VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Recognition and Awards, Libations and Munchies
Gifts for All Volunteers
Special Gifts for 100 Hours Club Members
Generous Doses of Friendship and Appreciation
One Guest per Honoree, Please

Have hammer, will travel?
Got rake, will weed?
Got shears, will prune?
If so, bring ‘em down,
and let’s get
Riverside Nature Center
lookin’ good for springtime.
Pay is in
coffee, donuts,
and lots of gratitude.

let us know you’ll be here...JAN.31
for the first of 3 Winter Clean-ups
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mary’s letter will return next month. But we know she’d want to wish you the best for the new year, and she encourages you to attend one of our programs, starting with the Brown Bag Lunch & Learn on Tuesday the 13th. She definitely wants our corps of volunteers to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, starting at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. She’d tell you how much we appreciate our members, donors, and friends.
JANUARY 2015 EVENTS

RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville
** RSVP to 257-4837 **

2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, Jan. 13

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. RNC Naturalist Susan Sand-er presents, “Winter: Dead or Alive.” Learn what’s going on in the winter garden. Presented by RNC Naturalist Susan Sander. Cost is $5 RNC members, $8 nonmembers.

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, Thursday, Jan. 22

4:30-6 p.m. A party to celebrate the many, many hours of volunteerism at Riverside in 2014. Volunteers are invited to bring one guest.

Town Creek Cleanup Team, Saturday, Jan. 24

9 a.m. to about noon. Join Tim Lewis and the intrepid cleanup team for a sweep from the confluence of Town Creek and the Guadalupe to the Schreiner St. Bridge. Pay is in camaraderie and the satisfaction of a job well done. For details or to sign up, contact TIM LEWIS, timlewis10@windstream.net

Nature Detective: Fossils, Saturday, Jan. 24

1-2:30 p.m. An afternoon of CSI-style detective work for 3rd-6th graders. RNC naturalist Susan Sander, with Craig McCain, present “FOSSILS.” Young detectives leave with a finished project. Cost is $5 RNC member kids or grands, $8 nonmembers. FINAL PROGRAM IN SERIES.

“Hill Country ROCKS,” Exhibit Opening, Friday, Jan. 30

4:30-6 p.m. ROCKS—it’s all about the geology of our part of the Texas Hill Country. Tentatively scheduled to open on Jan. 30, this exhibit is dedicated to the memory of our charter and life member, geologist and RNC benefactor, William E. Laing. No charge.

RNC Grounds Beautification, Saturday, Jan. 31

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please RSVP, 257-4837, to join the various teams for repair RNC grounds and buildings. Feel free to bring a favorite rake, pruning shears, and gloves. Payment is coffee, donuts, and lots of gratitude.

Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop, Feb. 7

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Texas Parks & Wildlife and RNC present “Session 1: Overview and Property Inventory,” geared to landowners with 20+ acres, already holding an ag exemption at least five years. Cost for 3 sessions is $90 individual, $110 couple for all 3 sessions (Feb 21 and 28). Class strictly limited to 10-35 participants. Register by Jan. 31 to 257-4837, or email to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.
2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Feb. 10
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Details TBA.

Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop, Feb. 21
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Texas Parks & Wildlife and RNC present “Session 2: Management Practices and Habitat Assessment;” geared to landowners with 20+ acres, already holding an ag exemption. Cost is $90 individual, $110 couple for 3 sessions. Class strictly limited to 10-35 participants. Register by Jan. 31 to 257-4837, or email to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

RNC Grounds Beautification, Part 2, Saturday, Feb. 28
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to join the various teams for cleanup and/or repair grounds & buildings.

Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop, Feb. 28
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Texas Parks & Wildlife and RNC present “Session 3: WTV History and Update on Law, Application Procedures, and Pulling It All Together,” geared to landowners with 20+ acres, holding an ag exemption at least 5 years. Cost is $90 individual, $110 couple for all 3 sessions. Class strictly limited to 10-35 participants. Register by Jan. 31 to 257-4837, or email to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

Native Healing Garden, Thursday, March 19
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Join the herbalists to learn about native medicinal plants, and then tend the garden. Bring a healthy dish for the potluck. Led by certified herbalists Amy Coward, RN, and Sally Garrett, M.S. No charge to attend, but donations fund the garden.

RNC Grounds Beautification, Pt 3, Sat., March 21
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please RSVP, 257-4837, to join the various teams for cleanup and/or repair RNC grounds and buildings. Feel free to bring a favorite rake, pruning shears, and gloves.

Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival, April 18, 2015
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Annual rite of spring offers for sale a large selection of hand-picked native plants and trees, free expert planting/tending advice, two workshops, vendors representing the area’s nature-related organizations, kids’ free activities, and more. No charge to attend.

Wildflower Gleaners will meet Friday, Feb. 6
9:30-11:30 a.m., Nature Lab
RSVP please

HILL COUNTRY ROCKS is all about the geology of our surrounds.

Recently, Ted Schulenberg assembled a geological exhibit at Kerr Arts & Cultural Center. Ted also offered resources and material to use for an RNC exhibit. We brought on board one of our resident geologists—Susan Longacre, Ph.D., retired sedimentary rock specialist. She joins with Ted, Mary Muse, Judy Ferguson, and Susan Sander on what-is-what in the world of Texas Hill Country rocks. Theirs is resulting in a topnotch exhibit.

It is only fitting that this geological exhibit be dedicated to the memory of a very special rock hound and geophysicist, a life and charter member of Riverside Nature Center whose support never wavered throughout our 25+ years. This one is for you, WILLIAM E. ‘BILL’ LAING.
WILDLIFE TAX VALUATION WORKSHOP
Presented by
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER and
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

• Have you had agricultural tax valuation on your land for at least five years, and are you interested in managing wildlife?

• This in-depth workshop is especially for landowners with 20 or more acres—it emphasizes wildlife management strategies that improve native habitat and increase species diversity, especially birds.

• Our presenters will help you gain land management knowledge, understand the history of this Texas tax valuation law, and fulfill requirements to qualify for a wildlife management tax valuation.

• Many participants complete this workshop with a concrete plan and are ready to apply.

Session 1: Overview and Property Inventory
Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Session 2: Management Practices and Habitat Assessment
Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Session 3: WTV History and Update on the Law, Application Procedures, and... Putting It All Together
Saturday, Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE FIRST SESSION
✓ A map of your property

TUITION
• $90/person or $110/couple
• Class limited to 10-35. RSVP absolutely essential.
• Pre-registration required by Jan. 31, 2015.
• Credit cards, cash, or checks accepted.
• Call 830-257-4837 to register with credit card, or for general information. Send email to: RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.
• Coffee and water provided. Feel free to bring a sack lunch or snack.

LOCATION
Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville
830-257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org

DON'T FORGET!
Hill Country ROCKS opens at 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
William E. "Bill" Lange

RNC Grounds Beautification
1st work detail of 3
Saturday, Jan. 31
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
HELP READY RNC FOR THE GLORY OF SPRINGTIME

2nd Tuesday
Brown Bag Lunch & Learn
Jan. 13 - 11:30-12:45
‘WINTER: DEAD OR ALIVE’
Susan Sander, Presenter
Good-bye, Dear Friends
By Martha Hix

It’s been a tough year for Riverside, for we have lost a number of our very good friends.

Last Sunday (Dec. 14) brought perhaps the most startling news. Elaine Payne—Elaine, a Riverside Guide who brightened this nature center with her beauteous appearance and her exquisite inner grace and winning personality—had suddenly passed away. She’s survived by her husband, former RNC Vice President and Treasurer Sonny Payne, as well as a son and family, grandchildren, and a little great-grandson, along with several other family members and a wealth of friends. We will surely miss Elaine within the circle of our RNC family. Our hearts go out to Sonny and the rest of her family. May she rest in peace.

We’ve had to say good-bye to our first treasurer, Harold Walsleben, and the attorney who drew up our bylaws and our papers to secure 501[c](3) status as a nonprofit organization—Joan Dell Dolce.

We also lost Dr. Bob Dewers. Bob planned our arboretum, and then arranged for a Texas Forestry Service grant to plant it.

Just last month (November), Bill Laing passed away. Do you recall the collection jars, with their mentions of an anonymous donor who would match all collected donations? That was Bill. He and his wife, Laura, were both charter and life members of this organization, and their unsung support never wavered in our 25 years.

§§§
If you know of another long-time member or recent volunteer who has passed away, please let us know.
Write to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com or call the Visitors Center, 830-257-4837.

Kerrville Native Plant Society to view the “Virtual Herbarium”

On Tuesday, January 13th at 1:30 p.m., the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will learn about the “Virtual Herbarium”, a computer based plant identification tool ten years in the making. Learn how to use the program at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos in Kerrville.

Raul Pena and Barbara Lowenthal will demonstrate the herbarium. Barbara restored the wildflower meadow at Riverside Nature Center with a team of faithful volunteers. Alternating with her able lieutenant, Martha Misch, Barbara writes “Notes from the Meadow,” which appear monthly in the RNC newsletter. Raul is a Master Naturalist and rainwater collection expert. Together they researched, designed and produced the program which will be available mid 2015 on the RNC and Kerrville NPSOT websites.

Visitors are welcome. For more information contact Barbara Stidham at 830-928-3202. See the Native Plant Society web site at npso.org/Kerrville.
The Riverside family started the year on a sad note. Life and charter member LARRY HAGEN, surrounded by family, expired at 1:30 a.m. on Jan. 2 in his new home in Illinois. This passing is especially sad. Not only was Larry an ardent supporter of RNC—very few of our social gatherings have gone by without a contribution from this enthusiastic baker and cook—he was also true family. Susan Sanders has lost her dad. Our condolences go out to Susan, her mother Amelie, and to the entire Hagen family.

Are you eligible for the 100 Hours Club? That's an honor bestowed upon RNC volunteers who give at least 100 hours of their time in a particular year. If you volunteered in 2014 and meet that criterion, please attend our Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 22, starting at 4:30 p.m.

If you gave between one and 100 hours, you are also invited!

We would love for our helpmates in the Kerrville Junior Service Guild to participate. A special invitation is also extended to Tara Bushnoe of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. The speakers at our various programs? Please attend.

If you gave your time and toil this past year, we want YOU!

RED TAPE

If the roster isn't current for your contribution, will you please record your time?

“No, no,” you may be saying. “I’m not looking for recognition.”

RNC wants very much to recognize you. Beyond our gratitude, there's another reason to record your hours. These numbers are helpful in grant applications. Moreover, impressive numbers make nice reports to the media, often resulting in written or on-air notices. Why are these things important? The more often the public hears about us, the more people will be interested in our mission. These are potential members and volunteers, and/or donors and sponsors.

‘Nuff said?

Please call (257-4837), send an email to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com, or stop by the office. If you know your total hours in each category, like meadow or grounds, go ahead and give the total. We need your numbers by Thursday, Jan. 15. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you do to sustain our Riverside Nature Center. See you on the 22nd, at 4:30 in the afternoon.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION
Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Recognition and Awards, Libations and Munchies
If you're wondering what there is to see in the Meadow during the middle of winter, you might want to check along the paths if you are interested in evergreen shrubs and trees. You can see nice mature specimens that might look good in your home landscapes. Many of them are labeled so you can know what to look for when you shop native plant nurseries. Winter is definitely the right time of year to plant trees and shrubs. Many days you can find an enthusiastic native plant lover on the grounds or in the visitor's center who will assist you in finding the tree or shrub that would suit the right location in your landscape, or call the RNC and request such assistance.

If you want an attractive and durable landscape, natives are definitely the way to go. If you want an evergreen that will provide a warm color in the cold seasons when branches look barren and gray, natives are the answer. A favorite evergreen in the category of trees is definitely Mexican Silkassel. It can be considered a shrub or small tree; it has dark green leaves that are especially beautiful in the winter. The male and female flowers differ. The female flower has drooping dusty pink clusters in March and April. A dark blue fruit follows the flowering, which birds love. This tree likes our rocky slopes and poor soil; it may be found in some of the local nurseries.

The Texas Madrone is another favorite. You can find it in many native plant nurseries, but need to be aware of a few planting techniques that will help produce a survivor.

This tree was a topic of discussion at the latest Native Plant Society meeting, as members shared observations about growing native plants. The specimen on the Meadow grounds was planted in a deep hole filled partially with cedar needles. Our botanist expert, Shannon Smith, pointed out that Madrone and Cedar have a symbiotic relationship. Besides the beautiful red trunk and branches, it produces white blossoms early in the spring followed by red berries in the fall which attract birds, pollinators, bees, and small mammals. It needs little water and loves our poor soil and limestone hillside. What more could you ask for?

Mountain laurel is a slow grower, but thrives in our climate and poor soil. Several specimens can be found on the RNC grounds. It also seems to associate well with Ashe Juniper on limestone hillsides. The shiny dark leaves are a welcome site in winter. In February through April the fragrant purple clusters of blooms may lift your spirit. The hard gray seed pods can be 3 to 5 inches long with as many as 8 bright red seeds that are ripe in Sept.

You can always count on the RNC to provide inspiration for planting native plants that will give you an attractive and durable landscape. There are beautiful specimens of Monterey Oak, Plateau Live Oak, Lacey Oak, and a few other evergreens. Check the grounds of the Nature Center this season and you may get ideas for your own landscape.
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 JOINING IN NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 15, 2014
Courtney & Nancy Ray, Eileen Goldsen, Larry & Patti Altman, Mary Zirkel, Phil & Naomi Masi