I had an interesting conversation the other day with a young working mother. She was very interested in attending our monthly Bird Walks and children’s activities and wanted to know how would she know when they were scheduled. I listed the various ways including the Kerrville Daily Times and our website calendar. “Do you have a Facebook page?” she asked. I confirmed we did. “That’s good. Let me ‘like’ it right now so I’ll see your posts.” She explained she did not have time between work, kids and activities to seek out calendars and ads. She depends upon notifications from social media sites to alert her to upcoming activities.

Today, everyone knows the term “social media.” Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Snapchat, Google+ are commonly recognized. The past couple of decades has witnessed the birth and growth of their use. What started out as a way to connect with your friends has evolved into a global network for the dissemination of shared interests and information.

I read a recent study showing the use of social media across the entire adult online population.

- 58% of adults use Facebook.
- 23% of adults use LinkedIn.
- 22% of adults use Pinterest.
- 21% of adults use Instagram.
- 19% of adults use Twitter

This study reveals that word-of-mouth or should I say word-of-hand promotion will likely find new audiences. It is the expontiality of sharing posts that can benefit Riverside Nature Center in our quest for new members, donors and event participants.

Did you even know we had a Facebook page? You do now. I invite you to ‘Like’ it and to share on your own page RNC’s events and posts.  

https://www.facebook.com/riversidenaturecenter/.

This is just one more way by which you can help support us.

Until next time....

Becky
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 2016 RNC Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H2O Lives!</strong> Come see how water is the one element that connects</td>
<td>February 6th</td>
<td>9 a.m-2:30 pm</td>
<td>Discover new facts in this exhibit, then take a walk on the River Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all life on this planet, hence the subtitle: “Connect the Drops.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>to enjoy the real thing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildlife Tax Valuation Series:</strong> Session 2: February 6th</td>
<td>February 6th</td>
<td>9 am-1 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RNC Brown Bag Lunch &amp; Learn</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, February 9th</td>
<td>11:30 am – 12:45 pm</td>
<td>Guest speaker Bill Lindemann “The Guadalupe River: Is this Old Man River Still Rolling Along?” Origin, history, original uses, development, evolvement and impact regarding our river. See Page 3 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count</strong></td>
<td>February 12 – 15, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>See <a href="http://www.birdcount.org">www.birdcount.org</a> for information on how to participate or come by and count on our deck, on the grounds, and on the river trail by the river. How many birds will you find? See Page 7 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Saturday Spiffy Up</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, February 13, 2016</td>
<td>9 am – Noon</td>
<td>Bring your favorite gloves and join us in tending the grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern National Parks</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, February 17, 2016</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>You are invited to a special presentation of the Northern National Parks featuring Yellowstone &amp; Grand Teton National Parks tour. Book and save with this offer and Riverside Nature Center benefits, also. See Page 7 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Riverside Guide Training</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, February 18, 2016</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Join Susan Sander, RNC founder, for her interpretation of “how to tour the RNC grounds.” Anyone interested in future volunteer involvement is invited to attend this Riverside Guide Training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RNC Bird Walk &amp; Talk</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, February 20, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:30 am</td>
<td>Meet at the Riverside Nature Center to “bird” with Richard Redmond. All birders, any age. See Page 7 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hill Country Educator’s Open House</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, February 23, 2016</td>
<td>4:00 – 6:00 p.m</td>
<td>Designed to give educators a look at the many and diverse resources Riverside Nature Center has to offer. Bring your colleagues and enjoy exploring what we do. See Page 4 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape for Life Series™</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, February 27, 2016; March 5, 2016; March 12, 2016</td>
<td>9 am–2:30 pm</td>
<td>Presented by Riverside Nature Center and Hill Country Master Gardeners, and sponsored by Plant Haus 2 and Office Depot. A nationally trademarked course showing sustainable landscapes and how to tailor use of soil and water, plant selection, materials and landscape design. Register by Feb. 20th. $90 RNC Member $110 Non-member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAVE THE DATES:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RNC Brown Bag Lunch &amp; Learn</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, March 8, 2016</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.-12:45p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conversation with Conservationists</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, March 31, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RNC Spring Festival &amp; Plant Sale</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, April 23, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>RNC Members only Pre Sale Friday, April 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BigGive SA</strong></td>
<td>May 3, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RNC hosts First Friday Wineshare</strong></td>
<td>Friday, July 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2nd Annual Run 4 Riverside 5K</strong></td>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These events will occur at the Riverside Nature Center. Watch this space for the time of day, speakers and presenters announcements.
In remembrance and love

RNC member and volunteer, Judy Gausnell gave of her time, talents, and energy in so many areas of Riverside Nature Center. Her willingness to take extra effort in making us look professional, festive and function smoothly will certainly be missed. Judy’s generosity and support of RNC continues through her naming Riverside Nature Center as one of the recipients of memorial contributions in her name.

Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday 9th, 2016
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

$8 RNC Member $10 Nonmember or Free with new member

The Guadalupe River: Is This Old Man River Still Rolling Right Along?

Join Bill Lindemann to investigate one of the larger rivers in the Hill Country, the Guadalupe, which divides into the North and South forks not too far upstream from Kerrville. Before exploring the birdlife found on this beautify waterway, we will delve into its origin, history, original purpose and what has evolved with development along its shores. We will take a look at the impact of the many dams built and their impact on the river’s habitat. Finally, we will enjoy the birds that call the river home throughout the year and how the birds adapted to the manmade changes in recent years. These changes have prevented this Old Man River from rolling right along as written in the old song.

For this presentation, Bill is combining his experience as a geologist, historian, and birder. He was an Exploration Geologist with Exxon for 32 years, past president of Native Plant Society, with many awards. Bill is a current weekly birding columnist for Kerrville Daily Times, and a board member of many local Hill country concerns, one of which is the Historical Foundation.
3rd Saturday Bird Walk & Talk

Our first Bird Walk & Talk was on January 16th. Paul and Deloris Sellin graciously volunteered to lead the group. They quickly assured everyone that you need not be an expert to enjoy a walk along the Guadalupe spotting the many different local avian inhabitants. On this particular day the group identified 18 species from a House sparrow to a Ruby-crowned kinglet. You can see full details at http://ebird.org/ebird/tx/hotspots, under Kerrville – Riverside Nature Center.

This is a free, fun and educational way to spend a Saturday morning. As Paul told his group with a smile, “We have a money back guarantee if you don’t have a good time.”

The next walk will be on Saturday, February 20th from 9:00-10:30. Our leader will be Richard Redmond.

Do you know someone who just moved to the Hill Country and is wanting to put in a garden area? Landscape for Life is a national program that focuses on working with Nature to create a design that is sustainable. Barbara Oates and Susan Sander of RNC along with Patty Zohlen of Hill Country Master Gardeners are combining expertise and resources to offer this workshop. The 3-class series will explore soils and water; plant selection; and materials for a sustainable landscape. Participants will learn how to develop their own design!

The Saturday classes start Feb. 27 (9-2:30). Fee is $90/RNC member; $110/non-member. For more information see our website or email/call RNC office. Registration is required. Classes are sponsored by Plant Haus 2 and Office Depot.

Hill Country Educators’ Open House

On Feb 23 (4-6pm) RNC is inviting HC educators to come and learn more about what RNC has to offer. Since 1990 RNC has been providing programs in schools, outreach with the City Parks department as well as field trips. We have hosted Project Wild training for teachers. We continue to expand our offerings particularly the role of water with our Guadalupe River model, rainfall simulator, groundwater model, and of course Riverscape.

If you are a teacher, join us. If you know a teacher, please pass on the invite. We could also use a couple of extra hands to help meet and greet, walk people around the garden, explain some of our school programs, or do some activities with the teachers’ children in the Nature Lab. Contact Becky for details.
The Native Plant Society of Texas garden facing the pavilion has been slowly taking on a new purpose. Besides showing off an attractive display of native plants, a great group of NPSOT garden tenders have felt strongly that the founder of 33 chapters across Texas with a membership of over 2,000 deserved a tribute.

As most people living in Kerrville know, the founder of the NPSOT, Carroll Abbott, lived the last years of his life in a home he purchased across the river from the Riverside Nature Center. A few of our senior members knew him and respected his vast knowledge of native plants. Even though his professional career included law and a journal writer, he became intrigued with native plants. Lady Bird Johnson was a good friend and they flew around the state checking out native plants with a pilot friend who purchased Abbott’s Kerrville home shortly before he died. A plaque honoring Carroll Abbott was placed on a large stone near the river while "Mr. Wildflower" lived in his Kerrville home. The public does not have access to see this honorary plaque since it is on private property. However, the public will have access to this garden and many native plants will be planted that were considered special to him according to his friend, Shannon Smith.

Watch this garden seasonally and you will be assured of seeing an interesting cluster of color of many species. When you like a native plant you want to remember its name. Signage will be up in the weeks ahead to help you identify special natives that you appreciate. Currently there are over 60 different wildflower species in this garden and four beautiful trees.

Photos by Sandra Magee
Nature in Print

*Nature in Print* is a new feature to the RNC newsletter. Here we will feature books, past and present, that we have found interesting, enlightening, educational or just plain fun. Topics may range from land management, bird identification to how to make a passive solar greenhouse.

This month’s pick is “*A Naturalist’s Guide to the Texas Hill Country*” by Dr. Mark Gustafson. In this guide, biologist Mark Gustafson introduces residents and visitors to the history, geology, water resources, plants, and animals found in the nineteen counties occupying the eastern part of the Edwards Plateau and characterizing the Hill Country. He profiles three hundred of the most common and unique species from all the major groups of plants and animals: trees, shrubs, wildflowers, cacti, vine, grasses, ferns, fungi, lichens, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates. Color photographs are included for each species along with key characteristics for identification and related natural history information. He closes with a chapter on state parks and natural areas in the region as an invitation to visit and explore the Texas Hill Country. You may find page 329 especially interesting. I’ll leave that up to you to explore.

It is by design that this particular book is our kick off feature. Dr. Gustafson will be the guest speaker at our *Conversation with a Conservationist* on March 31st at 5:30 pm. You will now have plenty of time to purchase a copy of “*A Naturalist’s Guide to the Texas Hill Country*” and bring it with you to be signed by the author. Available for purchase at the RNC Gift Shop.

We would love to include selections from our members in future newsletters. Contact Lydia at rnc.kerrville@gmail.com for details.
Riverside Nature Center Special Travel Presentation

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 3:00 PM
150 Francisco Lemos St S, Kerrville, Texas, 78028

Northern National Parks featuring Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks

September 9 - September 16, 2016
8 Days • 10 Meals - 7 Breakfasts • 3 Dinners

Highlights: Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful, Grand Teton National Park, Park City

*Included in Price: Round Trip Air from San Antonio Intl, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

"Leisure Stays" are tours in which the itineraries are designed to allow for multiple-night stays in two or more cities. This allows you a more leisurely pace and more time to explore the destinations on your own.

Itinerary at a Glance:
Day 1 – 2 Radisson Hotel Salt Lake Downtown, Salt Lake City, Utah
Day 1: Friday, September 9, 2016 Salt Lake City, Utah - Tour Begins
Day 3 – 6 Snow King Resort, Jackson Hole, Wyoming
Day 7 Park City Marriott, Park City

Enjoy a relaxing 4-night stay in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

For more information call
Lydia Jetson
Riverside Nature Center
(830) 257-4837
rnc.kerrville@gmail.com

Detailed information at:
https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/721899#.VqbEEVJF_0k

How many birds will you find?
19th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count
February 12-15, 2016

Join in! Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.

Northern National Parks
September 9 - September 16, 2016
8 Days • 10 Meals - 7 Breakfasts • 3 Dinners

Highlights:
Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful, Grand Teton National Park, Park City

*Included in Price: Round Trip Air from San Antonio Intl, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

"Leisure Stays" are tours in which the itineraries are designed to allow for multiple-night stays in two or more cities. This allows you a more leisurely pace and more time to explore the destinations on your own.

Itinerary at a Glance:
Day 1 – 2 Radisson Hotel Salt Lake Downtown, Salt Lake City, Utah
Day 1: Friday, September 9, 2016 Salt Lake City, Utah - Tour Begins
Day 3 – 6 Snow King Resort, Jackson Hole, Wyoming
Day 7 Park City Marriott, Park City

Enjoy a relaxing 4-night stay in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

For more information call
Lydia Jetson
Riverside Nature Center
(830) 257-4837
rnc.kerrville@gmail.com

Detailed information at:
https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/721899#.VqbEEVJF_0k

RNC Bird Walks & Talks 2016 with Richard Redmond

February 20, 2016 9 - 10:30 a.m.
March 18, 2016 9 - 10:30 a.m.
April 16, 2016 9 – 10:30 a.m.
May 21, 2016 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Inviting all "species of birders" to join in

All Ages ~ Bring a Friend
Novice Birders to Veteran Birders

Richard Redmond
ewigeon64@hughes.net
(830)460-1243
We send a heartfelt “Thank you” to Dr. Rob Carpenter for donating his new nature DVD to Riverside Nature Center. This beautiful display of wildlife and sounds in wildscapes accompanied by soothing music is his newest demonstration of talent in video now playing in the RNC Visitor Center.

Membership Renewals and Donations, January 2016

- Jim and Rita Arket
- Kathleen Boyce
- Bobby Crabb
- Robert Delery, Jr
- Lisa Flanagan
- Judy Gausnell
- Tracy Crawford-Gournay
- Catherine Henry
- Peter & Sandy Lewis
- Sandra Meineke
- Debra Parmley
- Karen Smith
- Mary Thomas
- David & Jean Tritenbach
- Greg Walton
- William & Marion Wilson

You make us smile!

ADOPT-A-SPOT (AAS) PROGRAM BEGINS SOON!

Would you like to volunteer with Riverside Nature Center, yet you are not sure WHAT, WHERE, HOW to dive in? The RNC Adopt-A-Spot Program is being organized and developed to make it easy to view which projects, tasks, areas could use your attention. We are making a map of the inside and outside potential areas, and the B & G Committee will maintain a list showing ways to participate.

Soon you will be able to “Adopt- A-Spot.” Your completed tasks might inspire others to adopt, too.

Which one will you highlight to adopt?

⇒ Riverside Guide Maggie Tatum turned 88! We are so proud of her.

⇐ Hailey Binder, Tally 2nd grader, is an official RNC Junior Naturalist.
Melinda Wasson, Martha Miesch, Sharon Hixson, Shannon Smith, Barbara Stidham, Barbara Marquer. NPSOT members proud of the new Carrol Abbot sign.

Paul Yura, meteorologist at January Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, shows the weather trends.

UGRA’s Tara Bushnoe introducing some Kerr County Leadership class members to the RNC Riverscape.

and Building bird nesting boxes. Morgan Williams instructs.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>RNC BOARD &amp; OFFICERS:</strong></th>
<th><strong>BOARD MEMBERS:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rick Ertel - President</td>
<td>Valeska Danielak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Lewis - Vice President</td>
<td>Frank Dunlap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Ferguson - Past President</td>
<td>Wynn Kilgore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwynn Groggel - Secretary</td>
<td>Barbara Oates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kris Bobbitt - Treasurer</td>
<td>Peggy Thompson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEMBERS JOINING FROM DECEMBER 15 to JANUARY 25**

Karol Ellwanger, Charles & Diane Earhart, Jim & Leslie Morey, Evelyn Kingsbery, Robert & Alexandra Nelson