October was a very happening month! We’ve had a nice stream of new visitors coming in to see our new exhibit, “17,000 Years of Hill Country Life.” The Hill Country Archeological Association and the Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081 are receiving many commendations from our visitors. The Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival on Oct. 5th once again ended with many native plants going to good homes in the Kerrville area. We had a great crowd attend the “Estate Planning in the Hill Country: What Every Landowner Needs to Know” seminar. The presentation was very well received. In fact, it ended with concurrence to have Mr. Hall return for another seminar after the first of the year.

The Harvest Moon celebration in the beautiful Schreiner Building was great fun! The room was lovely, the food outstanding, and the room was filled with laughter and excitement from all the game tables. For those of you who did not attend, I’m so sorry you missed Ken & Susan Longacre’s turkey dances when they won at Turkey Bingo. (And thanks to Barbara Oates, their dealer, for egging them on!) At the end of the evening when we drew for prizes, every winner was present and thrilled with their winnings. We also asked participants to cast votes for what parts of our mission and operation are most important to support. The voting was fairly balanced with stewardship and education receiving the highest rankings.

From the week of Thanksgiving through the first week of December, RNC will have a unique display in meeting rooms A & B. For many years, one of our volunteers, Angelo Falzarano, collected miniature Christmas village pieces and Dillard’s series Santas. He has donated his collection to Riverside Nature Center to use as a beautiful seasonal display and to raise some money for our operation. These unique holiday scenes will be sold via a silent auction that will be opened on Tuesday, Nov. 26 with bids closing on Saturday, Dec. 7 at a Christmas tea. Please come by and let this display get you into the holiday spirit, and perhaps you will find some pieces so compelling you will just have to take them home!

Sending you all wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration,

Mary Muse
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER
Events During NOVEMBER 2013

Events are open to the public.
No reservations unless noted, but RSVPs are appreciated.
Please check for changes/cancellations: 830-257-4837 or info@riversidenaturecenter.org

‘17,000 Years of Hill Country Life’
Through December, Visitor Center
9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays
1-4 p.m. Sundays. Developed by the Hill Country Archeological Assn., sponsored by Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081, the exhibit celebrates the first Texas Hill Country peoples, and how they used available natural resources and primitive technology to build earthen ovens and to make tools and weapons. Learn what wildlife roamed Kerr County during the Ice Age. FREE but donations are appreciated.

Family Nature Program, ‘WICKED Birds’
Saturday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m. Naturalist Susan Sander focuses on birds who are Wild in the City of Kerrville Every Day, along with how to be a good host to migratory birds. Learn about Cornell Lab’s Project FeederWatch program. Families are encouraged but anyone interested in attracting birds to feeders is welcome. Suggested donation is $10 per family, $5 individual. Please RSVP.

2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn
Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
“Geo-caching with Dave Rogers.” Join the craze sweeping the nation, the ultimate scavenger hunt. This one stars Hank the Cowdog. Learn all about it. Become so savvy that you amaze your children or grandkids! Cost is $3 RNC members, $6 non-members; free if joining RNC at the event.

Herbs at Twilight
Thursday, Nov. 14, 6-7:30 p.m.
Certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S., center on “Herbal Treasures for the Holidays.” Tuition includes workshop materials, handouts, samples. Cost is $25, $20 RNC members.

Native Healing Garden
Thursday, Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Plant and tend this unique medicinal garden. Led by certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S. Bring a dish for the healthy potluck. Donations fund the garden.

Project Wild
Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Educators and others interested in K-12 education are encouraged to participate in the Project Wild K-12 curriculum. Contains everything needed to conduct activities. Curriculum book provided. Cost $30, includes activity guide, drinks, and snacks. Limited seating. RSVP by Nov. 12 must. Contact Koy Coffer at 830-792-3070, or email kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org.

River Trail Interpretive Stroll
Sunday, Nov. 24, 2 p.m. Walk the Kerrville River Trail with naturalist Susan Sander to partake of the autumn leaves. Note that Tranquility Park is open for the River Trail. Suggested donation $3, or $5 a family.

Christmas Village up for auction
Tuesday, Nov. 26 to Saturday, Dec. 7
A huge Christmas village including Dillard’s series Santas on display, all pieces being vintage and/or collectible, dating from the 1960s. Each piece in the private collection of Angelo Falzarano will be up for silent auction to benefit Riverside Nature Center, with the bidding to close at the Dec. 7th Christmas tea.

DECEMBER ATTRACTIONS

DO YOU ENJOY DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS?
Call 257-4837 to join the fun with the Christmas Village decorators Sunday, Nov. 24.

Christmas Tea & Silent Auction, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Last chance to bid on pieces of the vintage Christmas village, and then winners will be announced. Kick off the Christmas season, enjoying the display as well as wassail, tea, and Christmas cookies. For admission, please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to CAM.

Herbs at Twilight, ‘Herbs for the Winter Solstice’ 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. Aromatic, festive, delicious—these traditional herbs of the solstice help you celebrate the holidays.

Family Nature Program, Geo-Caching with the Codys, 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Walk off that Thanksgiving feast. Bring the kids! Learn even more about geo-caching from experts Ron and Jan Cody, who may set up a mini geo-cache on Tranquility Island to demonstrate how it’s done. RSVP so that sufficient supplies are on hand. Suggested donation is $5, $10/family.

Native Healing Garden, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Pump oxygen into your veins for a nice walk to celebrate the winter solstice.

Events Continued on Page 4
The Wildflower Stick-Leaf, *Mentzelia oligosperma*

*By Shannon Smith*

RNC Volunteer and Plant Collector

One of my hobbies in retirement is wandering the ‘outback’ where I live near Mo Ranch and Kerr Wildlife Management Area. I just love to find a plant I have yet to see thereabout. After taking a picture or two, I collect a few seeds to see if I can grow it. I recently saw two very small shrubs that I hoped were *Menodora*, but on closer inspection, they were not that plant. I took a small piece of the stem/leaves and threw them in my truck to take home to try to identify. Luckily the twig landed on a small towel I had on my truck seat.

I found it pretty quickly in our wonderful book on *Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country* by Marshall Enquist. The common name is Stick-Leaf; interesting. I have a small binoc microscope, so wanted to look at the leaves that were so rough to the touch; really sticky. When I tried to pull the leaves off the towel it was impossible, like the strongest Velcro I’d ever seen. Enquist mentions that the hairs (trichomes) on the leaves and stems will penetrate clothing and can’t be removed!

Oh what Mother Nature presents when you look close enough. Under the scope the hairs are crystal clear like glass. They have barbs all down the length of the hair projections that are described botanically as “barbellate hairs.”

The green leaf picture (A) shows our native one, but the resolution is not great. The picture of the line drawings shows the hair/barbs in Item (B). The last picture is another species from New Mexico that is even “stickier.”

I tend to dislike common names but in this case “Stick-Leaf” seems totally descriptive. What an adaptive feature to disperse seed on critters or anything/anyone that gets in contact with this Texas wildflower.

Enquist included a nice picture of the plant/flowers. If you don’t have a copy of his book, look it up on the web.
RECURRING EVENTS

GROUNDS & 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. NOTE: January census is 2nd Friday. ALWAYS check for date 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, quarterly, Saturday 8:30 a.m. Work with Upper Guadalupe River Authority along Town Creek. Must register at least a week in advance. RSVP to 257-4837.

These events are open to all Kerrville-area residents and visitors.

PLANNED GIVING by Wes Dorman

Good news! The charitable IRA rollover legislation was extended for 2013, making it possible to transfer lifetime gifts up to $100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) without undesirable tax effects.

You may contribute funds directly from your IRA, if...

- You are 70-1/2 or older at the time of the gift.
- You transfer up to $100,000 directly from your IRA. This opportunity applies only to IRAs and not to other types of retirement plans.
- You transfer the funds outright to one or more qualified charities like Riverside Nature Center.
- You make your gift by Dec. 31, 2013; this will qualify as a 2013 gift.

The process is fairly simple and makes it possible to give a significant donation while meeting the annual distribution requirement for your IRA without the ordinary income tax consequences.

Your financial advisor and/or attorney is always the best place to turn for further information.

EXTENDS HEARTFELT THANKS
TO ALL THE DONORS & PARTICIPANTS WHO MADE POSSIBLE OUR 3RD ANNUAL HARVEST MOON CELEBRATION, ESPECIALLY...

Our Corporate Sponsors...

- Broadway Bank
- Cecil Atkinson Motors
- Comanche Trace
- Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country
- Grape Juice
- Guadalupe National Bank
- Ken Stoepel Ford
- Lemon Tree Cleaners
- Security State Bank & Trust
- Union State Bank
- Yoga Space

Our Prize Donors...

- Fane Downs
- Hill Country Living
- Hix Creative Works
- Mary Muse
- San Antonio Botanical Gardens
- Schreiner Goods
- Schreiner University
- The Gardens at the Ridge
- Warren & Judy Ferguson

Individuals in Support...

- Alice Davies
- Bill & Toni Morris
- John & Denise McCullough
- Sharon Kahn & Peggy Stamy
- Sylvia Sieker
- Tim & Lisa Dylina
- Tracy Gournay
- Walter & Jerry Workman
- Warren & Judy Ferguson

Good-bye to a Good Friend

Theodore R. “Ted” Boyce, M.D.


Husband of Former RNC Director Kathleen Boyce, R.N.

Services were held
2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013
First Presbyterian Church, Kerrville
Riverside Nature Notes

John Farmer
By John Quinby

Riverside Nature Center has been fortunate to have wonderful volunteers. Among our best is **John Farmer** who, for the last 10 years, has designed and maintained the xeriscape garden at our Lemos Street entrance.

John now has to focus on some family areas. (Sorry, John, no more free coffee and Cokes!)

While respecting his choice, everyone at the nature center will miss his presence and good humor. But we look forward to his occasional consultation regarding the succulent beds.

WISH LIST

Machine, or the financing for it, for gift shop credit card sales.

Urn coffeepot, to be used for RNC functions.

Low tech gadgets and tools:

Susan Sander is looking to borrow low-tech tools for an exhibit display, to show the iPad/iPod generation how they did it before electricity. She particularly mentioned an old-fashioned water pump—the kind with a pump handle—as well as other hand- or foot-operated tools.

Bicycle-powered *anything*. (Tools will be returned at exhibit’s end.)

Thank You very much

Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority sisters at Schreiner University chose RNC for their DOT Days community service ... Brooke Ohlman, Courtney Van Ness, Jasmyn Rosser, Kayla Rohrback, & Lilian Zavala.

Hill Country Archeological Assn. & Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081 for “17,000 Years of Hill Country Life.”

American Heritage students for the Fall Native Plant Sale and Festival, along with many Hill Country Master Naturalists and RNC members, with Mikie Baker representing Texas Public Radio and KTXI 90.1.

The Big Sitters—headed by Chief Big Sitter Tom Collins—and sponsors for the Oct. 17 birding event.

Broadway Bank & Planned Giving committee for Thomas Hall’s “Estate Planning in the Hill Country...”

All the dealers, runners, Kerrville Junior Service Guild, Susie McCall and the Our Lady of the Hills Key Club, and Cal-Bob & staff for HARVEST MOON—setting up, working, and getting it all back to RNC. As always, Riverside Guides, the Meadow Maids, and the unsung grounds heroes like John Q, Andy, & Tim L.
Announcing...an all new Website for the Native Plant Society of Texas

Kerrville Chapter

Native Plant Society Plans Fall Field Trip

The Native Plant Society of the Kerrville Area is planning a field trip to Native American Seed Farm in Junction on Saturday, Nov.9.

According to Melinda Wasson, NPSOT’s Kerrville liaison, those attending should meet in the Riverside Nature Center parking lot at 11:15 a.m. “We will depart at 11:30 a.m.”

The group plans “a quick stop at a truck stop” before proceeding to a private ranch, arriving at approximately 1 p.m. “After eating our picnic lunch and viewing the native landscape at the ranch, we will make the short drive to the seed farm, arriving about 2:30 p.m.,” Melinda said. "Bill Neiman of Native American Seed Farm will show us the farm and discuss planting native seeds.”

Neiman will also talk about native landscapes and wildlife on the farm.

Departure is expected about 4:30 p.m., with a return to the nature center parking lot between 5:30 to 6 p.m.

“Bring a sack lunch and a folding chair or blanket for the picnic,” Melinda suggested. “Water will be provided. Cost is $15, which we will collect before leaving the Riverside Nature Center. Please have cash or check. We cannot take credit cards.”

Contact Melinda Wasson, NPSOT Kerrville Area Outreach, for more information: melindaw@windstream.net or 830-895-2521. Check it out! http://www.npsot.org/wp/kerrville

Having fun with Wildlife Races! ...And the lucky winner is...!
This fall, with the help of the RNC gleaners and many other volunteers, we took a major step forward in the meadow restoration project located behind the RNC Visitors Center. The two “islands” in the meadow have finally been seeded with a mix of native grasses and forbs. The seeds were a combination of those purchased from Native American Seed in Junction and those gleaned, cleaned, and dried by the RNC gleaners.

After the gleaners scratched the soil, scattered the seeds, and stomped the seeds into the soil, they were joined by additional volunteers who covered the area with a straw fiber net erosion-control blanket. This blanket will keep the seeds protected from birds and wind. With time, this blanket will be completely biodegrade.

With the availability of rainwater from the RNC rainwater catchment system, we were able to follow the recommended watering schedule of twice per day for the first ten days or until the grass blades were about two inches tall, followed by 1-2 weeks of watering once per day, followed by another 1-2 weeks of watering 2-3 times per week and, finally, once per month, if necessary, during the winter months.

We invite you to the meadow to see the process in action.
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 members and operated largely 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.