Did you hear that a new species of beetle, specifically a bark beetle of the subfamily Scolytinae, was found in one of the insect traps located on the grounds of Riverside Nature Center? These traps are part of a study conducted by Joyce Blasizzo of the USDA. This particular specimen is cylindrical in shape, 4.3 millimeters long, and reddish brown in color. It is thought to live in and feed on the phloem in the inner layer of bark on trees. They usually inhabit dead, dying, and stressed trees, including fallen trees, cut logs, and slash. It has been suggested to name this beetle, Ips riversideai. Read further for more details.

Where has the time gone? We are now into our second quarter of the year and things are truly ramping up. If you have not paid us a visit in a while, I suggest you do so in the next few weeks. The grounds are becoming lush in growth, color and fragrance. That perfect aroma of grape Nehi from the mountain laurels is truly intoxicating.

Ironically, it takes a whole lot of work to keep things “natural”. Thank you to all the dedicated grounds and garden tenders. You rock! (weed, till, pull, & mow, too) For those of you who want to join in on the fun, there are many project areas that still need adopting. Lydia is standing by to sign you up in the Adopt-A-Spot program.

Speaking of needing volunteers...we are experiencing an increase in invitations to staff a RNC table at various local events. Not being Samantha Stevens, I cannot be in two places at one time. I hope to organize a team of RNC Ambassadors who will take our message on the road. All those interested, please contact me at 257-4837 or director@riversidenaturecenter.org.

Remember to mark your calendar for May 3rd. This is the date for the annual Big Give SA. This 24-hour day of online local giving is a wonderful opportunity for you to support RNC. Your donation is greatly needed and most appreciated, but it will also put RNC in the running for a bonus of up to $1,000 in prize money. I will send out an email closer to the date with more detailed information. So have your laptop, iPad, and smart phone charged and ready to go.

At the start of this message, I made an announcement about the discovery of a special bark beetle ....GOTCHA!!! It’s April Fool’s Day, remember?

Until next time....Becky
### April 2016 RNC Events Calendar

#### **H₂O Lives!**
*Come see how water is the one element that connects all life on this planet, hence the subtitle: “Connect the Drops.” Discover new facts in this exhibit, then take a walk on the River Trail to enjoy the real thing.*

#### **RNC Recycle Sale April 1st and April 2nd, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the RNC Pavilion**
*Items for sale include nature books, tools, terrariums, fire pit, etc. Proceeds go to match a grant to repair the Nature Lab.*

#### **RNC Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, Sunday, April 10, 2016, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.**
*Inviting all RNC Volunteers to join together for a good ole BBQ at our pavilion.*

#### **RNC Brown Bag Lunch and Learn, Tuesday, April 12, 2016**
*11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.*
*“100 Years of Guadalupe River Economic Use” Guest speaker is Joe Herring, historian, printer and former mayor. $8 RNC Member $10 Non-member. Free with new membership.*

**RSVP** [rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com) **(830)257-4837**

#### **NPSOT, Hill Country Chapter meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 2016**
*1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.*
*The public is invited to enjoy a presentation after the election of board members. Susan Longacre is the guest speaker for the public talk. [https://npsot.org/wp/kerrville/](https://npsot.org/wp/kerrville/) for more information.*

### RNC Bird Walks and Talks, Saturday, April 16, 2016
*9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*
*Meet at Riverside Nature Center to sight birds that are in Kerrville and along the Guadalupe River. Enjoy learning bird facts and birding tips with Richard Redmond. All ages welcome. Free Family Fun*  
[www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org)  **(830)257-4837**

### RNC Member Spring Pre Plant Sale Friday, April 22, 2016
*5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*
*www.riversidenaturecenter.org  **(830)257-4837***
*Riverside Nature Center members only plant sale. Become a member during this sale and get first pick of the plant sale selection this year.*

### RNC Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival, Saturday, April 23, 2016
*9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*
*www.riversidenaturecenter.org  **(830)257-4837***
*Riverside Nature Center and the Hill Country Native Plant Society of Texas present native plants to purchase along with expert information and advice from our volunteers. Fun presentations: "From Plants to Honey & the in Bee tween”*

### Town Creek Clean Up, Saturday, April 23, 2016
*9 a.m. until 12 p.m.*

### Belk Charity Day Sale Event, Saturday, April 30, 2016
*a.m. to 10 a.m.*
*Percentage off on rarely discounted brands during this Private Ticketed Event. Pre-sale begins Thursday, April 21. Donate to Riverside Nature Center by buying your tickets at RNC to participate in this sale.*
Note the address to use when you wish to: RSVP an event, find out about a program, or check for weather cancellations/closings, and so forth. Thank you in advance for using the new e-address!

RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

Please mark your Calendars...
Saturday - April 23, 2016

Free Family Fun New Hours 9 am-2 pm
Co-sponsored by Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter & Riverside Nature Center

NATIVE PLANT SALE (Under Pavilion)
Our expert volunteers are gathering beautiful species of plants native to our region. These wildflowers, shrubs, grasses, and small trees are sourced from local growers. Native plants require lower maintenance – saving you time and money. Plus, they create a habitat for a host of native wildlife – including songbirds, butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. Come early for the best selection! Experts will be available to answer questions and to help you select plants that will thrive in your particular landscape conditions.

All net proceeds benefit the RNC and NPSOT education efforts.
Enjoy tax free shopping at this special event.

Members of RNC and NPSOT can enjoy an exclusive preview sale on Friday, April 22 from 5-6:30 pm. Non-members can join either or both of these organizations at the pre-sale and start shopping.

10:30 am Dedication of Carroll Abbott Garden
NPSOT to be held at the garden near outside pavilion.

Bee Talk (In Classrooms)
11am: "From Plants to Honey & the in Bee tween"
Three-in-one presentation! Mary Hays, a passionate pollinator naturalist, will discuss bees and how to provide a healthy habitat for them.
Sandra Magee, a native plant Master Naturalist, will give a power point on plants and wildflowers that pollinators need. And Master Naturalist Deb Windham, a bee keeper, will describe how she collects honey. Come learn and ask questions about BEES!

KIDS’ ACTIVITIES FREE (Nature Lab)
9am – 1:30 pm New Hours Craft projects
Bring your kids to create fun nature craft projects to take home. An adult needs to stay to help supervise.

INFORMATIVE DISPLAYS (Outside)

Bring your family and friends to enjoy the day at our Nature Center. As always, we could not do this without our wonderful volunteers.
If you want to help, please contact the office, or send them an email...
What you may see this month at RNC
April 2016  By Martha Miesch

You can always count on activities of interest at the Nature Center, if you enjoy nature and are passionate about native plants. This spring plant sale hosted by Native Plant Society of Texas, Riverside Nature Center, and assisted by Hill Country Master Naturalists, will have a brief but special event at 10:30 am on Sat. April 23rd - a dedication of a garden of native plants in honor of Carroll Abbott, the primary founder of the organization we know as Native Plant Society of Texas. His son, Mark, chuckled when he was told this garden of 65 species of natives were some of his father’s favorites since he knew it was only a fraction of his favorites.

Carroll Abbott, Founder of Native Plant Society of Texas

Why is this garden special to the Kerrville chapter? Early in Carroll Abbott’s career he was involved in writing and editing for the Daily Times. His next career move involved politics in Austin and traveling around Texas on behalf of candidates. Don’t think for a minute that he did not notice the decline of wildflowers and native plants thanks to building, grazing and mowing. He assisted Lady Bird Johnson's promotion of the National Highway Beautification Act.

In 1970 he quit politics and devoted his time to wildflower preservation, started a seed company, and wrote a newsletter for the Native Plant Society of Texas which began in 1977. He noted that a dozen other states had begun their organizations before Texas. He was invited to be a guest lecturer at Texas Women's University in the spring of 1980. This occasion was called Texas Wildflower Day.

On the fourth Saturday of April, 1981, began what is now the official annual Texas Wildflower Day. A board was established and the Native Plant Society of Texas was founded. For $7.50 a member would receive Abbott’s newsletter. He gave many speeches to members dressed in his straw cowboy hat, and imparted knowledge about native plants to his audience. He said only God and Lady Bird Johnson were concerned about wildflower survival, but he was definitely a major contributor to that cause. In October of 1981 he was diagnosed with cancer. He died in July 1984. During these final days of his life he worked on many projects with Lady Bird, produced his newsletter, and made many speaking engagements to promote a love of wildflowers.

Look at some of Carroll Abbott’s favorite native plants in the Kerrville Chapter’s garden. With over 2,000 members statewide, our chapter is one of 33 chapters in Texas, and we’re proud to honor our founder with this garden.

Mary Thomas shared this good picture of Carroll Abbott with a tray of bluebonnets from her files. The blooming bluebonnets photo was by Sandra Magee.
Nature in Print

You need not be an artist to appreciate color. We are surrounded by it every day but have you ever wondered from where do all these different hues come?

Luckily for us, Amy Butler Greenfield did wonder. Greenfield, the granddaughter and great granddaughter of dyers, must have color in her blood. In her extensively researched book, *A Perfect Red*, she takes us on an elaborate quest in search of, what else, the perfect shade of red.

Why should this book be of interest to a nature loving soul? Well, the lead character is a tiny, prickly pear loving insect.

The cochineal, *Dactylopius coccus*, is a scale insect in the suborder Sternorrhyncha, from which the natural dye carmine is derived. Many of you most likely have noticed a white fuzzy-looking blob attached to a prickly pear plant. But fewer have probably removed it and witnessed the deep red-purple liquid left staining your fingers.

In *A Perfect Red*, Greenfield takes the reader from ancient Mexico and the Aztecs’ use and domestication of cochineal 2,000 years ago to present day. Along the way you will get to meet pirates, explorers, conquistadors, royalty, pontiffs, artists, investors and inventors. This reads like an historical novel fraught with intrigue and adventure. To quote Mark Twain, “Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn’t.”
Thank You


Helen & K.R. Price  Paula Meek Burford  Dana Laughlin Lochner
Amy Rizzo  Jayne Freeland  Kent & Janet McKinney
Sue Meek  Gloria P. Olsen  Tim & Mary Ellen Summerlin
Stephen & Joan Clark  Barbara Oates  Carl & Joann Hintze,
Gwynn Groggel-Jackson  Walter & Kelly Ferguson  Arthur Bell
Stan & Carolyn Cobb  Janet Birkoff  JoAnn Redden
Greg Bradley  Juanita Barnell

Dorothy Matizza donated “The Useful
Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and
Southwestern United States, the Southern
Plains, and Northern Mexico” Vol.4,
written by
Scooter Cheatham,
Marshall C. Johnston, and
Lynn Marshall

We appreciate this generous donation from Dorothy Matizza, who is endeavoring to supply Riverside Nature Center library with the complete collection of this exceptional series of volumes. The publications contain information about plants, detailing their uses by species and ancient and modern uses.

Come by to refer to Vol. 1, 3, or 4.

Natalie Thompson

New Intern from Schreiner University

We are happy to introduce our new intern, a senior in graphic design at Schreiner. Natalie hails from Bastrop, Texas and her minor is in music. She lists among her strengths as being “Futuristic, Relator, and Responsible.” Natalie’s hobbies include art, tabletop and video gaming. We asked her to tell us what her first impressions were in working with us, and she says, “All the people that I have met so far at the Riverside Nature Center have been very kind and open. The work environment seems to be peaceful, a great place to sit and figure things out, but at the same time it can be a place where everyone gathers and tackles something together…. I am impressed with the amount of resources that the Riverside Nature Center has available to me and the work environment that they have created with a group of kindhearted, like minded individuals that want to spread knowledge about the natural plants and wildlife in Texas.” Welcome, Natalie!
The “Landscape For Life” workshop at the Riverside Nature Center gave my wife and I a new perspective on our two acre lot southwest of Kerrville. With the help of Master Gardeners and our Naturalist Susan Sander, we were introduced to how to protect our “native” landscape using proven tools to look at our soil, water and fauna at our particular location. We were able to take a closer look at our property by doing homework assignments and sharing our ideas with other participants. We are now ready to follow through with the work ahead of us. The event was very helpful and enjoyable.

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RNC Member and Riverside Guide Larry Altman

Announcing new Visitor Center Hours:
Beginning Thursday, April 7th, 2016
Riverside Nature Center’s Visitor Center will be open 1 p.m. until 8 p.m.
resuming 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. September 1st.

These new hours for Thursday are put in place so that Riverside Nature Center will be able to serve the folks that might be entering the Kerrville River Trail from our parking lot late afternoons and early evening. We look forward to being available to receive visitors during these hours. We are planning a few family activities for the summer evenings that will take place during these new hours. One such offering will be a family movie night and popcorn in June. Look for more details in our next newsletter.

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Adopt A Spot Program

The Building and Grounds Committee reports that these members have adopted spots:

Scott Clay is refurbishing the kiosk in the butterfly garden,

Paul Devine is mowing,

Barbara Quinby and Gwynn Groggel-Jackson continue Berm 5.

We still have projects to be adopted, so come by the Visitors Center and pick one.
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.

Our mission is to foster greater public awareness and appreciation of the Texas Hill Country’s natural resources through education, information, and by example. We provide quality educational experiences for the community’s children, adults and families; and we serve as a resource center for the community on native plants and nature related information.

RNC BOARD & OFFICERS:
Rick Ertel - President
Peter Lewis - Vice President
Judy Ferguson - Past President
Gwynn Groggel-Jackson - Secretary
Kris Bobbitt - Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS:
Valeska Danielak
Frank Dunlap
Wynn Kilgore
Barbara Oates
Peggy Thompson
Morgan Williams

MEMBERS JOINING February 25 through March 23
Elaine Keating - Wayne & Chris Seifert - Nina Wright