The July newsletter introduced a new membership opportunity, Partners in Nature. This is an opportunity for local businesses to take an active role in protecting what makes our community unique and desirable: its natural resources.

Since July, several local business owners have chosen to invest in the sustainability of Riverside Nature Center. In turn, we wish to support them by promoting our affiliation. Let’s all do our part in giving and living local. You can find a list of our current Partners further on in the newsletter.

I would like to take this time to spotlight a specific Partner. This company was the first to come aboard and chose to support the Nature Center as a Benefactor. We thank you Peter Lewis Architect + Associates.

RNC: “So Mr. Lewis, how has Riverside Nature Center influenced your personal and professional life?”

Peter Lewis: “Riverside Nature Center has been a part of our family’s story since we made Kerrville our home in the spring of 1993. One of my newest friends was Susan Sander who introduced me to RNC when it occupied a couple of older houses on its Lemos Street property. In 1998 I had the privilege of leading a design team in working with Susan and the Board of Directors to update a Campus Master Plan and to create a concept for a proposed Visitor Center. Shortly thereafter, we were engaged for the full-scale design and construction of the Visitor Center and surrounding grounds. A few years later we designed the Nature Study Lab which was the beneficiary of that year’s Charity Ball proceeds.

My two kids grew up here, learning about the plants, animals and bugs of the Texas Hill Country. I cherish a front page photo of them, from the Kerrville Daily Times, fascinated by a host of butterflies sampling nectar from some of the flowering native plants around the patio.

Through the years it has been an honor to serve several terms on the Board of Directors and to work with staff to advance our Mission, providing an unparalleled educational and experiential resource for visitors from all over the planet. Now in our 25th year, we plan for the future. And we wouldn’t be looking forward without the generous support of our individual and family members who have been our life blood, funding day-to-day operations through the years. With the roll-out of Partners in Nature (PIN) we are expanding our membership base to include Hill Country businesses.

You may have discerned that I am passionate about this special, magical place on the Guadalupe River and was eager to become a charter business member of Partners in Nature. If you’re reading this newsletter, I know that you share that passion. If you are a business owner or decision maker within your company I invite you to join me as a Partner in Nature, providing the sustaining support that will take us into the next 25 years! From deep in my heart, in the Heart of the Hills, I thank you!”

Until next time..... Becky
THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER! GO TO:

Schedule of Events
Thank you for participating in the Run for Riverside 5K. This is our fourth year for this event. We anticipate it will be as, if not more, enjoyable as last year’s. We hope you have a great run or walk. Be safe & have fun!

**Friday – September 7**
* 12:00 – 7:00 pm: Race Packet Pick Up & Registration

**Saturday – September 8**
* 7:00 – 7:30 am: Registration & Race Packet Pick Up
* 7:15 – 7:45 am: Pre-Race Yoga (Inside Visitor’s Center Rm. B)
* 8:00 am: 5K Run/Walk
* 9:30 am: Awards Presentation & Raffle (Pavilion)

Enjoy live music by Ric LeMon & the Menagerie Band throughout the morning. Fresh fruit, snacks & water will be available to all registrants.

Parking at Riverside Nature Center is limited. Additional parking is allowed at:
* Barb’s Florist * Mosty’s Garage (not in front of garage doors, please) * Louise Hays Park
* Hill Country Vision Center * Wilson Chiropractic
SEPTEMBER 2018 Riverside Nature Center Upcoming Events/Programs

Friday, September 7, 2018  12:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Run for Riverside 5K Entrants packet pick up

Saturday, September 8, 2018  8:00-10:00 a.m.
Run for Riverside 5K  See page 2 for information

Monday, September 10, 2018  4:00-6:00 p.m.
Texas Waters Specialist Training

Tuesday, September 18, 2018  1:00 p.m.
RNC Ned Talk: “Greenfire”
This month we are meeting at Rio 10 Theater for a showing of Greenfire. Proceeds from $5 entrance fee benefit Riverside Nature Center. See flyer Page 4

Saturday, September 15, 2018  8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
RNC Bird Walk & Talk
Paul & Deloris Sellin lead a bird walk on the Kerrville city trail along the Guadalupe River. Meet in front of Riverside Nature Center. All ages are welcome.

Save the Date
Friday, October 5, 2018
4:30 - 6 p.m.
Members Only Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 6, 2018
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fall Plant Sale & Festival
Green Fire
ALDO LEOPOLD AND A LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME

DATE & TIME:
Tuesday, September 18th @ 1:00

LOCATION:
Rio10 Cinema, 1401 Bandera Hwy

DETAILS:
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER will host a screening of the Emmy Award winning film Green Fire, the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold’s life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today. $5 entrance fee

PRODUCED BY:
www.GreenFireMovie.com
As illustrated in last month’s article, hopefully you will see some purple blooms on your cenizo at home, at the Nature Center, and around town thanks to the recent moisture from the sky.

Our long summer drought cut out some of the usual bloomers for visitors to enjoy, but hopefully when you are reading this you will see a few of the usual sunflowers like these pictures Marilyn shared from year’s past. Enjoy a bit of new this September at our beloved Visitor Center’s grounds.

Something else you will see at RNC that will be a treat for the eye was recently constructed by the Nature Center’s good friend John Quinby and his brother. It is a sweet little house for visitors to stand in and enjoy watching birds, bees, butterflies and other flying beauties of nature.

Watching the construction evolve was fun because John could tease me as I checked the grounds for examples of bloomers to place on the bloomer’s shelf on the back porch of the Visitor’s Center. He must know that I only cut an example of a plant that was plentiful in the garden and only a bloomer that would not be missed. I could tease as well with remarks like, “Are you building an Outhouse?”

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**Common Sunflower** *Helianthus annuus* (Asteraceae)

**Maximillian Sunflower** *Helianthus maximiliani* (Asteraceae)

**Awnless Bush Sunflower** *Simsia calva* (Asteraceae)

Continues on the next page...
Wild Birds Unlimited contributed a solar powered re-circulation water pump that is placed cleverly inside a log of wood to attract flying beauties of nature within sight of the glass window on the bird watcher’s house. They won’t be distracted or disturbed by us watching them and the water pump log is providing a necessity for them......water.

I’ve been told that there are plans to plant some attractive shrubs around the bird house for birds to perch in while folks can quietly sit while feasting their eyes on critters of differing species. There will be some educational materials inside the walls to help with the Identification of species. Obviously this is a project that is in progress.

We have some great things happening every day at RNC. Check it out and bet you will agree. The Nature Center already had a few bird feeders on the grounds but this will be another asset that will allow visitors to watch birds in action near the water feature.

When completed the area will look like this.
There's nothing like a summer-long drought in Texas to make one appreciate shade! But for a tree to grow big enough to make that big leafy umbrella takes time. And the best time to plant trees? Years ago.

That's exactly what took place at Riverside Nature Center in the fall of 1993. Some folks may remember what the property looked like when RNC purchased the old farm site in July of 1992. The first year was spent clearing out the real weeds (thistles, Johnsongrass, ragweed) and non-natives ( ligustrums, Chinaberry, Japanese honeysuckle, and the ever-returning bamboo). Sadly, it also included the removal of a dozen dead live oaks (due to oak wilt).

What was left? An old farm house with a flat yard and some trees: a couple of pecans (two in the front of the Visitor Center and one off the patio), one large mesquite (by the Lawson Store), one large live oak (near the street in the parking area) plus some hackberries and cedar elms around the perimeter.

With the site cleared out, verbenas carpeted the field but it took a wise man to see the potential for something longer lasting; Robert Dewers, a retired dendrologist, suggested we plant trees. I knew wildflowers but not trees. So we put our heads together and wrote a grant. And in the fall of 1993 we received a matching grant from the Texas Forest Service.

Most TFS grants were for street plantings, but we had a greater vision – to plant an arboretum that would showcase the diversity of native trees found in the Hill Country. In essence we wanted to create an “urban forest.” Over the winter of 1993-94, under Bob’s leadership more than 200 volunteers planted the 100 trees that Bob personally selected from local growers for a total of 98 species. During the planting I was repeatedly asked: How fast will they grow? How big will they get?

Now we know. Over time trees become the green giants of our community. Giant bald cypress brought the first settlers to this area fueling the first economy (it is part of our logo). What you see today at RNC is a unique two-acre urban forest, a living-growing gift that increases in value as it shades citizens of Kerrville and its visitors today and into the future while providing food and shelter for wildlife.

2019 will mark the 25th anniversary of planting the RNC trees! Hence, the next exhibit will celebrate trees and the multifaceted roles they play in our lives. Trees are much more than shade. Trees are the living link between soil and sky, and connect us to the rest of the planet in essential ways.

Looking for crafty people to help make props for exhibit.

- faux trees
- skeletonize leaves
- do bark rubbings
- help measure trees
- take pics of bark and ripe berries in season
- gather seed pods, nuts

Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. Warren Buffet
Our longtime member **Elena Brineman** passed away this summer, and her family unveiled a bench presented to Riverside Nature Center in her memory. Her sister Ann Anderson called her mother and sister “The Two Elenas.” Ann began a website page that shows how dynamic and interesting Elena and her mother, (also named Elena, one of our charter members) were. If you would like to see more of Elena, and get to know all of the wonderful accomplishments she experienced the website is:  
**http://www.forevermissed.com/Elena-I-Brineman**  
Everyone agrees that Elena was amazing.

We always enjoyed Elena when she visited us. Her enthusiasm for Riverside Nature Center was expressed wherever she traveled as she wore a RNC T shirt and advocated our mission. We miss her, and thank her family for including us in honoring her memory.

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**“Tree” article continued:**

Discover more about the trees in our community (i.e., do you know how many different species grow in Kerrville?). **Do you know of really big trees in Kerr County? Do you have a favorite tree or story? Are you interested in helping with the development of the exhibit – contact me.** And save the date for the upcoming RNC native plant sale October 6th.

Droughts can be hard on plants but there are a host of species that don’t mind desert conditions (in fact you can kill some species by overwatering). Over fall-winter we will be offering a hands-on tree id class, plus leaf-collecting and bark rubbing family programs. And if you look closely you’ll find that next year’s leaves are starting to form. Just take a closer look.

Stay cool. And hug a tree.

Susan Sander, Naturalist

rainlilyhc@omniglobal.net
Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter & Riverside Nature Center Invite you to...

Native Plant Sale & Festival
Saturday • October 6th
9 am to 2 pm 2018
Free Family Fun

Native Plant Sale
Sale begins at 9:00 am. Come early for the best selection! Our sale is special because of our people; experts will be available to help you select plants that will thrive in your particular landscape conditions. There will be a variety of shrubs, perennials, native trees and more that have been carefully selected from nurseries across Central Texas.

All net proceeds benefit the RNC and TMN-HCC education efforts. SAVE! One day Tax-Free shopping for Plants and Gifts

Fun & Informative Talk
“Stop the Spread, Spread the word, Just Do It!”
11:00 am
Learn what makes a plant INVASIVE and how you can help arrest the spread of these notorious invaders.

Informative Exhibits & Displays
Texas Master Naturalist- Hill Country Chapter  Ask The Plant Expert
Native Plant Society of Texas- Kerrville Chapter
Hill Country Master Gardeners  Glory Community Garden
Riverside Nature Center Association
UGRA- Water Quality & Conservation
Monarch Watch

Free “Grow A Tree” Kit
To the first 50 children under 12 years old.

For Detailed Information: 830-257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org
150 Francisco Lemos Street • Kerrville, Texas 78028
Benefit Riverside Nature Center *and* purchase your Hill Country guide books at our gift shop in the visitor center.

We recommend this trio of books for all new Master Naturalists.

Three faves just restocked:

**Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country,**  
*Marshall Enquist*

**Grasses of the Texas Hill Country,**  
*Brian Loflin & Shirley Loflin*

**Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Texas Hill Country,**  
*Jan Wrede*

Riverside Nature Visitor Center Hours are  
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday thru Saturday
NATURE NIGHTS - 2018

Our resident corn snake Shucks went on his last walk of the summer, and the last two summer Nature Nights were fun for all ages. Thank you to all of the guest presenters for your help in making these programs fun and interesting.

Beekeeper Deb Windham

HCAA archeology dig instructions with Steve Stoutamire

Dig examples

Sifting at the dig

Shucks last walk
Riverside Nature Center Partners in Nature

Tim Crenwelge

BK Independent Production, LLC
Larry and Diana Howard

LA QUINTA REAL RANCH, LLC

PETER LEWIS
ARCHITECT + ASSOCIATES

DAVIDSON • FREEDLE ESPENHOVER & OVERBY, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
**RNC DONORS**  
7/26/18/thru 8/27/18

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<th>Anne Anderson</th>
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<td>Marion Washington</td>
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<td>Melinda Wasson</td>
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**RNC NEW MEMBERS**  
7/26/18/thru 8/27/18

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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.