Are you familiar with the scientific principle that states “as age increases, time lapse decreases”? No? How then do you explain that as a child a one year span is an eternity and as an adult this same time span rushes past so fast we sometimes ask “Where has the time gone?”?

Do you realize RNCA is quickly approaching its 25th Anniversary? It was in 1992 that the land on which we work and play was purchased. Many of you have vivid memories of that time and may even still sport a scar or two.

So, if 1992 feels like yesterday, then tighten your seat belt because the entirety of 2015 took place in just under an hour. If it went by too fast for you to catch all that happened, let’s revisit a few of the highlights.

- Who could forget Sadie Mint Terry and her rockin’ band singing the story of the Hill Country’s geology and all the fabulous associated field trips?
- Spring brought us spectacular color and growth on the grounds. It also marked the completion of the meadow restoration project.
- Race Marshall Susan in her squirrel costume at the inaugural Run for Riverside 5K.
- The Gleaner’s 20th Anniversary celebration.
- Water, water everywhere with H2O Lives!
- The wonderful “A River Runs Through It” evening celebrating our Riverscape.
- Numerous and varied informative speakers and workshops.
- Several hellos and goodbyes with the directorship transition.

Fast paced and always moving forward is the norm at RNC and I do not foresee a change in the momentum in 2016.

In keeping with my fictional time principle, in the next hour we can look forward to many exciting and new adventures. In March a new extended workshop will be introduced: Landscape for Life ™. The Conversation with a Conservationist series will continued to be featured. The ever rejuvenating KISD 4th graders will grace our grounds and so much more.

Please stay tuned to the calendar of events on our webpage, www.riversidenaturecenter.org and check your inbox for emails detailing the various events and programs.

I would be remiss if I did not take this time to say Thank You to everyone who has contributed to Riverside Nature Center. Each event, program, exhibit, garden and simply every day our door is open are all made possible by your generosity and involvement.

I wish you only the best this holiday season and throughout the coming New Year.
Save the Dates

Open now: **H₂O Lives, our new exhibit.** The primary focus of this exhibit is to show how water is the one element that connects all life on this planet, hence the subtitle: “Connect the Drops.” Discover something new about water from the exhibit to the Riverscape. Then take a walk on the River Trail to enjoy the real thing.

December 12, 2015, Second Saturday Spiff Up, 9 a.m. until Noon
Riverside Nature Center invites all who would like to help us complete our building and grounds committee projects preparing for winter, please bring your favorite gloves and join in.

January 9, 2016, Preparing Bird Nesting Boxes, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12p.m.
Family Activity Workshop assembling a bird box, learning nesting habitats with monitoring and observing ideas. Make and take one bird box. Limit 10 families. RSVP Registration. $25

January 12, 2016, Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday 11:30 am. - 12:45 pm
Guest Speaker: Paul Yura, “Future Weather Patterns and our Future Water Forecasts” See page 6 for details.

Now until January 2: **“Share the Love” Sales Event.** North Park Subaru at Dominion has chosen Riverside Nature Center as their hometown charity for the year-end sale. Any buyer may designate $250.00 of the purchase of a new Subaru to be donated to RNC. If you are in the market for a new Subaru, this is the time to make that purchase and benefit RNC. [www.npsubarudomion.com](http://www.npsubarudomion.com)

Planning your 2016? We have Upcoming Workshops on the following dates. Mark your calendars to register and attend. Look for upcoming announcements.

**Landscaping for Life Series™:** 3 sessions: March 5, March 12, March 19, $90/$110

**Wildlife Tax Valuation Series:** 3 Sessions: January 30, February 6, February 13. The series are consecutive and must be attended from the first one in order to receive certification.

**Urban Wildlife Workshop,** September 2016

**Two Conversations with Conservationists** are in the planning stages for the fall, and there is one in March and one in April, 2016.

These events will occur at the Riverside Nature Center. Watch this space for the time of day and speakers and presenters announcements.
Thank you everyone for your time and effort on Saturday, November 14. We sure got quite a bit accomplished. A big thank you to Frank Dunlap, our ever eager and willing leader. Becky

Frank reports: Weather was on our side and we had a few new volunteers, I believe. Thanks for your help!

Tasks Completed (or very close to completion):

Wildflower mix seeded into oak tree beds in parking lot (will require frequent watering if rains do not continue). Please use a watering can until they root.

Four rain barrels were set up behind tool shed (spouts need silicone and the barrels need to be cross connected),

Granite was added on the butterfly garden trail, and Rick said he will be adding more.

The lower trail clean-up was begun.

Mulch was placed by the rain simulator.

The bat house is back up.

Volunteer trees were dug and potted for future sale/use.

The hackberry amid the mountain laurel was removed.

Front beds were weeded.

Leaf accumulation by the VC front door was added to compost.

Removed dying live oak.

Cedar elm hanging over the nursery was trimmed.

Removed the canoe from the plant nursery.

The lights along the path to the VC were replaced or repaired (thanks Becky and John!)

Photos by Becky and Frank
Riverside Nature Center’s recent event “A River Runs Through It” was a congenial gathering of members and interested folks which doubled as a fall fundraiser and introduction to the new exhibits: H₂0 Lives! and the Riverscape.

“It was a wonderful evening of great food, music and good conversations, all to benefit our beautiful nature center,” says Judy Ferguson.

Past President Judy Ferguson expresses appreciation to board member Wynn Kilgore for his untiring engineering work on the Riverscape.

▲ Hill Country Youth Orchestra violinists greet Dr. Georgia Roth and Dr. Dan Bacon at the A River Runs Through It event.

◄ Kevin McCormick and Schreiner Choir members serenade during a River Runs Through It event.
When you visit the Riverside at this time of the year, you may think strolling the paths is not worth the time or effort. But you’d be missing out on a few fall bloomers such as fall aster, Lindheimer’s senna, and thoroughwort which have recently sported blooms since the temps have lowered and welcome rain has come. In gratitude, blooms do appear. You may spot wild onion or rain lily, new blooms on salvia Gregii, or frost weed. If you are a native plant lover, you even get a kick out of spotting seeds of favorites.

There are several aster species such as tall aster, Texas aster, and spread-leaf aster, but the tall aster is always eye candy at this time of the year with its branched and leaf-crowded stems. The flowers are a lovely lavender color with a golden center. Deer favor asters so they should be protected to survive. Lindhiemer’s senna seems to be easily reseeded in new locations and is deer resistant so is always great for home gardens. The flowers are a welcome sight when so many of the summer bloomers are no longer available to give our landscape color. There are several good sized specimens on the RNC grounds. Thoroughwort is just beginning to bloom at the edge of the back porch of the Visitor's Center in the Butterfly Garden. At almost anytime of day you can count on seeing bees and butterflies swarming to nectar among the blooms. The flower does have a strong odor, but must be protected by vegetation such as agarita or cactus to thrive outside fencing.

This is a good time of the year to pay attention to some of the beautiful evergreen shrubs. Many of these great native plants were purchased by RNC supporters during the Fall Plant Sale last month since fall is the perfect time of year to plant trees and shrubs. Take a look at the street side berm and you can see terrific mature examples. Many native shrubs are slow growers, but well worth the wait. One of the favorites is evergreen sumac. It can be found growing in the wild along country roads on rocky slopes. It grows in a sculpted round shape. It has tiny white blossoms in the summer followed by red fruit, which is excellent winter bird food. You can find this shrub at a native plant nursery or at an RNC native plant sale. Another big attraction of this shrub is that it is a host plant for dusky-blue groundstreak butterflies and the flowers are an excellent forage for bees and butterflies in late summer.

Check out all the paths on the RNC grounds to see if you can spot these native plants and other bloomers.

*Photos by Sandra Magee*
January 12, 2016: Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday 11:30 am - 12:45 pm

Guest Speaker: Paul Yura, “Future Weather Patterns and our Future Water Forecasts”

Paul Yura is a Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service for Austin & San Antonio, Texas.
Paul was born and raised in Austin, went to school at the University of Texas before transferring to the University of Oklahoma where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology and attended graduate school. While going to school, he worked summers at the Austin Weather Service Office and the Norman Oklahoma NWS office. After graduation, Paul began his full time career with the National Weather Service in Brownsville, TX as a forecaster and then Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM). In 2008 Paul accepted the Warning Coordination Meteorologist position at the Austin-San Antonio weather office. As WCM, his primary job is to be the liaison between the National Weather Service and local media, citizens, county, state, and federal agencies as well as conduct storm damage surveys and community outreach.

November Brown Bag Lunch and Learn with Bob Howell

Robert Howell
FRIGHT NIGHT ON HALLOWEEN  by Edna Platte

Eight elegantly costumed creatures from Riverside Nature Center participated in Halloween FAMILY FRIGHT NIGHT at Kerrville Schreiner Park. RNC’s exhibits included bats, bones, skulls, insects, reptiles and birds. Our people-sized creatures were a honey bee, bumblebee, American eagle, bat, monarch butterfly and a spider lady with her own web who greeted and introduced our W-I-C-K-E-D collection to at least five ninja turtles, as well as princesses, pirates, and of course, zombies of all sorts who came to the riverside cabin in the park.

The many visitors were mostly creatively costumed youth from ages 1 to 13. At times we had as many as 10 waiting in line to enter our exhibit, and people stayed late to ask questions. Everyone was so friendly and happy that it was a joy to participate in this event. We look forward to partnering with Kerrville Schreiner Park and the City of Kerrville for Family Fright Night in 2016.

We are sponsored by the UGRA and City of Kerrville. RNC is our partner. October 2016 was our 4th year of cleaning the creek quarterly.

UGRA Town Creek Cleanup Report from Tim Lewis

We picked up 440 lbs. of trash (that will not go into the river!!!), among the five of us.

2016 Schedule:
January 16, April 16 and July, coincides with the UGRA Annual River Cleanup.

We are sponsored by the UGRA and City of Kerrville. RNC is our partner.

October 2016 was our 4th year of cleaning the creek quarterly.

Tim Lewis with the haul away

Wade Hubbard, Dan Meineke, Jaylynn & Terry Perkins
New Chairs!!!!

Have you had the opportunity to try out the new and improved chairs? We think you will be pleased with the change.

A big thank you to the Hill Country Archeological Association for proposing a collaborative purchase of 40 new chairs and a storage rack.

Scientific fact may be hard to produce but we think you’re learning ability will be significantly improved at our education events as a direct result of your new found comfort.

Becky’s:
- Double duty dolly
- External hard drive
- Britta water filter pitcher
- Remote camera for security and to monitor wildlife visits to Riverscape.

Frank Dunlap’s:
- New rain barrels! 200 more gallons we can harvest per barrel
- Continue spiffy up successes and number participating
- Institute “Adopt a Spot”

Riverside Nature Center is looking for volunteers with skills in graphics, web design and programming. Please call or come by the Visitor Center to extend your expertise and help.
Fall views at Riverside Nature Center

Karla Trefny, Hill Country Master Naturalist and sign painter extraordinaire, graciously volunteered to revamp our sign. It now welcomes the public with our correct hours of operation. Thank you Karla!!!

Gift Shop Reminder

Landscape photos by Frank Dunlap
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.