



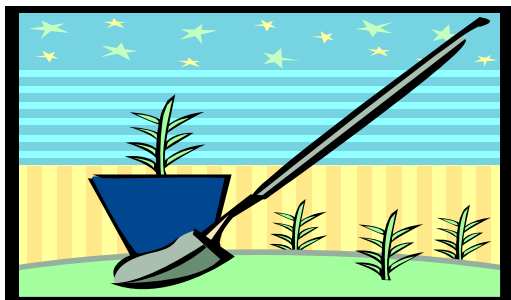
Riverside Nature Notes

The Riverside
Nature Center

Volume 24
January 2007

Getting into “the Swing of Spring” by Susan Sander

**RNC’s Annual
Earth Day
Celebration
is A-Comin’
by Linda Karst Stone**



**Does the prospect of spring make
your green thumb itch?**

**Do you like being surrounded by the
beauty of wildflowers?**

**Do you wish to learn how to take
care of native plants?**

**If so, RNC has the perfect solution
for YOU!**

In order to help get you into “the swing of spring” the Riverside Nature Center will be conducting a Garden Tenders Workshop on Saturday, February 17 from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Current and prospective volunteers are encouraged to attend this free workshop. The main goal will be to coordinate garden tending efforts and to prepare the grounds for spring events (Earth Day) and visitors.



Drought resistant, low water usage, year-round succession of blooms that attract butterflies and wildlife — Texas’ native plants are a source of delight as well as a source of fierce pride. Native gardens can be wild without being excessively woody, so in a landscape setting they need some tending.

First planted in 1993, the nature center arboretum now boasts the largest collection of Hill Country native plants—including 143 different species of trees and shrubs, plus an additional 250 varied species of wildflowers, grasses, cacti and other plants, all on less than 5 acres! The garden is an example of how native plants can be used in a landscape setting, but it also serves as an outdoor classroom for area students for a wide selection of lesson topics. All the garden tending is and has been done by volunteers.

The workshop will cover the basics of Hill Country native plants and how to care for them during the winter to ensure a spring display. Other seasonal workshops and work days are being planned.

For more information or to register contact the Riverside Nature Center (at 257-4837 or rnca@krc.com) or contact Susan Sander (at rainlily@omniglobal.net).

Please mark your calendars, Saturday, April 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Riverside will be celebrating Earth Day again this year, with our focus on



water. We will take a closer look at conservation, catchments and usage. Together with the Native Plant Society there will be a fabulous plant sale, speakers, kids’ activities, food

displays and more. In addition to marking your calendars to attend, we are looking for volunteers to help work at and promote this year’s event. If you are able and interested, please contact the RNC office at 257-4837. All help will be greatly appreciated, and what better way is there to support RNC than by giving a little of your time and talents to such a worthy cause? We will certainly be letting you know more about this exciting event as it develops.



Meet RNC's Volunteer of the Month, Donna Falzarano

by Barbara Staggs

Donna was born in Ft. Worth, Texas and as a teenager she lived on St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. She moved to San Diego, California and enrolled in San Diego High School as a junior. She has some fond memories of those times reminiscent of the "Happy Days" era, especially when she and a friend went on after graduation to room together in an apartment. They were like "Laverne and Shirley" with Donna being Shirley. Donna states she later married the quintessential "Fonz" in the person of Angelo Falzarano because in the 1950's Angelo was a hip motorcyclist! They were married in 1958. During their life together, they have been blessed with one daughter, Dawn and one son, Guy.

After the wedding, they moved back to Donna's hometown, Ft. Worth. Donna acquired

a Master's Degree in Environmental Science at Texas Christian and studied graduate level nutrition at North Texas State. For ten years she taught Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, and Nutrition at Tarrant County Junior College. She eventually became a Registered Sanitarian and worked in Food and Drug surveillance for both the county and state health departments. She was involved in many aspects of these organizations including inspections of food service establishments, investigating outbreaks of food-borne illnesses, and even making court appearances as an expert witness. It was also during this time that she had several articles published on food-borne disease outbreaks. She returned to teaching science at Crowley ISD near Ft. Worth where she retired in 1997.

Donna's "retirement" has been a very active one! She worked at the Ft. Worth Zoo as Educational Administrator, the Museum of Science and History as Program Facilitator, and the Ft. Worth Nature Center as Seasonal Naturalist. After moving to Kerrville in 2001, she served as Program Facilitator at the Mo-Ranch. Donna was also kept busy building a house here while Angelo remained in Ft. Worth to sell their house there.

Donna became involved in RNC after attending a meeting of the Retired Teachers Association here

at Riverside. With her background in developing educational programs, she thought RNC would be a perfect place to introduce some of the same kinds of programming. This is what started her involvement with RNC—namely, developing educational programs which includes our Girl Scout overnights, our four summer day camps, various school group lessons, and many other activities. Donna has been a very valuable asset to the growth of Riverside's educational programs. She has also served on RNC's Board of Directors, and she has volunteered countless hours.

Currently, Donna enjoys her art which includes clay sculpture and looks forward to doing more after they complete an art studio that is being built onto their house. She still loves good nutrition and cooking healthy, so she is always collecting new recipes. She and Angelo enjoy kayaking, photography, and reading. Donna occasionally teaches nutrition classes for Elderhostel Conferences at the Mo-Ranch. In her "spare" time she is very happy feeding the deer and birds in her backyard. She is looking forward to a long cruise that Angelo is planning for their 50th wedding anniversary in 2008.

RNC has been blessed to have the tremendous benefits of Donna's many talents and skills as well as the generous gift of her time. **Thank you, Donna for EVERYTHING you have done and continue to do for Riverside!**



What Exactly Is Earth Day?

by Linda Karst Stone

Earth Day is a time to **celebrate** the gains we have made and to **create** new visions to accelerate progress towards a more healthy, world-wide environment. It is a time of sharing individuals' and organizations' knowledge of and concern for the protection of our earthly environment.

Simply put, it is a day set aside to **inspire** us to remember that the stewardship of our natural resources is a global yet individual responsibility.

Locally, at RNC, it is a day of many varied activities which are open to the public and which will offer information on the history of this day. You can also find crafts, gifts, games, and stories to promote environmental awareness. The theme of RNC's Earth Day is going to involve **water**, especially water catchment. Since the Hill Country has been experiencing a drought for the past 2 years, Riverside is in the process of developing a series of water catchment systems on our grounds that will allow the public to view each system individually and that will allow everyone to learn more about water catchment in general—how it can help us save water and money.

Earth Day activities will include information on other topics like **recycling** and other **ways each of us can help** preserve the environment. Additionally, we will offer several resources for students and teachers on related topics.



Come help us celebrate this very special event at RNC!

Welcome, New Members To RNC!!

Margaret Barnhart
Cheri Brajenovich
Mary Hrynyszak
Julia Miller
Mr. & Mrs. David Tritenbach

**A Very Special THANK YOU
for the Gift goes to...
Our December donors:**

Laurie and Andy Pesez
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Stewart
Edith Bettinger
Erik Breden
Dr. and Mrs. Ted Boyce
Pamela Laing
David P May





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!

**Entry fee for all programs is
\$5.00 for Adults—1/2 price
for members!
Kids 12 & under—FREE!!**

Adult Learning for Living Series

**“Why Rainwater Harvesting?”
By Raul & Sandy Pena**

Saturday, Feb. 10th, 10 a.m. — 12 p.m.



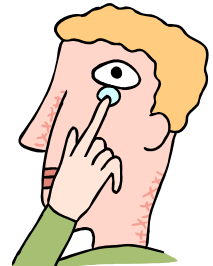
Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Series

Scheduled for noon to 1 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of the month in which one is scheduled.

Bring your sack lunch, and we will provide a drink and a tasty dessert!

**“Keep a Wary
Weather Eye!”**

**By Larry Eblen
Thurs., Feb. 8th,
noon to 1 p.m.**



RNC's next Star Party is set for Saturday, March 3rd!

The focus of this Star Party's programming and viewing will be our moon, In fact, it will be a **FULL MOON** that night! Please mark your calendar for this event, and come learn amazing new things about our closest lunar neighbor!