

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



by *Connie Blakley*

The joint ONC-NPSOT field trip to Big Thicket's Lance Rosier Unit on Sunday, October 22, was fun and at the same time educational. There were nine people in the group, led by Dr. Larry Brown, botanist extraordinaire. Dr. Brown has brought many of his students to this unit and has also spent a considerable amount of his time surveying the plant life here.

We met at the BTNP Field Research Station in Saratoga then drove into the unit on Cotton Road and spent the morning here, continuing on to the "bridge to nowhere" as it's called by locals. The bridge dead ends at Pine Island Bayou (photo above). There was a beautiful burr oak tree with acorns at this site.

In the afternoon, we drove further east and spent our time surveying the east

side of the unit. Dr. Brown found several species that were new to his BTNP list for Lance Rosier Unit. When the temperatures warmed up we began to see butterflies. Among the more interesting were Pearl Crescent and Fiery Skipper. Our final stop was along Highway 326, the Sour Lake Highway, where we found a beautiful stand of sundew.

Since I don't speak Latin and everyone else on this trip was calling out Latin plant names so fast I couldn't catch all the names, I didn't get a good list of all the sightings. However, I believe everyone saw at least one new species and it was nice to be out in the woods on a beautiful fall day. Mary Helen Pritchett was taking excellent notes and I'm sure she'd share her species list with anyone interested.

Thanks to Dr. Brown for leading the trip and to Paul Roling for organizing the trip.

Group Activities

Botany/Entomology

Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 pm
 Bayland Community Center
 6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)

Butterflies of the Rio Grande Valley,

by Wanda Smith.

In addition to her knowledge of butterflies, Wanda is also a very knowledgeable birder. She has done an enormous amount of work making an inventory of the club's equipment and library. Wanda is a past editor of "Nature Notes" and serves on the ONC Board as Secretary.

Ornithology (OG)

Monday, November 5
 Bayland Community Center
 6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)

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

Citizen Science, by Fred Collins, Director, Kleb Woods Nature Preserve.

OG Field Trip

Saturday, November 17
 Brazos Bend State Park

Bill Godley, a naturalist at Brazos Bend SP, will be our guide for the day. Possible sightings around the park include American Bittern, wintering ducks, Vermillion Flycatcher, Winter Wren, wintering warblers (Palm Warbler) as well as a few lingering neotropical migrants. This park is great to bird year round but some consider it is best in the late fall and winter.

Meet in the 40 Acre Lake parking lot at 7:00 am. The park is approximately a one-hour drive from downtown Houston. There is a \$3 entrance fee to the park.

ONC General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 8
 Refreshments: 7:00 pm
 Program: 7:30 pm

Bayland Community Center
 6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)
Baja—The Other Galapagos, presented by John & Gloria Jones.

Due to a last minute conflict, our scheduled speaker had to cancel. ONC members John & Gloria Jones graciously agreed, on short notice, to present a program about their recent trip to Baja California. John is an accomplished nature photographer and he and Gloria are entertaining speakers. You will not want to miss this program. See next page for details.

ONC Field Trip

Thursday–Monday
 November 30 – December 3

Join us in the Rio Grande Valley with leader Derek Muschalek for a weekend of hunting butterflies. See details next page.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

Trail Maintenance
 November 17-18

Fall is a favorite time to visit LTNS. Cool crisp weather and changing tree colors beckon to all outdoor enthusiasts.

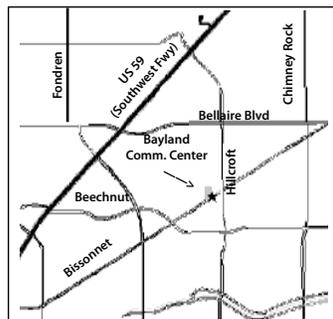
Saturday is trail maintenance day. Trail maintenance is never ending and there's plenty to do this year. Volunteers work in teams, each assigned a specific trail. Remember to bring gloves, hat, clipper/loppers, plenty of water and lunch.

For more information about accommodations, contact Aaron Stoley.

November 2007

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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 Meeting Place



ONC Contact Information

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 Russell Jeffords, 713-504-9215

LTNS
 Aaron Stoley, 713-781-1372

Ornithology
 Bernice Hotman, 713-782-7889
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Notes of Interest

ONC Appreciates Your Generous 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 fund special projects as designated by the donor. Thanks, everyone for your generosity.

in memory of Kay Lewis

Charles & Priscella Bauer

Calvin & Connie Blakley

Irene Leslie

John & Sylvia McCrevey

Charles & JoAnne Peterson

Ellen Red

Aaron & Karen Stoley

Ethel Tracy & Family

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Baja – The Other Galapagos

ONC General Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 8
by John & Gloria Jones

Baja California extends like a long crooked finger south from the California border to the Tropic of Capricorn, some eight hundred miles away. It is far from tropical, however. The peninsula is an extension of the Sonora Desert so it is primarily an arid landscape baked dry by the desert sun. This land of rugged mountains, desert plains, and remote islands is host to a multitude of desert plants and animals that are well adapted to these extreme conditions. In contrast to the land, the richness of the cold waters of the Sea of Cortez supports amazing numbers of fish, mammal and bird life.

ONC Butterfly Field Trip to Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP

Organizer: Virginia Anderson

Leader: Derek Muschalek

Friday, November 30 to Monday, December 3

Join us for a weekend of butterfly viewing in the Valley with leader Derek Muschalek. Derek has led butterfly field trips in the valley for over five years and reports that winter is the best time for sighting butterflies, especially rare species drifting north from Mexico.

We will be spending most of our time at the state park. Admission fee is \$5 (adults) or \$3 (seniors). There are numerous choices for accommodations, so everyone please make your own reservations. The following facilities, in order of distance, are nearest to the park:

- **Executive Inn** (956-581-7451), 4.3 miles from park, small Mexican restaurant on site.
- **LaQuinta** (956-581-7772), 7.7 miles from park, closest restaurants about 2 miles.
- **Holiday Inn Express** (956-424-7788), 9 miles from park, fast food restaurants nearby.
- **Comfort Inn** (956-583-0333), 9 miles from park, fast food nearby, "hot" continental breakfast. Lowest rates and recommended by locals.
- **CAMPING:** AmeriCana RV Resort (956-581-1705), recommended by members who have been there.

Details of planned activities and meeting times and places will be finalized within one week of trip dates. If you plan to join us, please let us know. Contact Virginia Anderson (email: vanderson35@comcast.net or phone: 281-930-1518). A packet of information gathered by a friend of ONC who lives in the valley is also available at our website: www.outdoornatureclub.org.



See You There !



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