Dear Members and Friends...by Becky Etzler, Executive Director

Have you paid a visit to the nature center in the past few weeks? If not, it definitely should be a “must do” on your list. Each day brings forth something new to discover, whether it’s feathered, furred, scaled, winged, leafed, or petaled. It truly is an amazing time of year. It is incredible what a bit of soil, sun, and water can produce.

That makes it sound too simplistic. Of course there are numerous factors and elements involved, each playing a vital role. I am not going to expound the intricacies of ecology. What I do want to talk about is the human forces involved.

It takes a lot of work from many people in order to keep things looking “natural”. The splendidness of the meadow, pollinator garden, Carroll Abbott garden, bird viewing area, entrance gardens and everything in between are all tremendous tributes to the thousands of hours of planning, plotting, and planting contributed by dedicated volunteers over the years.

Sweat equity is not the only thing contributed. Financial support is essential as well. Riverside Nature Center is fortunate to have a cadre of dedicated donors who share in our mission. Their support is an investment in the future of our community’s environmental health and well-being.

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) is one such supporter. UGRA understands the need to engage our local youth in the discovery and importance of our natural habitat. It is by way of their funding that our 2

nd grade science days have expanded to include students throughout the county. Three days in May will be dedicated to teaching these young people the value of the natural world.

Our recent Water & Wildflowers luncheon was made possible through generous sponsorships from Hill Country Telecommunications and Community 1st National Bank. These businesses have chosen to express their commitment to our environment by supporting the nature center and our efforts.

The lion’s share of our financial support is provided by loyal and steadfast individuals. It is our members and donors who keep our doors open. They are the framework from which we grow.

I am thrilled to share with you a wonderful and shining example of incredible philanthropy. One of our long time members is laying down a challenge to the RNC community. They will match dollar for dollar up to $5,000.00. We have until June 15th to obtain or even surpass this goal. We have already received $950. Only $4,050.00 to go!

Won’t you help us rise to the challenge? Whether it is a gift of $5.00 or $500.00, each are significant to our bottom line and greatly appreciated. You may mail in your donation. Call with your credit card information or visit our website: https://riversidenaturecenter.org/about-rnc/donate/. Please be sure to tag your gift with “Spring Match Challenge”.

Like I said in the beginning, each new day brings a new discovery and something for which to be grateful. I am grateful for Riverside Nature Center and for those who make it thrive.

Until next time...
# May 2019 Riverside Nature Center Upcoming Events/Programs

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<td><strong>Tuesday, May 7, 2019</strong></td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, May 9, 2019</strong></td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, May 15, 2019</strong></td>
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<td>UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, May 13, 2019</strong></td>
<td>4:00-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Texas Waters Specialist Training</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, May 13, 2019</strong></td>
<td>5:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Healthy Creeks Initiative Arundo Control Spring Workshop</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 18, 2019</strong></td>
<td>8:00-9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bird Walk &amp; Talk</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, May 21, 2019</strong></td>
<td>10:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>RNC NEd Talk</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, June 5, 2019</strong></td>
<td>1:00-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Collette Tour travels presentation of the 2020 Springtime Tulip River Cruise. Learn how you can support Riverside Nature Center &amp; cruise, too!</td>
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### Coming This Summer

**Thursdays beginning June 6, 2019**

6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Nature Nights.** Watch our website for more information.
Riverside Nature Center Presents May 2019 NEd Talk

Beetlemania Comes to Kerrville!

May 21
10:30 a.m.

Presented by Wayne Seifert

Suggested Donation $5.00

Beetles – small creatures – even tiny sometimes with a huge impact on our lives. Entomologists find and name new ones constantly but little is known of their life cycles.

What is their food source as an adult or as a larvae? What enzymes do they produce that could harm or help us? What threat or good do they hold for agriculture products?

This talk will introduce some of the more common families of beetles and where they live. You will see a variety of body shapes and colors of beetles you never imagined.

Wayne Seifert got his BS and MS from Midwestern State University. He was a curator for the Museum of Natural History in Dallas, Texas for almost 11 years. He went on to teach at Brookhaven College (Farmers Branch, TX) for 23 years, Northwest Vista College (San Antonio) for a year and Schreiner University for 7 years. Wayne has collected click beetles from all over the world for over 15 years and has about 10,000 specimens in his collection. He donated 8,000 specimens of other beetle types to Texas A&M University collections in the past. He is currently retired but giving beetle and insect talks to the Scouts, 4-H youth and youngsters visiting the Bamberger Ranch as part of summer camp and weekend trips.
The Kerrville-Schreiner Park Pollinator (AKA Butterfly) Garden is looking for MORE good volunteers. We Need...

HELP

KSP Pollinator Garden
- One of the oldest HCMN Volunteer Projects
- One of the most visible Volunteer Projects in Kerrville
- Over 10,000 Square Feet of Native Plants
- Home to hundreds of Butterflies (Including Monarchs), Native Bees and other pollinators

Learn or Expand your knowledge of Native Plants, and Landscaping with Native Plants, including seasonal care.

Learn or Expand your knowledge of Native Pollinators.

We NEED an Additional Volunteer Coordinator and a BUNCH more volunteers.

YOU DO NOT need to be a MASTER NATURALIST to PARTICIPATE!

Visit us Thursday Mornings, Starting about 0830, Weather Permitting 2385 Bandera Highway
OR
Text or Email Larry Eskridge, Volunteer Coordinator for information
214.566.6104 el_e@swbell.net
It’s always a treat to see a new bit of color here and there on the Nature Center grounds. Marilyn took some great pictures of **Guajillo (Senegalia berlandieri)** which is a spreading shrub with many stems growing from the base and can be 3-15 ft. tall. The white or cream colored flowers yellow with age and grow in a ball-like cluster 5/8 inches in diameter. They are fragrant stems with no petals and fern-like leaves that can be 4 to 6 inches long.
Pink Mimosa (Mimosa borealis) is another tree-like shrub that can get 6 ft. tall. It grows in dry rough soil and attracts bees, butterflies, and birds which we have plenty of those beauties at the Nature Center. The small leaflets put on a legume pod early in the spring and then a splash of pink when the blossoms appear. Small prickles some call cat claws grow along the branches before the color is fully flowered with fragrant blossoms. Lucky you if you have one in your landscape. Check out what you see this month on the grounds of the Nature Center.
Riverside Nature Center & UGRA present:
EduScape Talk & Tour

The UGRA EduScape is an award winning demonstration garden that contains numerous examples of water conservation & stormwater detention practices that you can incorporate into your own landscaping. The EduScape Talk & Tour will feature presentations by leading experts, followed by a tour of the EduScape.

May 23rd * 1 pm * Pam Umstead
As a member of the Master Gardeners program & a member of the EduScape design team, Pam will teach on pervious hardscapes & the benefits of xeriscaping.

June 25th * 10am * Znobia Wooten
Using her knowledge from Native American Seed, Znobia’s talk on native plants & wildflowers will help you to choose the perfect flowers for your landscape.

August 15th * 10am * Dr. Chrissie Segars
As a turf grass specialist, Dr. Segars will talk about the benefits of using turf grass in your landscape & different ways they can help the environment.

September 4th * 10am * Pete Van Dyck
Would you like to know more about permaculture or contours & swales? Pete will explain what these are & how to utilize them in your landscape.

All Talks & Tours will be held in the UGRA classroom
125 Lehmann Dr.

RSVP to:
Riverside Nature Center
(830)257-4837
rmc.kerrville@gmail.com
Spaces are limited
Our Board Directors Malcom Matthews, Liz Ross and Peggy Thompson have been busy as board members for some time now. We feature them this month and are grateful for their leadership.

“As a kid, I would go tent camping in the summers in the Rockies and became forever hooked to the outdoors.”

Malcolm Matthews has been working with our marketing, particularly through the Partners in Nature initiative. Malcolm is interested in helping us to be on solid ground both financially and operationally. He hopes to be able to help the leadership team advance Riverside Nature Center to be recognized as the community outlet for natural resource education.

“I have lived in the Hill Country for 10 years now, and I was drawn by its natural beauty and lack of urbanization sprawl throughout. I have been in parks/natural area/tourist facility management for 40 years, and I am a licensed landscape architect. On top of that I am a public meetings pundit (albeit burned-out) as a governmental liaison.

Liz Ross is currently our NEd Talk Coordinator, and Race Director of Run 4 Riverside 5 K.

Liz and husband Michael moved to Kerrville from Austin seven years ago to transition from work to retirement. “When I learned of the Master Naturalist Program I was thrilled that I could become more involved with nature though volunteering, so I chose the Nature Center to concentrate my time. The Nature Center painstakingly preserves and educates the community about the ecology of the beautiful Hill Country, its trees and plants, preserving them in one accessible location. As a board member I hope to educate as many people as possible to know this special jewel of conservation that we have and all who made it what it is today.

Peggy Thompson describes herself: “I am a teacher- always have been. And I connect with children. I have tried to use those skills to enhance what we do at Riverside Nature Center. My goal, as a board member, is to continue our mission to educate young and old alike to be better stewards of our amazing world.” She founded our 4th grade Field Days at Riverside Nature Center.

She and husband Buck moved here in 1980. “We’d never been here but had been told it was the prettiest place in Texas. After almost 40 years, seems we agree! Growing up in West Texas, I always longed to live among more trees. Years later, we landed in Florida and I thought I would suffocate because I couldn’t find the sky. When we had the chance to come to Kerrville to work for KISD, we were so excited.”

“As a child, my favorite place was outside. Even now, when I go out of a building and feel the fresh air on my face, something changes inside me! I have been fortunate to experience so many moments in nature. I’ve stood on top of the world and at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. I’ve hugged the magnificent Sequoias and grown the most delicate flower from seed. All of these experiences show me how blessed I am to live in this world.”
Healthy Creeks Initiative

Arundo Control
Spring Workshop!

Since 2016, the Healthy Creeks Initiative has been working with landowners to control non-native, invasive Arundo plants (Giant Cane) at no cost to landowners. Our goal is to restore diverse, healthy plant communities along the upper Pedernales, Blanco, Guadalupe, and Medina rivers and associated upstream creeks, in order to reduce erosion and flooding, stabilize creek banks, and provide fish and wildlife habitat.

If you live along a creek or river, we hope you will join us. We’ll talk about things you can do to keep our creeks healthy, provide program updates, celebrate successes, and answer questions.

Already a landowner partner? Bring a neighbor!

Kerrville - Mon., May 13, 5:30-7:30 pm
Upper Guadalupe River Authority, 125 Lehmann Dr.
Food and drinks will be provided.
Please RSVP to healthycreeks@tpwd.texas.gov or 512-389-8750

UGRA Volunteer Summer Study Program

Assist UGRA by collecting weekly water samples from the Guadalupe River or its tributaries in Kerr County for E. coli bacteria testing. The program not only encourages the participation of local citizens in water quality testing, but the information collected by the volunteers helps identify areas in need of further investigation. Program begins June 3, 2019 and runs through August 30, 2019.

Contact Tara Bushnoe at UGRA for more information or to register (tbushnoe@ugra.org).
Thank you for making our plant sale a huge success!

Congratulations to Bernard Warren who was the winner of our raffle prize at the Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival.
April Happenings @ RNC

The Honor Society from Our Lady of the Hills High School raised money to donate to Riverside Nature Center by hosting “free dress days” at their school, and volunteered making seed packets for us.

Honor Society Officers Caeden Moody & Beverly McCullough present Becky Etzler with a check donation for RNC.

Sponsored by Mary Beth Bauer, the club also includes Mason Sirianni, Mac Moody, Andrew Houdeshell, Ben Ramero, Miles Fluit, Jordan Franklin, Ileana Scoccia, & Mikayla Grocki.

Our April 20th Bird Walk & Talk had 25 participants! If you’re interested in being part of the Bird Walk and Talks make sure to check our calendar.

Ambleside K4 students discover the benefits of earth worms and composting.
Set sail with Springtime Tulip River Cruise!

featuring Dutch and Belgian Waterways
Join us at Riverside Nature Center
June 5, 2019 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.
For a presentation on all the excitement you can see on the trip & how you can join in on the fun!

Visit https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/953425 for more information on the tour.

Riverside Nature Center Presents...

Nature Nights Coming Soon!
Thursdays
starting June 6th
from 6-7pm.
Watch our website for more information.

For more information
Call us at
(830)257-4837
or visit us online at riversidenaturecenter.org
Hill Country Butterfly Counts
With all the good rains we’ve had, the wildflower and butterfly population are outstanding. This could be one of the better years to join in on one of our counts.

Below is a calendar of upcoming local counts with the contact person for that count. Each compiler will send you specific information regarding where and when to meet. This is an excellent time to start learning butterflies. With over 175 species in the Hill County, you will have plenty of opportunities to see and learn to identify butterflies. Master Naturalists get volunteer hours for this fun activity (CC-08-B NABA Butterfly Counts).

The Love Creek count is one of the top 2 counts in Texas and ranked in the top 10 in the USA counts at #3. Regardless, all counts have their fun places to explore and always a chance of finding a rare butterfly. The compilers need lots of eyes helping to spot butterflies. So, give it a try and contact a compiler to join in the fun.

Love Creek, June 6  Rebecca Neill (rebecca.neill@TNC.ORG), Tom Collins (towhee@htct.net) (Love Creek Conservancy, Medina Nursery, 16 Ranches)

San Antonio Northwest, June 10 Patty Pasztor(agarita@me.com) or 210-837-0577 (Hardberger and Eisenhower Parks, Friedrich Wilderness, Crownridge Canyon Natural Area)

San Antonio, June 13 Patty Pasztor(agarita@me.com) or 210-837-0577 (Botanical Garden, Mitchell Lake Audubon House)

Boerne, June 18 Brenda & Gary Fest (brendafest@gmail.com) or 830-688-1021 (CNC, Kendall County Parks)

Guadalupe River SP, June 27 Craig Hensley (Craig.Hensley@tpwd.texas.gov)

Kerrville, July 11 Tom Collins (towhee@htct.net) (RNC, Kerr County Parks and Butterfly Gardens)
**RNC DONORS**
2/27/19 thru 3/25/19

| Kathleen Ward                          | Diana & Charles Armbrust               |
| Melvin & Sharon Hixson                | Jaun & Becky Leal                     |
| Carolyn Kahle                          |                                           |
| *(Onsite Pro Can)*                     |                                           |

**RNC New Members**
4/1/19 thru 4/22/19

| Donna Atwood                          | Terry Lashley                          |
| John S. Adams & Linda Dubose          | Glenn Wilson                           |
| Broadway Bank                         | Lucy Burton                            |
| Robin Martin                          | Elizabeth Davis                       |

**Partners in Nature**

| La Quinta Real Ranch, LLC             | Ken Stoepel Ford                      |
| Davidson, Freedle, Espenhover & Overby, PC | Century 21 The Hills Realty        |
| PETER LEWIS, Architect & Associates   | Crenwelge Motors                      |
|                                      | BK Independent Production, LLC        |
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 natural 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.

Support RNC
DONATE NOW!

http://riversidenaturecenter.org/index/about-rnc/donate/general-donation-form/