

April 2026



Naturalist Notes

Upcoming

April – Earth Month

Wed, Apr 22nd – Earth Day, theme “Our Power, Our Planet”

Fri, Apr 24th – Mon, Apr 27th, City Nature Challenge

Sat, May 2nd – Native Plant Sale, Audubon Nursery, Edith L. Moore.

Thu, May 7th – Monthly Chapter Meeting at HANC, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.

April is National Poetry Month

Butterfly Explicit

A patch of grass framed by curb and ditch

just big enough for two tiny butterflies mating.



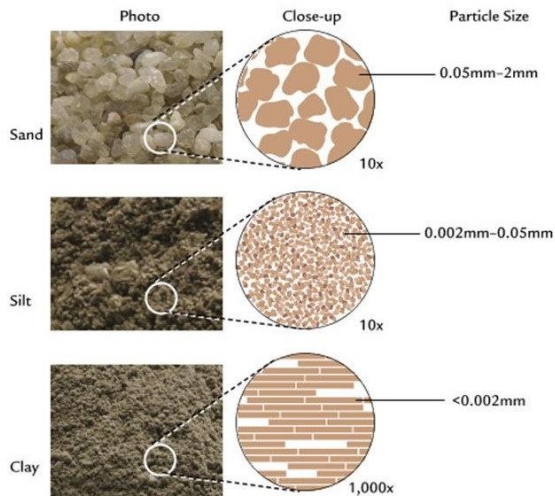
Dressing Point Island Update

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is monitoring colonial waterbird nesting populations on Dressing Point Island under contract with US Fish and Wildlife. Dressing Point is one of the few remaining nesting islands along the Texas Gulf Coast.



Soil - Clay

Sand, Silt, and Clay



Clay particles are the smallest of the three soil components, about 1,000 x smaller than sand. Clay is formed through weathering of primary minerals such as feldspar. Pure clay is light in color. In the presence of iron oxide, clay is darker. Clay particles can pack tightly together, creating very few, small pores. Clay soils have poor drainage and are low in oxygen, which can lead to root rot.

Clay minerals attract and hold onto key plant nutrients, such as potassium, calcium, and magnesium.



This is Saturday's group working on the ADA trails at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. From L-R: Brook Bowman, Zoe Butts, Frankie Ortega, Richard Solberg, Giselle Martinez and Celeste Quintero. Jay Dryden, not pictured, is our photographer. Saturday we repaired a section of the trail in the 610 loop by adding layers of decomposed granite. Brook, Giselle and Celeste are first timers to our group.

TPWD Closes Additional Oyster Harvesting Area in Galveston Bay

The latest closure comes due to the low abundance of oysters of at least 3 in, the legal harvestable size. TPWD continues to monitor all areas and reopens them when they meet criteria thresholds.



Nature Journaling Workshop Recap

Two people joined Irmi for the Nature Journaling workshop on Saturday, April 18th. We began by looking at shed snakeskin and an opossum skull found in the park, then walked along Buffalo Bayou to Tapley Tributary to use our observation skills. We sat down around the Tapley Tributary Spring to work in our journals. The first entry we worked on was tracing a leaf, and using I Notice, I Wonder, It Reminds Me Of to structure our entry. The second entry was a landscape using the watercolor pencils and water brush provided as part of the kit.

Irmi's Reflection: This workshop was moderately successful in engaging chapter members and not very successful in engaging the public. Two hours may be a better length of time for a workshop focused on journaling skills. I enjoyed spending time teaching the workshop.



Earth Day

I am the Earth
And the Earth is me.
Each blade of grass,
Each honey tree,
Each bit of mud,
And stick and stone
Is blood and muscle,
Skin and bone.

That's why we
Celebrate this day.
That's why across
The world we say:
As long as life,
As dear, as free,
I am the Earth
And the Earth is me.

Jane Yolen

And just as I
Need every bit
Of me to make
My Body fit,
So Earth needs
Grass and stone and tree
And things that grow
here
Naturally.