As you read this, I ask you to pay particular attention to our wonderful array of upcoming events. We hope you will find at least one or two that make your “must do” list. May I highlight the series offered in conjunction with our exhibit, “Wildflower & Other Natives, Keeping Texas Looking like Texas”? “Conversations with Conservationists” has three evening events. The first featured David K. Langford, whose family has applied good stewardship since the 1800s to their Hillingdon Ranch. This kick-off event was also a book-signing for Mr. Langford’s recent publication, Hillingdon Ranch: Four Seasons, Six Generations. The book’s wealth of photographs speak to the ranch’s beauty more than words could convey.

The next event will be a conversation with J. David Bamberger who inspires us with his story and his example of stewardship through the land management practices he employs at Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve. His story, told in Water From Stone, will be available for purchase. Bill Neiman, owner of Native American Seed Company in Junction, is the final speaker in our series. If you are not familiar with his work, go to www.seedsource.com for a sense of his passion for the environment. You’ll learn how his love for nature grew into his business and spread to include his family.

This series is an example of our program expansion. Please give this new series a try; you won’t regret it.

Another highlight I want to share is a pair of proposed new projects we are calling “Riverscape” and “Wildscape.” Next month I will include a detailed description, drawings, and educational goals for these exciting endeavors. If you can’t wait to learn more, please come by and I will be happy to give you an update and show you the plans.

As I close this month’s message, I want to take a very personal turn. This past year, I’ve had many losses; three very dear friends have passed, along with a niece, sister-in-law, and most recently a brother. Thanks to each one of you who have given your condolences and support. It means so much! As I reflect on life’s cycle, how we as humans do or do not prepare for our passing and what that all means to the loved ones we leave behind, I want to share this with you: take the time now to think about and communicate your wishes in writing regarding medical directives and your worldly possessions. Those who love you want to carry out your wishes. Empower them to do so. Remembering Riverside Nature Center in your will or listing RNC as an IRA benefactor is a beautiful gift to leave all of your loved ones and generations to come.

Now let’s pray for rain and the gifts of spring it brings!

Mary Muse
APRIL EVENTS
Open to the public. No reservations unless noted, but RSVPs are appreciated.

Please check for changes/cancellations at info@riversidenaturecenter.org or call 830-257-4837.

Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville

APRIL & MAY EVENTS
Revised 4/8

Open to the public. Reservations/RSVPs are strongly recommended. And always—please check for changes/cancellations. Call 830-257-4837 or email: info@riversidenaturecenter.org

‘Wildflowers & Other Natives: Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas’ Through May 23 - 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. Exhibit includes the story of early Texas botanists and naturalists of note.

Plant Family ID
Tuesday, April 15 - 10-11:30 a.m. Untax your brain with a dose of nature! Identify those pretty little green things that are everywhere, and learn the key characteristics from the masters, Barbara Lowenthal and Susan Sander. Cost is $15 RNC members, $20 non-members. First RSVPs, first reserved seats.

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

Native Plants Pre-Sale
Friday, April 25 - 5-6:30 p.m. Opportunity for RNC and NPSOT members to purchase native plants before the Saturday sale. OK to join either group at the pre-sale.

20th annual Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival
Saturday, April 26
8 a.m.-3 p.m. Co-sponsored by Kerrville Chapter, Native Plant Society of TX. Experts are available for free advice in the purchase, planting, and caring for plants that are best for an individual’s particular environment. Presentations by Barbara Lowenthal, “Gardening for Pollinators,” with Susan Sander speaking on “Two Decades of Growing Natives.”

Both talks complement the exhibit “Wildflowers & Other Natives: Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas.”

Informational displays by area organizations, such as UGRA, NPSOT, TMN, and the Native Healing Garden. Meet Texas Public Radio’s Mikie Baker. Children’s nature craft activities. Breakfast and lunch by Cal-Bob’s Smoke House available for purchase. No charge to attend or to participate in the plant sale and festival, but donations won’t be refused.

Donna Gable Hatch
Book-Signing Fundraiser
Saturday, April 26
11 a.m.-1 p.m. At the spring festival, meet author Donna Gable Hatch and have a copy of her novel, "For Every Goodbye," autographed. No charge to attend the signing. Books are $12.95 each. Ms. Hatch is donating half of the sales to RNC. Credit cards accepted.

Conversation with the Conservationist, Part 2
Tuesday, April 29 - 5:30-7:30 p.m. J. David Bamberger, internationally recognized conservationist, took a caliche pit of Blanco County property, turning it into the famed Saleh, Bamberger Ranch Preserve. He will speak about his four decades conducting the largest habitat restoration project ever undertaken on private Texas land. Bamberger is the subject of the Jeffrey Greene biography, “Water from Stone.” Copies on-hand for purchase. Cost is $15 RNC members, $20 non-members. First RSVPs, first reserved seats.

Native Grasses in the Landscape
Wednesday, April 30
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Grasses are much more than just lawn covering. Susan Sander, Susan Tracy, and Julie Clay conduct a workshop on the uses of native grasses to enhance the landscape. Learn ecological function, how to identify grasses, and how to grow and maintain them. Bring a lunch. Beverages available. RSVP by 4/23 a must. $30 RNC members, $35 non-members.
MAY EVENTS

Open to the public. No reservations unless noted, but RSVPs are appreciated.

Please check for changes/cancellations at info@riversidenaturecenter.org or call 830-257-4837.

Herbs at Twilight, Class 1

Thursday, May 1 - 5-9 p.m.

Evening classes, RNC, first and third Thursdays until June 19. Learn the basics of medicinal and culinary herbalism in this 4-session evening class, consisting of four hours for each session. Led by certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S. Cost for entire course: $575, until April 15 for RNC members, $675 nonmembers; $595/$695 afterward. Drop-ins, $100/$110. Credit cards accepted. To register call 830-562-3682 or email sally@earthlightenergies.com to register.

Basic Herbalism, Hill Country Style, Class 1

Friday, May 2 - 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Remote locations. Series of 12 classes, taught every other Friday, between May 2 and October 3. Choose between 2 series of basic classes, each focusing on native medicinal and wild edible plants, supplemented by other well-known herbs. Lead by certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S. Entire course is $1195 until April 15, $1395 afterward. Credit cards accepted. To register call 830-562-3682 or send email to sally@earthlightenergies.com.

WICKED Bugs

Saturday, May 3 - 9-10 a.m.

Learn what “bugs” a plant... Some may call them “insects” and turn up a nose, but RNC Naturalist Susan Sander, while on a garden tour, will explain the joys of BUGS, along with the serious side of insects. Cost is $10 family, $5 individuals.

Beyond Basic Herbalism: Healing Circle for Advanced Practitioners

Saturday, May 3 Time and location TBA. Monthly community clinic offering wellness consultations for clients and supervised practice for interme-

WICKED Cinco de Mayo

Monday, May 5 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wild things ignore political borders. Susan Sander, RNC Naturalist, teaches how connected both sides of the Rio Grande really are, with Texas’ native plants turning up South of the Border and vice versa. Then there are the birds...butterflies...bats. Cost is $10 family, $5 individual.

2nd Tues Brown Bag Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, May 13 - 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Jackie Poole, Wildlife Diversity Program botanist for Texas Parks and Wildlife, works with endangered species and is the author of “Rare Plants of Texas.” She’ll speak on “What Makes the Hill Country Unique? Plants!” Cost is $5 RNC members, $8 nonmembers, free if joining RNC.

Native Healing Garden

Thursday, May 15 - 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.

Wildflower ID

Tuesday, May 20 - 10-11:30 a.m.

Riverside’s garden holds more than 200 wildflower species. The mix varies by season. Wildflower masters Barbara Lowenthal and Susan Sander show how to identify the different species, along with how to create a personal “field guide.” Cost is $15 RNC members, $20 non-members.

Conversation with the Conservationist, Part 3

Tuesday, May 20 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Bill Neiman, founder of Native American Seed Company, Junction, rounds out the series with “Brinigin’ It All Back Home: 40 Years from Landscape Construction to Ecological Restoration.” His company supplies seeds for August landscapes such as Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin; the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Dallas; and, the Botanical Research Institute in Fort Worth. Cost is $15 RNC members, $20 non-members.

Monarchs in the Garden

Saturday, May 24 - 9-10:30 a.m.

Monarch expert Cathy Downs leads the classroom study to learn about the Monarch, then field investigation to ID milkweed, to monitor larva, and to ID adult butterflies. Learn proper netting techniques, plus tagging. Class will plant milkweed and nectar plans in the meadow. Program is suitable for children and adults. Cost is $15 RNC members, $20 for individuals.

Basic Herbalism, Hill Country Style

Friday, May 30 - 10 a.m.-4 p.m., remote locations. Twelve classes, taught every other Friday. See May 2 above for course and price-structure particulars.

Check on Recurring Events on Page 4
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.
Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter

Native Plants “To Go”

On Tuesday, April 8, the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will view a presentation by Sandra Magee entitled “Native Plants ‘To Go.’” The event will take place at 3:00 p.m. at the Riverside Nature Center visitor center located at 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville.

Ms. Magee will give an overview of free native plant books available for tablets and Smartphones. These books are designed for the interactive features of the iPad but are also available in PDF files for use on any device with a PDF reader. The four books cover more than 200 species of Hill Country native and non-native plants. Each book features descriptive information for a plant, as well as multiple photos intended to aid plant identification. An overview of what is included in each book, how to use the books’ features, and how to get the books will be covered.

In addition, the presentation will include a discussion of several lesser-known native plant species. While not as well-known as some of the more common wildflowers, these plants are not rare or endangered and are found throughout the Hill Country. The presentation material uses descriptions and photos from the Lesser Known Texas Natives book.

Visitors are welcome. For more information visit www.npsot.org/Kerrville, or contact Melinda Wasson at 830-895-2521.

A WORD FROM SUSAN SANDER

Of the more than 5,000 native plants found in Texas, about 2,300 grow in the Hill Country. To learn more about these natives, check out the variety of classes, workshops, and programs offered this spring. Each has been planned in conjunction with our current exhibit, "Wildflowers & Other Natives: Keeping Texas Looking Like Texas."

Check out the Calendar of Events for particulars.
As we go to print, the meadow is in full swing after arising from its dormancy. This oasis of native plant species seems to be healthy, in spite of drought conditions. With the rainwater catchment system at the RNC, we were able to do a supplemental watering in January and again in February. This along with the low temperatures helped the ground to retain its moisture and nourish the new growth. Hues of yellow, magenta and blue are beginning to appear.

We are half way through our second year of the meadow restoration project. An evaluation of the newly seeded “islands” and the pollinator plants that were installed last year, will take place soon to determine what additions will be made this spring. With the help of dedicated volunteers, we have gained ground on the eradication of the three non-native plants species that have plagued the meadow for years - crane’s bill (Erodium cicutarium) and bur-clover (Medicago polymorpha) and bermuda grass (Cynodon dactylon). Our ultimate goal is not only to have such a density of native plants that non-native species will be choked out, but to provide a healthy habitat for pollinators.

If you visit the meadow early this spring, don’t overlook some of our low growing, less common, wildflowers in bloom – puccoon (Lithospermum incisum), stork’s bill (Erodium texensis) and redbud (Menodora heterophylla).
Events at Riverside Nature Center

**Basic Herbalism**
Hill Country Style

With Sally Garrett, MS & Amy Coward, RN

Choose between 2 series of basic herbal classes, each with a focus on using native medicinal & wild edible plants for family health, supplemented by other well-known herbs.

- Sustainable wildcrafting, organic herb gardening
- Practice growing, tending & harvesting medicinal plants & wild foods
- Hands-on tea-blending, tincture-making, creating medicinal salves & body care products
- Herbs studied by body system
- ‘Food as Medicine’ potluck meetings encourage everyday practice
- Certificate program

When: All programs begin May, 2014

Who: We are an experienced team of certified traditional herbalists, combining Sally’s 16 years as herbalist & naturalist and Amy’s expertise as RN with our mutual passion for native plants. We offer consultations, presentations & herbal products for sale.

Sally: sally@earthlightenergets.com 830-562-3682
Amy: greensprittherbs@gmail.com

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**Wildflowers & other Natives**
Exhibit Opening - March 1

Mimi McMillen gets the lowdown from RNC Naturalist Susan Sander

Sylvia Sieker gets a hug from her next-door neighbor, RNC bookkeeper Carl Hix

Pete Miesch chats with Julie Clay, meadow expert and exhibit contributor

Warren Ferguson, stalwart RNC supporter... and husband of President Judy Ferguson

Raul Pena, who designed the virtual herbarium with Barbara Lowenthal, shows it to nature photographer Scott Magee
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