

TOUR V

Texas Discovery Gardens, Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium and Lake Cliff Park Demonstration Garden (box lunch, water and bus snacks included)

Cost: \$40.00

Minimum – 44 Maximum – 54

Depart the Las Colinas Omni by bus at 11:00am, Thursday, April 8th and return by 5pm. Handicapped Accessible

Our first stop will be at Texas Discovery Gardens (texasdiscoverygardens.org) where you will be provided with a box lunch to eat while you enjoy a talk by Dale Clark.

Fascinated by butterflies and moths ever since he was a child, Dale Clark turned a lifelong passion into a livelihood. In 1995 he quit his full-time “real job” and created *Butterflies Unlimited*, a butterfly farm south of Dallas, TX where he began Texas native butterflies to sell to live butterfly exhibits at zoos all across the country, offering more than 50 species. That same year he also co-founded the Dallas County Lepidopterists’ Society, a local organization which allows people in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to gather who share an interest in butterflies by going on monthly field trips. As if herding thousands of caterpillars on “the ranch” wasn’t enough to keep him busy, in 2006 he became the editor of the *News of the Lepidopterists’ Society*, the international newsletter of one of the oldest organizations in existence (est. 1947) devoted to the study of butterflies and moths. (dallasbutterflies.com)

Then we will split into three groups and rotate touring the Butterfly House, Gardens and greenhouse. We may even be able to purchase plants from the stock that will be for sale at the annual Butterfly Plant Sale.

Texas Discovery Gardens, the first public garden in Texas to be designated an organic garden, is located at historic Fair Park in Dallas. It is an urban oasis which includes a butterfly habitat, native wildlife pond, scent garden, shade garden, the Benny Simpson garden and more. The gardens feature native and adapted plants the majority of which are propagated in the on-site greenhouses. The grounds also include the Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectariums which opened in the fall of 2009 after extensive renovations. It is a living museum. You enter on the second floor at the canopy level and descend on a spectacular spiral walkway to the lower level to stroll among the free-flying tropical butterflies. You are able to peek through underground and underwater windows on the lower level and discover the fascinating secret lives of beetles, earthworms and aquatic insects.

The last stop will be at Lake Cliff Park. This area has seen many changes since 1906 when it was an elaborate amusement center. As recently as three years ago it was brought back from neglect through coordinated efforts of the Friends of Oak Cliff, Dallas County Master Gardeners, Oak Cliff Lions Club, local businesses, schools and the Dallas Parks Department. Today the park hosts the City of Dallas annual Earth Day Festival drawing 10,000 visitors to the park this past April. Among the garden areas is a children's garden and an EarthKind™ Demonstration Garden containing over 140 roses and a butterfly garden surrounded by a beautiful fountain overlooking the lake. In a neighborhood full of diversity and change, Lake Cliff Park is the perfect oasis in the shadows of downtown Dallas.

Please select a box lunch choice from the selection below.

#1 Smoked Ham and Provolone Cheese

#2 Roast Beef

#3 Vegetarian with Provolone Cheese and Avocado Spread