It’s that time of the year when family and friends come together to share good cheer, laugh about old history, and dream of things to come. You know something…that sounds pretty much like my typical day at Riverside Nature Center.

I am truly grateful to have joined such a wonderful group of people. Members, staff, volunteers and visitors are all so welcoming, warm, and willing. With our shared passions and mutual mission, we are a tight community. We not only look out for one another but are sincerely concerned about the welfare of future generations.

Planting seeds for the future – That is exactly what we are doing, literally and figuratively.

A few of the seeds sown this year were:

- First annual KISD 2nd Grade Field Days
- Renovation of the porch and construction of a patio for low mobility visitors
- 3rd Annual Run for Riverside 5K
- Informative & entertaining exhibits: *What’s in Your Garden? & Hats Off to Nature*
- 4th Annual KISD 4th Grade Field Days
- Spring & Fall Native Plant Sales
- Featured presentations from local and state renowned conservationists
- Brown Bag Lunch & Learns

Can you imagine the beauty and vitality of the garden if every seed sown germinated and grew to maturity? I can and it’s spectacular.

Remember, as a part of the Riverside Nature Center friends and family program, it is our responsibility to leave a legacy. Our legacy will be the self-seeding of that future garden.

Until next time…. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

*Becky*
DECEMBER 2017 Riverside Nature Center Upcoming Events/Programs

Saturday, December 9, 2017, 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 16, 2017, 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. RNC Bird Walk & Talk

Save the Date:
Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop January 6th, 13th, 20th 2018 9 a.m. - 1p.m.
Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, January 9, 2018 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
RNC Spiffy Up, Saturday, January 20, 2018 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 9th
11am - 1pm
Join us for some cookie decorating and a stroll through the arboretum while sipping cider
All ages welcome!

Location:
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER
150 Francisco Lemos St.
Kerrville TX 78028
For more information:
830.257.4837
RNC.kerrville@gmail.com
The Kerrville Chapter of
The Native Plant Society of Texas Is celebrating its 25th Anniversary!

All members - past, present, and future - are invited to join us on
Tuesday, December 12, 1:30 pm
to celebrate
the holidays and our anniversary.

It will be a special occasion with a focus on the people and activities that have made our chapter a valuable asset to the community.

We hope that you will come and enjoy good food and good company while learning about the past 25 years of NPSOT-Kerrville and sharing your ideas for what the chapter will become in the next 25 years!

Riverside Nature Center
Kerrville, Texas

Finger foods, Anniversary Cake, Champagne Toast and Soft Beverages Come Celebrate!

Native Plant Society Kerrville Chapter is Celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a Holiday Party at Riverside Nature Center

The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT-Kerrville) held its first meeting in September, 1992 at Butt-Holdsworth Library and has been going strong ever since. The chapter is holding a 25th anniversary celebration at its holiday party at Riverside Nature Center on Tuesday, December 12 at 1:30 p.m.

During its first 25 years, NPSOT-Kerrville has made many contributions to the community. Chapter members played an important role in the development of Riverside Nature Center as well as the formation of the Hill Country Chapter of Master Naturalists. In the early years, they developed several native plant gardens around town, helped establish annual native plant sales, created a much-used reference manual for landscaping with native plants in the hill country, and held many informative programs and field trips. NPSOT-Kerrville currently has developed and maintains two gardens at RNC – the Carroll Abbott garden between the patio area and the pavilion and a landscape demonstration garden towards the Riverscape near the big Pinyon pine. These are just a few of the activities of the chapter over the years.

At the holiday party and anniversary celebration, longtime members will be present to share memories and information about previous chapter activities, and everyone will be invited to help brainstorm ideas about the coming 25 years. All past, present and future members are welcome to attend. There will be a delicious assortment of finger foods, cake, a champagne toast and assorted soft drinks to help create a fun and interesting environment for the celebration.
The November KISD First Graders Challenge Lab

First Graders learned about Hill Country Wildlife with Susan Sander

Favorite Plants of Kerrville insects with Susan McKinley.

The KISD Challenge Lab First Graders learned about their River Address with Judy Ferguson

Texas Pollinators with Peggy Thompson
We had a lot of help during our **Spiffy Up** and got a lot done! Thank you to all of the volunteers, the Kerrville Junior Service Guild ladies, and Little Grace.

KSG Caitlin Hueber, Caitlin Larson, Allison Buche and Amanda McDonald
RNC Texas Master Naturalists
Richard and Teresa Coleman had a
great time at the annual
Glory Garden Festival.
They shared all kinds of
information about birds,
butterflies, bees and plants
with folks of all ages. Music, hand
crafted games and rides, food and
fellowship were enjoyed by all.
Riverside Nature Center went to Louise Hays Park for Family Fright Night with our boneyard.

Melissa Holt, Susan Sander, and Shasha McCracken

Edna Platte

Larry Altman

Sarah Semple

Thank you Larry Altman, Susan Sander, Edna Platte, Shasha McCracken, Sarah Semple, and Melissa Holt.
When you think of December, not many of us think of wildflowers. We think of busy holidays with family and friends. What you will see this month will not be blooms but the early stages of natives. Marilyn has pictures of these early stages with the promise of blooms to come. If the plant is coming up in a bad location, it is wise to recognize the early stage and either transplant or eradicate.

**Stork’s Bill** (*Erodium texanum*) is a primary example. If you recognize the rough leaf in its infancy, it is easier to dig up before it shows its pretty flower in February.

We all love **Bluebonnets** (*Lupinus texensis [Fabaceae]*) and it is easy to spot the distinctive leaves even when they are tiny. When they have bloomed out and gone to seed, the pod of seeds often bursts sending the seeds flying, so it is hard to be specific about where they will land for next season’s growth. Those beauties can wipe out a walking path, so it's a good idea to dig up the tiny new growth and transplant to a more desirable location. Certainly do not toss it aside like you might do an aggressive and undesirable native. March through May is the typical blooming period for Bluebonnets.
The delicate small lavender flower of Texas vervain (Verbena halei) seems to have a lot going for it. It can be from 6 to 18 inches tall. It likes to bloom in grassy areas from March to June. It's just a guess, but we probably are not treated to its little splash of color because many people are mower crazy.

Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) is a tall white bloomer that can get to a foot in height. You can see these blooms in the butterfly garden at RNC from March to June. See if you can spot the new fern-like growth of the leaves Marilyn provided for you. The mature bloom has a strong, pleasant odor so you should never consider pulling it. Butterflies would protest.

Check out these new growth pictures to see what we have to look forward to in a few months.
Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop
Presented by
Riverside Nature Center

Session 1: Overview and Property Inventory
Saturday, January 6
9AM to 1PM

Session 2: Management Practices and Habitat Assessment
Saturday, January 13
9AM to 2:30PM

Session 3: WTV History and Update on the Law, Application Procedures, and...
Putting It All Together
Saturday, January 20
9AM to 1PM

What You’ll Need At The First Session
- Agricultural tax valuation
- Map of your property

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.

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.

Location
Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville
www.riversidenaturecenter.org
830-257-4837 | RNC.kerrville@gmail.com
The Riverside Nature Center Plant Sale Committee is looking for fresh ideas and fresh faces!

Contact Becky Etzler, RNC Director for more information. director@riversidenaturecenter.org or call (830)257-4837.

RNC DONORS
October 25, 2017 thru November 22
(Does not include renewals)

John and Barbara Quinby

HCMN 2017 CLASS TOUR

Congratulations to the Hill Country Master Naturalists of 2017!

The Hill Country Master Naturalist Class of 2017 toured the Riverside Nature Center. Jim Stanley explained the water catchment system.

Master Naturalists Julie Clay and Susan McKinley escorted them around the arboretum in the pollinator plant section.

NPSOT members Barbara Marquer and Mary Thomas introduced them to the Caroll Abbot Garden and the new native plant beds near the Riverscape.
We were happy to have Brookdale residents bring their Saturday "Walk & Roll" group to go birding and enjoy the Bird Walk & Talk with Paul and Deloris Sellin.
Exhibit time! *Hats off to Nature* exhibit will be up for one more month – if you haven’t taken a look, stop in.

For a change of pace, starting in January we will do a full year exhibit on the Guadalupe River. **A Year of GRACE (Guadalupe River – Arts, Community and Environment)** will allow us to truly showcase and celebrate the most vital element of Kerr County.

The river begins its 280-mile journey to the sea as seeps and springs in western Kerr County. The Guadalupe River is not only the connecting thread of Hunt, Ingram, Kerrville and Center Point that grew up along its banks, it is also a source of water for the city of Kerrville as well as a major economic generator.

Learn where you are in relation to the river. What watershed connects you to the Guadalupe? What makes it unique? Please share your pictures and stories. To help with the exhibit please contact Susan Sander (naturalist@riversidenaturecenter.org). We are in search of photographs of not only the different ecosystems along the river but the contributing creek watersheds, seasonal views and the wildlife that rely on it.
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.