As we move into fall, I hope you all have marked your calendar for the Native Plant Sale and Festival scheduled for Oct. 4th. And remember, if you are a Riverside Nature Center member, you may come for the “members only” 2-hour sale on Friday, Oct. 3, starting at 5 p.m.

I’d like to say thanks to all of you who attended the annual meeting on Sept. 18th. We are very focused on making the annual meeting a time to report on activities that have happened during the previous year, what our financial status is, and plans on the horizon for the next year. All of these topics are important for members to know, so for those of you who were not able to attend, here are some highlights that were presented.

It’s been a banner year for Riverside Nature Center, 2014. Generally speaking, the association is finally beginning to reap the bounty of seeds sown throughout the past two years. This will be our first calendar year of operation since the Visitors Center renovation and the opening of the city’s River Trail.

Following is a list of volunteers we recognized as work team leaders:

Melinda Wasson - Riverside Guides
Amy Coward & Sally Garrett - Native Healing Garden
Barbara Lowenthal - Meadow Tending
John Quinby & Frank Dunlap with Karen Rockoff – Groundskeeping
Tim Lewis - Town Creek Clean Ups
Tom Collins - Fauna Census

Conservatively speaking, RNC has about 75 volunteers who work regularly, on an on-going basis, and in the past year, volunteers have logged 4,304 hours.

Our new exhibit, “Hill Country Wildlife,” opened concurrent to the annual meeting. Joyce Moore of Texas Parks & Wildlife was thanked for all her work and support in putting together the wildlife diorama.

To date in 2014, Riverside Nature Center has hosted 3,215 guests in 151 programs, meetings, rentals and special events, an 18% increase over the previous year. And, 2,900 visitors have signed in our guest book at the front desk, a 44% increase over the previous year.

Thanks to grants received from the M.E. Hart Foundation, the McLaughlin Doty Foundation, and KISD funding through the Kerrville Public School Foundation we have had an outstanding year in the area of youth programming. Following is a summary table for 2014 to date, and we have still have many more groups scheduled for this fall!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities &amp; Programs</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Children Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public &amp; Private School Field Trips</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Family Programs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Day Camp Programming</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Programs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>775 +</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regarding our financials, our year-to-date net is positive. However, that positive cash flow includes receipts that are designated funding. When those earmarked funds are backed out, we are operating at a deficit for the year. Which is why Harvest Moon, our fall fundraiser scheduled for Nov. 8, needs your support. Besides that, it is truly a fun event! You will be receiving an invitation next week, and we hope to have great attendance. Please come! Also, we are selling a limited number (only 500) raffle tickets for a two-night stay in a beautiful cabin on the banks of the Llano River, located on the Native American Seed Farm in Junction, Texas. The raffle drawing will be held at Harvest Moon, and if you are present, you will receive an additional cash prize of $100. So come play games, buy raffle tickets, enjoy great food and beverage, and most importantly support Riverside Nature Center.

Mary Muse
`Hill Country Wildlife’ Exhibit, Through Saturday, Jan. 10
A celebration and interesting study of the creatures—from scary to magnificent—making their home in the wilds of our Hill Country. Free, but donations always welcome.

Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival
Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Large variety of carefully selected native plants and trees that thrive in our environment, with free expert advice on choice & care. See the website for more details. Free.

Second Tuesday - Brown Bag Lunch & Learn
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Jonah Evans, Mammologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife, to speak on the mountain lions and black bears roaming the Texas Hill Country. Cost, $5 members, $8 others; free, if joining at the meeting.

Continued on Page 3
2014 EVENTS continued

Meet Dorothy Matizza at Native Healing Garden
Thursday, Oct. 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The author of "100 Texas Wildflowers," Dorothy earned her salt as a naturalist, combing her Gunsight Mountain ranch. Her nursery became a leader in promoting native plants as perfect to grow in our environment, and through her research, she documented 700 species of natives.

RHS Gardens of London Tour
Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.
Collette Travel holds forth with a special presentation on the Royal Horticultural Society’s tour of London’s famed gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show; May 15-22, 2015.

Kim Lohmeyer’s ‘Creepy Crawlers’
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7-8:30 p.m.
Just in time for Halloween, it’s a menagerie of gross-out bugs by USDA research entomologist Kim Lohmeyer. Add to the fun by dressing as a favorite insect. $10 RNC members; $15 non-members; kids half price.

Harvest Moon Fun ‘n’ Games Fundraiser 2014
Saturday, Nov. 8, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Fourth annual fundraiser includes games, plus heavy hors d’oeuvres, beverages, gaming chips; $75 per person. Raffle drawing for two nights at Cool River Cabin on the Llano River, with extra $100 if winner is present at the drawing. Advance tickets available at RNC and at the greeters’ table during the Fall Native Plant Sale and Festival. Rails Events Hall, 615 E. Schreiner St. RSVP to 257-4837 or to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

Second Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Dr. Diana Comuzzie, dean of the Trull School of Sciences & Mathematics at Schreiner University, will speak on turtles.

HARVEST MOON FUN & GAMES FUNDRAISER... Saturday, Nov. 8, Rails Events Hall. There'll be a repeat of last year's games, since everyone got such a kick out of them. We're offering Black Jack Oak (often referred to as just "Black Jack"), Turkey Bingo, Hill Country Wildlife Races, Mountain Top/River Bottom (variation of High/Low), and Wildlife Trivia. Your $75 gets you heavy hors d'oeuvres, two beverages of choice (beer, wine, soft drinks) with a cash bar for more, plus 20 gaming chips with more available at the tables...and all the best fun in Kerrville with your RNC pals!

Also, we’ll hold the COOL RIVER CABIN RAFFLE DRAWING at Harvest Moon. Each $20 ticket gives you a 1 in 500 chance of winning a two-night stay on Native American Seed’s Llano River property, a marvelous place! Tickets for Harvest Moon and for the raffle are available in the Visitors Center and at the Greeters Table for the Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival.
When Judy Ferguson took over the presidency from Jack Millikan, she had already been on the board for three years, two as vice president. That was three years ago. She's seen many changes in her six years of service, and the nature center has greatly benefited from her hands-on leadership. She's always here when we need her, from loaning her great coffee urn for events; to pep talks and common-sense advice to staff, volunteers, and visitors; to the nitty-gritty of leading this organization up the stepping stones to success.

She’s led RNC through the change from Barbara Stidham to Mary Muse, has overseen the renovation, has been instrumental in creating our well-received, ever-changing exhibits, and...she literally lights whatever room she’s in with her dazzling smile and flashing blue eyes.

My favorite side to Judy is her natural abilities as an educator. She is so good with kids, and I love how she'll get right down on the floor to show them how any number of things work. Education is what she loves, what she is, and what she still does at Schreiner University.

When asked what influenced her into accepting a place on the RNC board in the first place, she replied that she liked the idea of working with children, but the opportunity to grow the organization kept her on. “My goals are now to increase membership, to develop Riverscape into a viable demonstration garden, and to help the organization reach financial security,” she shared with us.

Anyone who knows much at all about Riverside Nature Center knows what an asset Judy and her husband, Warren, are to this association. Their generosity is legend, although the Fergusons are the last to acknowledge it. For all you do, you two--thank you.
Construction will begin soon on Riverscape – a scaled water feature that tells the story of the Guadalupe River with simulated seeps, rills, and springs that are plumbed with variable controls that show how these features behave in weather patterns ranging from drought to rain.

PEGGY THOMPSON, 2ND TERM BOARD MEMBER

Peggy is a retired educator currently working as the Science Endowed Chair for KISD. She said, “I love my job and (the) opportunity to support the science curriculum in many ways.” For many years, she brought her students here on field trips. She’s been associated with RNC since its beginning, joining the Education Committee in 2013 and actively participating therein from the start. As well, she participates in our special events, always willing to lend a hand.

“I am so proud of the facility and how it has grown,” she said. “I appreciate the way so many people are connected to it. It is a compliment to the natural wonder of the Hill Country. My goal is for RNC to supply more educational opportunities for people of all ages, but especially for our young people. If they are to be the stewards of our world, we must help them to learn to appreciate it and educated them on how to best care for it.”

Married to her best friend, Buck Thompson, for over 42 years, they have been “blessed with three beautiful children and one precious grandson. I love my God, my family, a fresh breeze on my face, working in the dirt, singing, driving with the top down, completing a job well done, and the sound of laughter! I am happy to serve on the RNC board and hope that I can make a positive contribution.”
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!

Doug Wintch-Anke Summerhill Concert "What a fun event! The music was terrific, with our own Riverside songbird, Mary Muse, contributing by participating in some of the vocals. The audience joined in with shoulder swaying and toe-tapping. It was so contagious some couldn’t resist dancing.

AND

Donna Gable Hatch Book-Signing with Jackie Watson on left

By Maggie Tatum, Special Events Hostess & Riverside Guide
Maggie’s photo by William Perry, Kerrville Daily Times

FRANK B. DUNLAP, NEW BOARD MEMBER

Frank B. Dunlap, a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), served as the Director of Operations and Planning for the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center of The Salvation Army from January 2010 until June 2013, when he retired as Executive Director.

Prior to his Kroc days, Frank spent 40 years in the financial services industry, with Wells Fargo-Wealth Management Services, MPACT Financial Group, L.P. in Dallas, and as a managing director at J.P. Morgan Chase. He attended the Southwestern Graduate School of Business at SMU, Dallas, and earned a BBA from East Texas State University.

A native of Dallas and a fourth generation Texan, Frank and his wife, Julie, moved to Kerrville in 2006. Active in the community and at First Presbyterian Church, Frank and Julie have two children and one granddaughter. On Wednesday, you can usually find Frank with a hammer or a shovel in hand, as he goes about the formidable, never-ending task of grounds keeping and building maintenance. If only RNC could clone him...!

"We'll feature more RNC leaders next month. As well, bios will be featured on our website shortly."
The meadow is somewhat in flux, as I write this article. The spring and early summer wildflowers have finished their work for this season and their seeds are dropping to the ground. The chaff (leftover material) that is still standing has been sheltering young seedlings that have already sprouted and will provide wonderful color in the spring. Among the species already appearing is the annual winecup (*Callirhoe leiocarpa*); bluebonnets will not be far behind.

The flowers on the fall-blooming plants are about to burst on the scene, just in time for the fall migration of the butterflies. On your next visit, you should be able to see the shrub-like golden-eye (*Viguiera dentata*), gayfeather (*Liatris mucronata*), Lindheimer’s crownbeard (*Verbesina lindheimeri*) and thoroughwort (*Argeratina havanesis*). The latter, found along the porch by the butterfly garden, is always teeming with activity from numerous pollinators, this time of the year.

From our August plant species survey, you can see that the diversity in the meadow is quite strong.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forbs (wildflowers)</td>
<td>126 species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubs</td>
<td>14 species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vines</td>
<td>8 species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasses</td>
<td>14 species</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, we are now into our third year of our meadow restoration project. We have begun to renovate the butterfly garden area; you will see a rather large patch that has been treated with a herbicide, covered with wet newspaper and topped with about 6” of mulched. Rather than use plastic this time, we are using this method to kill off the Bermuda grass and other undesirable plant species. In the spring, we will begin to install mostly flower-blooming shrubs in this area.
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 & OFFICERS:
Rick Ertel - President
Peter Lewis - Vice President
Judy Ferguson - Past President
Gwynn Groggel - Secretary
Kris Bobbitt - Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS:
Valeska Danielak
Frank Dunlap
Wynn Kilgore
Barbara Oates
Peggy Thompson
Lisa Williams
Morgan Williams

Members Recently Joining RNC
Heather Harris, John Mecham, & Valeska Danielak