



Riverside Nature Notes

The Riverside
Nature Center

Volume 21
October, 2006

OCTOBER in REVIEW



We survived the month of October!

Event #1: Held on October 7, was Some Enchanted Evening Dinner (SEED) and it has been deemed as

quite successful! Although we are still compiling our figures, we netted nearly \$38,000! That's quite good for the 1st year of such an event, and it's a record for a single fund raiser at RNC!

Event #2: October 7 was also the day for our 1st Rendezvous On the River, that was a celebration of Texas Archeology. The Hill Country Archeological Association, headed by President Woody Woodward reported a nice crowd of over 250 people who seemed to enjoy the space on our grounds for all their varied & interesting activities. We are looking forward to continuing to host this wonderful event next year!

Event #3: October 14 was our Annual Event, Down By the Riverside. This activity involved a highly successful mostly native plant sale which was overseen by the Texas Master Naturalists, Kerrville Chapter volunteers. The plant sale was so successful that it netted nearly \$4,000, & more importantly, there were very few plants left after the sale! More details of this event will be found in next month's newsletter!

Event #4: The last in our 05-06 Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Series occurred on October 12th. Speaker, Jay Keen, discussed the elements of basic birding skills, and attendance at this program topped 25 people as well as being highlighted on the front page of the Kerrville Daily Times!!! Jay received quite a few accolades about the information shared, so a follow-up presentation is already being planned. Be looking for our 06-07 BBL&L Schedule soon!

ADDITIONALLY, Riverside hosted a Girl Scout Overnight where several young female scouts from San Antonio came to earn their wildlife badge! Adrienne Grubb, Jennifer Bone, Angelo Falarano, & newcomer, Craig Boyer did an outstanding job with this fantastic educational program we offer several times a year. The girls were treated to pizza & smores! They also got to learn more about, see &/or touch a Texas Alligator Lizard, a tarantula, Red Eared Slider turtles, a king snake, and Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches (all residents of RNC presently). The girls also examined Screech Owls, a baby rattlesnake, and a Rat Snake (thanks to The Ark Veterinary Clinic lending the critters to us for the night). All of them apparently enjoyed their study of the various types of living creatures that inhabit this wondrous earth of ours as well as visit the beautiful Riverside Nature Center!

**October was quite the month!
Can you tell????**

S.E.E.D.—Some Thoughtful Observations
By Barbara Staggs

The Some Enchanted Evening Dinner held on October 7th was a lovely event. As a member in attendance who had not been involved in the planning, I thought the evening was a great success!

It was evident that a great deal of hard work had gone into the preparations for the evening. The lobby of the Cailloux Theater was transformed into an enchanted grouping of tables with candlelight and soothing music provided by the Hill Country Youth Orchestra. With a delightful glass of wine in hand, guests first perused a very interesting selection of silent auction items. This time also allowed for visiting with friends & meeting new people. The dinner, catered by Carte-Wheels Catering, was a wonderful mix of upscale southern cuisine that should have satisfied every appetite!

There were a few problems with the speaker system for the live auction, but the auction moved along well. Having a professional made a great deal of difference as I have attended other similar functions where the auction seemed to go on forever. There was lively bidding among those present helping to make this a successful fund raising event to benefit our educational programming and endowment. Checkout went smoothly, even using credit cards for the first time!



Meet RNC's Volunteer of the Month, Marjorie Ashley by Barbara Staggs



Marjorie Ashley, better known to folks around here as “Martie”, was born quite a distance away from Kerrville, Texas—in Schenectady, New York. The story of her past and of how she came to live here in Kerrville, Texas is quite an interesting one.

Martie lets you know right off that she is ninety years young. Martie’s mother died at the age of 50, so Martie thought perhaps she might meet the same fate. She explained that she never imagined she would live to be the age she is now. When you meet Martie, her youthful appearance belies her age, and she actually seems quite timeless. Her young-at-heart attitude is so appealing. She always has a wonderful smile for everyone, and it is inspiring as well as contagious. She has an active mind and is often found reading articles she has cut from the Kerrville Daily Times or from a magazine. She will be the first to tell you that she cannot remember a lot of things these days, but that minor problem is simply

not going to stop her insatiable appetite for learning. Union College was located in Schenectady, but it was during the depression, and Union College was expensive. Her dad walked up to her one day and said, “Martie, since all you ever do is read anyway, you might as well be in college!” So Martie went to the State University of New York in Albany. She loved every minute of it!

Martie’s husband went to Harvard. Martie’s mother had always said she hoped that Martie would marry a Union College guy but never dreamed she would end up with someone from Harvard! They were married in 1940. Her husband was in the military during WW II and spent time in Europe. Upon his return he went to work at the Pentagon. Martie got a job teaching junior high school in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Sometimes she remembers dropping her husband off at the Pentagon and driving on to Oxon Hill to teach.

Martie and her husband had three sons. Her son, Bill, lives in Toronto, Canada with his wife. They will be visiting her in October and then will leave to do some traveling around the country. Martie and her husband also enjoyed traveling. In fact, they went back to Europe several times, and she found she especially loved Greece. Their traveling is what led them to Kerrville. In the mid 1970’s they took an

excursion to Mexico and loved it there. On their way back home they passed through Texas and spent their first night back in the States in Kerrville. The next day there were many things in Kerrville that caught her eye. While driving around the area she saw the Hill Country Arts Foundation. She also discovered chapters of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. All of this was of great interest to her, and they played a part in their decision to relocate to Kerrville.

After moving here, Martie lived at #8 Chaparral Drive in Rio Robles for many years. She became very active in the Freeman Fritz Clinic and Shelter answering phones for them. She has a great love of animals, especially cats. In fact while at the Freeman Fritz clinic, a certain cat adopted her!

One of her other passions was the Hill Country Arts Foundation. She spent many hours volunteering there and even acted in small parts at the Point Theater.

Martie eventually became friends with Elena Brineman and several others who were very involved in Riverside. She eventually became a volunteer and spent many years cutting out articles from the newspaper that pertained to RNC. The RNC Board just recently voted to give Martie a lifetime membership in appreciation of her many years of volunteer service. Thank you Martie for all your years of helpful service and devotion to Riverside.

If you would like to visit Martie, she would love to have some company. She is currently located at the Edgewater Nursing Home in room 308.



Special thanks to
the following for
our SEED Event!

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Laurie Pesez
Judy Tiller

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**Welcome, New
Members To RNC!!**

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Belec
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The Riverside Nature Center

Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos Street
Kerrville, Texas 78028

Phone: 830-257-4837
Fax: 830-257-4837
Email: rnca@ktc.com

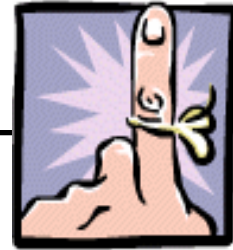
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TO FOSTER GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS
AND APPRECIATION OF THE HILL
COUNTRY'S NATURAL RESOURCES
THROUGH EDUCATION, INFORMATION,
AND BY EXAMPLE.

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COMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



New Adult Learning for Living Series

Sat., Nov. 11, 10—11 a.m.
Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative,
by Dr. Guy Harrison

**Come learn about a program whose goal is
to reintroduce a native fish into the Guada-
lupe River. Is the purpose just for fishing
fun or is there more?**

Come find out for yourself!



Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Series

Thurs., Nov. 9, from noon to 1 p.m.

Relaxation Techniques
by Jim Boman



**Bring your lunch, a blanket, a pillow,
& we'll provide a drink, desert,
& a more peaceful demeanor!!!**