

Outdoor
Nature Club

November/December 2008
volume 60 ♦ number 2

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
P.O. Box 270894
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www.OutdoorNatureClub.org



story and photo by Connie Blakley

Have you ever been at the right place at the right time and witnessed an unusual natural phenomenon? Cal and I had that experience recently when we visited Buescher State Park. We always stop at the fishing lake hoping to see lots of dragonflies. But this time, instead of dragonflies, we met up with hundreds of frogs lurking in the vegetation along the shoreline.

As we approached, the frogs burst into action and went skittering into the water – like skipping stones – and emitting a high pitched squeak as they jumped. After swimming a few feet from shore, they began the waiting game. They floated in the water, with only their cute little green heads and bulging eyes visible, and watched us as if awaiting our next move. If we stood quietly for a few seconds, the frogs swam back to shore. So I played the game, camera in hand. I took a few steps and the frogs leapt into the water; I stood still for a few seconds and they all came swimming back to shore. Got some great video clips but after about a half hour I tired of the game and left.

When we returned home we searched our field guides but couldn't be sure which frogs these were. So I called a naturalist at Buescher SP and was surprised to learn they are juvenile bullfrogs. Wow! These guys must raise quite a ruckus each night as they serenade the folks camping nearby.

Group Activities

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

November 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2009

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2009

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

ONC Contact Information

ONC General Information

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LTNS

Aaron Stoley, 713-781-1372

Ornithology

Bernice Hotman, 713-782-7889

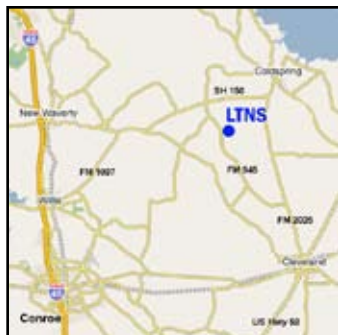
Adam Wood, 713-515-1692

Maps

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)



Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
2001 FM 945, Cleveland, TX



Botany/Entomology

NOVEMBER 11, 7:30 pm

Native Texas Wildflowers, Including Some Rare and Endangered Species, by Carolyn Fannon

DECEMBER 9, 7:30 pm

Insects of Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary and Surrounding Areas, by Dr. Calvin Blakley

Ornithology (OG)

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

NOVEMBER 3

Rehabilitation, by Margaret Picknell & Wildlife Ambassadors

DECEMBER 1

IBAs to be presented by Dr. Andrew Kasner

OG Field Trips

Saturday, November 15

Lake Texana State Park and Surrounding Area led by TPWD Guide

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Date to be announced

Get information at the December 1 OG meeting, or contact David Sarkozi, (david@sarkozi.net), or 713-412-4409.

ONC Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting

NOVEMBER 13

Happy 85th Birthday ONC!
7:00 pm - Potluck Dinner

Help us celebrate ONC's 85th birthday. Bring your favorite covered dish and all your memories of ONC events past and present. See details next page.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

November 22-23
Visitors Weekend & Marking Trails

Join us and help mark trails on Saturday. This is not a difficult task, it just takes time and lots of people. The rest of the weekend you can enjoy nature study, walking, sitting, or whatever else makes you happy.

Happenings at LTNS

Hurricane Ike Visits LTNS

We had to cancel the September trash pickup at LTNS due to Hurricane Ike. Most of our members were cleaning up debris around their own homes. At the end of September, we organized an impromptu visit to LTNS to investigate damage from Ike. There were a few downed trees blocking trails and lots of twigs and branches everywhere.

Thanks to the back-breaking hard work of Calvin Blakley, Leland Day, Charlie Smith and Aaron Stoley, most of the downed trees were cleared. This was an all-day effort on Saturday, September 27, and these guys deserve your thanks next time you see them. Also helping to clear trails of smaller branches and twigs were Connie Blakley, Mary Jane McCartney, Karen Stoley, and Wanda Smith.

November is designated Trail Marking Month at LTNS. Many of our trails have not been marked for several years, making it difficult for new members and visitors to follow the trails. The club will provide paint and other equipment. If you can help, join us on Saturday, November 22. Bring gloves, water, lunch, insect repellent. See you there!

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.

In memoriam

for Avis Brister

Irene Leslie

Gwen Kunz

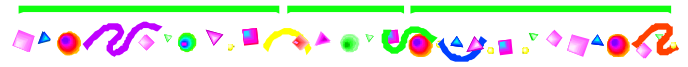
Charles & Joanne Peterson

Charles & Wanda Smith

Aaron & Karen Stoley

for Kay Lewis

Frank Gregg



Happy Birthday, ONC

Join us to celebrate the founding of ONC 85 years ago. Due to the foresight of a few Houstonians who realized the value of conservation, ONC was founded in 1923 and held its first official meeting in a flower shop in downtown Houston. Now, 85 years later, our members continue the tradition of nature study, conservation, and education. Our November regular meeting will be a celebration of this ongoing tradition.

On display will be scrapbooks and photo albums dating back to the beginning. Members can enjoy reminiscing and sharing their experiences. This is an informal event and meant to be a party so come prepared to have fun!

Bring your favorite covered dish for a potluck supper. Paper utensils and drinks will be provided.

Where

Bayland Community Center
(map at left)

What

ONC's 85th Birthday Celebration
Potluck Supper

When

Thursday, November 13
Time: 6:30 pm — 8:30 pm





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