



Riverside Nature Notes



Dear Members & Friends by Mary Muse, Executive Director

Can you believe summer is coming to an end already! Soon, we'll be happily welcoming fall's cooler temperatures. While on the topic of seasonal change, we have retired our exhibit, "Wildflowers and Other Natives." I want to say a big thanks to our partners, the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and Native American Seed Company. And, really big thanks go to Ann Witherwax for the many hours of artistic contribution she made to this beautiful display.



We are in the throes of construction with our new exhibit, "Hill Country Wildlife." Warren Ferguson and his assistant, Pete, laid the foundation for a diorama. Kerrville Parks & Recreation provided a tree in a stand that was no small job. Paul Devine created an elevated perch for the mountain lion. Joyce Moore with Texas Parks & Wildlife is providing several mounts and arranging the diorama. And that just gets us started! I predict this exhibit will be loved by kids with the wildlife mounts and the chance for kids to become Wildlife Detectives.

We will celebrate the opening of "Hill Country Wildlife" concurrent with our annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 18. Please mark your calendar for this "two-fer" event. The annual meeting begins at 5p.m., followed by refreshments at 6 and an invitation to the general public to come see the new exhibit. At the annual meeting members will receive an overview of 2014 RNC activities to date, a snapshot of RNC financials to date, and hear about plans that will carry on into 2015. Members will vote on new board members and officers, and some special recognition will be given to some well-deserved folks. I really hope you will join us for this important meeting and fun celebration.

The following evening—Friday, Sept. 19—I encourage you to return to RNC for another special event. Doug Wintch and Anke Summerhill from Salt Lake City will be performing a concert of original music starting at 7 p.m. Early arrivers will meet local author, Donna Gable Hatch, who will be selling and signing copies of her first novel, before the concert and during the break. But before I close this paragraph, I must say a bit more about Doug Wintch. Not only is he one of the most popular songwriters in Utah, but he was also best man for my husband at our wedding. Needless to say, he is a very dear friend, an amazing guitar player (if you like finger-picking gymnasts), and a true gift with words. He hooked me almost 25 years ago with his songs. Here's a verse from "The Roses," that is still one of the best break up songs ever...

*It's true you bought those bushes
But they were very happy in my yard
They were tall, they were red, they were climbing
'til you crammed them in your car.
You rose to the occasion
Got the last dig in there, too.
Kinda funny how, sometimes
Red roses make me blue*

In closing, don't forget our other fall celebration scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 4—the Fall Native Plant Sale and Festival. Come find a great tree to plant as a statement of hope for a wet spring in 2015.

Mary Muse

Autumn 2014 EVENTS at RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER

150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville ∞ 257-4837

www.riversidenaturecenter.org ∞ RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

Open to the public. Reservations/RSVPs are strongly recommended.

Raised Bed, Shaded Gardening ∞

Saturday, Sept. 6, 10-11 a.m.

Get right with autumn gardening the Richard Sechrist way, via the versatility and practicality of planting vegetables and herbs in covered, raised beds. Sechrist is an organic grower and seller with a loyal local following. Admission is \$10 RNC members, \$15 nonmembers.

Brown Bag Lunch & Learn ∞

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

“Drought Impact in Kerr County & How to Improve Our River’s Health” by Tara Bushnoe, UGRA’s Natural Resource Coordinator. Hear about the impact that the persistent drought has had on water resources in Kerr County, with suggestions on how we all can help improve the health of the Guadalupe River. Formerly with the Peace Corps in Paraguay, Bushnoe has 10 years’ experience in the aquatic sciences and holds a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University. Bring a lunch and don’t forget to RSVP. Cost is \$5 RNC members, \$8 nonmembers.



Tara Bushnoe

RNC Association Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 18, 5 p.m.

Executive Director **Mary Muse** to speak on where we are and what our future holds, including the exciting new Riverscape project. Followed by election of new officers. Refreshments will be served. **Members only, please.**

Doug Wintch-Anke Summerhill Concert with Donna Gable Hatch Book-Signing ∞

Friday, Sept. 19, 6:30-9 p.m.

Master songsmith **Doug Wintch** plays delta blues-style guitar with the best. His songs give insight into his clever, wry humor and big heart. **Anke Summerhill’s** songs and voice reflect her beauty. Together they present entertainment you won’t soon forget.



In Concert at Riverside Nature Center Friday, Sept. 19, 7 to 9 p.m.

Arrive at 6:30 to meet **Donna Gable Hatch**, features editor at Kerrville Daily Times, who has penned a finely crafted tale of how God provides a “hello” for every hurt-filled goodbye. A large portion of the proceeds benefit RNC. Concert admission is \$15 RNC members, \$20 nonmembers, with light refreshments.



AUTOGRAPHED Donna Gable Hatch



Autumn 2014 EVENTS continued

**Fall Native Plant Pre-Sale for Members Only ∞
Friday, Oct. 3, 5-6:30 p.m.**

Co-sponsored with Texas Master Naturalists-Hill Country, this pre-sale offers the best selection of carefully selected shrubs, perennials, succulents, native trees and more that thrive in our drought-prone environment. Not a member? Join TMN or RNC at pre-sale and start shopping.



**Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival ∞
Saturday, Oct. 4
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Large variety of carefully selected shrubs, perennials, succulents, and native trees that thrive in our environment, with free expert advice on choice and care. Talks by **Kevin Pillow**, "The Weird Science of Backyard Birds," and **Tara Bushnoe**: "Inside the World of Aquatic Invertebrates." Free, informative family fun includes exhibits and displays by related organizations; Monarch display with larva, butterflies, migration; kids' craft activities and the popular "Nature Walk with Angelo. FREE. Credit cards OK for purchases. Interested in volunteering? Call 257-4837.

**Kim Lohmeyer's 'Creepy Crawlers' ∞
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7-8:30 p.m.**

Just in time for Halloween, it's a menagerie of gross-out bugs by USDA research entomologist Kim Lohmeyer. Add to the fun by dressing as a favorite insect.

Harvest Moon Fundraiser 2014 ∞

Saturday, Nov. 8, time TBA



**RECURRING EVENTS at
Riverside Nature Center**

GROUNDS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE, every Wednesday morning. Volunteers needed to keep the grounds & improvements in working order and looking nice.

FAUNA CENSUS, 1st Fridays, 9 a.m. Walk and count the critters, particularly birds. ALWAYS check for date, time changes.

MEADOW TENDING, every Wednesday, 9-11 a.m. RNC meadow is undergoing a renovation with help of dedicated volunteers. Demonstration garden to be tended.

TOWN CREEK CLEANUP TEAM, quarterly, Saturday a.m. Work with Upper Guadalupe River Authority along Town Creek. Led by Tim Lewis. **Must register at least a week in advance.** RSVP to 257-4837.

Native Plant Society of Texas

<http://www.npsot.org/wp/kerrville>

September 8: Mary Irish - "Who's Afraid of Big Bad Botanical Names-an Introduction to Scientific Plant Names" Currently with San Antonio Botanical Garden, Mary is an authority on plants and a noted author of several books.

Kerrville Chapter



All programs will be held in the classroom at Riverside Nature Center at 5:00 pm (refreshments and socializing at 4:40) unless otherwise noted.



Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival

Saturday – October 4, 2014
Speakers, Displays, Kid's Activities & Free Family Fun - 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Texas Master Naturalists – Hill Country Chapter & RNC

Native Plant Sale

Sale begins at 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. Come **early** for the best selection! Our experts will be available to help you select plants that will thrive in your particular landscape conditions. There will be a variety of carefully selected shrubs, perennials, succulents, native trees and more.

A special pre-sale will be held 5 pm- 6:30 pm Friday October 3rd for RNC and HCMN members only. Non-members can join either or both organizations at the presale and start shopping.

Two Fun & Informative Talks

10 a.m. Speaker: Tara Bushnoe

'Inside the World of Aquatic Invertebrates'*

11:30 a.m. - Speaker, Kevin Pillow

"The Weird Science of Backyard Birds"*

FOR FULL DETAILS, PLEASE GO TO www.riversidenaturecenter.org

Live Monarch Larva, Butterfly & Migration Display 9 am-1 pm

To volunteer, please contact the office.

Riverside Nature Center

830-257-4837

www.riversidenaturecenter.org

Fun, Free Kid's Activities

9:00 to 11:30 am – 12:30 to 2:30

Craft projects in the Nature Lab

8am and 2:30pm Nature Walk with Angelo

Informative Exhibits & Displays

Ask the Plant Expert
Riverside Nature Center Association
Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Native Healing Garden
Wings Over Texas
Texas Public Radio

Native Plant Society of Texas – Kerrville Chapter
Kerr County Cactus and Succulent Society
Hill Country Master Gardeners
UGRA – Water Quality & Conservation
Hill Country Fly Fishers



Thank you, dear supporters!

Every day, Riverside Nature benefits from help in achieving and maintaining its mission. Usually, that help comes from volunteers who choose to spend all or part of a day, giving their time and toil. Supreme in these volunteers are our gift shop managers, our grounds and maintenance crew, our Meadow Maids, the Native Healing Garden group, our Riverside Guides, our special events volunteers, and our board of directors. We would not be able to operate without them. Thank you, each of you, and especially our team/task leaders such as Amy Coward, Ann Laughlin, Andy Pesez, Barbara Lowenthal, Barbara Staggs, Eleanor Baldwin, John Quinby, Laurie Pesez, Melinda Wasson, and Sally Garrett.

Just as we need volunteers, we also require operating and long-term funds. You have come through for us. Thank you very, very much.

We are pleased to report that our 2014 non-event pledge drive has—up to Aug. 22—brought RNC *operating capital in the amount of \$14,690*. Wow! Thank you, thank you, thank you to...

Baxter and Carol Adams	Wes and Marcy Dorman	Howard and Edna Platte
Nancy Banks	Dr. Fane Downs	James Jr. and Lula Potter
Bob and Joyce Barton	Larry and Natalie Fagarason	Dr. Donald and Jane Priour
Samuel and June Begeman	John Fleckenstein	Janet Robinson
James and Marguerite Belec	Henry Foote III	Esthermae Rooke
Art Bell	James Frazar	Frank and Angela Santagata
Joe and Verna Benham	Walden and Carolyn Freeman	Blake and Cheryl Smith
Cherie and Don Bidell	Susanne Graham	Paula Smith
Jim and Kris Bobbitt	Mike and Debbie Graxiola	Clint and Janet Smyers
Jamie and Jennifer Bone	Helen Green	Ron Stoepel of Ken Stoepel Ford
B.B. and Bernice Browning	Neil and Gena Griffin of WNB Asset Management	Charles and Carmen Sullivan
Michael and Karen Burkett	Antoinette Hamilton	Nancy Sullivan
William and Betty Byrd	Mildred Hartman	Tim and Mary Ellen Summerlin
James and Margaret Carey	Robert Howells	Bill and Mary Lee Tennant
Virginia Clark	Laura and William Laing	Buck and Peggy Thompson
G.C. and Joanne Crocker	Linda Mauer	Floyd and Karla Trefny
Bruce and Sharon Curry	H.D. and Martha Maxwell	Paul Urban of The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country
Robert S. "Bob" Dewers	Kent and Janet McKinney	Jim and Melinda Wasson
Ginny de Wolf and Michael Smith	Sue Meek	Chuck and Lisa Williams
Rick and Stephanie Ertel	Pete and Martha Miesch	Bill and Marion Wilson
Charlie Digges of The Guadalupe Companies	John J.B. Miller	William M. Womack
Bill and Betty Dole	Barbara Oates	Walter and Jerri Workman
Thomas and Linda Doll	Gloria Olsen	



Please note our new email address, RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com. This is the address to use when you wish to do such as: RSVP an event, find out about a program, or check for weather cancellations/closings, and so forth.

Thank you in advance for using the new e-address!

Help comes from membership dues, as well. We appreciate all our membership levels, but RNC is especially thankful when you choose to join at the higher levels of membership.



Live Oak members: Brook, Alice; Browning, B. B. and Lois; Davies, Alice; de Wolf, Virginia; Downs, Fane; Dunlap, Frank and Julie; Dunnahoo, Jay and Jodie; Freeman, Walden and Carolyn; Gonzalez, Les and Melinda; Harter, Kay; Hendricker, Sara; Jackson, Henry; Johnson, Richard; Junkin, Sam and Adele; Keen, Jay and Cass; Lewis, Peter and Sandy; Lovett, John and Christa; McCormick, Junior and Barbara; Mckinley, Bob and Pamela; McKinney, Kent and Janet; Muse, Bill and Mary; Muse, Bill and Mary; Perlitz, Lea and Jim; Portwood, Harry and Laura; Redwine, Harriet; Rooke, Esthermae; Sherwood, Mary; Smith, Paula and Ernest; Staggs, David and Barbara; Stone, Bill and Trish; Summerlin, Tim and Mary Ellen; Vittone, Evelyn; Weinstock, Loretta; Wallace, Ed; Williams, Lisa A. and Chuck; Williams, Lyneen and Morgan; and Workman, Walter.



Pecan members: Adema, Coral; Baldwin, Ray and Eleanor; Brineman, Elena L.; Gournay, Tracy; McIntyre, Mac and Carol; Meek, Sue; Miller, John J. B.; Moodhart, Ward; Olsen, Gloria P; Perkison, Bill and Pat; Platte, Howard J. and Edna; Summerlin, Tim and Mary Ellen.



Cypress members: Boyce, Kathleen; Brineman, Elena L.; Clark, Kelly and Jane.



Arboretum members: Laughlin, Jim and Ann; Pesez, Andy and Laurie; Workman, Walter.



Quartz business members: Bone, James and Dr. Jennifer of Hill Country Dental Associates; Buck, Ray of Upper Guadalupe River Authority; Fineske, Katie of Kerrville Junior Service Guild; Graxiola, Mike of The Kerrville Daily Times; Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau; Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville chapter; Stoepel, Ron K. of Ken Stoepel Ford; Wilson, Harold of Comerica/Bank of the Hills.

Since 8/1/2013, donors who have given in-kind and/or substantial monetary donations are: Atkission, Cecil of Cecil Atkission Motors; Bell, Arthur; Bamberger, J. David; Burkett, Mike and Karen; Cowden, Mark of Security State Bank and Trust; Dorman, Wes; Ertel, Stephanie and Richard; Ferguson, Warren and Judy; Foster, Denny of Lemon Tree Cleaners; Gausnell, Judy; Gournay, Tracy; Guadalupe National Bank; Hagen, Larry and Amelie; Hix, Carl and Martha; Hyde, Trevor of Comanche Trace Ranch; Jackson, Henry; Johnson, Roger and Cheryl; Kahn, Sharon; Laing, Pamela; Laing, William; Langford, David; Laughlin, Brad and Aimee; Laughlin, Jim and Ann; Lewis, Peter and Sandy; Lewis, Timothy and Ana; Longacre, Susan; McCulloch, John and Denise; McGinnis, Michael; McIntyre, Mac and Carol; Miesch, Pete and Martha; Millikan, Jack and Karen; Native Plant Society of TX, Kerrville Chapter; Nelson, Pat and Frank; Oates, Barbara; Olsen, Gloria P.; Quinby, John and Barb; Redwine, Harriet; Robinson, Janet; Schloss, Donna; Stone, Bill and Trish; Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.; Tierra Linda Garden Club; Urban, Paul of The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country; Waller, Bob of Broadway National Bank; Werlein, Kit; Williams, Chuck and Lisa A.; Wolfmueller Books; Workman, Walter.



Notes from the Meadow

by Barbara Lowenthal
Meadow Supervisor

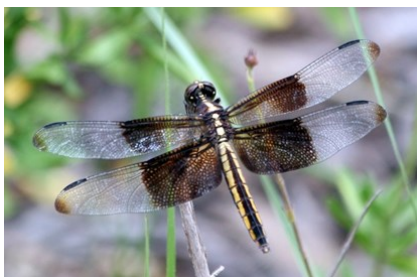


After a spectacular and extended splash of spring colors in the meadow, the meadow has now moved into its “scruffy” phase. While the stalks turn brown and dull and the petals shrivel and drop, the flower heads continue to do their important work of making seeds.



Meadow in July 2014

During this period, an amazing amount of activity is going on. Numerous insects anchor webs and chrysalis on the dried stalks, many fold leaves to house their cocoons. Numerous dragonflies skim the tops of the plants, perching now and then. Lurking in and about the stalks are predators like praying mantis, beetles and wasps.



**Widow's skimmer
(*Libellula luctuosa*, female)**

During early July, I was made aware of so much of this activity while help-

ing out with the day camps. There are no better teachers than 5 to 9 year olds when it comes to teaching the all important lesson of taking a closer look.



**Egg of the gulf fritillary
(*Agraulis vanilla*)**

We were able to find the tiny eggs deposited by butterflies. Some of the children watched as the newly hatched caterpillar turned and ate the egg shell from which it came.



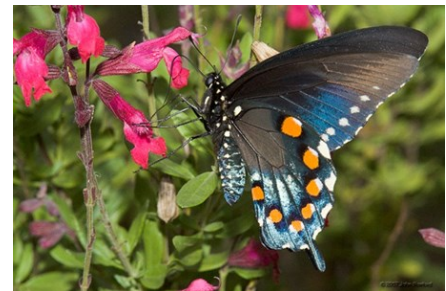
**Chrysalis of the pipevine
swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor*)**

Caterpillars in all 5 instars were viewed by many of the children. On one day, the children watched a pipevine swallowtail caterpillar anchor itself, preparing to go into the pupa stage; the next day another group of children were able to see the chrysalis.



Caterpillar of the pipevine swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor*)

We all were able to watch the best of the pollinators, the native bees, busy at work transferring and collecting pollen. A few of the children were able to tiptoe close to an alligator lizard while it rested on a branch; its camouflage was perfect.



**Pipevine swallowtail butterfly
(*Battus philenor*)**

As the summer comes to an end, new blooms from the fall-blooming flowers will begin to appear and provide the all-important pollen for the pollinators.

We hope you will come for a visit and see the meadow through the eyes of a child.

Photos by Marilyn Knight

RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER

150 Francisco Lemos Street
Kerrville Texas 78028

830-257-4837

We're on the Web
www.riversidenaturecenter.org

Dedicated to appreciation of the Texas Hill Country education, information, and example



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.

We provide highly valued experiences for the community's adults, families, and children in order that they not only come to appreciate the region's natural resources, plants, habitats, and wildlife, but also to become stewards of these resources now and in the future.

VISITORS CENTER & GIFT SHOP

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Weekdays

10 to 3 p.m., Saturdays & 1 to 4 p.m., Sundays

We'd love it
if you will
like us on



Riverside
Nature
Center
Association

RNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS:

Judy Ferguson—President
Rick Ertel—Vice President
Jack Millikan—Past President
Gwynn Groggel—Secretary
Taylor Scogin, CPA—Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS:

Wynn Kilgore
Peter Lewis
Barbara Oates
Peggy Thompson
Lisa Williams

NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN LATE JUNE TO EARLY AUGUST

Genie Voges-Flink, Kent & Janet McKinney, Rod & Pattie Boertje,
John Maxwell, Junior & Barbara McCormick