We are all reveling in the cooler temperatures on the heels of the wonderful two weeks of intermittent showers we enjoyed in September. For those of you who have been following our meadow restoration project, it was a wonderfully gratifying sight to see Bill Stone tilling the soil and Barbara Lowenthal’s army of volunteers distributing the mix of seeds to yield beautiful grasses and wildflowers this spring.

October is a very happening month. Here are four events that are not to be missed.

During the months of October, November & December, Riverside Nature Center is featuring an exhibit of archeology finds in the Texas Hill Country dating back 17,000 years. The Hill Country Archeological Association has worked for months researching and developing this exhibit, and we are grateful to the Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081 for underwriting the project to create a visual timeline of events.

Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival - Not a member of Riverside Nature Center? Here’s a great reason to join now. The Members Only Pre-Sale of Native Plants opens at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4. The next day—Saturday—our annual rite of autumn, the Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival, takes place. What makes our sale better than most? The sales staff are experts on native plants. They will help you make selections based on your criteria.

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, Riverside Nature Center is hosting a seminar entitled, “Estate Planning in the Hill Country: What Every Landowner Needs to Know,” with Thomas Hall of Braun & Gresham, Attorneys at Law, Dripping Springs, as speaker. He is an expert on land-use law and estate planning. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn more about how to make decisions that support the perseverance of the Texas Hill Country’s natural resources.

The 3rd annual Harvest Moon celebration takes place 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26. It’s thrilling to invite you to the beautiful Schreiner Building downtown (between Peterson Plaza and Earl Garrett Street). We’ve given the event a new twist. Instead of silent and live auction items, we offer a whimsically fun evening of games. At evening’s end, we will draw winners for some truly fantastic gifts. The more successful you are at the games, the more opportunities you will have to be a prize winner. Additionally, there are a number of RNC features needing financial support. You’ll be asked to cast votes to determine our funding priorities from the games’ proceeds.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our retiring board members – Peter Beeman, Kathleen Boyce, Tracy Crawford Gournay, Martha Miesch, and Kristan Weaver. As I envision each of you, I can see you in service to this organization and it warms my heart. Looking forward, I am delighted to welcome our new board members – Gwynn Groggle, Wynn Kilgore, Barbara Oates, and Peggy Thompson.

Riverside Nature Center’s 3rd Annual HARVEST MOON Celebration

Annual fundraiser event...with a new twist ~ Games!

Each $75 Ticket Includes...
- Wine, Beer & Soft Drinks
- Abundance of Appetizers
- 10 Playing Chips
- Chances at exciting prizes & choices in where RNC should spend the evening’s receipts

Schreiner Building
200 Earl Garrett St.

Saturday
Oct. 26, 2013
6:30 to 9 p.m.

Purchase tickets online or call the RNC Visitors Center, 830-237-4837

Riverside Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) educational organization. Donations are tax deductible
Fall Events

‘17,000 Years of Hill Country Life,’ runs until the latter part of December, regular Visitors Center hours
New exhibit, developed by Hill Country Archeological Association and sponsored by Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081, celebrates the people who first made the Texas Hill Country their home, and how they used available natural resources and primitive technology to build earthen ovens and to make tools and weapons. No charge to attend but donations are appreciated.

Members Only Pre-Sale of Native Plants
Friday, Oct. 4, 5-6:30 p.m. Members of Riverside Nature Center and/or Hill Country Master Naturalists are invited to select from a pavilion-load of lush native greenery. Not a member? Join at the sale and take advantage of the pre-sale.

Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival - Saturday, Oct. 5
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Native plant sale, in partnership with Hill Country Master Naturalists, showcases greenery that actually likes our Hill Country climate. Plant experts offer free advice. Nature presentations—“Making Your Landscape a Wildscape” with Barbara Lowenthal and Susan Sander, and Bryant Saner Jr.’s “Archeology Teaches Us History of the Hill Country”—are scheduled, as are informative exhibits and displays, a live butterfly tent, and fun kids’ activities. Refreshments, food available for sale. Free admission.

2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. To complement our archeological exhibit, Center Point businessman Charlie Allison, a Native American who crafts native-style weaponry, speaks on “Kerr County Prehistoric Commerce & Trade.” He has a wealth of artifacts on hand. Cost is $3 RNC members, $6 nonmembers, or free if joining at the event.

“Riverside Birding Blast,” International Big Sit!™ - Saturday, Oct. 12 A 24-hour search for birds, with the spotlight on the noon hour. (See article on page 3.)

River Trail Interpretative Stroll - Sunday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m.
Enjoy a Sunday walk while learning about the Kerrville River Trail, and the flora and fauna that came after Columbus’ arrival. Note: Tranquility Island is open for the trail. Led by RNC naturalist Susan Sander. Suggested donation $3, or $5 a family.

Native Healing Garden - Thursday, Oct. 17
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Plant and tend this unique medicinal garden. Plant of the month, periwinkle. Led by certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S. Bring a healthy dish to share in the potluck. Donations fund the garden.

Estate Planning in the Hill Country: What Every Landowner Needs to Know—Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m.
Attorney Thomas Hall of Braun & Gresham Attorneys at Law, Dripping Springs, is an expert on land-use law and estate planning.

He leads the seminar that is sponsored by Broadway Bank. Phone reservations, 257-4837. Email to info@riversidenaturecenter.org. Cost is $15 RNC members, $20 for nonmembers.

3rd Annual HARVEST MOON Celebration
Saturday, Oct. 26, 6:30-9 p.m.
An evening of gaming competition—five games played at 12 tables for group fun and personal enjoyment—that includes an array of hors d’oeuvres and drinks from water to wine. Game room will be the historic Schreiner Building. Proceeds go to RNC’s ongoing investment in future generations and our path to preserve the Hill Country’s flora and fauna. Tickets are $75, including food, beverages, and 10 gaming chips.

NOTE: “Herbs at Twilight” will not meet in October.

Thank You So Much
For NOT Touching
The Artifacts!
International Big Sit™
Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013

This is a 24-hour event with a spotlight on the noon hour. Join the Riverside Birding Blast team for the ultimate watch post for avian enthusiasts. No experience required to ID the birds that choose Riverside as their habitat, either permanently or during migration. Bring binoculars, if you have them. **Children are encouraged to join the action.**

Gather at noon for team photo that will prove our bragging rights, showing we’re the best at getting our bird lovers together for this great census.

**Thomas Collins,** RNC’s resident birder, aka Chief Big Sitter, heads this international event. Free to join the team. Support the team by pledging for each bird species sited. Proceeds will go towards a permanent water feature at RNC. Make a pledge for your child, your grandchild. **And how about your pet?**

Already, we have a couple of members’ dogs who have pledged $.15 for each species found. (Tom is hoping for 50 species.)

Subscribe to Bird Watcher's magazine; a portion of it will be donated to RNC. Join the team for free or make a pledge: [info@riversidenaturecenter.org](mailto:info@riversidenaturecenter.org) or call 257-4837.
Estate Planning in the Hill Country:
What Every Landowner Needs to Know

Riverside Nature Center and Broadway Bank invite you to attend a special evening with Thomas Hall, Attorney and Counselor at Braun & Gresham, Attorneys at Law in Dripping Springs. Braun & Gresham advocates for landowners exclusively, serving as a one-stop-shop for all rural land legal needs. (For more information on Braun & Gresham, go to www.braungresham.com.)

Thomas Hall brings over 20 years of experience in helping landowners securely provide for themselves and their loved ones. His clients look to him for estate planning advice to help them achieve their vision for their families and their assets. Farmers, ranchers, other landowners, and conservation organizations all benefit from his innovative and versatile solutions to various estate and land-use planning issues.

The seminar will take place at the Riverside Nature Center on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. Cost to attend is $20 for non-members, $15 for RNC members. Light refreshments served. Please call 257-4837 to RSVP, or email to info@riversidenaturecenter.org.

SAVE THESE NOVEMBER DATES

Family Nature Program - Saturday, Nov. 9
2 p.m. WICKED birds. Susan Sander will focus on getting prepared for snowbirds and how to be a good host to them. “It’s a family program,” she said. “But anyone with a basic interest in attracting birds to feeders is welcome.”

2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn - Tuesday, Nov. 12, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
‘Geo-caching with Dave Rogers.’ RNC has joined the craze that is sweeping the nation, the ultimate scavenger hunt. Learn all about it. Cost is $3 RNC members, $6 nonmembers, or free if joining at the event.

Herbs at Twilight - Thursday, Nov. 14, 6-7:30 p.m.

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

River Trail Interpretative Stroll - Sunday, Nov. 24, 2 p.m. Walk the Kerrville River Trail with naturalist Susan Sander. Note that Tranquility Park is open for the river trail. Suggested donation $3, or $5 a family.

RECURRING EVENTS

GROUNDS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE, Wednesday mornings. - Volunteers needed to keep the grounds & improvements in working order and looking nice.

FAUNA CENSUS, 1st Fridays, 9 a.m. - Walk the property for about an hour, recording the fauna census, particularly of birds. Meets 2nd Friday in January. 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.

NATIVE HEALING GARDEN, 3rd Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - Learn about native medicinal herbs, then plant and tend the garden. Bring a healthy dish to share.

TOWN CREEK CLEANUP, quarterly, Saturday a.m. - Work with Upper Guadalupe River Authority on quarterly cleanup of Town Creek. Must register at least a week in advance.

These events are open to all Kerrville-area residents and visitors. No reservations required for most, but RSVPs are appreciated. Please check for changes/cancellations: drop by, or call 257-4837.
‘17,000 Years of Hill Country Living’
By Martha Hix

October and archeology just go together...

That’s the way we’re looking at it. Hill Country Archeology Association, with sponsorship by the Kerrville Elks Lodge No. 2081, developed a most excellent exhibit that runs from October through the latter part of December. It shows our long local history, a story that reaches back 17,000 years, and it is well told.

The celebration kicked off with an opening reception in Riverside’s Visitors Center on Monday, Sept. 30. Guests enjoyed snacks, herbal water (Amy’s and Sally’s recipe), wine, and the satisfying taste of camaraderie. Everyone seemed to have a lot to talk and smile about!

The displays show how humans first made this area their home. Steve Stoutamire of HCAA said, “We’ve put together a presentation that starts by explaining ancient climates and the Hill Country’s ecosystem.”

Our first Kerrvilleins found and used a trove of assets that were abundant in the area. Stoutamire added, “They used their primitive technology to build earthen ovens, and they utilized numerous flint deposits to make tools and weapons.”

One significant archeological site was unearthed by the Texas Department of Transportation during construction of the Spur 98 Bridge in Kerrville. Two video presentations will tell that story as well as others. Of course, ancient artifacts are also on display.

In conjunction with the exhibit, archeologist Bryant Saner Jr. is set to present a lecture during the Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival (formerly known as Down by the Riverside) at the nature center. Bryant will speak at 11:30 a.m. Saturday the 5th.

Our 2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn for October also has an archeological slant. Center Point businessman Charley “Spirit Walker” Allison—will speak on “Kerr County Prehistoric Commerce and Trade.”

To people attending the lunch, Spirit Walker plans to offer an up-close look at his collection. (Like the entirety of the collections on display, this one will be “please don’t touch” at all other times.)

The Kerrville Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas is slated to present “Native American and Pioneer Uses of our Native Plants,” at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, also at RNC. The society’s outreach officer, Melinda Wasson explained, “Patty Leslie Pasztor will give a slide presentation on the uses of our plants by Native Americans and early settlers. She will also discuss their benefit for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.”

There’s no charge to attend the Riverside exhibit, although donations are needed and appreciated.

“17,000 Years...” will be on display through December, with “green” replacing antiquities in January.

THANK YOU

Down here at Riverside, we have much to be thankful for. Every day, visitors walk through our doors, eager to find out what we’re about and what we have to offer. Every day, volunteers wake up with a choice. They choose to spend their time and toil at Riverside Nature Center. Every day, we benefit from the people who see the beauty in being a member of Riverside Nature Center.

Every day we put to good use the funds that have been generated in various ways, and particularly by donations and grants, to fulfill RNC’s mission.

Occasionally, we host get-togethers and serve food and beverages. In September, we had two such occasions, the annual meeting and a training session for Riverside Guides.

Today, we’d like to say “thank you” to everyone—visitors, volunteers, members, donors—who believe in our mission and give to support it.

We’d also like to acknowledge the businesses who provided libations and provisions for the above two meetings, HEB and an anonymous donor.

Thank you, one and all!

Martha Hix
Donna Oliver-Leep of Junction may spend every Wednesday working in the Meadow, but from the looks of her shirt and SNAZZY CHAPEAU, she's going incognito!

NPSOT Announces ‘Native American and Pioneer Uses of Our Native Plants’
by Melinda Wasson

Discover the uses of our native plants for food, medicine, fiber, dyes, basketry and more! The Native Plant Society of the Kerrville Area is planning a program to be given by Patty Leslie Pasztor titled “Native American and Pioneer Uses of our Native Plants.” Patty is the co-author of “Texas Trees – A Friendly Guide.”

Patty will give a slide presentation on the human uses of our plants by Native Americans and early settlers. She will also discuss their benefit for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

The meeting will be held at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8. For more information, please contact Melinda Wasson, NPSOT Kerrville Area Outreach, melindaw@windstream.net or 830-895-2521.
Fall Bloomers

Don’t give up on seeing blooms this fall! The recent welcome rains and the diligent efforts of the Meadow Maids have given us fall bloomers. The late blooming thoroughwort (*Ageratina havanensis*) is a gem drawing countless species of butterflies to nectar and bees to pollinate. It also serves as a larval plant for the Rawson’s metalmark. The small white flowers are organized into larger heads or clusters. This perennial that usually begins blooming in late September or early October through November. Stand on the back porch of the Visitors Center and watch the butterfly activity—you’ll be totally mesmerized. Thoroughwort needs a little extra water in drought conditions, propagates from seed, and is considered valuable to native bees.

The white aster or heath aster (*Symphyotrichum ericoides*) is another fall bloomer located in the south area of the meadow just before the stone circle. It spreads by rhizomes and grows into a branched plant 4 to 30 inches high. Its flower heads are about ¼ inch wide. This is a fairly new addition to the meadow. It is a perennial that blooms in October and November.

Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*), is not as prolific as in past years probably due to another summer of drought. Its erect, unbranched stem can be 3 to 6 ft. tall. The numerous small white flower heads make up to a 6-inch cluster of blooms. You can see an example of this plant under the Plateau Oak on the southeast corner of the Meadow. Migrating monarchs depend on this perennial as they pass through to their wintering grounds in Mexico. If you are an early riser and out on the road after a freeze, you may see what happens when the dead stem of frostweed splits and oozes ice curls. It is usually found growing in rich loamy soils near creeks or in the shade of trees at RNC.

We all love the early spring bloomers which lift our spirits after winter. But there is a place in our hearts for the fall bloomers as well. Check them out this fall in the Meadow.

*Photographer: Marilyn Knight*
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