

**Bright Leaf T-Shirts, Caps, & Patches
in Vibrant Colors**



Caps \$20



Friends of Bright Leaf
Patches \$5



T-Shirts \$15

To order, contact Sally Scott at 453-2289

Calendar of Events

October Event—Open House

Saturday, October 24th, 9:00am—1:00pm

November Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 10th, 6:30 pm

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Tuesday, December 8th, 7:00pm

Special Thanks to:

- The docents who lead hikes for the public every month.
- Steven Haskett for providing website server
- Contributors to **Friends of Bright Leaf**

Monthly Interpretive Hikes

Interpretive Hikes are scheduled for the second Saturday and second Sunday of every month. Meet at the parking lot at the north entrance to the park.

October Interpretive Hikes

Saturday, October 10, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Sunday, October 11, 9:00 - 11:00 am

November Interpretive Hikes

Sunday, November 8, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Saturday, November 14, 9:00 - 11:00 am

December Interpretive Hikes

Saturday, December 12, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Sunday, December 13, 9:00 - 11:00 am

January Interpretive Hikes

Saturday, January 9, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Sunday, January 10, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Thanks to our 2008-9 Sponsors



Georgia B. Lucas
Foundation

Friends of Bright Leaf
P.O. Box 27921
Austin, Texas 78755-7921

Friends of Bright Leaf



Friends of Bright Leaf

Fall 2009

**—Proposed Merger—
with Austin Community Foundation**

The Board of Directors of Friends of Bright Leaf has voted to enter into discussions with Austin Community Foundation (owner of Bright Leaf Preserve) to merge our operations into those of ACF. Sally Scott, in the following paragraphs, describes the proposal. **A vote on the merger will be held at annual meeting on October 24th. All members in good standing are eligible to vote.**

This is a most important membership meeting. It will begin at 9:00 in the parking lot. All the hikes will follow the end of the meeting. There will be a botany hike led by Professor Marshall Johnson. There will be children's activities and a children's hike. And of Course there will be FOOD and SNACKS for all.

The purposes of Friends of Bright Leaf is the receipt, solicitation, administration and disbursement of gifts, grants, bequests, or other conveyances of real and personal property for the benefit of the operation and maintenance of Bright Leaf, and to conserve and enhance Bright Leaf and promote the public's enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of this urban jewel. Bright Leaf is that property in Travis County, Texas conveyed by will from Georgia B. Lucas as a nature preserve.

The use of the Friends of Bright Leaf funds will remain with FOBL, and will be used only to support Bright Leaf. A contribution to the Austin Community Foundation/ Bright Leaf endowment fund will be made once or twice a year as possible.

FOBL will merge into ACF nonprofit status and therefore would not need to maintain a separate 501c3. We would re-

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Open House

Saturday October 24th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Board Nominations

Sally Scott, President
Bill Dodd, Vice President
Christine Powell, Secretary

Marshall Johnston Patricia McGee
Linda Nowlin Kathrine Smith
Jane Tillman

We're Going Green...

... and this newsletter is the last printed issue. Sign up for e-mail Newsletters!

Benefits: Color Photos

- Longer articles
- No postage - money savings for Bright Leaf
- No paper used - save the trees

Please send us your email address:

FriendsOfBrightLeaf@gmail.com

(with "Newsletter Subscribe" in the subject line) to let us know the email address at which you would like to receive the newsletter.

October Event

Official Notice: Elections and Fall Open House

Saturday October 24th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Our annual Fall Open House gives you the opportunity to get reacquainted with the Bright Leaf after the heat of summer has passed. Join us as we:

- Elect new officers and board members to Friends of Bright Leaf (see list of candidates on page 1)
- Vote on the proposed merger with Austin Community Foundation.
- Visit with others who enjoy Bright Leaf as much as you do.
- Take a hike in the preserve.

Special Birding Hike: There will be a special birding hike led by Jane Tillman at 7:30 A.M. This will be limited to 12 people and reservations must be made. To get on the list, call the Bright Leaf office at 459-7269.

What to Bring: Wear clothes suitable for the weather and wear tennis shoes or hiking boots. Bring a water bottle. **Sorry, no dogs or bikes allowed.**

Directions: Take RR2222 west from Mopac. Go one block west of the traffic light at Mesa. Go left (south) onto Creek Mountain. When it dead-ends in two short blocks, turn right onto Old Bull Creek. The parking lot is on the left.

Letter From the FoBL President

Dear Friends of Bright Leaf,

I really think the merger with Austin Community Foundation is the right thing for us. It will have several benefits: free insurance and bookkeeping services, as well as their resources for guidance as needed.

I am not moving as I originally planned, so I am available to remain on the board for a third year. I do want to express my heartfelt appreciation to Steve Gerson for all the time and hard work he has spent as secretary and newsletter editor these last SIX years! He is very hard to replace.

I also want to state the gratitude of all of FOBL for the service as treasurer and membership chairperson Michelle Morrison has given us. This was a very demanding job which she did very well. Thank you both. This board has been a pleasure to work with and Bright leaf is lucky to have attracted such dedicated people.

Sally Scott

Life Members (>\$1000)

Greg & Mary Crouch
Ben & Joanie Bentzin
Kent Hickson
Laurel Foundation
Georgia B. Lucas Foundation Fund
Jane Smoot
Barbara Ruud
HEB
Ralph & Patricia Ladd

Patrons (\$250 to \$500)

Beck Runte
James A. Kahle

Sponsors (\$100 to \$250)

Dan Barker
Bruce Bigelow & Melody Lytle

John C. & Anne Donovan
Christopher Fuller
Clay Fuller
Karen Kelly and Blake Tollett
Janis and Demetrius Loukas
Alex and Robbie Robinette
Carol and Jonathan Sessler
Mark & Gabarielle Shannan
Judy & Bobby Smith
Stephen Smaha and Jessica Winslow
Sally Ann Wormley
Custis Wright

Supporter (\$50 to \$100)

Joe Beach
Carol Bennett & JoWilson
Bill Dodd
Tom Delaney and Kimberly Patterson

Janet Delaney and Jack Morrison
Harry & Sharon Goss
Lee Leffingwell & Julie Byers
Paul Schnizlein
Sally Scott
Margaret Menicucci & Michael Whellan
Anne Woolley
Nancy Woolley
Mary Francis Zeitler

(This list reflects contributions received since the start of the fiscal year: September 1, 2008)

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- The release of sterile insects is being considered for use. Mating would take place but the females would not produce any eggs. This has the potential of causing the population to decline. This method, used at the moth stage, is still being researched.

The Texas Department of Agriculture puts out about 5,000 traps statewide every other year to monitor for this destructive pest. In addition, the USDA monitors ports for possible hitchhiking egg masses on ships and incoming cargo. There are no Asian Gypsy Moth traps within Bright Leaf but they are nearby. If you ever see one of these traps, please leave it alone. It is doing a very important job protecting our trees from potential destruction.

For more information see:

www.Invasives.org

www.Bugwood.org

Texas Plant Conservation Conference

By Nancy Woolley

In mid-September the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center held the 9th annual Texas Plant Conservation Conference. This important meeting allows people who work for different organizations and groups from all over the state to come together and share information about their various projects and results.

The conference is especially focused on rare and endangered plants, invasive species and the efforts to eradicate or control them, and this year, even the effect of climate change on ecosystems. In past years the Friends of Bright Leaf has shared information about the usefulness of the tool called the 'weed wrench' that is used to pull up small to medium size invasive plants.

Of particular interest this year was a presentation by Alan Pepper from Texas A&M about the genetic studies he and others have done on the Bracted Twistflower. The Twistflower is sometimes seen at Bright Leaf and is a very rare plant. Other talks were on such topics as the Texas Snowbell, Texas wild rice, the ecological impact of non-native species, and using everyday citizens to collect data in the field.

Thanks to The Wildflower Center, The Native Plant Society of Texas, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Texas Parks and Wildlife for sponsoring and hosting this conference.

(Continued from page 1)

tain the right to separate from ACF if for some reason it was unable to uphold it's commitments-i.e. to maintain insurance, and uphold the Lucas will. We would continue to have permission to lead guided hikes, have workdays, remove invasive plants, and do necessary bird and plant or other surveys.

A merger would bring volunteers under a larger and more powerful ACF umbrella for insurance and liability issues. Friends of Bright Leaf would continue to be responsible for an annual budget and quarterly newsletter.

Austin Community Foundation responsibilities to FOBL would include maintaining insurance to cover D&O and liability insurance for volunteers. They would use their bookkeeping staff to pay our bills(from our funds).

They would agree to uphold the will of Georgia Lucas and carry out its terms in a timely fashion. They will listen to the input of FOBL and offer guidance and support.

Liaison to the Board of Friends of Bright Leaf is named by ACF. Currently that liaison is John Mahan who acts as their representative as well as the Land Manager.

On the Lookout for a Moth

By Nancy Woolley

The Texas Department of Agriculture is on the lookout for a very destructive moth, the Asian Gypsy Moth. You may see green triangular shaped traps that have been placed around town as a means of monitoring for this pest. Inside is a pheromone lure that will attract the male Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM). If any are found, swift action will be needed.

The Asian Gypsy Moth is a terrible plague where it is found. Originating in Asia it is now also found in Germany and other European countries. It was first found in North America in 1991 in British Columbia, Canada when a ship arriving from Asia carried moth egg masses along with its cargo. So far it has been controlled and is not considered established in North America. There is a similar moth, the European Gypsy Moth that is also destructive. The female of that species cannot fly so its distribution is limited. The EGM has been in the United States since it was introduced on purpose for silk production in 1869. Both moths feed on trees and the European Gypsy Moth defoliates about 4 million acres a year. The AGM is even more destructive because it feeds on a broader range of host plants, about 250 different trees with a preference for oak, and they can spread quickly since the female can fly. The AGM has been detected in California, Oregon, Idaho, Texas, and Washington State. People can unknowingly carry the egg masses when they travel by ship or plane or when they transport goods like garden plants or lawn furniture. The male moth found in Texas was found in 2005 in Austin near the "Y" in Oak Hill. It may have been brought in with some fireworks from out of state.



The method of control depends on the life cycle state and time of year. The AGM eggs hatch in spring and the caterpillars (larva) are what are so very destructive to trees. The caterpillars form cocoons (pupae) and then emerge as moths. As moths they do not feed at all but they mate and the females lay eggs in late summer or early fall which hatch the next spring.

There are several methods of control. Some are only experimental and not in use yet and others depend on the life cycle stage of the AGM.

- Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstake (Btk) is used by organic gardeners and is effective against caterpillars. It would be used in spring and early summer. The downside to this method is that it could also kill other caterpillars of other species such as butterfly caterpillars.
- There is an insect growth regulator, Diflubenzuron, which would be effective. But it is not preferred because it is even less specific than Btk.
- Gypsy Moth Virus. This is still in the experimental stage.
- Mass trapping. This involves the use of pheromone traps to lure the male moths. This method is best used in combination with other methods or for use in surveying to see if the moth is present.
- During the moth stage a pheromone, a chemical attractant the moths produce to attract a mate, can be dispersed aeri-ally to confuse the male moths and prevent them from finding the females to mate with. Disparlure (Disrupt II) is what is used.

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Membership Application

Annual memberships to **Friends of Bright Leaf** provide funds to help preserve, protect and make accessible this treasure. Become a member and help assure that Georgia Lucas' dream will last many lifetimes.

Individual \$25 ___ Family \$35 ___ Supporter \$50+ ___ Sponsor \$100+ ___
 Patron \$250+ ___ Corporate \$500+ ___ Life Member \$1,000+ ___

NAME(S): _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____
 E-MAIL: _____ (for reminders of hikes and other events)

As a member of the Friends of Bright Leaf, I will support the decisions of the management of the park. My signature releases Friends of Bright Leaf and its members from any responsibility for accidents or death as a result of use of the Bright Leaf property. I understand that the Friends of Bright Leaf will not sell or loan my membership information to any other entity.

SIGNATURE: _____ Date _____

Please Mail to: Friends of Bright Leaf, P.O. Box 27921, Austin, Texas 78755-7921

Friends of Bright Leaf 2008-2009 Board of Directors

Sally Scott, President	453-2289
Marshall Johnston, VP	335-9525
Steve Gerson, Secretary	452-9887
Bill Dodd	331-9932
Patricia McGee	263-9089
Linda Nowlin	266-9521
Kathrine Smith	302-0084
Jane Tillman	794-0058

Site Manager

John Mahan

Newsletter Editor

Steve Gerson

Check out our web site:

"www.brightleaf.org"

Letter From the Site Manager

Dear Friends of Bright Leaf,

It has been a busy summer at the preserve. Months of record heat and drought gave way to some much needed rain. Bright Leaf recorded 5 inches of rain in the past 10 days. The flora and fauna show signs of relief.

We are beginning a new season at Bright Leaf. I look forward to more hikes and activities on the trails. I wish to thank all Fobl board members for their service. I want to say a special thank you to our departing board members for their valued service, and a big welcome to our incoming board.

I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend our fall open house on October 24th I hope to see you there.

John Mahan

The mission of the **Friends of Bright Leaf** is to conserve and enhance Bright Leaf and promote the public's enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of this urban jewel. Sign up for email hike notification on the Friends of Bright Leaf web site --

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fobl/>