You have heard me refer to our mission statement many times, but can you recite it? Let me refresh your memory: *Advancing the stewardship of our natural environment.* This is a statement of few words, yet these words are heavy in meaning.

We strive to achieve our mission daily. The gardens and arboretum are not just a pretty place to picnic. They are tools through which lessons are taught about ecosystem services. The rain catchment system and the compost demonstration area are both excellent examples of how to recycle and reuse resources. The indoor exhibits lead visitors to ask questions about environmental issues that they might not otherwise consider. Our knowledgeable volunteers field questions on topics ranging from honey bee rescue to exotic and invasive plant eradication.

The underlying theme to it all is education. With understanding comes appreciation and with appreciation comes connectivity. Once connectedness is achieved, stewardship is the matter-of-course. For this very reason, environmental education is at the heart of our mission.

To best serve our community and our natural environment, Riverside Nature Center is searching for someone to serve as our Environmental Educator. This position will be responsible for both youth and adult educational opportunities. They will be the bridge between ignorance and knowledge. It sounds daunting, but what an exciting opportunity.

If being the catalyst for future environmentalists and good natural resource stewards is your calling, I invite you to read more about the available position and to submit your resume. [https://riversidenaturecenter.org/employment-opportunities/](https://riversidenaturecenter.org/employment-opportunities/)

I look forward to the growth and possibilities an addition to the RNC family will bring.

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

Friday, October 4, 4:30pm-6pm
Members Only Pre-Sale

Be sure to attend and buy the native plants you want to take home with you at our Members only pre-sale and update your annual memberships to benefit the Riverside Nature Center and the Hill Country Master Naturalists.

Saturday, October 19, 8am-9:30am
Bird Walk & Talk

Location TBD. Meet at the RNC parking lot.

Saturday, October 5, 9am-2pm
Fall Native Plant Sale

RNC & the Hill Country Master Naturalists present the annual Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival. There will be plant experts to help you find the best plant for your landscape, informative displays, and a raffle.

Tuesday, October 22, 10:30am-11:30am
NEd Talk

Kevin Hartley, Sierra Club Outings Leader, takes us on a journey to “Another World: Visiting Big Bend & Guadalupe Mountains Parks.” Suggested donation $5.00.

Tuesday, October 29, 1pm-3pm
Native Plant Society Workshop

October 15-18, 8:30am-12pm
UGRA 2nd Grade Science Days

RNC will host the KISD 2nd graders for a half day of environmental education. Sponsoring the Science Days is the Upper Guadalupe River Authority.

Thursday, October 31, 5:30pm
RNC at Fright Night

Come see us at Fright Night in Louise Hays Park!
October 2019 N.E. Talk

Another World: Visiting Big Bend & Guadalupe Mountains Parks
Presented by Kevin Hartley

Tuesday, October 22
10:30am-11:30am
Suggested Donation $5.00

Many of the most scenic areas and best hikes in Texas are in Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks and Big Bend Ranch State Park. Favorite pictures taken on drives and hikes will be presented along with some maps.

Kevin Hartley has BS and MA degrees in physics, is a Sierra Club Outings Leader and a Wilderness First Responder.

Riverside Nature Center &
Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter
invite you to...

Native Plant Sale & Festival
Saturday • October 5th
At Riverside Nature Center

9am to 2pm
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 $1.00 Tax-Free shopping for plants and gifts.

Informative Exhibits & Displays
Pollinator Garden Assistance & Recognition Program
Native Plant Society of Texas- Kerrville Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist- Hill Country Chapter
UGRA Water Quality & Conservation
Riverside Nature Center Association
Hill Country Master Gardeners
Hill Country Youth Ranch
Monarch Joint Venture
Ask The Plant Expert

Raffle
Tickets are $5 each
or 5 for $20

Family Activities
Bean Bag Toss
Arboretum Walk
Popcorn & Drinks

Native Plant Sale Raffle
Saturday • October 5th
At Riverside Nature Center

Two Metal Great Blue Heron Garden Statues
Tickets are $5 each
or 5 for $20
Do not need to be present to win

Stop by the Riverside Nature Center Visitor Center to purchase your tickets

830-257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org
150 Francisco Lemos Street Kerrville, Texas 78028
What you may see this month at RNC - October 2019

Written by Martha Miesch  Photos by Marilyn Knight

Let’s take a closer look at a few members of the Aster family.

The **Tall Goldenrod** (Solidago altissima) grows upright 3 to 6 feet tall. Small yellow flowers are arranged along the upper side of its branches making a feathery, plume shaped appearance. Stems and leaves cover the stalk. This showy perennial is often seen in September and October.
The **Downy Ragged Goldenrod** (*Solidago petiolaris*) perennial rises 3 to 6 feet with bloom time from August through October. Its yellow blooms may even extend to November. Many insects, especially bees will benefit from this extended bloomer.

The **Maximilian Sunflower** (*Helianthus maximiliani*) can grow 1 to 6 ft. tall with very erect stems on dry ground throughout the Hill Country. The lanceolate leaves can be 1-1/2 to 10 inches long definitely making this a showy bloomer. It is a favorite for photographers and painters.
Thank you to everyone that helped make our 5th Annual Run For Riverside 5K a great success!

Congratulations to Jairo Cruces and Paola Gutierrez, our Top Male and Female 5K Runners, as well as everyone else who participated.

We are very thankful for everyone who came out to show support either by running, walking or cheering.

See you all next year!
Thank you to our Sponsors & Volunteers!

None of this would be possible without the help of our sponsors and volunteers. Liz Ross, our race coordinator, put everything together. Trainer Hayley with Camp Gladiator led our runners in a pre-race warm up. Volunteers from IHS & Rotary cheered at the finish line, and Dr. Kat Strus, D.M. (LT COL, USAF, Retired) sang the national anthem before the race. As well as all of the wonderful RNC volunteers that helped at water stations and various areas around the race. Kerrville Junior Service Guild volunteers pitched in with registration & the raffle.

5K Raffle Winners

John Finister was the winner of the James Avery Artisan Jewelery elephant necklace. Emily Crim of Devine, Tx was the winner of the bracelet.
News from one of our partners!

Hill Country Master Gardeners
Present a Public Program

TREE CARE in the Texas Hill Country

Saturday, October 12, 2019
9 am—5 pm

Dr. David N. Appel, Professor, Plant Pathology and Microbiology, ESSM Collaborating Faculty, Texas A&M, and Sheila McBride, Program Specialist, Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory will present the program on:

Tree Benefits - Identification, Selection & Planting
Tree Biology, Nutrition Care & Pruning
Tree Stress Factors and Treatment
Oak Wilt - Identification and Treatment
Offsite Injection Demo

Registration Fee: $35 (includes snacks and box lunch)
Deadline: Friday, October 4, 2019

TMGA 8 CEUs Available

Hill Country Youth Event Center
3785 TX 27 - Kerrville
registration info 830-257-6568
or hillcountrymastergardeners.org

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
Re-covering
By Susan Sander, Naturalist

What a difference a year can make. Last summer the City of Kerrville completed the River Trail to a new trailhead at the Dietert Center. This zone highlights diverse riparian vegetation doing their job.

The aftermath of construction was bare ground. Then on October 16 some rain fell in Kerrville, but it must have been pouring upstream to cause the river to take over the floodplain. When Nature dropped another 3.49 inches of rain on October 26 in Kerrville the river rose and washed over Francisco Lemos Street bridge and covered Tranquility Island.

Bare ground is never a good thing, and really bad during a heavy rain event. A rain drop can hit the soil at 38 mph breaking soil particles apart (i.e. the soil stain on foundations). If rain can't soak in uphill, the water runs off roofs, streets, parking lots, and following the path of least resistance heads to the lowest spot. In Kerr County, all runoff drains to creeks and the Guadalupe River. Kerrville hilltops are 300+ feet above river bed and that elevation drop increases velocity. Floods can scour as well.

Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time between project completion and River Trail dedication on November 30 to landscape the slope to the river, or for Nature to recover it. By spring, Tara Bushnoe, Travis Linscomb from UGRA, and myself decided to put our heads together to lend Nature a hand.

Decent spring rains showed us the path water took to the river as each rain exposed more rocks. Our goal was to slow runoff and to re-cover the bare soil. The contractor had laid out a 10' wide strip of meshed erosion netting along most sections of the sidewalk and seeded with quick-fix grasses. We decided to tackle the bare mid-slope and drainage channel from the parking lot. In an effort to reduce erosion from run-off we laid out jute netting, sowed native grass seed, topped with mulch as well as used cut ragweed on contour as speed bumps, all in an effort to keep things in place until the plants could do their job to anchor soil.

Nature's quick fix are the colonizers (AKA weed) plants. Those seeds were waiting for that right combo of bare soil and full sun. Unfortunately, one of the first to pop up was Malta star-thistle, a very invasive non-native. While not pretty, such weeds grew despite summer drought and heat, and at least covered most of the slope with some green that buffers the soil from the impact of rain drops and moderates soil temps. As the annual weeds die off they will add compost to the bare ground and next year other plants will show up. It just takes time.

My end of September survey includes 90+ plant species growing along this stretch to the river. If you would like to lend a hand or learn more, contact me via the Riverside Nature Center. Fall-winter plans include work days to add more seeds plus clean out some of the over-growth from the slope in front of the condos – which by the way, back in 2006 looked as bare as Dietert! Nature can re-cover!
What's in your Backyard?  
by Katy Kappel

Maybe Roly-Polies (Pill bugs, doodle bugs)

My granddaughter has enjoyed collecting these little guys. They don't mind being picked up and don't bite or pinch. I always thought they were insects. But it turns out that they are CRUSTACEANS, related to crabs and lobsters. They have gills, not lungs and breathe by living in moist, decomposing leaves. They have seven pairs of legs, and can roll up into a ball. Females lay eggs that they carry in a pouch on the underside of their abdomen. Young pill bugs will remain in the pouch for up to two months after hatching. They have an important role in recycling plant material but can be pests in vegetable gardens. Pill bugs are not native to the Americas, and are known as woodlice in Europe.

Other terrestrial crustaceans include the giant coconut crab and several other land crabs.

September Bird Walk & Talk

31 enthusiastic bird watchers, and Buddy the bird dog, joined Paul & Deloris Sellin on the inaugural Bird Walk & Talk field trip to Guadalupe Park. Thank you to everyone who joined their walk. Keep an eye on the RNC facebook page and website for information on where Octobers Bird Walk & Talk will be held.
RNC Donors
08/22/19 thru 09/23/19

Upper Guadalupe River Authority
Turtle Creek Olives & Vines, LLC
Ann Amsbury & James Kessler
Estate of Betty Mallery
Patti & Evan Simmons
Ingram Gardens Club
Wild Birds Unlimited
Samantha Rathke
Harriet Redwine
Barbara Oates
Wicks Studio
Pam Clack

RNC New Members
08/22/19 thru 09/23/19

John & Heather Bolton
Annette Moellering
Debbie Thompson
Carrie Watson
Susan Parker

Partners In Nature
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