Dear Members and Friends...by Barbara Oates, Board President

What a wonderful year we have in front of us! As the new President, I am humbled and excited about the possibilities for 2019.

Our community is growing and needs us! As Kerrville and the surrounding areas do grow, there are more and more opportunities to educate folks to become good stewards of all that we enjoy in the Hill Country.

Amongst the treasures are our mighty Guadalupe River and all the creeks and streams, our starry night skies, our diverse bird population and all the wildlife and native plants we enjoy.

We are a small nature center with a big impact. I hope to see this nature center grow in membership and therefore grow as a voice in our community. We are making a difference every day.

Why not come be a part of that growth? In April we will have our spring membership party hosting Dr. Robert Mace of The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. Dr. Mace will be talking about the state of water in Texas. Lunch will be served in the garden. Bring a new member and enjoy the day and festivities. Mark your calendar for April 23 and watch for the invites.

Come enjoy a stroll through the gardens or attend a NEd talk on a subject of interest or join the volunteers this spring as we educate the next generation of conservationists in our school programs.

We have a bright future in front of us and I look forward to the journey with you.

Barbara Oates
President, RNC Board of Directors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 4, 2019</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Texas Waters Specialist Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 8, 2019</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>International Women’s Day Celebration Presentation “A Treatise on Fishing with an Angle” presented by Robert Howells. See flyer page 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 9, 2019</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>RNC Cleanup Day. Please save the date to help us to “Rake, Bag N Roll”. Bring your favorite gloves. Thank you!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 12, 2019</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Kerrville Chapter Native Plant Society meeting Visitors are welcome to the public presentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 14, 2019</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>“Understanding Snakes” with Dave Barker. Flyer on page 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 16, 2019</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>RNC Bird Walk &amp; Talk with Paul &amp; Deloris Sellin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 19, 2019</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>RNC Ned Talk “Birding on a Budget” with Crystal Ledezma.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 22, 2019</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Home on the Range Educators workshop. See flyer page 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 28, 2019</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>BIG GIVE for Riverside Nature Center, Coffee Break at Monroe’s East End Bar &amp; Grill. Donate online 24 hours. Flyer page 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday April 20, 2019</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Riverside Nature Center and Native Plant Society of Kerrville Spring Native Plant Sale. See page 14.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 23, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>RNC Membership Luncheon with key note speaker: Dr. Robert Mace &quot;The State of Water in Texas&quot;</td>
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Celebrate International Women’s Day at the Riverside Nature Center!

“A Treatise On Fishing With An Angle”

A Look at the Enigmatic Dame Juliana Berners, Her Fish, & Her Flies

Presented by Bob Howells

Date: March 8th  Time: 2pm

Dame Juliana Berners is credited by some as the first female author in the English language. Although some still question her existence, others honor her as the source of the earliest work in English on fly fishing, including fly rods, lines, flies and methods as well as the fishes sought by anglers.

Did she really exist and did she write this first-of-its-kind book?

The presentation will discuss the book attributed to Juliana Berners called “A Treatise on Fishing with an Angle”. Also, covered will be elements of the book describing flies, their construction, and recommended seasons of use, as well as the fishes she described. The more-recent women who contributed to fly fishing and fly tying are highlighted as well.

Suggested Donation $5.00
150 Francisco Lemos St, Kerrville, Tx
(830)257-4837
HOME ON THE RANGE
Rangeland Curriculum Workshop for K-5 Educators

March 22, 2019
9am - 4pm
Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville
Sponsored by the Welder Wildlife Foundation

The Home on the Range science workshops provide hands-on, active learning with outdoor activities to help teachers make real world connections to science.

Workshops provide engaging, student-centered activities that meet the needs of all students and require the use of higher order thinking skills.

- Receive the digital Rangelands guide containing 27 lessons that fulfill Texas state curriculum requirements. Science-focused activities include connections to social studies, language arts, math, and technology.
- Sample lessons that use a variety of teaching methods including models, journaling, science investigations, games, Internet and computer lessons, and hands-on inquiry.
- Explore concepts including habitat, adaptations, structures and functions, ecosystem interactions, stewardship and more.
- Earn 6 hours CPE credit.

Register by March 15
RNC.kerrville@gmail.com
(830) 257-4837
Fee: $20.00

What Teachers Say
“This workshop will affect my teaching for years to come.”
“Well done and well organized! Differentiated for different ages & Gifted and Talented. Lots of resources & extensions.”
“I love the Rangelands Educational Guide. I will be using this a lot.”
“The most fun I have had at a workshop in years!”

www.riversidenaturecenter.org
www.welderwildlife.org
Riverside Nature Center Presents

Understanding Snakes

Presentation by Dave Barker

March 14th
11:00am-12:30pm

Are you curious to learn more about snakes? Dave Barker’s presentation is sure to shine a new light on everything you thought you knew & you could ever need to learn about snakes & to help you view things more from a snake’s perspective.

Dave has always been an enthusiastic snake lover, starting at a young age. Today he is an author that has published on a wide variety of topics, as well as running his business, VPI, along with his wife Tracy.

$5.00 Donation
Urban Wildlife Workshop Attendees Free
Team up with Riverside Nature Center on Thursday, March 28th for #BigGive2019

Join us At Monroe’s East End Grill
1700 Water St, Kerrville, TX 78028
from 8:00am-10:00am

Donations may be made anytime on March 28th.
All donations given between 8am-10am will increase our chances to win an extra $1000 in prize money.

Last year we earned an additional $1000
Let’s do it again!

As a special thank you for your donation, Monroe’s East End Grill will salute you with a free coffee!

You can learn more about the Day of Giving and support our campaign at
https://www.thebiggivesa.org/organizations/riverside-nature-center
Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) is a favorite shrub or small tree that is drought tolerant and has a beautiful cluster of bluish-purple blooms. Deer do not touch it. It protects soil from erosion and helps to create a healthy environment. Butterflies and bees love the blooms. However, when the blooms go to red-orange seeds, they can be fatal to animals and humans. The specimen at RNC is in a perfect location to be a hideaway for the tool shed.

Left:

*Sophora secundiflora* faciated (Fabaceae)
Eve’s Necklace (*Styphnolobium affine*) is a lovely name for a yummy and nutritious food for wildlife. Look for the fragrant, pale pink, pea-shaped blossoms hanging in large clusters in March-May. Black leathery seeds sometimes hang on the tree through winter. This tree is often found in open woods, along fence rows, and in thickets. The location for this tree at the nature center doesn’t describe any of these areas but we sure can enjoy its seasonal changes near the street side of RNC. Bees and butterflies find nectar on this tree that can be 18 ft. tall.

Check out bloomers at the Nature Center this month. There may be a surprise every other day. Also check out Susan Sanders article on *March Madness*—entertaining and factual—a great combo.
‘Tis the season: chickadees, titmice, wrens, bluebirds, screech owls, wood ducks are in a mad hunt. The bottom line is they are all looking for places to nest and those sites are cavities. Naturally, that would mean before the advent of humans building bird houses out of logged trees, these species relied on woodpeckers to excavate a cavity-hole in a standing dead tree. When the woodpecker moved out, the others could move in.

RNC is celebrating the 25th anniversary of planting its urban forest of native trees. But there is much more to celebrate – and that includes the occupants of the forest itself: the homesteaders, the visitors, the watchers. Large and small they find their own spot in the garden.

If you really stop to watch a tree over the course of a season, you will notice that a tree is its own mini-neighborhood. Our 25 year-old trees are finally reaching the height that provides the multi-layers of a more mature woodland. And each layer (from canopy to mid-story, understory, ground level down to underground) has its own group of critters that find shelter or food. In the bigger neighborhood of different trees (RNC has 100 species) each leafs out, flowers, produces its fruits/nuts at different times providing a buffet for a greater range of wildlife and for a longer time.

In February, American elms were buzzing with hundreds of bees in the tiny flowers. A couple of weeks ago the first of four Mexican plums came into full bloom at my house and at RNC. Around town Bradford pears and peaches are white clouds. Redbuds are next. Not all bloom at the same time. Species survive because of the outliers who start early or later, a good thing since no two springs start at exactly the same time. Plus weather patterns are in flux again with spring almost 3-4 weeks early for the Hill Country (we’re always about three weeks ahead of San Antonio which is 1,000 feet lower in elevation).

Birds are getting restless finding last food sources to fatten up for their long flight north. Others will be returning from the south. If you’re just getting around to pruning don’t go too short, my thoroughwort is starting to leaf out; last year I had blooms in the spring on the branches I didn’t prune at all. Salvias are starting to flower. And if we’re ahead of the calendar with spring we could see early pollinators that will need that nectar and birds that need the insects ASAP. Coral honeysuckle never stopped blooming for me and it’s a great welcome mat for returning hummingbirds (start watching March 9th).

Help RNC learn the patterns by watching when your native trees and shrubs start blooming/leafing out. For over 30+ years I’ve noted that there’s a 3-4 week window of when such takes place. It’s a great excuse to take time during the day to go wandering outside. As a general rule, most trees are leafing out by St. Patrick’s Day; April brings the major wildflower show. It’s an exciting season. Stop in at RNC to catch the action, and visit at least once a month to see the difference.

Back to woodpeckers: if you have lost trees to drought/disease, consider leaving some standing (at least 8’ tall) and let the woodpeckers create housing for themselves and other birds. Parent birds will pay you back by feeding their babies forest tent caterpillars! Be a good neighbor. Happy spring.
JUMP START NEEDED - The battery of our environmental friendly cordless, electric weed eater has failed. As these batteries are apt to do. The machine was a gift to Riverside Nature Center and has been extremely helpful in trimming around our lawn areas and throughout the property. To go back to using the old fossil fuel driven, carbon monoxide spewing machine gathering dust in our shed, would be counterproductive to the mission we try to uphold.

The 56 volt, lithium ion battery, model number BA1400 for our EGO power string trimmer, available at the Home Depot, retails at $144.19.

We’re asking for help in replacing the battery. Any donation helps. Spring is fast approaching and the grass, and weeds, are growing. Please help us keep them at bay.

Since you may be out shopping for RNC, here is a list of much needed items:

- Circular Saw
- Reciprocating Saw
- Jig Saw
- Brad Nailer or Stapler Combo Kit
- Leaf Blower
- Hand Tools of various kinds
- Iron Rakes
- Flat Shovel
- Sharp Shooter
Riverside Nature Center Presents:
March 2019 NEd Talk

Birding On A Budget
A Presentation by Crystal Ledezma

Have you ever wanted to go birding, but don’t feel like you have the funds? This talk is for you!

Tuesday, March 19th 10:30am - 11:30am

Suggested Donation $5.00

Crystal will share about her experiences birding while traveling in Colombia. Come hear about the amazing birds and wildlife, how she travels on a budget, and why it should be on your bucket list!

Crystal Ledezma is a traveling bird nerd. You can find her wandering near & far, looking for birds. She is a life member of the Texas Ornithological Society and was on the Wings Over The Hills board for 3 years.
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED THIS YEAR.

Bernice Fischer has resided, raised her family, and worked in the Texas Hill Country for the better part of her life.

“Kerrville is unique with a beautiful river that runs through it! My hope as a Board member of RNC is to create a strong and well-bonded partnership with local residents and businesses, reconnecting our long standing heritage roots (and visitors) to the environmental importance of the sustainability of our natural surroundings and habitat.”

“Raised on a dairy farm, I naturally have always had an appreciation for nature. As a child, it was a battle of indoor versus outdoor chores....I would rather wear jeans and get my hands into the soil, telling my father that I would one day marry a chef. Today, the sights, sounds and aromas of nature continue to provide a natural stress relief and contributor to my general well-being. I am still awed by the most simplistic things of nature.”

She continues, “I feel I bring many qualities and skills sets to the Board, but most importantly, I bring a pre-passion for the cause of the Riverside Nature Center. As nature deteriorates unknowingly and innocently at the hands of man, so does our mental health and well-being which is becoming a national crises in itself. Nearly every day we hear how ‘technology’ and ‘economic development’ are of relevance and importance in the survival of our society, but rarely is nature mentioned as being of value in our mental well-being....something so simple.”

Bryan Brown and his family have lived and worked in the Texas Hill Country for fifteen years.

Bryan enjoys the outdoors and ensures that his children grow up in and with nature. He fondly recounts a trip to Monterey Bay, California, where he encountered several species of whales.

He is used to wearing many hats professionally. “In a typical day I have design, management, sales/marketing, and technical support elements.”

As a board member, “I hope to help increase environmental awareness and appreciation in Kerr County.”

More on next page...
Jake Walther grew up in Kerrville and graduated from Tivy in 2004.

“My wife and I met in middle school and were friends through high school and college until we started dating. Our first “official” date was hiking at Lost Maples State Park. A year later I proposed on the same trail we had taken on our first date.”

He attended Texas A&M and has a degree in landscape architecture. He lived in Austin for about five years. “I was dating my wife at the time—she was living in Kerrville and we were tired of doing the long distance thing, so I moved back to Kerrville to start our little family.”

“Owning a landscape construction company, I feel I have more plant & construction knowledge than most. I know where to source plants and material for the best quality and price. I’ve had the privilege of being contracted by RNC to construct the pavestone patio in 2017.”

This is Jake’s first board member experience, and he is interested in learning more about how non-profit organizations operate. “I hope to bring in some more youthful ideas & volunteers that will help increase funding through our events for the Riverside Nature Center.”

Joe Hawkins brings “a great attitude, some good experience” and a willingness “to take on any task” as a RNC Board Member. He is also looking forward to spending some great time in nature.

“My Family and I moved here almost 3 years ago. I love the Guadalupe River, the rugged beauty of this land and the independent spirit of the people here. I love kayaking down the Guadalupe, watching all the different species and having them look curiously back at me.”
Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival
Saturday - April 20, 2019
Demonstrations, Displays, Raffle & Kids' Activities & More
Free Family Fun 9am-2pm
Co-sponsored by
Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter & Riverside Nature Center

NATIVE PLANT SALE (Under Pavilion)
Our volunteers have gathered beautiful plants native to our region and 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 your questions and help you select plants that will thrive in your particular landscape conditions.

SAVE * All plant & gift shop sales that day are tax FREE * SAVE
All net proceeds benefit the RNC and NPSOT education efforts.

Members of RNC and NPSOT can enjoy exclusive preview sale on Friday April 19 from 4:30-6pm.
Non-members can join either or both of these organizations at the pre-sale and start shopping.

INFORMATIVE DISPLAYS (Outside)
Ask the Plant Expert
Hill Country Master Naturalists
Hill Country Master Gardeners
UGRA - Water Quality & Conservation
Pollinator Garden Assistance & Recognition Program
Riverside Nature Center Association
Native Plant Society of Texas – Kerrville Chapter

Bring your family and friends on earth Day to enjoy the Nature Center and to celebrate spring.
As always, we could not do this without our wonderful volunteers.
If you want to help, please contact the office at 830-257-4837 or send them an email rnc.kerrville@gmail.com
### RNC Donors
1/29/19 thru 2/25/19

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jack Millikan</th>
<th>Harriet Redwine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Howells</td>
<td>Barbara Oates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; Meg Johnson</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Wes Dorman</td>
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### Partners in Nature

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BK Independent Production, LLC</th>
<th>Century 21 The Hills Realty</th>
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<tr>
<td>La Quinta Real Ranch, LLC</td>
<td>Crenwelge Motors</td>
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<tr>
<td>PETER LEWIS, Architect &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Davidson, Freedle, Espenhover &amp; Overby, PC</td>
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<td>Ken Stoepel Ford</td>
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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 advance the stewardship of our environment. 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.