Meeting: The state of Texas state parks.

December 12

Botany: Texas Wildflowers

December 14

ONC Board Meeting

December 16

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

LTNS Visitors Weekend and Trail Maintenance

Saturday/Sunday, November 18-19

Fall is a favorite time for many members to visit LTNS. The cool crisp weather and changing tree colors beckon to all outdoor enthusiasts.

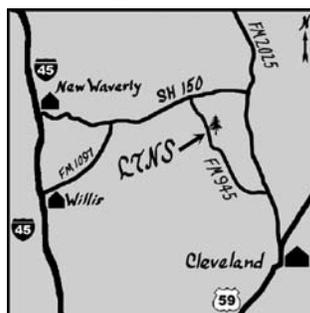
Saturday is trail maintenance day. We had a great turnout last year and cleaned up a lot of the debris from last year's hurricanes. But trail maintenance is a never ending job and there's plenty to do this year. Volunteers work in teams with each team being assigned a specific trail. Remember to bring your gloves, a hat, clipper/loppers, and plenty of water.

Primitive camping is available at LTNS. There is also camping with hookups in Evergreen (3 miles north). For more information about accommodations, contact Aaron Stoley.

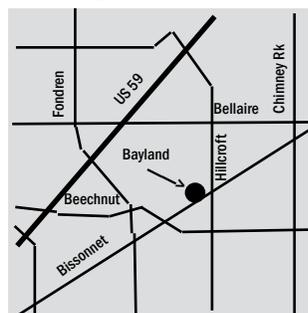
November 2006

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		

Map to LTNS



Map to Bayland



Contact Persons

Botany/Entomology
Russell Jeffords, 713-504-9215

Ornithology
Michael Williams, 713-263-1919
Adam Wood, 713-515-1692

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
Aaron Stoley, 713-781-1372

Notes of Interest

Kleb Woods

continued from page 1

county to buy the property. Elmer was provided for and allowed to live out his life in the woods. He died in 1999 at age 91.

Fred Collins has done a great job, working with the county, to get the property ready for the grand opening. An assistant, who has a Ph.D. in German, was recently hired. She addressed the group in German and later I heard some German conversations around. The area has a lot of German immigrants; the Klebs immigrated from Germany in 1846.

October the facilities are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., but closed Wednesdays and weekends. Those hours could expand toward the end of the year.

Conservation Corner

Excerpted from CEC Environmental News

Buffalo Bayou Past And Future To Be Subject Of Documentary

The Citizens League for Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) and the Endangered Species Media Project are collaborating with experts and scholars in creating a documentary about the history of Buffalo Bayou from earliest times and the possibilities for restoring the bayou. Former newscaster Ron Stone is heavily involved with the project, which will explore the significant historical, geographical, sociological and economic impacts of Buffalo bayou.

CLEAN'S executive director Geoffrey Castro says, "The remarkably rich early history of this waterway will astonish people who are unfamiliar with Houston's far-reaching and interesting heritage. Steven F.

Austin designated Buffalo Bayou as the southern border of his colony, the Texas revolution was won at the confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River, and the Allen Brothers found it a navigable system from Galveston Island to the new town they would later call Houston. Frontiersmen and families coming to this region staked their hopes and fortunes on an opportunity to make Buffalo Bayou their "river of dreams."

According to Castro, archeological sites near Buffalo Bayou reveal the presence of human beings 6,000 years ago. The oldest contains a previously undisturbed deposit of bone remains and dart points dating from 4000 to 1000 BC. One site features a shell midden and cemetery with early ceramics dating between 1400 BC and AD 950. Other sites in the western area and along Galveston Bay have yielded pottery, stone tools, and points from 2,000 years ago. Many shell middens along the bay shore and brackish streams were destroyed in the nineteenth century when residents used the convenient shell heaps for construction.

Cabeza de Vaca, the first modern European to set foot in what is now Texas, spent several years among the Native Americans, first as a slave, then as a merchant and a medicine man. De Vaca ascended the Buffalo Bayou area from the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay about 1529 to trade with the woodland Indians. De Vaca's captors eventually allowed him to help trade among the Charruco, who inhabited forests along the inland streams, bayous, and rivers.

Castro, who says that about a third of the funding for the project has been raised, hopes that portraying the life that has flourished along the banks of the Buffalo Bayou and showing the master plans for improvement of water quality, green spaces, wetlands, and natural habitats may indeed re-characterize and reestablish this as truly a "river of dreams."

This is your space

If you have a story to share with fellow members, please send them in and we'll publish here. Send to Nature Notes Editor, Connie Blakley at address on back page.

Donations ...

Honor Gifts ...Memorials

Donations are always appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Memorials and Honor Gifts are contributed to the Permanent Endowment Sanctuary Fund for Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Other gifts go to special projects designated by donors. Thanks, everyone, for your generosity.

Memorials for Dorothy Parmesan

Sherri/Galen Burden

thank you

Leave a Legacy

Please consider including ONC in your will or estate plan. By so doing, you can help ensure that our sanctuary will be protected for future generations.



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

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

Nature Notes

published monthly September thru May

Editor

Connie Blakley
2007 Wilderness Pt, Humble 77339
email: connie@cblakley.com

Address Changes

Margret Simmons
6111 Bayou Bridge Dr, Houston 77096
email: msimmons@compassnet.com

Memorials

Sylvia McCrevey
2 Carlotta Ct, Houston 77074-7817

Labels/Mailing

Russell Jeffords

Read Nature Notes in COLOR at
www.OutdoorNatureClub.org

Saturday, November 18

**Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

9:00 am til you get tired!

**Bring your hat & gloves,
Bring your loppers and clippers
Bring water and your lunch**