As environmental leaders you will want to celebrate World Environment Day on June 5th. This year’s theme is #beatairpollution.

Decide what action you will take to help combat air pollution:

- Use public transport or car sharing, cycle or walk
- Switch to a hybrid or electric vehicle and request electric taxis
- Turn off the car engine when stationary
- Compost organic food items and recycle non-organic trash
- Switch to high-efficiency home heating systems and equipment
- Save energy: turn off lights and electronics when not in use
- Choose non-toxic paints and furnishings

Here we are at the mid-way point of 2019. That means summer is knocking at our door. The temperatures will begin to climb and the days will be a bit longer. Take a mental picture of the fabulous wildflowers currently in bloom because with the onset of summer many of our native blooms will begin to turn to seed.

For the uninitiated, a summer visit to the nature center can be a bit of a disappointment. A walk through the arboretum will exhibit an abundance of native grasses various shades of gold and green, wildflowers of all varieties that have gone to seed, and even several naked buckeyes that have shed all their leaves in the heat. This person might wonder “Where’s all the color and lush foliage?” A simple explanation helps clear up any misconceptions: “Riverside Nature Center is not a botanical garden.

The plants here follow their natural rhythms according to the elements nature provides. Summertime in Texas is a time of rest for most native plants. But look close, rest does not mean inactivity. These unassuming plants are providing shelter and food for creatures with two, six and eight legs. The gardens are a thriving and healthy ecosystem. Now the uninitiated has been exposed to the concept of “function over form”. The gardens once considered dull and dry are seen as vibrant and beautiful.

“Scientia potentia est” or knowledge is power. Our mission is to advance the stewardship of our natural environment. To accomplish this, we provide direct and indirect educational opportunities. We are empowering our community members to take a leading role in the preservation and conservation of our natural resources. Join us in our efforts and help combat environmental ignorance.

Until next time…

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

Becky Etzler

June 2019

Riverside Nature Notes
Riverside Nature Center Upcoming Events/Programs

**Monday, June 3, 4pm-5pm**
Texas Waters Specialist Training

**Tuesday, June 5, 1pm-2pm**
Springtime Tulip River Cruise Special Travel Presentation.

Get ready to set sail April 21-29, 2020. This cruise features Dutch & Belgian Waterways during the tulip bloom season. Collette Gateway Experience presenter Mike Sprute will also show us how to book our trip and raise money for Riverside Nature Center. Bring other interested folks with you to see the possibilities.

**Thursday, June 6, 6pm-7pm**
RNC Nature Night
“Life Underwater” with Robert Howells

Explore the aquatic life in fresh waters. Come and see what is going on in our river! All ages are welcome. Donations are appreciated.

**Saturday, June 8, 9am-1pm**
National Get Outdoors Day at Louise Hayes Park

Join Riverside Nature Center at this annual event.

**Thursday, June 13, 6pm-7pm**
RNC Nature Night
“Let’s Make Seed Balls” with Znobia Wooten.

Learn why & how to create seed balls. All ages are welcome.

**Saturday, June 15, 8am-9:30am**
RNC Bird Walk & Talk

Meet Paul & Deloris Sellin in front of our visitor center to join in a birding adventure along the Guadalupe River trail. All ages are invited.

**Tuesday, June 18, 10:30am-11:30am**
NEd Talk

“Why should I keep bees?” presented by Elaine McMurray with Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association

**Thursday, June 20, 6pm-7pm**
RNC Nature Night
“Life Underground”

Morgan Williams leads us in an exploration of the activity “down under”.

**Saturday, June 22, 8am-12pm**
Trail Clean Up

“Trimmin’, pickin’, & totin’!” Join us for summer fun cleaning up our nature trail.

**Tuesday, June 25, 10am-12pm**
UGRA Eduscape Talk & Tour

Join Znobia Wooten of Native American Seed in a discussion on the use of native plants in your water conservation plan. In the UGRA classroom at 125 Lehman Drive.

**Thursday, June 27, 6pm-7pm**
RNC Nature Night
“Wings of Life” Disney Film

For all ages. Enjoy a brief presentation about pollination before this film.
Greetings!

If you were asked to list the top 5 environmental concerns of today, you probably would include:
1. Biodiversity
2. Water
3. Deforestation
4. Pollution
5. Climate Change
But would you include Nature Disconnect? If you didn’t, you certainly should.

Even though humans derive many benefits from nature, our modern lifestyles have created a disconnect from the natural environment wherein we spend significantly more time indoors. Some researchers estimate that humans spend up to 90% of their lives indoors. This disconnection can have a negative impact on humans because we are missing out on the beneficial effects of nature. As a result, we are less connected to our natural surroundings.

Here at Riverside Nature Center, we take this issue very seriously. Our goal is to be the leader in environmental education and discovery of our natural world. By providing year around adult learning opportunities, we are increasing our community’s awareness and understanding of our natural environment.

We don’t stop there! By engaging and encouraging our community children to explore and interact with their natural surroundings, we are aiding in the development of a strong connection between the two. Riverside Nature Center is ensuring that future generations are armed with the love, respect and understanding necessary to protect and conserve our environment.

Become a champion in the fight against Nature Disconnect and double your support. Your donation today will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $5,000, by a dedicated and generous advocate of Riverside Nature Center.

ACT NOW! We only have until June 15th to reach our goal. Please help us exceed this challenge and put an end to Nature Disconnect.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." - Baba Dioum

Double Your Support
What you may see this month at RNC - June 2019

Written by Martha Miesch          Photos by Marilyn Knight

Think of the RED-WHITE-& BLUES when you visit the Nature Center this month!

We have so many colorful bloomers at this time of year, thanks to timely rains and spread of seeds on the grounds. Marilyn and I decided we could side-step trees this month and instead chose a red, white, and blue patriotic theme that would fit in nicely between May's Memorial Day and July's Independence Day.

Let's begin with red: the **Standing Cypress (Ipomopsis rubra)**. Many love this plant with its tall stalks of red blooms that attract bees and butterflies. The leaves are threadlike on a stalk that can be 2-5 ft. tall with bloom, and they are really tall this year. It grows on sandy, rocky ground so that means good soil is not necessary. Its bloom period is generally May through June so that explains why we are seeing it at RNC now.
The white bloomer we are seeing in profusion on roadsides and in tall, large quantity at Riverside Nature Center is the **White Prickly Poppy (Argemone albiflora)**. It once was considered a noxious weed in spite of its delicate poppy bloom. It can be 3 to 4 ft high in grassy fields and pen areas. The leaves can have prickly leaves but the flower has a yellow stamens. We have been seeing it from March through May and beyond.

Now, **Mealy Blue Sage (Salvia farinacea)** is quite prolific at the center. It can grow 1-3 ft. tall in dry soils. The leaves can be up to 3 inches long. The flowers can vary from pale lavender to violet blue. April and May are the top blooming periods.

Enjoy this display of **red, white & blue** at the center while it’s here!
Set sail with Springtime Tulip River Cruise!

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

Join Riverside Nature Center at Louise Hays Park for National Get Outdoors Day!

This family friendly event will feature different activities from various organizations around town all geared toward getting people outside and to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun.

Saturday
June 8th
9am-1pm

Join Becky & Tara for a 10:00 Nature Walk along the River Trail!
Riverside Nature Center Presents

Nature Nights

Thursdays 6:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

June 6: Life Underwater
June 13: Let’s Make Seed Balls
June 20: Life Underground
June 27: “Wings Of Life” Disney Film
July 11: Backyard Birds
July 18: Wildlife Forensics
July 25: Wild Nights
August 1: Trash To Treasure
August 8: It’s A Bug’s Life
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.

April 15th * 1pm * Billy Kniffen
Join us to discuss how “Every Raindrop Counts.” Billy will also cover rainwater catchments & rain gardens, & how they can be used.

May 23rd * 1pm * 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 8th * 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
mc.kerrville@gmail.com
Spaces are limited
Riverside Nature Center &
Texas Parks & Wildlife
were invited to participate with
the Hunt School Science Day event.

Riverside Guides Larry Altman and Richard Coleman brought along an
Enviroscape watershed model.
They presented hands-on demonstration about water quality, point
and non-point sources of pollution.
They had a great time and look forward to giving more presentations.
We love being invited to participate!

UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days @
Riverside Nature Center

For the first time, non-KISD 2nd graders were invited to spend a morning at the
nature center. Students from Hunt ES, Ingram ES, Centerpoint ES,
Foundation Academy and the Hill Country Homeschool Association experienced
hands on activities which explored several environmental topics.

The learning stations were:
River of Life, Adaptations, Decomposers and Life Cycles

Over 40 volunteers made it fun, and we thank you for the help.
We think UGRA & Riverside Nature Center make a great team, and look
forward to more programs.
Keep posted to see what’s next.
Beekeeping is a journey that will enrich your life and open your eyes to things you may have overlooked or have yet to discover. The presentation will go over the different subjects of beekeeping from biology, local flora, issues honey bees face today & the role of their influence that impact humanity today, to hive equipment/tools costs & land special valuation should you decide to take the fruitful endeavor of beekeeping.

Tuesday, June 18
10:30am-11:30am

Elaine established The Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association in 2016 to help other people in their beekeeping adventures. The organization is also a member of The Texas Beekeepers Association who’s goal is to preserve the master pollinator, the honey bee, & offer education, networking & modern methods of beekeeping.

She is currently a certified Apprentice in the Texas Master Beekeeping Program.
Volunteers will mobilize throughout the Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County to remove trash from in and around our waterways. Trash will be collected at Flat Rock Park and wrap up activities will follow including free refreshments and awards for the most unusual item and the biggest item.

Prizes will be raffled off and the first 300 volunteers will receive a free River Clean Up 2019 t-shirt.

There will also be an ecological fair with exhibits and demonstrations.

Volunteers are encouraged to pre-register.

Visit http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up for more information or contact Tara Bushnoe at UGRA tbushnoe@ugra.org.

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Our May Bird Walk & Talk was another great success!

Our Bird Walk & Talk, led by Paul & Deloris Sellin, takes you on a leisurely stroll along the River Trail in search of all different types of birds. Bird enthusiasts of all ages and experience are welcome and encouraged to join.

The next walk will be June 15th from 8am-9:30am.

Meet in front of the visitors center.
**RNC Donors**

04/23/19 thru 05/22/19

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Daniel McCamman</td>
<td>Moss Motors</td>
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<td>Carol Knutson</td>
<td>Janet Robinson</td>
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<td>Antoinette Hamilton</td>
<td>Mari Glamser-Samuel</td>
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<td>Barbara Lowenthal</td>
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<td>Bryan Brown</td>
<td>Donna Schloss</td>
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<td>Lisa Murphy</td>
<td>James &amp; Lula Potter Jr</td>
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<td>Julie Sentell</td>
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<td>Harriet Redwine</td>
<td>Jim Stanley</td>
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<td>Rick &amp; Kay Harter</td>
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**RNC New Members**

04/23/19 thru 05/22/19

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<td>Patty &amp; Joel Scrafford</td>
<td>Robin Martin</td>
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<td>Linda &amp; John Fiore</td>
<td>Terry Lashley</td>
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<td>Celeste Hamman</td>
<td>Glen Wilson</td>
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<td>Joe Hawkins</td>
<td>Lucy Burton</td>
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<td>Donna Atwood</td>
<td>Elizabeth David</td>
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<td>Linda Dubose</td>
<td>Lillian &amp; Jim Skogsberg</td>
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<td>Bob Waller</td>
<td>Mari Glamser-Samuel</td>
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**Partners In Nature**

- Davidson, Freedle, Espenhover & Overby, PC
- Century 21 The Hills Reality
- Peter Lewis, Architect & Associates
- Crenwelge Motors
- Ken Stoepel Ford
- BK Independent Production, LLC
- La Quinta Real Ranch, 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.

We would love it if you will Like us on Facebook (Riverside Nature Center Association) and follow us on Instagram (riversidenaturecenter)

Riverside Nature Center

150 Francisco Lemos St.
Kerrville, Texas 78028
(830)257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org

RNC OFFICERS
Barbara Oates-President
Peter Lewis - Past President
Tara Bushnoe - Vice President
Judy Ferguson - Secretary
Jeff Gelsone - Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS
Bryan Brown
Bernice Fischer
Joe Hawkins
Malcolm Matthews
Liz Ross
Peggy Thompson
Jake Walther