



Riverside Nature Notes



Dear Members and Friends ... by Mary Muse, Executive Director



What a beautiful spring in the Texas Hill Country! During the month of April I had the opportunity to drive the Willow City Loop twice. The first drive was a small show of budding bluebonnets, and then the second trip they were in their full glory! My husband and I lived on the Willow City Loop in the 1990s when we were touring around the country playing his original songs. When we were home, it was quiet and idyllic except this time of year when the road looked like a parade route.

Many of you know we met right here in Kerrville at the Kerrville Folk Festival, so when we returned to Texas, it really felt like coming home. Recently, the Kerrville Folk Festival Board of Directors received a generous donation earmarked to hire an Executive Director, and they asked me to take the position, which I accepted.

So with this closing message, I want to extend my deepest thanks for all the support, education, patience, and enthusiasm so many of you have given me. Working here has been a great joy and I wish I didn't have to give up this job in order to take the other! I've already asked our President, **Rick Ertel**, to invite me to serve on the board, if not this year then the next.

Riverside Nature Center has so much positive energy, great momentum, and a world of opportunities. I would grieve not be part of it. The board of directors for whom I have worked has been wonderful. I consider my board members friends, and just good people. And, of course, it is the volunteers that are the life of this association. It has truly been an honor to work with each one, and provide leadership to this great place.

My last day here will be May 15, which will be the last of the four KISD 4th grader field trips we have planned for this year. So, between now and then, I'll be working with **Judy Ferguson**, Past President, who has volunteered to facilitate the transition between me and the next Executive Director. The next day, you can find me at Quiet Valley Ranch, nine miles south of town on Highway 16, learning about "Land Rush," the pre-festival day when campers stake their claim on the Kerrville Folk Festival Kampgrounds.

I leave you with this beautiful lyric my husband wrote the first spring we lived in Willow City..

*If you want to see God's hand at work here on earth
Look at the Hill Country spring.
The paintbrush paints portraits of nature's re-birth
The heart hears the mockingbird sing.*

*It's bluebonnet time in Texas, along crystal clear artesian
springs
The roots of the live oak grow deep in my heart
The sky is as big as my dream.
And, you're the lady I found here, it was your voice I heard in
my song
Now we will build a life in these hills, thank God that you
came along.*

*I followed the red-tail hawk's free-floating flight
Where music and magic abound.
Lit by a campfire on a cool clear spring night
I just can't believe what I found.*

*It's bluebonnet time in Texas, along crystal clear artesian
springs
The roots of the live oak grow deep in my heart
The sky is as big as my dream.
And, you're the lady I found here, it was your voice I heard in
my song
Now we will build a new life in these hills, thank God that
you came along.*



May 2015

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RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER

150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville

** RSVP to 257-4837 **

www.riversidenaturecenter.org ∞

RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

Where do you really live?

By Susan Sander, RNC Naturalist

There are many ways to describe where you live – state, county, area code, zip code, precinct, school district - but the most interesting is the watershed in which you reside.

Every day you cross a plethora of political/cultural borders that are imaginary lines on maps, but there's one that is very physical, one that you can see if you look closely for the clues – watershed boundaries. *Watershed* is defined as an area of land that drains to a common low spot, and in the case of Kerr County most of that land drains ultimately to the Guadalupe River (there are parts of Kerr that drain towards the Medina, Frio, Llano as well as the Pedernales). Hence, all hilltops are dividing lines between which way the rainfall will drain as it makes way to a river.

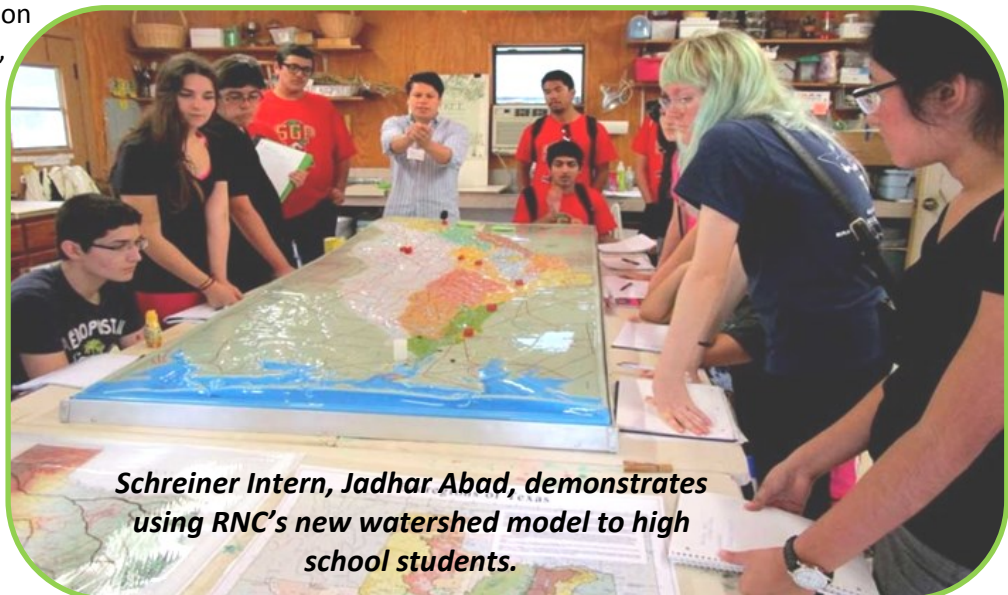
If you drive from Hunt to Kerrville, you start by crossing the confluence of two major sub-watersheds in Kerr County – the North Fork and South Fork that join to form the Guadalupe River just east of Hunt. At the Hill Country Arts Foundation you cross a third tributary, Johnson Creek, another large sub-watershed.

By the time you get to downtown Kerrville you will skirt along or cross the inlets of various creeks (more sub-watersheds): Indian, Bear, Dietert, Goat, Elm, Town; and if you continue east on 27 you will also cross Quinlan, Camp Meeting, Third, and Silver creeks as well.

When the Guadalupe River leaves Kerr County it continues on its journey to the Gulf of Mexico. (Fun fact: its drainage area is about 6,070 square miles!) In Kerr County the river can fall 100 feet per mile due to the topography of our limestone canyons. We don't feel it if we're driving, and too often we don't even see it, as much the river's course is through private property.

Riverside Nature Center wants to help you, members and visitors, gain a better perspective of the Guadalupe River, and to foster understanding of its dynamics as well as its importance. We have a 3-D model of the entire Guadalupe River Basin (from headwaters to the gulf) and with the completion of the **Riverscape**, people will have the opportunity to get a sense of how the river starts (as seeps and springs) as well as how it moves through different terrains (and how that translates into different ecosystems and habitats).

Check our website for upcoming programs as well as updates on the Riverscape. If you would like to help with planting the **Riverscape**, contact me via email naturalist@riversidenaturecenter.org.



Schreiner Intern, Jadhar Abad, demonstrates using RNC's new watershed model to high school students.



Notes from the Meadow

by Barbara Lowenthal
Meadow Supervisor



The Meadow is home not only to these plants but to nearly 200 different species. Please come by often to see the evolution of the Meadow through the growing season

Now that the bluebonnets and giant spiders are fading and moving into their seed phases, you might think that the big wildflower show has come to an end. Here in the Meadow, we are just getting started. I have used pictures of plants, which **Dorothy Mattiza** scanned, to show you some of what is showing now and over the next few weeks.

Matelea biflora --Purple Milkweed Vine



Before **Dorothy Mattiza** sold her **Gunsight Mountain Ranch** near **Bandera**, she decided that she would document every plant species on the ranch. Where possible, she would bring the plant to the house, make a scan, change the setting and get a close-up of the plant. This project took Dorothy over three years to complete. She has generously donated a set of her scans to RNC for our use. Thank you, Dorothy

This little purple milkweed vine creeps along the ground and is often found in grassy patches. It is a larval plant for the milkweed butterflies.

On the following pages you'll see a sample of our Meadow blooms.



SEEDS: "The Fruit of the Matter" Workshop with Susan Longacre

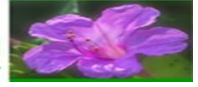
Friday May 1st 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Join the Meadow Tenders and Gleaners to learn about seed gathering, treatment and storage techniques. Donation for non-members is \$8; \$5 for RNC members. Please RSVP.



Notes from the Meadow

by Barbara Lowenthal
Meadow Supervisor



Senna roemeriana --Two Leaved Senna

Two-Leaved Senna
Senna roemeriana



Giliastrum rigidulum --Blue gilia



Blue gilia
Giliastrum rigidulum

Menodora heterophylla --Redbud

Menodora heterophylla



Redbud

Tetrameuris scaposa --Slender-stem Bitterweed

Slender-Stem Bitterweed



Thamnosma texana --Dutchman's breeches



Senna roemeriana --Two Leaved Senna

Two-Leaved Senna
Senna roemeriana



Two-Leaved Senna

Plants like the blue gilia, redbud, slender-stem bitterweed, dutchman's breeches and yellow flax grow from 6-10 inches. To see the striking blooms of the blue gilia you need to find it on a cloudy day or in the late afternoon, when it fully opens.

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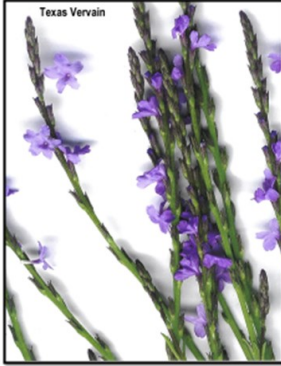
Notes from the Meadow

by Barbara Lowenthal
Meadow Supervisor



Verbena halei --Texas vervain

Linum berlandieri --Yellow Flax



Lindheimeria texana --Texas Star

Gaillardia pulchella --Indian Firewheel



Calylophus berlandieri --Square-bud primrose

Salvia farinacea --Mealy blue sage



Simsia calva --Awnless Bush Sunflower



Square-bud primrose, mealy blue sage and awnless bush sunflower are shrubby, growing from 18 inches to nearly 3 feet. They provide blooms for much of late spring and summer.

The Meadow is home not only to these plants but to nearly 200 different species. Please come by often to see the evolution of the Meadow through the growing season.



Keep the
 Earth clean



Join Frank Dunlap's crew for 2nd Saturday Spiffy Up
 May 9th, 2015. - 8:30 AM. 'til Noon.

Volunteers, bring your gloves, gear and tools.

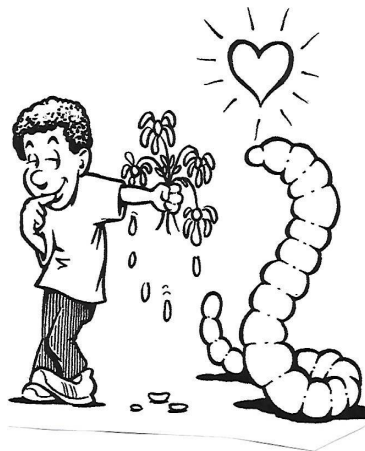


Riverscape!

The back corner is morphing from cactus patch to Riverscape thanks to many hours put in by board member **Wynn Kilgore & Lisa Williams**. Once completed, **Susan Sander** will start on the planting. A plant list has been developed that will tie in riparian plants (so they can be part of the education component). Meanwhile she's been digging up her yard and potting up perennials.

Native bunch grasses are a targeted species (side-oats grama, blue grama, little bluestem, pine muhly) – we have seed but mature plants will give us a jumpstart. We will also need erosion netting to help anchor the slope once the silt fence is removed. If you have plants to share, or want to help dig up RNC's extra eastern grama grass, or get into the digging phase, contact Susan via email:

naturalist@riversidenaturecenter.org



FEED THE WORMS (A message from the decomposers)

Please collect your kitchen scraps for the worms!
 On your next trip to Kerrville bring them to the RNC and place them in the collection buckets in the kitchen. The worms in the worm bin will be most grateful.

WHAT TO SAVE.....apples
 banana peels biscuits
 onion peel celery
 pears corn bread
 pizza crust cucumber
 potatoes potato
 salad

apple peels lettuce
 cabbage oatmeal cake
 pancakes cheese
 pineapple pineapple rind
 egg shells tea leaves
 turnip leaves

Thank you board member **Morgan Williams** and **Marion Worthington** for your leadership in composting.

Native Plant Society of Texas

Join Boerne NPSOT for a field trip to Love Creek Nature Preserve on May 1

NPSOT Kerrville field trip to a ranch near Fredericksburg on May 9

Final NPSOT meeting of this year on May 12, which will feature the NPSOT gardens and other exciting developments at Riverside Nature Center

Please go to www.npsot.org/kerrville to see links and more information.

Kerrville Chapter



Home About Us Meetings and Events NICE! Members Area Hill Country Flora Useful Links Archive Contact Us



Note the address to use when you wish to: 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!

RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

Riverside Guides in Action

The Riverside Nature Center has several guides working at the front desk during the week in the morning and afternoon. They are trained to handle their tasks—before taking their spot with on-the-job training, and ongoing special training sessions.

A Riverside Guide is capable of several tasks. They can rent rooms to outside groups, provide support for scheduled events, walk the grounds with visitors, use the computer at the front desk, play the DVD displays, sign up visitors who wish for more information, sell gift shop merchandise, direct visitors to reference materials, answer phone calls, and offer a sign-in sheet for people who want further information or to volunteer.

Current Guides include **Nancy Alford, Larry Altman, Joy Bradford, Karen Burkett, Judy Ferguson, Kay Harter, Martha Miesch, Diane McMahon, Edna Platte, Liz Ross, Maggie Tatum, Barbara Wagner, and Nina Wagner.**

Additional Guides are needed for Mondays and on weekends. Days other than those frequently open up. We also need Guides who can fill in on an emergency basis when another can't be here, and for special events. *The Riverside Guides are a godsend to the management of the nature center.*

Riverside Guides are RNC's front-line ambassadors, privy to the inside scoop of exhibits and events, as well as whatever is going on in the office. They are (usually) the first person to interact with visitors. The Guides make the center's **FIRST GOOD IMPRESSION.**

If you are interested in becoming a Riverside Guide, please contact Lydia at RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

Melinda Wasson, Riverside Guide Coordinator

Melwas4@gmail.com

[830-285-2246](tel:830-285-2246)



***Don't forget the Hill
Country Rocks Exhibit hours:***

Monday - Friday: 9-4

Saturday: 10-3 Sunday: 1-4

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.

Our mission is to foster greater public awareness and appreciation of the Texas Hill Country's natural resources through education, information, and by example. 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.



RNC BOARD & OFFICERS:

Rick Ertel - President
Peter Lewis - Vice President
Judy Ferguson - Past President
Gwynn Groggel - Secretary
Kris Bobbitt - Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS:

Valeska Danielak
Frank Dunlap
Wynn Kilgore
Barbara Oates
Peggy Thompson
Lisa Williams
Morgan Williams

MEMBERS JOINING FROM MARCH 15 thru APRIL 15, 2015

Arthur Bell, Don & Betty Henderson, Ted Schulenberg, Helen Newell, Jean Lowry, Rebeca Anderson, Janet Soboleski, Judy Perry, Bonnie Powers, Maria Bowser, Ed & Erika Williams