If you are reading this newsletter, it is probably safe to say you have an interest in our natural environment. I would go one step further and say your interest is more than a passing fancy. You make conscious choices that directly or indirectly effect our natural surroundings.

Some of the choices you make are simple. You turn off the faucet while soaping your hands or brushing your teeth. You use rechargeable batteries in your flashlight and TV remotes. You set your thermostat a little higher in summer and a little cooler in winter.

Other choices take a bit more effort. You exclusively use your own shopping bags. You bring your own re-useable “doggy bags” to restaurants for takeout and leftovers. You recycle or repurpose most of your “trash”. You choose eco-friendly products to use in your work place and household.

Then there are the big choices. You choose to switch to renewable sources of energy. You trade in your vehicle for a hybrid or electric car. You install solar panels on your roof. Every raindrop that falls on your property is collected in your catchment system, in your rain garden and by a diverse landscape of native plants and trees.

You understand and embrace a lifestyle that takes the whole of our ecosystem into consideration. You “walk the talk”, as the saying goes. As an advocate for our natural world, it makes sense that you support like-minded organizations. Riverside Nature Center is an excellent outlet through which you can share your passion. Whether your support is through volunteerism or financial, together we can make a difference.

Until next time…
**November 2019 Riverside Nature Center Upcoming Events/Programs**

**Saturday, November 2, 7pm-9pm**  
**An Evening in the Arboretum**

Join us in the RNC Arboretum for an evening of music, small bites, & a wine tasting provided by Turtle Creek Olives & Vines. Tickets are $35 per person & all proceeds go to funding the Riverside Nature Center.  
**See Page 3 for more details.**

**Saturday, November 16, 8am-9:30am**  
**Bird Walk & Talk**

Meet Paul & Deloris Sellin in front of the visitor center to go birding at Flat Rock Park!  
**See Page 3 for more details.**

**Tuesday, November 12, 1pm-3pm**  
**Native Plant Society Public Meeting**


**Tuesday, November 19, 10:30am-11:30am**  
**NEd Talk: Central Texas Spiders**

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, the “spider lady”, will speak on the basics of spiders, how to tell whether they are harmful to humans, & what spiders are common to the Hill Country. Suggested $5 Donation.  
**See Page 3 for more details.**

**Thursday, November 14, 8:30am-12pm**  
**Dark Sky Train the Trainer**

For more information & to register contact:  
Bridget Langdale  
bsl@rabbitt66.com

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**For more information on upcoming events visit:**  
[http://riversidenaturecenter.org/about-rnc/calander/](http://riversidenaturecenter.org/about-rnc/calander/)
**Spiders of Central Texas**

Presented by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

November 19th  
10:30am-11:30am

Suggested $5.00 Donation

**Hate or fear spiders?**
Spend an hour with the Spider Lady, and hopefully you won’t anymore. During this session, you’ll learn the basics of what make spiders tick, how they reproduce, and whether or not they’re harmful to humans. She’ll also educate you about common spiders found around the Hill Country, throw in some informative videos, and answer that burning question: How do you tell a female spider from a male?

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers is a freelance writer, photographer and Texas Master Naturalist. So far, she’s documented 870+ plant and animal species in her Blanco yard and shares what she learns on her blog, “Window on a Texas Wildscape.”

**Bird Walk & Talk**

**November 16**

Paul & Deloris Sellin will be taking the birders on a field trip to Flat Rock Lake (3840 Riverside Dr)
Meet at 8:20am at the Dog Park  
or at 8am in the RNC Parking Lot

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**An Evening in the Arboretum**

November 2nd

7-9pm

Small bites and music.
Wine tasting provided by Turtle Creek Olives & Vines
$35 per person

Please RSVP by October 18th
(830) 257-4837  
or riversidenaturecenter.org
Many people thought of the Nature Center grounds in its earliest stages as an arboretum because it was planted with many trees that have now grown into mature beauties. The Hill Country is on record for eight live oak trees and many of them can be seen at RNC.

Look for the Texas red oak and you will see a pretty acorn on a tall tree called a Quercus buckleyi. You’ll see a large Bur oak behind a bench facing the Demo garden. Bountiful acorns can be seen on the bloomer’s shelf on the porch of the nature center. The distinctively large leaves of the Bur oak set this tree apart from many others. Look for the Yellow Buckeye which is near-by.
Many in the Hill Country suffered from severe drought and died over the years or were
damaged by deer when not protected by fencing. Saplings sometimes survived over time.
Nature is a challenge to observe.

Thoroughwort is a pretty white fall flowering shrub. It can be seen in several locations at
the nature center. A favorite one is just off the back porch. It’s covered with buds currently
that will soon be in full bloom. Bet you will love it too.

*Ungnadia speciosa*
Mexican Buckeye

*Aesculus pavia var. flavescens*
Texas Yellow Buckeye

*Argeratina havanensis*
Thoroughwort

*Chasmanthium latifolium*
Wood Oats
UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days

In October we had the privilege of bringing in the 2nd graders from Nimitz, Starkey, Tom Daniels, and Talley elementary for our annual UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days. The students were led by our wonderful volunteers through various stations where they were taught the different sides of nature. They received a hands-on demonstration of how to compost and what items can be used, they searched for bugs in the garden, enjoyed learning about avian adaptations and life in and along the Guadalupe River.

We enjoy having the opportunity to be able to lead these young minds through the joys of nature, but none of this would be possible without the generous sponsorship of UGRA and the time and knowledge of our amazing volunteers.
Notes From Our Visit To Ingram Elementary School

As well as bringing the students to us for UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days, Volunteer Larry Altman made a visit to Ingram Elementary School with our river model in tow to teach the kids about the importance of taking care of our Guadalupe River. Below is a thank you card that was sent to us from one of the students.

It reads, “Thank you Riverside Nature Center for taking time out of your day to teach us about how to take care of our water. My favorite part was that 2 students pour water and once again thank you for coming to our school!”
Our annual Fall Native Plant Sale was once again a huge success. Thanks to everyone that came out on Friday & Saturday we were able to sell out of the plants we had. The plant sale is a major factor in helping fund the Nature Center so we are able to keep educating the community on the native plants in Kerrville & how to take care of our beautiful Hill Country.

Congratulations to Patty Wynne & her granddaughter Brisha for winning the Fall Plant Sale Raffle!
Upper Guadalupe River Authority

Rainwater Catchment System Cost Assistance Program

Individuals and entities interested in initiating a rainwater catchment system or expanding a current system in Kerr County are eligible. Apply now through 11/30/19 for up to $2,500 towards a new rainwater catchment system.

Visit www.ugra.org for program guidelines and applications.

UGRA is currently accepting applications for the Rainwater Catchment System Cost Assistance Program.

If you are planning to install a rainwater catchment system in Kerr County, apply now through November 30th.

Applications will be evaluated, and the winning entry will receive up to $2,500 towards the cost of a new rainwater catchment system.

Visit www.ugra.org for guidelines and applications or contact UGRA at (830) 896-5445.

UGRA recently increased the maximum amount for their rebate program to $200.

The Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Program is available to anyone with a Kerr County address and will reimburse eligible applicants 50% of their rainwater catchment system equipment expenses up to $200.

This incentive program is open to businesses or individuals in Kerr County and each address is eligible once per calendar year.

Proof of purchase for rainwater catchment system equipment must be dated within the last 12 months. Payment by UGRA is subject to the availability of funds.

For more information, visit www.ugra.org or contact UGRA at (830) 896-5445.
October brought major changes to the bird populations in Kerr and the surrounding counties. Almost all of the species that migrate here to breed, such as Yellow-throated Warblers, Green Herons, and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, moved south or east. The many migrants, such as Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and warblers, have come through and gone to their wintering grounds. The last quarter of the year brings the arrival of our cool and cold weather migrants, which come from the north and west of the U.S. and Canada: Non-resident ducks and geese, Bald Eagles, Northern Flickers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, American Kestrels, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, American Goldfinches, Dark-eyed Juncos, numerous sparrow species, Spotted Towhees, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, warblers (Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped), and Pyrrhuloxia. The Cedar Waxwings won’t be too far behind. You may be lucky enough to host a wintering hummingbird, if you maintain a sugar water feeder.
RNC Donors
09/24/19 thru 10/22/19

Community Foundation Of The Texas Hill Country
Virginia de Wolf & Michael Smith
William & Louise Furbush
Frank & Angela Santagata
Mr. & Mrs. James Potter Jr
Melvin & Sharon Hixson
Jacqui & James Partain
Jim & Cathy Davis
Harriet Redwine
Barbara Oates

Mr. Virgil Justice (First Insurance Agency)
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Belec
David & Cathy Martin
Marion Worthington
Francisco Garcia
Donna Schloss
Bonnie Powers
Gerry Gentry
Nancy Laing
Jim Stanley

RNC New Members
09/24/19 thru 10/22/19

Alice King
Ann Kiecke
Vicki VanPelt
Kevin Wessels
Vanessa Potter

Jennifer Hanson
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Candace Ibbotson
Rockoff Tree Solutions
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Partners In Nature

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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 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.