



Riverside Nature Notes

The Riverside
Nature Center

Volume 12
January, 2006

We're Having a Rummage Sale!

A Growing Place —That's RNC!



We're having a heat wave! Not winter-like weather at ALL! However, since it's January, it's time to get organized! Right? Well, let RNC help you!

We have set a Rummage Sale for Saturday, February 4th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will be accepting anything you want to donate to us (except clothing), so bring us your items! We will even come get items that are too large to bring in your car! Such a deal, huh? We will also give you a form to be used as a receipt for tax purposes, and all you have to do is ask us for one.

All donated items can be brought to RNC in one of the following ways:

1. Bring your items on your own to RNC from Jan. 23-31 during operational hours only (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). **PLEASE NOTE:**

*No assistance is usually available to unload items

*Ask office for drop-off location on site.

2. Large, bulky items can be brought on Thurs., Jan. 26 from 8 a.m. to noon!

PLEASE NOTE:

*On-site loading help will be provided on this date.

*Pick-up at residence or business locations is also available on this date (If you need this assistance, please try to call us at least one week in advance so that we can make sure enough help is available to do what needs to be done).

Periodically, people ask how they can help Riverside, and donating items that you no longer want or need is a great way for us to make some extra money. We had two rummage sales last year, and we made between \$2,000-3,000! That's incredible! SO, please keep this way to help RNC in mind, and bring by some of your unwanted things! It will be greatly appreciated!

REMINDER:

When you come by to drop off items for our Rummage Sale, don't forget to come sign up for our **Adopt-A-Spot Program!** The sign-up binder is in the atrium area of the Visitor Center. To those of you who have already taken care of this task—**THANK YOU!**

If you haven't been to RNC in awhile, then you really need to come! We have many new things for you to see. What's new, you ask? We have a wonderful new look in the entry island. There are some beautiful and rare cactus that have been planted along with some new rock work and a new bench! However, this isn't as new as the work done on our retaining wall. This rock wall looks tremendously beautiful. The sign above it has been cleaned and reframed. When you drive by on Lemos Street, take a minute to look at the wonderful improvements!

When you come to Riverside, you must also come inside the Visitor Center as there have been some changes inside too! Because our focus is to become an increasingly valuable educational resource for our community (one of the main reasons why I was hired), we have developed some wonderful educational displays. In fact, the displays change about every 3 months—right along with the changes in seasons!

Of course, the arboretum is the most changing place of all. These days, you can come see us GROW just about everywhere!



RNC Recognizes Our Volunteer of the Month

by Barbara Staggs

Miscellaneous Meandering



in Math from UT, and he taught math to high school as well as college students.

Michael was married until death of his wife in 1998. He has two sons, one who lives in Houston and the other who lives in Denver. His brother lives in Center Point.

Mike is not a person who sits still for very long! For example, he enjoys kayaking, hiking, and is the lone man in his aerobics class at the Family Sports Center with 20 women! He has traveled to Germany, Alaska, Panama and is planning a trip to Africa in June of 2006. A trip to Big Bend is also on his "to-do" list. He attends the Moab Jeep Jamboree every year.

Be sure to give Mike a big handshake and **THANK YOU** when you meet him. He's the latest among the many heroes that have contributed so much to Riverside!!

If you have noticed the wonderful improvements to our retaining wall, be advised that a very hard working new volunteer, Michael (Mike) Gray, has done quite a bit of this work! He also put the entryway kiosk stakes into the ground (something that was on the To Do List for several years)! Besides doing various work on the grounds (like spraying for weeds in the parking lot, trimming low branches, raking up leaves, sweeping off the Visitor Center porches, cleaning out the gutters, etc. etc.), he has also finished painting the exterior of the storage building green. Way to go, Mike!!

Michael is a new RNC member who moved to the Kerrville area 4 1/2 years ago from Victoria, TX. He retired after 33 years in the teaching profession and now lives on his 40 acres raising Longhorn cattle. He graduated from Southwest Texas and received his Masters

WE NEED SOME HELPERS!!!

1. RNC Website manager—needed to keep up with the changing calendar of events and program offerings as well as overhaul the site with the photography of more recent events.
2. Animal/critter caretaker (weekly care of 2 turtles and hamster).

DID YOU KNOW????

Barbara Staggs is in the process of overseeing the development of our monthly Newsletter? Her volunteering also includes helping out in the office on Wednesday mornings! What a trooper!

Speaking of good help, Ann Laughlin and Laurie Pesez keep our Gift Shop and the related finances in perfect working order? They are two **OUTSTANDING** folks who help behind the scenes, and they are both greatly appreciated! Ann helps out in many other ways (too numerous to mention all of them), and Laurie is a fantastic proof reader for our newsletter and also helps in the office when we need her! Thank you **SO** much, fantastic ladies!

Sue Hausler is an office volunteer on Tuesday mornings! She has been one of our first Adopt-A-Spot participants who has signed up to oversee the sweeping of the front porch Tuesday mornings, is willing to organize and help keep our kitchen in good working order, **AND** has volunteered to be the main coordinator for the Visitor Center displays as well as the front kiosk display! What a hard worker! You are greatly appreciated, Sue!

Be looking for more notes of appreciation to the other, tireless volunteers found around Riverside in our next month's Newsletter!

Riverside simply could not exist without the help of all of our volunteers.

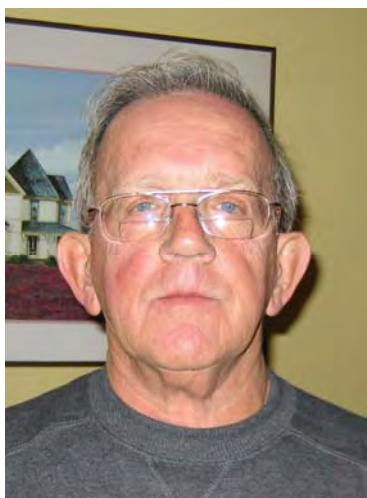
Thank you **SO MUCH**,
Wonderful Folks!



Something Else Is New at RNC!

If you haven't seen the TxDOT map entitled "The Heart of Texas Wildlife Trail—West", then you may not know that RNC is listed there as item #73! This sign now located at our entrance displays this fact.

We do have these maps for sale in our Gift Shop for only \$3.00! Come see the new sign, and get your own copy of this wonderful map that tells you where all you can go in our beautiful Hill Country to see wondrous things—like the amazing RNC Arboretum!



**Welcome our Newest Board
Member,
Jim Boman**

**Thank You for a
Successful Campaign**

Toward the end of this year, our Funding Committee, chaired by Paul Avery, decided to send out a request for end of the year contributions for Riverside. If you did not receive a copy of this letter, it was an oversight, and we would be more than happy to send you a copy. In this letter we indicated specific ways that RNC has been working hard to improve our grounds and our program offerings. We also sent along a self-addressed envelop and a perforated lower portion of the letter than could be torn off and mailed in with a check. Additionally, we indicated that the tax laws had changed (due to hurricane victim relief efforts), and that the government had increased the charitable gift allowances in the fourth quarter. Paul signed the letters, and we sent them off, hopeful that we would receive some donations.

This campaign was an amazing success! We aren't sure whether it was the change in tax laws, the self-address envelop, or something unknown to us, but we do want to thank you for the most successful end of year campaign to date! We collected nearly \$8,000, and I assure you, it will be put to very good use to the benefit of Riverside!



**WELCOME,
New RNC Members!**

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL:

**Ms. Allison Flanagan
Mr. Mike Gray
Mr. Jay Henderson
Ms. Mary Sherwood**

**THANK YOU for
the Special Gifts**

***Richard & Barbara Kormelink in
honor of the Haberlands
*Ed & Nancy Wallace in honor of
Stan & Carolyn Cobbs
*Pamela Laing in honor of
William E. Laing**



The Riverside Nature Center

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Email: rnca@ktc.com

Website: www.riversidenaturecenter.org

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 !!

STAR PARTY!

JANUARY 21ST at 6 pm—
Come hear from a former
Head of NASA about the
Space Program. Kids' pro-
gramming also planned!
Viewing of stars planned for
after programming.



**'06 BROWN BAG
LUNCH & LEARN
Program Schedule**
(All are set for the 2nd
Thursday of each month)

**February 9th,
Plant Propagation
by Fay Drozd**

**March 9th,
Hill Country
Wine Making
by Danny Hernandez**

**April 13th,
Native American
Arts and Crafts
by Wayne Este**

**May 11th,
Hill Country Snakes
By Mark Gumbert**

**Sept. 7th,
Seeds: The Fruit
of the Matter
by Barbara Lowenthal
& Linda Riner**

**Oct. 12th,
Basic Birding:
How to Identify Birds
by Jay Keen**