Dear Members and Friends,

Ordinarily our director Mary Muse would write this page; however, she is deep into installing our new exhibit, so she invited me to introduce you to this exhibit: “Wildflowers & Other Natives: Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas,” co-sponsored by the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Native American Seed Company of Junction, and RNC. An energetic and creative committee planned and installed the exhibit.

Ann Witherwax, Artistic Director, created the exhibit layout; the committee then assigned the components of it. Several people collected, composed, and edited the text and selected the photographs. Ann and Cindy Anderson then laid out the information and planned the color scheme.

Sections of the exhibit include Why Natives? Seed Dispersal, Wildflowers, Plant Zones, Trees, Pollinators, Grasses, and Current and Former Leaders of the Native Plant Movement. A computer program holds a Virtual Herbarium which was developed by Raúl Peña and Barbara Lowenthal, with photographs by forty photographers. Visitors to the exhibit can search the virtual herbarium for plant identification and other information.

It would be impossible to visit this exhibit without learning something. There are two PowerPoint programs, one on grasses and the other on wildflowers. Dorothy Mattiza scanned the wildflower pictures; Marilyn Knight photographed the grasses. A video shows a time lapse of plants and an interview with Carroll Abbott, instrumental in founding the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Lonnie Childs, who will speak at this month’s Brown Bag Lunch & Learn on early Texas botanists, contributed to the exhibit’s information on early botanists.

Artists have always been inspired by nature themes and the exhibit includes paintings by several area artists, in both oil and watercolor. A children’s corner contains activities for children in a “magic forest” setting.

And of course, now that spring is emerging, the grounds will be ablaze with color, and young and old alike will want to walk the nature trails and see the plants in their full array.

Many people had a hand in the exhibit. A list of contributors is on Page 7 herein. We thank everyone who contributed and will continue to make a success of this wonderful seasonal exhibit.

Wildflowers and Other Natives will be on view through May. Before you take a drive through the Hill Country, come by RNC and learn about our native plants; you will enjoy your trip even more.

The Exhibit Runs Through Mid-May

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Weekdays
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays
1-4 p.m. Sundays

Wildflowers & Other Natives

“Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas”
March EVENTS
Open to the public. No reservations unless noted, but RSVPs are appreciated. Please check for changes/cancellations. Call 830-257-4837 or email to info@riversidenaturecenter.org

WICKED Family Fun: ‘Sneak Peek at Spring’
Saturday, March 1
1:30-3 p.m. Let naturalist Susan Sander show you how to get the most out of springtime by being a better observer of wildflowers and leafing-out trees. No special equipment is needed. Practice improves your chances of seeing something remarkable.

Exhibit Opening, ‘Wildflowers & Other Natives: Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas’
Saturday, March 1
3-4:30 p.m. Opening reception for the new springtime exhibit. Enjoy beverages and tidbits while being the first to find out what wildflowers and other native plants mean to the Texas Hill Country.

‘Wildflowers & Other Natives: Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas’
Saturday, March 1 until mid-May
9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Sundays. New exhibit, co-sponsored by Kerrville’s Native Plant Society of Texas and Native American Seed of Junction, shows the beauty of wildflowers and other native plants, as well as their role in how people think about Texas’ most colorful season.

Spring Grounds Cleaning, Part 2
Saturday, March 8
9 a.m. to noon. Spring is in the air, a great time to tidy the nature center grounds. Bring your favorite rake and clippers. Volunteers will be rewarded with appreciation, munchies, and coffee.

2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn
‘Texas Botanists of the 19th Century’
Tuesday, March 11
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Complementing the wildflowers exhibit, Lonnie Childs, Master Naturalist and immediate past president of the Native Plant Society of Texas, will speak on 19th century botanists such as Wright and Lindheimer. Cost: $5 members, $8 nonmembers, free if joining at the meeting.

SUSAN SANDER Speaks at NPSOT
Tuesday, March 11
3 p.m. Susan will talk about RNC’s arboretum. Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville chapter, meets at RNC. Visitors welcome.

Native Healing Garden
Thursday, March 20
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Join gardeners, tending medicinal herbs and learning the healing properties. Next is a presentation on spotlighted herbs. Led by certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S. Bring gloves, a trowel and a healthy potluck dish to share. Donations fund the garden.

Gleaner Training
Friday, March 21
10-11:30 a.m. Learn to harvest, clean, and prepare seeds for storage. Experts Barbara Lowenthal and Susan Sander lead the class. The cost is $15 RNC members, $20 non-members.

David K. Langford Book Signing
Thursday, March 27

PREVIEW OF APRIL
WICKED Family Fun, Saturday, April 1, 7 p.m.
Basic Herbalism, Thursday, April 3 & 17, 5-9 p.m.
First Friday WineShare, Friday, April 4, 6-7:30 p.m.
2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, April 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Jackie Poole, botanist at Texas Parks & Wildlife, will speak.

Native Healing Garden, Thursday, April 17, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
20th Annual SPRING Native Plant Sale & Festival; Saturday, April 26, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Annual rite of spring, once known as “Earth Day Native Plant Sale & Festival.”
Mark Your Calendars!
Riverside Nature Center's annual rite of spring, the native plant sale and festival (formerly known as the Earth Day celebration) takes place SATURDAY, APRIL 26, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. More details next month.

2nd Tuesday
Brown Bag Lunch & Learn
Riverside Nature Center
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

LONNIE CHILDS
Lonnie Childs will highlight that century when the U.S.'s social frontier crept westward, opening new exploration, creating the greatest epoch of scientific discovery in our country's history as early explorers examined and documented our diverse natural history.

Childs will cover Texas, 1820 to 1880, when hundreds of naturalists searched for specimens to broaden knowledge and understanding of botany, zoology, paleontology, and geology. Their personal accounts of their travels in Texas provide fascinating reports of their adventures, but also provide a view of the natural landscape prior to its alteration by European settlers.

Charles Wright and Ferdinand Lindheimer are two of the better known Texas explorers. Wright explored between San Antonio and El Paso, while Lindheimer became known as the “Father of Texas Botany” for his vast exploration. Both spent time in the Hill Country. Many lesser known naturalists and adventurists labored in relative obscurity, risking their lives in the pursuit of scientific data.

Learn more at the brown-bag luncheon on Tuesday, March 11

Don’t miss SUSAN SANDER at NPSOT
Tuesday, March 11, 3 p.m.
Susan will talk about RNC's arboretum. Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville chapter, meets at RNC. Visitors welcome.

The 22 rugged individuals, seen below, braved freezing rain and icy roads to attend Steve Stoutamire's archeological presentation for February's Brown Bag Lunch & Learn. That's one way to secure a seat for one of Steve's always popular talks!

wildflowers & other Natives
“Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas”
MEET THE CO-AUTHOR, DAVID K. LANGFORD,
AT A BOOK-SIGNING & PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT-SALE!

Widely respected nature, wildlife and western-image photographer David K. Langford stands as one of the industry’s most accomplished artists. By viewing photography as a form of art, Langford has generated — and continues to create — works as distinctive and memorable as the subjects he selects.

HILLINDON RANCH: FOUR SEASONS, SIX GENERATIONS recounts the story of how, over many years, family members have worked to keep their Texas ranch intact. Through the family’s efforts, one can gain knowledge of and appreciation for the human effort it has taken to produce and promote clean, plentiful water, food, wildlife, and a healthy environment for all.

Langford has been the recipient of numerous national and international awards and grants. He has a large inventory of limited edition prints, many having been exhibited in top galleries and museums. Several will be on exhibit during the book-signing.

He will sign copies of HILLINGDON RANCH: FOUR SEASONS, SIX GENERATIONS—his co-authored book on land management—here at Riverside, on Thursday, March 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Winter Greenery – Agarita and Texas Barberry

The first time you look closely at the leaves of Agarita and Texas Barberry, you may be puzzled because they look so similar. You can see a healthy example of each on the berm on the street side of the Meadow near the Butterfly Garden.

Agarita (*Mahonia trifoliate*) is prolific in the Hill Country’s dry, rocky landscape. If you want a protective barrier for a young sapling that would be ravished by hungry deer, Agarita is the perfect native plant. It is lovingly called a nursery plant. There are a few characteristics that can help you distinguish Agarita. It is an evergreen shrub that can average 3 to 6 ft. in height and can reach a span of 8 ft. in the best growing conditions. Its rigid spreading branches form thickets. The holly-like leaves are alternate and 2 to 4 inches long with a light blue-gray to gray-green color. Each leaf is composed of 3 stout leaflets, each having 3 to 7 sharp spines that can cause pain to humans who are not careful where they walk.

Agarita has bright yellow flowers in February and March, which can perfume the air when plentiful, and are an important bee browse. The flower is a half inch wide with 6 petals and 6 sepals with a cup shape around the stamens and pistils. Edible red berries follow from May to July that feed birds or are used by humans to make jelly or wine. Quail and small mammals use the plant for cover.

There are major differences between the Texas Barberry and Agarita. Barberry (*Mahonia swaseyi*), grows 3 to 4 ft. tall. The leaves are broader than long. The length can be 3 inches with 2 to 4 pairs of leaflets. The 3-6 sharp points on the leaflets can be painful to touch, but not as sharply pointed as the Agarita. Barberry also has yellow blooms in February through early April that are 3/8 inch wide followed by an edible red berry. If you compare the leaf color of the two natives you can see that the Barberry is distinctively greener. This species is endemic to the Texas Hill Country and is less common than the Agarita.

On your next visit to the RNC challenge your observation skills and examine both species.

*Photos: Marilyn Knight*
Riverside Nature Center presents

The Beauty of Britain

A group of nature lovers from RNC is going next autumn. Want to know about joining this great adventure...?

The Grandeur of London
Windsor Castle & Gardens
Wisley
Cambridge
Sherwood Forest

Yorkshire
Castle Howard
Harlow Carr
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
Scottish Night Farewell

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List of Contributors

Ann Witherwax, Artistic Director
Barbara Lowenthal, Meadow Supervisor
Cynthia Anderson, Graphic Artist
   Barbara Oates
   Barbara Quinby
   Barbara Stidham
   Christopher Scott
   Dorothy Mattiza
   Fane Downs
   Frank Dunlap
   Jeanette Watson
   John Quinby
   Judy Ferguson
   Judy Liljesetrand
   Julie Clay
   Lonnie Childs
   Maggie Tatum
   Marilyn Knight
   Martha Hix
   Martha Miesch
   Mary Muse
   Raúl Peña
River’s Edge Gallery
   San Saba Cap
   Susan Sander
   Tyler Guderyahn
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

**NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN FEBRUARY**
Joe & Sara Vaughan * Sally Alter