It’s hard to believe we are approaching the end of 2014. I am amazed at all we have accomplished this year, thanks to the small army of volunteers who give so generously of their time and energy. This organization relies on the talents of volunteers and volunteer leaders. These leaders are to be commended for not only their time, but also for the wonderful teaching they do as they lead. Here are some who come to mind:

**Laurie Pesez & Barbara Staggs** select, purchase and display our gift shop items. For years, the wonderful **Ann Laughlin** worked with them. They miss her talents. They seek a replacement. Are you interested?

**Tom Collins** organizes and leads our monthly flora and fauna count. Participants say they learn something new on every outing.

The quarterly Town Creek Cleanup is a UGRA effort assisted by several RNC volunteers under the leadership of **Tim Lewis**. In a year’s time, they collected 6,495 pounds of Town Creek garbage.

For close to 20 years, **John Quinby** has owned buildings and grounds maintenance. Recently **Frank Dunlap** (board member) joined forces with John. We need to build a broader base of support for these efforts, so let us know if you are interested.

The Meadow Workers are poster children for O.J.T. Under the tutelage of **Barbara Lowenthal**, this group provides nurturing care of our wildflower meadow and butterfly garden.

The Native Healing Garden, led by **Amy Coward** and **Sally Garrett**, is tended by passionate gardeners sharing programs, instruction, and activities while growing in their knowledge of medicinal qualities in our native plants.

**Melinda Wasson** organizes our wonderful Riverside Guides who staff our front desk, welcoming our visitors, introducing them to our exhibits, and fielding their questions.

For over 20 years, RNC has hosted native-plant sales and festivals, fall and spring, with Native Plant Society of Texas—Kerrville and the HC Texas Master Naturalists. For years, former RNC president **Jack Millikan** led this effort, and is in the process of passing the baton to **Lisa Williams** (board member).

Our atrium exhibits have each taken a life of their own under the leadership of **Judy Ferguson** (past president) who also provides leadership in many of our educational endeavors.

Speaking of the Fergusons, **Warren** built our diorama framework, installed doors on our kitchen and had the fence installed next to the tool shed.

**Barbara Oates** (board member) developed “Conversations with Conservationists” featuring David Langford, David Bamberger, and Bill Neiman. She thereafter planned and promoted our 2014 successful professional workshop, “Urban Wildlife: Habits & Habitats.”

**Peggy Thompson** (board member) led our most celebrated program of this year, the KISD 4th- graders field trips. All four elementary schools had their own day. Students moved through six hands-on learning stations that were staffed by 30 professional and volunteers.

In total, volunteers have given 5,000 hours of their time to fulfill our mission through efforts we hope are meaningful to them as well. To date in 2014, Riverside Nature Center has hosted 3,215 guests in 151 programs, meetings, rentals and special events. Of these 2,585 attendees came to 109 educational events and programs, and 3,200 visitors have signed in our guest book at the front desk. We estimate that we have touched the lives of close to 1000 children this year alone. And, we’ve done this with less than $150,000 of income to date this year.

Over the past year, we substantially increased the number of RNC visitors, as well as both the quantity and quality of programs.

Continues on Page 5
‘Hill Country Wildlife’ Exhibit,
Through Jan. 10
M-F, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays,
10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sundays, 1-4
p.m.
Riverside Nature Center offers the
creatures—from scary to magnifi-
cent—that make their home in
Hill Country—some that you may
not even know about. Learn their
habits and habitats, enjoy their
diversity and find out how they
live their lives. No charge, but
donations always appreciated.*

Harvest Moon Fun ‘n’ Games
Fundraiser 2014
Saturday, Nov. 8, 6:30-9 p.m.
Fourth annual fundraiser includes
games—Black Jack Oak, Turkey
Bingo, Hill Country Wildlife Races,
and Wildlife Trivia—plus heavy
hors d’oeuvres, beverages, gam-
ing chips; $75 per person. Raffle
drawing for two nights at Native
American Seed Company’s Cool
River Cabin on the Llano River,
with extra $100 if winner is pre-
sent at Fun ‘n’ Games. Tickets:
$20 each, with 1:500 odds to win.

FUNDRAISER and/or COOL
RIVER CABIN Raffle Tickets
On sale at Riverside Nature
Center. Call 257-4837.

‘Turtles—Why Care?’
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m.-
12:45 p.m.
Dr. Diana Comuzzie, dean
of the Trull
School of Scienc-
es & Mathemat-
ics at Schreiner
University, to speak at 2nd Tues-
day Brown Bag Lunch & Learn.
Turtle habits from the Great Bar-
rier Reef to the Texas Hill Coun-
try, will culminate in the question,
“Does it matter if one species goes
extinct?” Cost is $5 RNC members,
$8 nonmembers; FREE if joining
RNC at the meet-
ing.

Native Healing Garden
Thursday, Nov. 20
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Medicinal
plants that are
Hill Country
natives bring
together this
group, led by
certified herba-
lists Amy
Coward, RN,
and Sally Garrett, M.S. Each month
they study a particular herb, then
tend the garden. The finale is a
potluck lunch, with herbal tea
provided. Bring a healthy dish to
share, your gardening gloves and
a favorite trowel. Newcomers al-
ways welcome. No charge*, but
donations fund the garden. RSVP
to 257-4837.

Nature Detective: Birds
Saturday, Nov. 22
10:30-11:30 a.m. Naturalist
Susan Sander, with Craig McCain,
launches a new CSI-type series
aimed at 3rd-6th graders. Adults
also invited. Learn to observe,
search for clues, and deduce who
left that evidence! Leave with
skills practice. Kids younger than
13, $5. Adults, $5 RNC members,
$8 non-members.

Continues on Page 3
LISA WILLIAMS, 2-TERM BOARD MEMBER

Lisa, a native of Houston, and her husband of 18 years, Chuck Williams, moved to Kerrville in 2008, and we’re sure glad they did. This native-plant enthusiast says she loves to learn. What can we attest to? She loves to be of service. From the start of her tenure on the RNC board—this is Lisa’s second term—she never hesitates to roll up her sleeve, or to dig in her wallet, when we need help.

Well, she does enjoy this place. She said, “The wonderful volunteers and beautiful grounds make RNC a magical place.” When she’s not learning all about medicinal herbs in the Native Healing Garden group, she also volunteers at the Dietert Center, Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch, and as Treasurer for the Kerrville Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas.

2014 EVENTS continued

Nature Detective: Mammals
Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Naturalist Susan Sander, with Craig McCain, presents this CSI-type series, aimed at 3rd-6th graders. Adults also invited. Learn to observe, search for clues, and deduce who left that evidence. Leave with skills practice. Kids younger than 13, $5. Adults, $5 RNC members, $7 non-members.

Nature Detective: Fossils
Saturday, Jan. 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Nature Detective: Ancient Birds,
Saturday, Feb. 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Nature Detective: Bats
Saturday, March ??, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival
April 18, 2015, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival
Oct. 3, 2015, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

GET YOUR TICKETS TO THE FUNDRAISER AND/OR...COOL RIVER CABIN Raffle!

Call Riverside Nature Center at 257-4837.

We want everyone—no matter his or her financial situation—to learn about nature. It costs nothing to linger over our often-changing exhibits, or to meander around our native-plant-filled meadow.

However...Riverside Nature Center is owned by its members, operated primarily by volunteers, and receives no help from the city or county for operating expenses or for other costs. RNC relies on membership revenue and donations from visitors and other generous friends, along with fundraising events. If you can spare a dime or a buck, or a larger amount, we appreciate your helping us to fulfill our mission. THANK YOU!

Native Plant Society of Texas

Riverside Nature Center members Barbara Lowenthal and Susan Longacre who will discuss “Gleaning, Collecting, Cleaning and Saving Native Seeds”. The meeting is set for 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11 at Riverside Nature Center. Refreshments begin at 2:40.

For more information contact Barbara Stidham at 830-928-3202. See the Native Plant Society web site at npsof/Kerrville.
Report from the Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival Kids’ Activities

Each spring and fall, Karen Millikan and Antoinette Hamilton dig into their treasure trove of talents and art supplies to come up with great craft activities for the kiddos. Help comes from RNC’s resident Pied Piper and #1 Butterfly, Angelo Falzarano. (Just try to keep up when he wings his way through the meadow, with a line of human butterflies of a certain age—young!—in his contrail. It’s hard to tell who’s having the most fun, Angelo or the kids, but it’s safe to say everyone enjoys his nature tours.)

This autumn was no exception.

This time, they chose bird feeders and bird baths to decorate, with 18 kiddos taking part. The kids decorated baths created from liter-size soda pop bottles. They also painted feeders that were filled with birdseed donated by Antoinette. Wild Birds Unlimited donated feeder bags.

As always, Kerrville Junior Service Guild members helped the youngsters. We very much appreciate the time that KJSG gives us for any number of special events. This time we especially want to thank Deanne Bodine, Diane Hawkins, Jennifer Johnson, Lessly Titas, and Paige Wenner.

A big round of applause to those ladies, as well as Karen, Antoinette, and Angelo for yet another happy time for the kids.

APPRECIATION EARNED - Mission accomplished! To the backbone of the 2014 Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival—RNC’s corps of volunteers and the Hill Country Texas Master Naturalists—and to the seminar speakers, Tara Bushnoe of UGRA and Kevin Pillow of Wild Birds Unlimited…and to the experts who gave free advice…and to groups such as NPSOT, the Cactus society, and the Native Healing Garden, who provided free information...

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.
Mary’s letter continued:

RNC volunteers have generously increased the number of hours spent here.

We hope to grow our revenue through increasing our number of members and with our upcoming fundraiser, Harvest Moon Fun & Games on Saturday, Nov 8.

Harvest Moon is an evening of fun. Your $75 ticket includes food, beverage, gaming chips, and the satisfaction of knowing you’ve helped sustain our mission through the coming winter. RNC supporters will play Blackjack, bingo, high/low, wildlife races and trivia. At the end of the evening, they trade in their chips for tickets used in our drawings. We have 6 great prizes – artwork, jewelry, a spa package and more. We’ll conclude the evening with our raffle drawing. The prize is a weekend getaway in a beautiful private cabin on the Native American Seed Farm American Seed Farm on the Llano River, where you can kayak, canoe, and just relax. You need not be present to win, but if you are, you’ll receive an additional $100 in cash. Please join us, have fun, and continue your support of Riverside Nature Center as we look toward 2015.

Mary Muse
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!

MORGAN WILLIAMS is a retired intermediate-school teacher, who was born in Scotland and reared in Dorset, England. His teaching career began with overseas international schools, but settling in Texas seemed natural, given that his wife is native to the Lone Star state. Williams said, “My wife and I have been in the Hill Country for just one year and love the area, and the opportunities. There is a rich fine arts calendar, which we have enjoyed. There are outdoor volunteer activities in abundance at the Nature Conservancy’s Love Creek and at the Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area, where I have logged hours.”

His interest in Riverside Nature Center is natural, given his background. “The RNC is working hard to make an impact with the young people of Kerr County. Through its programs involving parents and their children, and with the students of local ISDs, the RNC is opening children’s eyes and minds to the natural world around them, and the effect they might have on this world now and in the future.

“This impressed me and interested me; I am pleased to be on the board.”

When asked his goals for the nature center, he replied, “...that students and children become more involved and familiar with the RNC through its programs. RNC volunteers, with the cooperation of parents and teachers, will be able to create high-quality programs for the young people of Kerr County.”

Williams first volunteered at the KISD program that brought every 4th grader in the district to the nature center in May 2014, which he recalls as “a well-organized learning experience for the students, as well as interesting fun.”

Riverside is delighted at his interest, and that given our mission is education, this committed educator was a natural choice for the board of directors. This is his first year, but hopefully the first of many.

GWYNN GROGGL, 2ND TERM AS BOARD SECRETARY

Gwynn Groggel may have retired after 30 years with IBM, but definitely not to a rocking chair. She funneled her energy into her passion, yoga. She is now Yoga Space’s owner and teacher. AND she is active within RNC. Often present for events and meetings, Gwynn also is active in the meadow and with the gleaners. This is her second term as board secretary.

When asked her reason for joining the board, she replied, “The health of the environment. Plants in particular are my real passion, but overall I care about how we teach people to live a more sustainable life.”

For the future, she seeks to “expand our mission of education to the community, including an emphasis on children to encourage the long term health of our environment.” As well, she would like for RNC to install solar energy, as well as a more passive water-catchment system, “along the ideas of the work that Catherine Crawford and her husband are doing.”
Do you recall how brown and scruffy the Meadow looked after all the wonderful wildflowers bloomed and went to seed in the restored areas? If you had the sinking feeling there would be nothing more to admire and examine this fall, look again. Our two stars of fall bloomers, frostweed and thoroughwort, are starting to put on a show. Both will be a sea of blooms and butterfly magnets.

You can see frostweed, *Verbesina virginica*, in riparian areas, under trees and shady areas along roadways. You can see them in the Meadow too. Look under the Lacey Oak at RNC and near the area that has been home to Big Red Sage, *Salvia penstemonoides*, in the southeast area of the meadow. If you are not that familiar with the gardens, look for the numerous white flower heads that can mass an area 6 inches across. This perennial blooms from August to November and at times migrating Monarchs rely on its late blooms to keep them going on their path to their winter home in Mexico. Frostweed is also called the "ice" plant for good reason. When the temp is a few degrees below freezing, the dead stems will split and a thin curl of ice will extrude. Hardy souls who don’t mind climbing out of a warm bed on a cold morning have photographed this treat from nature.

Thorowliort, *Ageratina havanensis*, is undoubtedly the other star of the fall bloomers. Several woody shrubs close to 4 ft. tall can be seen at the edge of the back porch at RNC in the area known as the Butterfly Garden. You can also find it on rocky hills growing in poor soil. Look at this healthy specimen photographed on ranch land a few miles outside Kerrville that is thriving and protected from hungry deer by the surrounding prickly pear cactus. Notice the opposite deltoid leaves, some almost 2 inches long and the white flower heads.

Many species of butterflies zoom in to nectar at the clusters of white flower heads that are fragrant and prolific.

Enjoy fall at the Riverside Nature Center, along the roadways, and your home landscapes in the beautiful and endlessly changing Hill Country.

Photos: Pete Miesch
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

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<th>RNC BOARD &amp; OFFICERS:</th>
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<td>Rick Ertel - President</td>
<td>Valeska Danielak</td>
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<td>Wynn Kilgore</td>
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Members Recently Joining RNC

Greg & Mona Boothby, David Hunt, Betty Johnston, Susan Livesay, and Terri Vollrath