Last week, I had an interesting experience – my Riverside Nature Center computer got hijacked by an Encryption Ransom virus. All my files, emails, and contacts were locked. In theory, if I paid a “ransom,” I’d receive a code to access my files. Since the ransom note began with a choice of language, I really didn’t have much faith this would work. In principle, I’m against reinforcing bad behavior, so I now have a new almost blank hard drive. (This may be the 5th article I’ve saved on it.) So, you’ve sent me a document, or if you’re expecting to hear from me on one topic or another, please send me a message so that I can add you back into my address book.

As devastating as this experience was, I have to say, those no-computer days were amazing. I felt untethered! I cleaned my office, walked our grounds, took pictures, and my shoulders did not ache when I went home. What a great lesson in remembering to take time away from the computer, away from the demands of day-to-day work, and enjoy time at our nature center!

It is hard to say good-bye to friend and colleague, Martha Hix, who served Riverside as volunteer coordinator, then publicist. Her employment has been part-time, but her hours of commitment have been long, yet given with heart, so at the January Volunteer Appreciation we gave Martha a bit of her due: a gift with wishes for great success as she returns to her former career as a fiction writer.

Many of you know Lydia Jetson. She covered weekends for the past couple of years. She’s getting up to speed on many Martha tasks. Our wonderful Schreiner student, Kat Johnson, is our Photoshop Queen, and she’s designed our new website! (Kat can’t leave until receiving her Ph.D., we tease her!) Hopefully, we’ll redistribute workload and do our best to fill the void Martha leaves.

Although these events may be construed as challenging starts to 2015, I choose to say these are changes. Nature teaches us change is inevitable. I believe nature is less about “survival of the fittest” and more about creatively adapting to change. We have some wonderful assets that will serve this association well as we continue to position and reposition our place in Kerrville.

Our current board of directors is inspiring. Each member brings a unique perspective and set of skills to the mix that is valuable. We had two high-quality strategic planning sessions in December and early in January. As a group, they distilled their focus into 4 goals:

- To be good stewards of our buildings and grounds through an updated master plan,
- To better our programming by offering focused, well-advertised programs,
- To increase and improve publicity; maximizing the use of our website, and
- To increase funding by building corporate sponsors.

For each of these goals, the board has developed a specific list of action items that are realistic and productive. And I do believe each of them feel vestment in how this association does in the upcoming year. I’m very energized by the leadership of this group.

A strong, dynamic board is one of the strengths emerging at Riverside Nature Center. And there are more. Change is rarely revolutionary, it is mostly evolutionary. And so it goes here. If it has been a while since you’ve visited, stop in and see what changes you sense in our world...
February 2015 EVENTS
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville
** RSVP to 257-4837 **
www.riversidenaturecenter.org ∞ RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

Hill Country ROCKS” exhibit, TBA early February, soft opening, 4:30-6 p.m.
ROCKS—it’s all about the geology of our part of the Texas Hill Country
“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 his 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.
Susan 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.

RNC grounds beautification, part 1, Feb. 7, Saturday (rescheduled from Jan. 31)
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Join the various teams for cleanup and/or repair RNC grounds and
buildings. Feel free to bring a favorite rake, pruning shears, and gloves. RSVP and/or bad
weather updates: call 257-4837 or email to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

Wildlife tax valuation workshop, part 1, Feb. 7, Saturday
9 a.m.-1 p.m., Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St. Texas Parks & Wildlife and RNC present
“Session 1: Overview and Property Inventory,” See our website. Cost is $90 individual, $110 couple for all 3 sessions
(Feb. 21 and 28). Class strictly limited to 35 participants. Pre-registration a must. Call 257-4837.

Feb. 10, Tuesday, 2nd Tuesday brown bag lunch & learn
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St. “Tree Talk” with Karen Rockoff, Certified
Arborist for Rockoff Land & Tree, is ready to “talk trees.” Cost is $5 RNC members, $8 nonmembers, free if joining
RNC at the meeting. RSVP to 257-4837 or RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

Feb. 21, Saturday, Wildlife tax valuation workshop, part 2
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Texas Parks & Wildlife and RNC present “Session 2: Management Practices and Habitat Asses-
sment.”

Feb. 28, Saturday, RNC grounds beautification, part 2
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Join the various teams for cleanup and/or repair grounds & buildings. Bring your favorite
rake, pruning shears, and gloves. Payment in snacks, coffee, and gratitude. Bad weather? Call 257-4837 or email to:
RNC@Kerrville@gmail.com.

Feb. 28, Saturday, Wildlife tax valuation workshop, part 3
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Texas Parks & Wildlife and RNC present “Session 3: WTV History and Update on Law, Application Proce-
dures, and Pulling It All Together.”

“Continues on Page 3”
Feb. 28, Saturday, Wildlife tax valuation workshop, Pt 3
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Texas Parks & Wildlife and RNC present “Session 3: WTV History and Update on Law, Application Procedures, and Pulling It All Together.”

Mar. 10, Tuesday, ‘Fish Out of Time’
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Nate Smith, Texas Parks & Wildlife, speaks on the alligator gar at the 2nd Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn. Cost is $5 RNC members, $8 nonmembers, free if joining RNC at the meeting.

Mar. 19, Thursday, Native healing garden
11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Join the herbalists to learn about native medicinal plants; tend the garden. Led by certified herbalists, Amy Coward, RN, and Sally Garrett, M.S. No charge to attend, but donations fund the garden. RSVP to 257-4837 or RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

Mar. 21, Saturday, Grounds beautification, part 3
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. Payment in coffee, doughnuts, and appreciation. Bad weather? Call 257-4837 or email RNC@Kerrville@gmail.com.

Until We Meet Again by Martha Hix

As I sit here, the last of my official days at Riverside Nature Center, I reflect on the good times. There were many. The people who return, again and again, were the best I’ve ever worked with. And there is a lot of great competition.

In my previous life, I had many high points, such as locking gazes with cover-sensation Fabio, while my pal Arnette Lamb and yours truly became the few and far between who could make Fabio look small. I spent 10 years with the Book Lovers Convention, organized by my BFF, Kathryn Falk, Lady of Barrow; Time Magazine named Kathryn one of the 100 most influential “business titans” of the 20th century. Perhaps having something to do with her pet chicken who traveled with her, she was 1 of 3 on the eccentrics’ page with J. Paul Getty and Howard Hughes. Last, and certainly least, Mr. Carl enjoyed his reputation at Diamond Shamrock R&M as the Porfirio Rubirosa who inspired the “romance” in my novels. To which I always replied, “Yeah, and Stephen King’s wife taught him how to murder people.”

The list of Riverside people who gave joy to my days at Riverside is too long for this note, but I must point to a few. Thanks go to many. Barbara Stidham for hiring me. Mary Muse and Judy Ferguson for putting up with me. Jeanette, Carl, Kat, Lydia, and the cream of the crop, the Gift Shop Goddesses and the Riverside Guides plus the wonderful Ginny de Wolf, thank you for forgiving my tantrums. The board of directors—we have the finest. Each member has a special place in my heart. Each volunteer is precious—thank you for your toil and trouble. I’m especially fond of Barbara Lowenthal and her Meadow Maids; Amy Coward and Sally Garrett of the Native Healing Garden; special events hostesses, Maggie Tatum and Joy Bradford; and the Grounds crew. Who could forget the most interesting beer sipper in the world, the Grounds man called “Q”? Last but never, ever least, my hat is off to Eleanor Baldwin, layout artist for our newsletter.

If I’ve left anyone out, my apologies. How ’bout I make you the hero or heroine in my next book? OK, never mind. Carry on. My love to all, Martha
In appreciation for your excellence in volunteering during the year 2014 the Board of Directors and Executive Director of Riverside Nature Center thank you for your many hours of service.

Barbara Lowenthal
Judy Ferguson
Maggie Tatum
Nancy Alford
Fane Downs
Kay Harter
Martha Miesch
Julie Clay
Karen Burkett
Judy Gausnell
Karen Millikan
John Quinby
Pat Nelson
Marion Worthington

Marion Worthington, Lisa Williams & Melinda Wasson

Board Members, Volunteers, & Guests

Diane McMahon & Tara Bushnoe

Paula Jo Gerbig & Peggy Thompson
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville, Texas
RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

Riverside Guides in Action
The Riverside Nature Center has several guides working at the front desk during the week in the morning and afternoon. They are trained to handle their tasks—before taking their spot they have on the job training, and ongoing special training sessions.

A Riverside Guide is capable of several tasks. They can rent rooms to outside groups, provide support for scheduled events, walk the grounds with visitors, operate our new computer at the front desk, play the DVD displays, sign up visitors who wish more information, sell gift-shop merchandise, direct visitors to reference materials, answer phone calls, and offer a sign-in sheet for people who want more information or to volunteer.

Current Guides include Nancy Alford, Larry Altman, Joy Bradford, Karen Burkett, Judy Ferguson, Kay Harter, Martha Miesch, Diane McMahon, Edna Platte, Maggie Tatum, Barbara Wagner, and Nina Wagner.

Additional Guides are needed for Mondays and on weekends, those days other than those frequently open. We need Guides who can fill in on an emergency basis or when another can’t be there, and for special events. As we are short-staffed and cannot hire more staff, the Riverside Guides are a godsend to the management of our nature center.

Riverside Guides are RNC’s front-line ambassadors, privy to the inside scoop of exhibits and events, as well as whatever is going on in the office. They are (usually) the first person to interact with visitors. The Guides make the center’s FIRST GOOD IMPRESSION.

If you are interested in becoming a Riverside Guide, please contact
* Lydia at RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com or
* Melinda Wasson, Riverside Guide Coordinator, Melwas4@gmail.com or 830-285-2246

Kerrville Native Plant Society will study “Water 101” on Tuesday, February 10th at 1:30 p.m.

Learn about the future of water in the Hill Country and how to get involved in conservation at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos in Kerrville.

Our speaker, Charlie Flatten, is the Hill Country Alliance Water Policy Program Manager. The Alliance is dedicated to the preservation of Hill Country resources. Charlie has a master’s degree in resource management with a specialty in hydrology. He monitors water policy makers in Central Texas and manages the Alliance’s educational output. He has made a career advocating for responsible growth and the sustainability of resources.

Visitors are welcome. For more information contact Barbara Stidham at 830-928-3202.

For more information about the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas please go to our web site npsot.org/Kerrville.
RIVERSCAPE — NO LONGER JUST A DREAM

A couple of years ago, when we paid tribute to Susan Sander, a number of individuals contributed to a project near to her heart, a wildscape. The plan has developed into a project that will show rather than tell the importance of every drop of water that flows through the Guadalupe River.

It is called RIVERSCAPE.

This multimedia outdoor exhibit is being built on the western corner of the RNC property, along the fence line. Riverscape will show what the river looks like on its journey through Kerr County, from its headwaters on The Divide at 2,400 feet, falling to 1,600 feet in Kerrville.

Plans also include a pavilion for visual displays. One is a rainmaking machine, another a watershed model that shows how the river works, from The Divide to the Gulf of Mexico.

Three RNC board members have spent countless hours planning and now executing those plans. They are architect and Vice President Peter Lewis, Wynn Kilgore the engineer, and past president Judy Ferguson.

“It’s going to be real, meaningful, and powerful,” Lewis surmised, while crediting his talented design team for their contribution to the work that resulted in plans that made possible the excellent architectural renditions seen herein.

“We deeply appreciate Peter Lewis and his group for their dedication and results, as well as Judy’s and Wynn’s,” said Riverside’s executive director, Mary Muse. “We also owe thanks to the many individuals and foundations that have donated to make Riverscape possible.”

We will keep you posted on Riverscape’s progress, and if you’d like to contribute to the project, please do!

“We deeply appreciate Peter Lewis and his group for their dedication and results, as well as Judy’s and Wynn’s.”

~ Mary Muse
The meadow in February is filled with activity.

Birds and other critters continue to obtain nourishment from seeds and berries. The vegetation continues to change.

Agarito (*Mahonia trifoliolata*) will be in bloom very soon. Many of the wildflowers have been in their rosette phase throughout the winter; now they are beginning to enlarge and prepare for their bloom period. Some of the rosettes will soon wither away, while others will persist.

I thought you might enjoy seeing photos of some of the rosettes found in the meadow along with pictures of the flowers. Enjoy!
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

MEMBERS JOINING IN DECEMBER THROUGH JANUARY 15
William & Louise Furbush, Eileen Goldsen, Joe & Jill Kolakowski
Mary Zirkel, Phil & Naomi Masi, Judith Walker, Larry & Janet Eskridge