



# Riverside Nature Notes

The Riverside  
Nature Center

Volume 14  
March, 2006

## LOTS Going on in April!!!!



Several months ago we were told that Kerr County was going to celebrate its 150th birthday! Eventually, we learned that Joe Herring and Brian Bondy from the Chamber of Commerce were going to spearhead the related events.

Some time after that Riverside decided that although we had Earth Day events already scheduled, we believed we needed to support Kerr County's birthday too with our own activities. Hence, we

have named our event, **Kerr County's 150th—A Natural Cause to Celebrate.** The purpose of this event is

to **give people of all ages a sense of what life in the late 1800's, early 1900's was like.** We have activities scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3

p.m., and there is an entrance fee of \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for kids (12 & under), and \$5.00 for families of 5 or more.

We have planned many wonderful activities. For example, Bryant Saner (President of H C Archeological Assoc.) is scheduled to speak on "The Indians of the Hill Country". The other speakers are Jay Keen and Eddie Sears. Jay will be talking about "The History of the Lawson Store", and Eddie will be telling stories about the old Kerrville/Ingram grocery stores. There will be antique displays located in the Lawson Store too!

For the kids we are planning a flint knapping (how to make arrowheads) demonstration, quilt-making demonstration, cakewalks, turn of the century games & music sing-a-longs, Home Depot's build-a-kits, escorted canoeing, and dancing demonstrations with the Kick & Click Cloggers and the Kerr-Li-Q's (square dancing).

**For the adults** (ages 13 & up) we are planning all of the previously mentioned activities PLUS antique cars from the Hill County Auto Club, & a Horseshoe Tournament (for teams of 2) with **PRIZES** for the winners! We will be selling wonderful beef and chicken fajitas, queso & chips, desserts, and lots of cold soft drinks and bottled water!

Our next April Event is our **Brown Bag Lunch & Learn** which is set for **Thursday, April 13th** from noon to 1 p.m. Wayne Este from the "Texas, Etc." store will be here speaking about "**Native American Arts & Crafts**". If you bring your sack lunch, we will provide a cold drink and a fabulous dessert.

Wayne's presentation promises to be informative as well as entertaining!

Our final event planned for April is **Riverside's Annual Earth Day Celebration!** It is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and a Star Party at 8 p.m.

We'll start off this day with a fabulous, **mostly native plant sale** sponsored by our wonderful partners, the Native Plant Society of Texas!

**(SHHHHHH! Don't tell anyone, but RNC members get to come on Fri., Apr. 21st from 5:00 p.m. to**

On Saturday starting at 9:30 a.m. Susan Sander begins our slate of presenters with an interesting talk on "Native Plants in Kerr County—What's Changed in 150 Years?" at 11:00 a.m. Andy Price from TX Parks & Wildlife will tell us all about Texas snakes (& he's promised to bring some live ones too)! At 1 p.m. the 3rd speaker, Rich Olivieri, a TX Master Naturalist, will talk about his book, *Hunting TX Wildflowers*. At 2 p.m. the last speaker will be Bryant Saner, Pres. of the H C Archeological Assoc. who will share information about how the changes in weather over the years are evidenced archeologically. We will have other activities like hybrid & classic cars, canoeing, Make a Snake, worms and composting, woodcarving, and making bamboo wind chimes!

Obviously, we will **need many volunteers** to help us accomplish all of these wonderful activities. Therefore, if you have some time you could give to RNC on either Saturday, April 8th or Saturday, April 22nd, please call us at 257-4837! We could really use the help, and you might be surprised how fun and rewarding it is being involved in one or more of these

### April 22nd is



### EARTH DAY!!!



## Meet Riverside's Volunteer of the Month

by Barbara Staggs

## A GREAT, BIG THANK YOU goes to.....



If you are reading this newsletter, you have a connection to Rudi Winzinger. He has been volunteering his time at RNC since 1994! With his experience in data processing Rudy has spent many long hours setting up the site map for RNC. This involved property boundaries, where the parking lot ends and the arboretum begins, and the location of every major tree and plant. He wrote most of the many programs used by RNC including the membership data. His technical help and support for Cass and teaching and tutoring the office staff has been incredible!

Rudi was born and lived in Germany, spending time in England before coming to the United States in 1964. He began working for Gulf Oil while still in Europe and continued with them after moving to the U.S. His journey in pursuit of an educa-

tion took him to Wisconsin, Oklahoma and the University of Houston. With his Masters in Economics and Petroleum Engineering, he worked for Gulf Oil in engineering and corporate planning for 32 years. He retired in 1992. Rudi and his wife, Jan, who taught high school Spanish, had traveled around the Hill Country for about 10 years. Their long range plan for retirement was to live somewhere within the area from Austin to Kerrville. After much research in 1994, Kerrville won out and so did RNC! While living in Houston, Rudi volunteered at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. It was this time spent that led him to join RNC after his move to Kerrville.

Rudi and Jan like to travel. They have made many trips to Germany and this past year spent time in Mexico, Utah, Chicago and Ohio. Among Rudi's many interests are native plants, landscaping, history, photography and architecture.

Rudi's work is mostly behind the scenes kind of work and sometimes what he does at RNC is not readily noticed. His teaching ability and patience have saved many a computer problem from becoming insurmountable. Plus since his time is done as a volunteer, he has saved RNC quite a bit of money! Cass, Joyce and Cita Ann are quite relieved knowing that he is around to help when the computers don't do what you want them to! Thank you Rudi for all your help, knowledge, and patience. We appreciate you more than you know!

Sue Hausler for her hard work cleaning & organizing the kitchen and even labeling all of the cabinets.

Karen Millikan and Sue Hausler for the informative and attractive atrium and outside kiosk displays.

Julia Campbell, John Quinby, Shannon Smith (for donuts too), Andy Pesez, Susan Sander, Paul Avery, Priscilla and Jim Stanley, Judy Bjoris, Susan Longacre, and Mike Grey for the wonderful work outside on our grounds.

Gloria Olsen for graciously agreeing to be Chairperson for 2 of the big April events and Jim Boman for his able assistance.

Dean Mitchell for his sage advice on how to clean the Promise sculpture, and Mike Grey for his hard work making it beautiful again!

Donna Falzarano for her essential help with our school field trip curriculum.

Adrienne Grubb for her amazing work with the scout programs.

Stan Cobbs, Paul Avery, Jim Laughlin for successful efforts in obtaining a recent wonderful donation.

Jennifer Bone for an impressive and successful PowerPoint presentation for KISD administration.

Jim Laughlin and Priscilla Stanley for their effective work with our Habitat beautification project.

Barbara Staggs for her tremendous help with the newsletter—including both the interviewing and writing.



## Come and See!

By Susan Sanders

The first day of Spring brought us some much needed rain, sparking the emergence of green from winter dormancy. If you walk the Nature Trail, you'll see the Redbud and Madrone coming into their own. Even Monarchs were sighted here recently. There will be other obvious changes as well.

The Building and Landscape Committee has been hard at work updating plant signs (which means cataloging what is currently in our collection). With the help of a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter, the plant identification signs will get a much needed update. Directional and building signs will also appear shortly.

With the renovation of the retaining wall along Lemos Street and the clearing of old hackberries along the property line in the parking lot, we are need of some new "screen" plants. There are plans to raise the Lemos Street bridge 5-8 feet, so growing a green buffer is our goal now. Contact committee chair John Quinby if you would like to donate a tree or shrub for these areas. As part of our spring clean-up for April 8 and Earth Day, April 22 (also known as Texas Wildflower Day & near Arbor Day) we could use some extra hands to help tidy up the Nature Center. A big thank you goes out to those of you who have already done so, but if you haven't done it yet, **don't forget to sign up for your Adopt-a-Spot today!**



Also, for those of you who are interested, a kind of a 1-stop shopping experience can be found at this site for Texas Plants. Try it out at: <http://tpid.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

## WELCOME, New RNC Members!

**Golden Eagle Landscape**  
**Kerr County Woodcarvers**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Robert Himmer**  
**Dr. Carol Milberger**  
**Lyda Slayton**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Shannon Smith**  
**Pam Standefer**  
**Susan Tucek**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Woody Woodward**

## A Very Special THANK YOU for the Gifts go to...

**James Avery Craftsman and Paul Avery for the wonderful display cases that have been donated to RNC—note the 2 pictures below!**

This beautiful new display case is located to the right of the door at the entrance to the Visitor's Center! In it we keep many of the informative handouts we give away to our guests!



This gorgeous display table is located in our Gift Shop! It really adds to the ambiance! Come see for yourself how it improves the appearance of our items!



**The Riverside Nature Center**

**Riverside Nature Center**  
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Kerrville, Texas 78029

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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 !!!**

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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 !!

Come Celebrate Kerr County's  
150th—A Natural Cause to Celebrate  
on Saturday, April 8th from 10 a.m. to  
3 p.m! We are planning to have his-  
toric displays, informative speakers,  
amazing storytellers, tasty food, games  
like horseshoes, and other really fun  
old-time activities for everyone!

**PLUS.....**

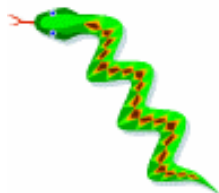
Earth Day is just around the corner—  
Saturday, April 22nd from 8 a.m. to  
3 p.m! We are planning to have our  
usual, wonderful native plant sale. We  
are also planning to have informative  
programs—including a star party at  
8 p.m. that same night!

**COME HAVE SOME FUN  
WITH US!**

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

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

**May 11th,**  
**Hill Country Snakes**



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



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