Dear RNC Members and Friends,

What a fabulous month! We have had gentle rains that have beautified our grounds and filled our rainwater containers. These days it is not unusual to see our parking lot full of cars and our grounds swarming with hard-working volunteers in the morning hours. It is no surprise to announce our grounds are looking super!

I credit Barbara Lowenthal for her passion, commitment and leadership of the Meadow Workers. The meadow, the butterfly garden, and so many successful educational programs just would not be what they are without her contributions. I can’t begin to express the depth of my appreciation and respect for her and her workforce.

As you admire our grounds from the River Trail, you may miss the dense mass of briars, vines and weeds that dominated the hillside facing Francisco Lemos for years. Frank Dunlap and John Quinby made this project a mission. (If you see them in shorts or T-shirts, don’t think they have been fighting cats.) We are most fortunate to have Frank stepping into an active role in the maintenance of our trails, grounds, and buildings, along with John.

We are also fortunate to enjoy such an outstanding partnership with The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society. Last year they began maintaining the garden area outside the fence, just across from the nature lab. This garden features deer-resistant plants. This month they adopted a second demonstration garden inside the fence. We will all look forward to hearing what plants and best practices they will feature in this area.

The rains have nurtured the weeds in the cactus garden; in fact, they were going crazy. (We do miss John Farmer!) Fortunately, Jeanette Watson and her daughter, Anna, dedicated a very productive morning to making this highly visible area presentable.

And...many of you may not be aware of the continued support Andy Pesez gives to RNC. Not only did he donate the lawn tractor used to maintain our front grounds, he also provides its upkeep which included a recent $350 repair. Thank you, Andy!

These thanks are only a few on an amazing list of generous folks who continually give to RNC – but these are the ones that grace my thoughts as I walk our grounds today. Volunteers like Fane Downs, Ginny DeWolf, Maggie Tatum, Karen Burkett, Judy Ferguson, Barbara Staggs, and Laurie Pesez comprise the workforce that keeps this place going.

For years I have maintained daily communication with a group of women, colleagues from my former profession, who call themselves the Kudzu Queens. I often send them updates, photos and snippets of my RNC life. They constantly remind me how fortunate I am to work in such a beautiful place, with the best workforce of the entire group, and with nature providing quality entertainment. (These gals all run entertainment venues.) The next time our parking lot is full, I think I will send that photo—they love seeing their parking lots full, too—and brag a bit about how when it empties, I will not have garbage to gather and vandalism to repair. It is a gift to work in an atmosphere of respect for the environment and for one another.

Mary Muse
JULY and AUGUST EVENTS
Open to the public. Reservations/RSPVs are strongly recommended.
And always—please check for changes/cancellations.
Call 830-257-4837 or email: RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

Please note our new email address, RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.
This is the address to use when you wish to do such as: RSVP an event, find out about a program, or check for weather cancellations/closings, and so forth. Thank you in advance for using the new e-address!

Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville
We look forward to your visit.

‘Wildflowers & Other Natives: Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas’
Through Sunday, Aug. 10
9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Sundays.
Co-sponsored with Kerrville’s Native Plant Society of Texas and Junction’s Native American Seed, this glorious RNC exhibit shows the beauty of wildflowers and other native plants, as well as their role in how people think about Texas’ most colorful season. It’s also a great way to learn the names of wildflowers. Exhibit includes the story of early Texas botanists and naturalists of note.

Tall Trees, Shady Fun: For the Birds
Wednesday, July 16, 9:30-11:30
Be there for your kid’s or grandkid’s “ah ha,” learning how nature works together, while learning all about PASS clues for birds and making a feeder from recycled materials. RSVP deadline is 4 p.m. the Monday, July 14. Cost is $15 per pair, plus $5 extra child.

Native Healing Garden
Thursday, July 17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Join certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S., tending medicinal herbs. Learn the herbs’ healing properties. Next is a presentation on spotlighted herbs. Bring gloves, a trowel and a healthy potluck dish to share. Donations fund the garden.

‘Water Conservation: Best Practices’
Saturday, July 19, 9 a.m. to noon
The city of Kerrville Beautification Advisory Committee and Riverside Nature Center have invited a panel of experts to present an overview of how to maintain beautiful landscapes, even in a drought. Mary Ellen Summerlin and Tara Bushnoe speak first, followed by other experts leading small-group discussions:
- Rain water harvesting 101, Barry Wall
- Drip irrigation vs. sprinklers - comparing the savings and payoff, Zach Derese
- Replacing Bermuda lawns with native grasses, George Cates
- Landscaping with native plants, Julie Clay
- Using mulch or rocks in landscape beds, John Quinby.
Cost is suggested donation of $10.

Monday nights of WICKED family fun: ‘Bats’
Monday, July 21, 7-8 p.m. Did you know there are more Texan bats than there are Texan people? Come learn cool facts about the unique creature. Participants will meet at the 2nd level of the parking garage located on the corner of Water St. and Sidney Baker. Suggested donation, $5 individual, $10-$15 family.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side
Tuesday, July 22, 10-11 a.m. Our cornsnake mascot, “Shucks,” loves to strut his stuff, sidewinder style, so join him for his morning slither around the grounds. Have questions about snakes? Bring them to the walk. No charge for slithering, his or yours.

AUGUST EVENTS 2014
Riparian Plant ID Workshop
Saturday, Aug. 2
8:30-10:30 a.m. Join RNC naturalist Susan Sander for classroom and field study in how to identify the most important riverbank plants that ensure water quality by stabilizing soil and filtering run-off. Cost is $20 RNC members, $25 non-members.

Continues on next page
RECURRING EVENTS at Riverside Nature Center

GROUND & BUILDING MAINTENANCE, every Wednesday morning. Volunteers needed to keep the grounds & improvements in working order and looking nice.

FAUNA CENSUS, 1st Fridays, 9 a.m. Walk and count the critters, particularly birds. ALWAYS check for date, time changes.

MEADOW TENDING, every Wednesday, 9-11 a.m. RNC meadow is undergoing a renovation with help of dedicated volunteers. Demonstration garden to be tended.

TOWN CREEK CLEANUP TEAM, quarterly, Saturday a.m. Work with Upper Guadalupe River Authority along Town Creek. Led by Tim Lewis. Must register at least a week in advance. RSVP to 257-4837.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014
Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival
Co-Sponsored with Hill Country Texas Master Naturalists

T his past month, you were mailed an invitation to support RNC without needing tickets, to eat chicken, dress up, or even leave your house! We call this the “non-event fundraiser.” You may recall, we noted that monthly operating expenses average $7,000, with RNC typically receiving an average of $2,000 from memberships and donations.

To date, we’ve received almost $10,000 from the non-event. The good news is: RNC is solid for two months! Programs and rentals will fund another few months. The unfortunate news is: more is needed. Few of us have the resources to give as our heart desires, but you can invite your friends and neighbors to support our mission by becoming members of Riverside Nature Center.

For those extroverts among you who truly enjoy going to events, dressing up, and even eating chicken – we’ll probably have an outing before the year ends.

In closing, to those of you who sent us money, Maxine says it best!
Riverside Nature Center Goes Global
by Linda Bullard

This Easter, Dutch kids were spotted in the Netherlands wearing solar T-shirts--and one glow-in-the-dark with Hill Country animal tracks--from the RNC. These children are my "great-nieces" and "-nephews," grandchildren of my Dutch "sister," a foreign exchange student who lived with my family when I was in high school.

The magic T-shirts were a real hit with the Oudegeest children. These and many other world-famous items are available in the RNC gift shop.

Thank you, Maggie Tatum, for donating a Hewlett-Packard desktop computer for the reception desk in the Visitors Center!
According to meadow superintendent Barbara Lowenthal, the above points out the truth in the proverb, "Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade." She thanks everyone who toiled in the garden for their diligent work. Meadow Maids all in a row are, L to R: Donna E. Oliver-Leep, Julie Clay, Barbara Lowenthal, Sandra Meineke, Nancy Alford, Susan McKinley, Kay Harter, and Judy Gausnell.

**Nature Center to Nursery**

For several days in late June, Riverside Nature Center played nursery to a newborn fawn, when his/her mom cosseted the babe in the garden to the side of the Visitors Center entrance. He waited patiently for her return each day.

According to Jeanette Watson, his/her mom was to the nature center born, herself. Last spring. So she evidently assumed the truth, that no one hereabouts would harm her or her youngster.

Thanks to RNC member Don Whitehill, we have a picture to remind us of the days we played nursery. Luckily, "Bambi" is visible in the photo. When we looked out the window, none of us gawkers could see the fawn, not until Jeanette pointed him/her out. Mom did leave him in a secure, camouflaged spot.

Here’s wishing them both happy hunting.
KERRVILLE NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS

Report Submitted by Thomas Collins
Kerrville, Texas (TX)
David and Ednelza Henderson and Don DuBois and Hugh Wedgeworth, Regional Editors

Kerrville, TX. Yr. 11, 30.0476°, -99.1405°, center at jct. of SH 16 and SH 27. See 2002 report for habitats. Imminent threats to habitat: The whole Texas Hill Country is suffering from an extended drought. Like last year, local rainfall from January to mid-May was about 1 in. The ground was void of any green vegetation. Then from mid-May to present time we have received over 8 inches of rain bringing out a mass amounts of wildflowers, but too late for any over wintering bugs. Plus we had late frost and extended cool weather during this period. The net effect has produced low numbers of individual counts and missing normally expected species.

Habitat changes since last year: Recent heavy rains disturbed some of the sites we normally go to and had to bypass them. One county park was closed due to construction.

- 06 June 2014; 0830-1700 hrs; Ssun AM 10%, PM 26-50%; 72-85°F; wind 9-17 mi/hr.
- 10 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 13; total party-miles on foot 3. Observers: Thomas Collins (261 Red Bird Loop, Center Point, TX, 78010; towhee@htct.net), V. de Wolf, C. Downs, J. Doyle, T. Gallucci, R. Hood, C. Johnson, M. Miesch, T. Riordan, G. Waggener.
- Pipevine Swallowtail 99, Black Sw. 2, Giant Sw. 4, Two-tailed Sw. 2, Checkered White 14, Orange Sulphur 2, S. Dogface 1, Ly-side Su. 2, Sleepy Orange 48, Dainty Su. 861, Soapberry Hairstreak 6, Gray Ha. 14, Ceraunus Blue 1, Reakirt's Bl. 18, Am. Snout 1, Gulf Frilltary 32, Variegated Fr. 12, Bordered Patch 2, Vesta Crescent 5, Phaon Cr. 8, Pearl Cr. 4, Question Mark 1, 1Morning Cloak 1, Painted Lady 1, Red Admiral 8, Com. Buckeye 1, Tawny Emperor 2, Queen 28, Horace's Duskywing 1, Funereal Du. 13, Com. Checkered-Skipper 13, Julia's Sk. 1, Clouded Sk. 6, Orange Skip-perling 1, S. Skl. 1, Fiery Sk. 13, S. Broken-Dash 4, Sachem 5, 2Delaware Sk. 3, Dun Sk. 2, Nysa Road-side-Sk. 1, Celia's Roadside-Sk. 1.
- Total 42 species, 1245 individuals.
- Immatures: Pipevine Sw. 1 caterpillar on 1st Instar on Pipevine plant; Pipevine Sw. 1 caterpillar on 5th Instar on tree limb; Gulf Fr. 1 caterpillar on 3rd Instar on Passion Flower.
- Field Notes: The one new species for the count brings the total to 69 since 2002. We average 33 species so this count was above average in species, but there were 13 exclusives - the highest total since I've been keeping records or 31% of the count were single individuals. Percent of species seen to total species recorded since the first count was 61%. We had 7 new high species counts.
- Our individual count was a new record too due to the extreme number of Dainty Sulphurs which I asked folks to keep good counts during the day on this abundant species this year.
- Only second record - 1st was in 2002. 22 found in a previous site where they had been recorded as a county record several years ago and one other found by a different participant on opposite end of the count circle. Also a new Kerrville NABA species.

To everyone who gave any number of hours--or donated to the RNC mission--please know YOU ARE APPRECIATED!
We remember with a happy heart the wonderful rain much of the Hill Country received early in the summer giving our struggling wildflowers we called dwarfs a shot of steroids with each rain drop. If you didn’t look at the Meadow thick with blooms you missed a treat. You could see Indian Blanket, Horsemint, Wine Cup, Standing Cypress, Engelmann Daisy, Mealy Blue Sage, Green Thread, and others competing for your attention. If you looked at the blooming calendar on the wall above the bloomers shelf, you could see that the Meadow scored 100. All volunteers could gloat and point to time well spent working in the Meadow at RNC.

Do you remember the days before the fence surrounded the grounds? Deer freely nibbled their favorites during the evening and early morning hours everything that had been carefully planted from either seed or purchased plants. Volunteers struggled to grow many species of wildflowers and persistence paid off with blooms. But honestly you could never see the blaze of color you saw this summer now that deer have been fenced out. With the RNC grounds being along Town Creek merging into the Guadalupe River, there is an active wildlife corridor that will always be thick with fauna.

So how did any blooms survive before the fence? Barbara Lowenthal played all the cards at her disposal to discourage total annihilation. Some caging was done, particularly around a small area that was designated Deer Diner because deer particularly loved the natives that were chosen to be planted there.

The recently acquired garden outside the fencing by The Native Plant Society of Texas Kerrville Chapter is experimenting with some tricks to discourage browsers. Recently the deer have surprised the garden tenders thinking native plants with a history of being deer resistant can be trusted to be safely planted in the raised bed. Cedar Sage has an odor deer usually avoid, but it didn't stop them from taking a couple of bites. Deer will taste anything if hungry. Generally they will steer clear of vegetation with a distinctive odor. You can add the strong odor by liberally distributing cuttings of Rosemary, tying strips of dryer cloth to stems, and sprinkling with cayenne pepper. Caging is a usual fool proof method to keep deer and other wildlife from browsing. A dependable system is to check out road-sides and areas outside of fencing that are blooming and trust they will be safe in your own landscape. Also remember that when natives mature they are less likely to be touched by wildlife. Natives are worth the effort to help them survive and thrive. Surely you agree.
What is a “Riverside Nature Center”

Located at the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Town Creek in the Hill Country town of Kerrville —2010 population, 22,347— Riverside Nature Center is a 501[c][3] nonprofit organization, owned by its members and primarily operated by volunteers.

We provide highly valued experiences for the community’s adults, families, and children in order that they not only come to appreciate the region’s natural resources, plants, habitats, and wildlife, but also to become stewards of these resources now and in the future.

VISITORS CENTER & GIFT SHOP
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Weekdays
10 to 3 p.m., Saturdays & 1 to 4 p.m., Sundays

RNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS:
Judy Ferguson—President
Rick Ertel—Vice President
Jack Millikan—Past President
Gwynn Groggel—Secretary
Taylor Scogin, CPA—Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS:
Wynn Kilgore
Peter Lewis
Barbara Oates
Peggy Thompson
Lisa Williams

NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN MAY and JUNE
Johnny Stowers, Les & Melinda Gonzalez, Jacqueline Skinner, Janet Hooper, Susan Wolff, Laura Rhodes