February 2008 volume 59 • number 6



ittle Thicket Nature Sanctuary is a beautiful property that was purchased by ONC in the early 1950s and is managed as a preserve where members go to enjoy and study nature. If left untended, the property would become overgrown and unmanageable, which is why we depend on volunteers — that means you and me — to maintain the trails and buildings.

Some of you enjoy LTNS on days other than scheduled visitors weekends. When you visit the sanctuary, please consider occasionally helping with maintenance. Below is a list of some things that can be done intermittently through the year and some things that need repairing now. Most tasks do not require you to purchase supplies, but if you do be sure and keep your receipt to get reimbursed.

# **Recurring tasks** — do these every time you visit LTNS:

- 1. Trim overhanging branches and vines on the trails and roads. Get in the habit of carrying hand shears every time you walk the trails to clear at least the worst offenders.
- 2. Clear trails of downed branches and limbs. For larger limbs that need sawing, note the location and notify Aaron.

#### Occasional tasks — normally done less frequently:

- 1. Clear the north fence line along the road leading to Cullinan Meadow (from Foot Log Crossing trail to the meadow).
- 2. Sweep out the building.
- 3. Clean windows and skylights.
- 4. Gather kindling for the wood pile. Collecting wood logs is best left for when the tractor and chain saw are available.

## Repair tasks — will require purchasing supplies:

- 1. Repair, clean, sand, paint the picnic tables.
- 2. Repair and paint the privacy screens in front of the toilets.
- 3. Reweb lawn chairs with broken webbing (we all use them!).

When you complete a task, please let Aaron Stoley know via email at onc\_sanctuaries@outdoornatureclub.org. An updated list of needs will be published periodically in Nature Notes.

The sanctuary is available for all members to enjoy, but it also needs to be maintained by **ALL** who enjoy it. Thanks for your help.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## February 4\*

OG Learning Corner, 6:30 pm OG Meeting, 7:00 pm

Program: Birding Down Under by Karen McBride

### February 12\*

Botany•Entomology, 7:30 pm

Program: Lichens of the Houston Area by Paul Roling

## February 14\*

ONC Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

#### February 16-17

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary Visitors Weekend

## February 16

OG Field Trip to Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR with USFWS Guide

\*Meeting Place: Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet (at Hilcroft), Houston, Texas

February 2008							
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# **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 memory of Kay Lewis

Warren Pruess

# for LTNS Sanctuary Fund

Chuck & Priscilla Bauer
Judith Boyce
Julia Garrett
Roy Kveton
Lois Lentz
Aaron & Karen Stoley
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