



Riverside Nature Notes

The Riverside
Nature Center

Volume 19
August, 2006

Did You Know? Come Celebrate with Us!

More about S.E.E.D.

Our Some Enchanted Evening Dinner (S.E.E.D.) is going to be a new major fund-raising event for RNC. The evening of October 7 will include dinner, wine tasting, and a silent and live auction. It is critical to RNC's growth.

The focus and purpose of this evening is one thing **ONLY**— FUND RAISING. The goal is to raise between \$30,000 and \$60,000. The planning committee, Board of Directors, and Advisory Board studied lists of those who have been very supportive of our programs in the past, but we're also looking to develop some new interest.

At this time 10% of our budget is spent on Education. The funds raised at SEED will permit a critical expansion of this programming for school aged children as well as for adults. Perhaps we'll even acquire enough funding for an Educational Coordinator who could spearhead our educational program expansion.

It takes money to meet the educational needs of our local communities, and it is hoped that this event will raise the funds needed to increase the general public's awareness of and need for preserving our natural resources—which, of course, is this organization's most essential mission!

After having a conversation recently with a longtime member of RNC, I decided that perhaps many of you don't know how Riverside's Board of Directors are organized. Since time is nearing for the end of our fiscal year, and since we are working on replacing some of our Directors whose terms have ended, this is a good time to share this organizational information.

Riverside has 12 Board of Directors, but this number can vary. There are 5 officers: Wes Dorman, President; Jean Bondy, Vice-president; Mary Ellen Summerlin, Treasurer; Kim Lohmeyer, Secretary; and Jim Laughlin, Past-president. These people also make up our Executive Committee, and they attend 2 board meetings monthly. Our other directors and our committees as they are chaired are: David Vasquez, Annual Events; John Quinby, Buildings & Landscaping; Jennifer Bone, Scott Loveland, & Jim Boman, Education; Paul Avery, Fund Raising/Grants/Partnerships; Jean Bondy, Membership/Volunteers; Mark Tuschak, Promotions/Public Relations; Jim Laughlin, Nominating. These people usually meet 2 times a month too as they attend at least 1 committee meeting and 1 board meeting.

At Riverside's Annual Meeting the new board members are announced and a report of our progress

during the year is made. This year we are planning to celebrate our successes! We are calling it the 05-06 Annual Meeting with Wine & Cheese Celebration! It is to be held on Thursday, Sept. 7th at 5:30 p.m. in our Visitor Center! Please plan to attend! Dr. Jennifer Bone (a director) and I are preparing a PowerPoint Presentation of what we have accomplished, and we're excited to share this wonderful information visually in this most modern of presentation capabilities! Jennifer is quite talented at this, and I think you will enjoy it tremendously. As stated previously, we plan to introduce our new Board of Directors, and then we'll ask for a vote from our attending membership to accept the appointments. Then we will finish off the event by offering everyone a bit of good wine and a taste of delicious cheeses as a part of our celebration! Please plan to come! Help us celebrate our past year's successes, and perhaps learn a little something new about Riverside in the process!



**PLEASE
PLAN TO
JOIN US!!!**



RNC's Volunteer of the Month, Andre Pesez by Barbara Staggs



This month we are spotlighting Andre Pesez. Andy has been involved in Riverside for quite a number of years, but his years before coming to Riverside are very interesting! Andy's educational background is quite varied. He graduated in 1967 from Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa with a degree in History and Political Science. He was also President of the student body that year. Parsons College is now closed, but Andy states it was a college with an interesting history. Andy went on to study Botany and Forestry at New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. Once he began his career, he started it by working for General Electric, and he ended up staying with them for 14 years. He worked in the sales and marketing departments where he developed one of his best talents—his people skills! He says these skills were

developed during this time as he was responsible for managing a diverse work force of 35 women and 3 men.

In 1978, he and his family moved to Texas where he went to work for Ribelin Sales, Inc. in Houston. He became a Product Sales Manager, and remained in that capacity until his retirement in 2000. Like a lot of folks do, he went back to work for Ribelin in 2001 as a consultant, and he continues in this capacity today.

Andy has traveled a great deal overseas and even to Africa with his job, and he has enjoyed seeing the world. His other interests include golfing and fishing. He says fishing is his favorite pastime. He has spent time every year for the past 15 years pursuing that passion in Yellowstone. Being out in nature and enjoying the breathtaking views that lie in the back country of Yellowstone have been magnificent experiences.

Andy and his wife, Laurie, met through Andy's cousin who had become friends with Laurie during summer school. Andy was on a fishing trip with his uncle and planned to continue on to the Jersey shore with his mom. As fate would have it, his cousin and Laurie were also going to the Jersey shore, so Andy recommended

the hotel where he and his mother would be staying. Andy was pleasantly surprised when he arrived and Laurie was there with his cousin! Eventually, they decided to tie the knot and were married in 1969. They have been married now for 37 years. They have two children who currently reside in Austin. Their daughter graduated from Trinity and their son from UT at Austin.

Interestingly, their move to Kerrville was inspired by meeting the Lowenthals through their daughter. In 1995, Andy and Laurie moved to Canyon Springs in Hunt. As much as they loved it there, Andy was still working and commuting to central and south Texas, plus a lot of their daily involvements were in Kerrville, so they moved to a home near the Lowenthals.

Upon moving to the area in 1995, Laurie immediately became involved in RNC. When Andy had some free time, he came to mow the lawn at Riverside, and four months later he was asked to join the Board of Directors! Andy served as a Director from 2000-2005. He served as President of the Board from 2001-2003 and as Past-President from 2003-2005. He is currently on the Building and Grounds Committee. All of his hard work through the years has helped RNC to grow and reach out into the community.

We thank you, Andy, for sharing your time & talents with Riverside! Riverside is certainly the better for your efforts!



Welcome, New Members To RNC!!

A Very Special THANK YOU
for the Gift goes to...

Our July Donators:

Elena Brineman
Robert Larson
Jay Munson

Daughters of the Confederacy
Partners in Ministry
Mrs. Jackie Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Magee
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smith

August 12th RNC Rummage Sale Update:

The RNC Rummage Sale was again quite successful! We collected over \$850 in profit! However, none of this could have been done without the help of the following volunteers:

Wanda & Jim Dobie
(Wanda was our chairperson in charge of pricing, PLUS, she & Jim took some of our items to their son who sold them on Ebay where they sold for MUCH MORE! Thank you, Wanda & Jim & son!!!)

Bruce & Anne May Wenger
Angelo Falzarano
Mary & Jim Boman
Andy & Laurie Pesez
(Andy also came back on Monday to clean up!!!)

Jim & Priscilla Stanley
Mike Gray
Margaret Van Landingham

Richard Thornber & Shirley Mounsey
George Kay
Mary Ellen Summerlin
Ann Laughlin
Maggie Tatum
Jennifer Bone
Jean Bondy

(A special thank you from me goes to Jennifer & Jean who handled things like counting the money & opening/closing the Visitor Center so I could be gone to celebrate my 33rd wedding anniversary)



Finally, we would also like to send a GREAT, BIG THANK YOU to Edith Bettinger!

Edith taught 2 Flower Pressing classes this month, and she donated ALL of the proceeds to RNC! This was no easy task for her, and we appreciate her taking the time and effort to share her wonderful artistic skills with some folks and also support Riverside at the same time!!! You're quite the trooper, Edith!



The Riverside Nature Center

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Office and Store Hours:
9AM– 4PM Monday— Friday;
10AM-3PM Saturday and Sunday
TREE TRAIL open daily DAWN to DUSK
FREE ADMISSION !!!

RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER'S MISSION IS
TO FOSTER GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS
AND APPRECIATION OF THE HILL
COUNTRY'S NATURAL RESOURCES
THROUGH EDUCATION, INFORMATION,
AND BY EXAMPLE.

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**COMING EVENTS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!**

**New Program Series:
Adult Learning for Living**

Sat., Aug. 26th, 10-11 a.m.
**How to Plant a Garden
or a Meadow**

**By Julia Campbell
and Priscilla Stanley
(both are Master Naturalists)**

Sat., Sept. 30th, 10-11:30 a.m.
**Fall Wildflowers
in the Hill County
by Sandra Magee
(President of NPSOT)**

**'06 BROWN BAG
LUNCH & LEARN
Program Schedule**

**Thurs., Sept. 7th,
12—1 p.m.**

**Seeds: The Fruit
of the Matter**

**by Barbara Lowenthal
& Linda Riner**



**Thurs., Oct. 12th,
12—1 p.m.**
**Basic Birding:
How to Identify
Birds**

by Jay Keen