



Riverside Nature Notes

The Riverside
Nature Center

Volume 30
August 2007

Planting a “S.E.E.D.” at RNC!



Last year was the first year for a new fund raising event we called “Some Enchanted Evening Dinner” or S.E.E.D. The 06 SEED Planning Committee included Barbara Quinby, Chairperson, Laurie Pesez, Jim Laughlin, Paul Avery, Judy Tiller, and me! After much discussion, we determined our goal was to have tasty food, delicious wine, classy ambiance, and a fun “party-like” atmosphere while we raised more funds for RNC than any previous single event. Would you believe, we succeeded?

We actually raised over \$35,000! Our Board of Directors determined that one third of it would go to our endowment, one third to educational program expenses, and one third to a savings account. We had many follow-up reports that people had really enjoyed themselves, and some even indicated that the evening had indeed seemed more like a

party than a fund raiser! That was music to our ears! Did I tell you about the wonderful music we had too? The Hill Country Youth Orchestra played beautiful background music that helped everyone to feel more relaxed (along with our fantastic wine) while attendees perused the very interesting collection of live auction items as well as our “themed” baskets in the silent auction.

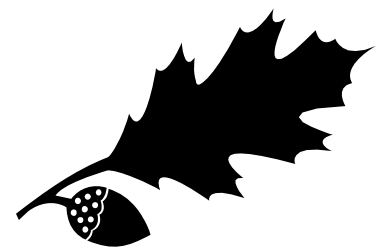
The live auction items included a hunting package, a beautiful oriental rug, a week’s stay in Rockport, a time share condo in Florida, and much more!

The Silent Auction items required some real creativity on the part of our committee as we had collected smaller donated items and then created a unique theme for each. For example, one basket was called “Relax!” and it included two 90 minute massages, lunch at Mamacita’s, and some scented candles and flavored teas. Pretty nice, huh?

Well, after having such a wonderful response from our community and our membership, we are really looking forward to this year’s event! It is scheduled for September 15th at 6 p.m. and again our 07 SEED Planning Committee has excellent goals. Our 07 Seed Planning Committee includes

Barbara Quinby, Chairperson, Susan Longacre, Jim Laughlin, Paul Avery, Linda Karst Stone, and me! The Planning Committee has been working very hard to make this year’s event an amazing evening for everyone! We are planning to have delicious food, tongue-tickling wine, relaxing music, classy ambiance, and a fun, party-like atmosphere! Of course, we are hoping to bring in even more money than last year because we expect to continue the growth of RNC’s effective educational programming which allows us to meet our mission—to foster greater public awareness and appreciation of the Texas Hill Country’s natural resources through education, information, and by example.

Please know that all RNC members are invited to attend S.E.E.D. The tickets are \$85, and seating is limited, so please call us right away at 257-4837 to reserve your seat! It is scheduled for September 15 at 6 p.m. at the Cailloux Theatre. We hope to see you there!



Meet RNC'S Volunteer of the Month, Wes Dorman

By Barbara Staggs



Wes graduated from Rice University with a degree in Anthropology and Psychology, then went to law school at the University of Houston, and passed the Texas bar in 1976. He started working in the Hill Country in 1968 while he was in high school, at Camp Stewart for Boys. Wes moved to Kerrville permanently in 1977 and started at Chas. Schreiner Bank. He has been a trust officer/manager at different banks since that time, currently with Broadway Bank for 5 years.

Wes is a native Texan, but grew up overseas while his father worked for Brown & Root. He was born while his father was in the Marine Corps stationed in California.

Wes met Marcy here in Kerrville. He was coaching the swim team after work, and she was a widow with two children whom she wanted to keep busy while school was not in session.

At the end of swim season they ended up getting married (1980). After 27 years of marriage they have three children, and three grandchildren. All of their children helped out at the RNC, but most folks remember their youngest daughter, Molly because she grew up at RNC, helping out at the Down by the Riverside Festivals from the very first one till she moved to Austin.

Wes became involved in RNC because Marcy answered the call of Susan Sander in forming the RNC. Marcy was responsible for seeing that the IRS 501 (c) (3) status was granted, working with Joan Dell Dolce in filing the proper forms, as well as the articles of incorporation. They have been involved since the beginning, and when Marcy returned to full time work she told Wes he had to be on the Board; being a dutiful husband, Wes has been on the Board since before the Visitor's Center was built and strongly believes in the mission of RNC. His alter ego, Al the Wolf, has enjoyed entertaining the children at various RNC events.

Wes enjoys working on various non profit boards, especially those that assist the elderly (Dietert) and children (Hill Country Youth Soccer Association, Hill Country Youth Ranch, Our Lady of the Hills Catholic High School).

Thank you Wes for all your hard work at Riverside!

RNC's Education Committee Does What?

In last month's newsletter we highlighted our Education Committee's efforts at Riverside regarding our educational programming. We actually ran out of space before we could finish, so this is the last bit of information regarding our youth programs.

Each summer for the past 4 years, Riverside offers summer day camps to students in the 3rd through the 7th grades. We have a lot of competition in the area, as you probably already know, so we are trying to offer unique opportunities that are educational. They last for 5-6 days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. usually from Monday through Friday.

One camp we offer is called Photography Camp. Angelo & Donna Falzarano offer a week of instructional, yet fun activities that teach students about how a camera functions as well as how to take successful photographs of nature-related subjects. By the end of the week, students have actually created their own scrapbook of photos taken while at camp. It's lots of fun, encourages creativity, gets kids to really observe nature, and it is very educationally oriented because Donna's a certified teacher!





Another camp we offer is called Nature Adventure Camp. This is one camp that changes a great deal from teacher to teacher. The main goal is to teach students about nature via several different venues. Sometimes we go down to the river to see what lives near and in the water. Sometimes we learn about what good habitats must have to be successful, and then we go out on the grounds to find real habitats. This year we even created a habitat with what was found on the ground (meaning nothing live was used)! Sometimes we play games, but there is always a purpose for them—i.e., getting acquainted, developing skills of cooperation, developing problem solving skills, and the like. Sometimes we do artistic activities because nature and creativity go together like peanut butter and jelly! Here again, we play while we learn!



Finally, the last camp we have been developing for the last 3 years is one we call Wilderness Skills Camp. This camp has been very well received by students and parents alike. The main purpose of the camp is as the name infers—teaching survival skills. This includes learning some basic first aide techniques (like how to handle a snake bite), learning orienteering skills (how to find your way in rough, hilly terrain), how to set up a tent, how to build a campfire, and especially how to leave a site looking as though no one had ever been there. Parts of this camp involve going to the Kerrville-Schreiner City Park, and the staff there has been most cooperative and helpful—all to the benefit of our campers!

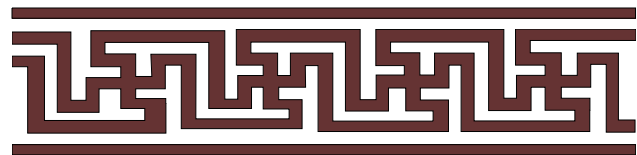
I hope you have become aware of how important our Education Committee is to RNC. The people who are part of this committee are truly dedicated to helping offer effective educational programs geared to our mission. If you are interested in becoming a part of these efforts, please call me. We have many areas where we can use more volunteers, and the work is MOST rewarding!

THANK YOUs go out to our July Donors:

Priscilla Bailey
Sam Barrett
Bob Barton
Bill Baumann
Dean Carroll
Angelo Falzarano
Pat Farris
Sharon Gardner
Leroy Glasner
James D. Markham
Sidney McKinley
Andre Pesez
Hoyt Richardson
Joyce Sandlin
Clark Shimeall
Harold & Robbie Smith
Jane & Howard Terman
Shay Tindall
USDA Agricultural Research Station
Jan Ward
Gayle Warren
Wild Birds Unlimited



Correction of an error in our July list of donors, should have read -
Mimi & Stewart McMillen
(We sincerely apologize for our error!)



PLEASE WELCOME these New RNC Members!

Janis Herd
Michael and Delayne Sigerman
Gayle Warren



The Riverside Nature Center

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Website: www.riversidenaturecenter.org

Office and Store Hours:
9AM- 4PM Monday—Friday;
10AM-3PM Saturday and Sunday
TRAILS 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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**UPCOMING EVENTS!!!!
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!**



A NEW "COMBINED" EVENT WITH FREE FOOD!!!

**RNC's Volunteer/Member Appreciation Gala
AND Annual Meeting**

at Mamacita's on Wed., Sept. 5th from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Come help us celebrate our SUCSESSES in 06-07!

Important Upcoming Events

Sat., Sept 15 S.E.E.D.

(Some Enchanted Evening Dinner)
with both a Live and a Silent Auction!!!
Come join the fun while supporting RNC!
Seating is limited, so call 257-4837 and
reserve your place TODAY!!!



**Sat., Oct. 13 Down By the Riverside
Festival & Native Plant Sale**—make plans

to come buy your fall
plantings; learn about
trees & backyard critters
(with live examples) at
our nature festival!

**Sat., Oct. 20 Rendez-
vous By the River**

(A Celebration of Texas
& Hill Country Archeology)

