



Riverside Nature Notes

The Riverside
Nature Center

Volume 32
October 2007

BEHIND THE SCENES AT Down By the Riverside

**THANK
YOU from the
Bottom of Our
Hearts!!!**

Down By the Riverside was a rousing success! However, I don't know how many of you are aware of what all has to be done prior to the event, so I thought this would be good information to pass on to you.



First of all, Down By the Riverside is actually an event that allows 2 separate organizations with common interests to work together to benefit from the proceeds. RNCA is one of them, of course, and the other is the Texas Master Naturalists, Kerrville Chapter (TMN)! Representatives from both organizations meet for several months prior to select a theme (this year's theme was "Trees and Backyard Critters"). The DBTR Planning Committee included our chairperson, Jack Millikan; his wife, Karen Millikan, who oversaw our atrium tree display and kids' activities; Angelo Falzarano, who oversaw the canoeing and the kids' activities; Linda Karst Stone, a board member for Promotions & PR who oversaw publicity; Andy Pesez, who helped with plant delivery, helped get food/drinks, and oversaw our DBTR banner efforts; Joyce Sandlin, who oversaw RNC volunteer contacts; and me, the

On the MN side of the committee we had Jim Stanley, who handled the speakers/presenters; his wife, Priscilla Stanley, who oversaw the plant sale and MN volunteer contacts; and Donna Robinson, who also handled publicity.

One of the biggest jobs is the plant sale. It is the primary money-maker, but the real goal is to encourage the people who live in the area to plant native plants! The selection of the plants is a BIG job, and Priscilla works hours and hours contacting local nurseries who grow natives to find out what's available. Then, she and several others including Andy Pesez, John Quinby, John Farmer, and Cynthia Johnson drive their own trucks (and sometimes rent trailers) in order to bring the plants to RNC. Then the plants have to be organized, signs made/posted, prices determined, etc., etc., etc! They also have to be watered, as well as fenced from the hungry deer and other critters. AFTER the event involves additional efforts—especially if not all plants are sold.

The behind the scenes efforts include time-consuming, hard work, but the outcome is a successful plant sale as well as an informative, fun nature festival. All objectives for this event meet both our organization's missions—to keep our environment healthier!

The following volunteers helped to make our recent Down By the Riverside Event possible:

Planning Committee

Jack Millikan, Chair
Karen Millikan
Angelo Falzarano
Andy Pesez
Linda Karst Stone
Joyce Sandlin
Jim Stanley
Priscilla Stanley
Donna Robinson

Other Volunteers:

Antoinette Hamilton
Barbara Gaddis
Susan Longacre
Jerri Workman
Phyllis Muska
Otis Fox
Marguerite Belec
Diane McMahan
Julie Gibson
Steve Dodge
John J.B. Miller
Chuck Smith
Guy Harrison
Sonny Payne
Jim Laughlin
Anne Cassidy
Peggy Robinson
Gayle Warren
Elaine Payne
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Meet RNC'S Volunteer of the Month, Ed Fort

By Barbara Staggs



If you have noticed the freshly cleaned stone walkway into the Nature Center's Visitor Center, then you have Ed Fort to thank! We may have to start calling him our own "Power Ranger". He did a wonderful job of power washing the walkway, walls, and even our "Promise" sculpture that was looking quite mildewy. Hence, Ed became our choice for RNC's Volunteer of the Month!

Ed actually grew up in Galveston, Texas, only a few blocks from the Gulf. He graduated from Ball High School, and then attended Lamar University in Beaumont, graduating with a BBA in Marketing. For 7 years during his high school and college days, he worked for Kroger. Upon graduation from Lamar University, Ed went to work for Dow Chemical. They taught him the chemistry, both basic and organic, and then the product specific type that he needed to work for them. He stayed with Dow for thirty-seven years. His last assignment with Dow was in Cincinnati, Ohio as a corporate sales team leader for a single large paper account to which they sold paper coating chemicals. There were about 24 people on the team which primarily covered the US. His work history

with Dow involved sales, marketing, and communications. Travel was extensive. He was lucky in spending only 3 or 4 years at corporate headquarters in Midland, Michigan where the winters were very long and very white! There was only one thing in Midland, Michigan that Ed really loved and he married her and brought her south with him almost 30 years ago. Her name is Professor Fort. She works for Schreiner University, where she is part of the IT (Information Technology) faculty, but only Ed and their cats are allowed to call her Cindy!

Ed retired from Dow in 2003, while they lived in Cincinnati, and Cindy was working for the university there. They began investigating locations for a permanent retirement home and decided on Kerrville because of the climate, cost of living, friendliness of the folks, the University, the beauty of the Hill Country and the multitude of things to do. They, like a lot of other people, were tired of the winters, terrible traffic, and general stress of living in a large city. Since coming here, Ed and Cindy have enjoyed learning about the local flora and fauna which is very different from his native Galveston—where the largest winged inhabitants are the seagulls and the mosquitoes, (not necessarily in that order) and where the fauna consists almost solely of salt grass, stick-a-burs, and sand.

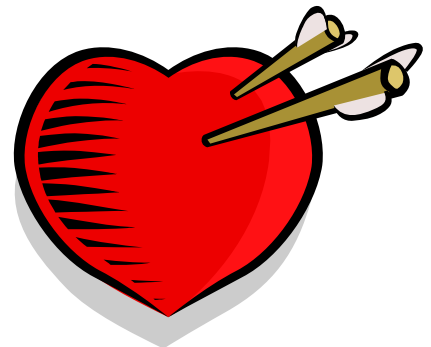
Ed and Cindy have two 8 year old cats and a youngster that they just brought in from living wild. Ed has two sons, 2 siblings in the Houston area and 1 in Australia, and cousins all across Texas.

Ed and Cindy got involved in RNC by coming in the back door, so to speak. They are soon to start building an eco-friendly, energy-efficient house on an acre lot in Comanche Trace and wanted to know

more about how to make their landscape resemble the native hills and prairies. Happily, the land already has a couple of dozen healthy live oaks on it. This adventure led them to a NPSOT meeting which led them to the RNC. The rest, as they say, is history. Ed and his wife feel that RNC is a great, unique resource for Kerrville area residents. The only way to maintain the beauty, breadth and complexity of the Texas Hill Country, requires a lot of education, effort, and dedication on the part of those living here. Consequently, they see this as an essential contribution by RNC. Since Ed is still learning about our plants and is uncomfortable with pulling RNC's "weeds", he feels he can at least help with the Visitor Center's internal displays as well as keep up the physical facilities by volunteering his time to do whatever needs to be done.

When Ed is not power washing at RNC or going over house plans, he likes to do wood carving and to read. Ed and Cindy have also enjoyed the Symphony of the Hills, KPAS, and various activities at Schreiner University where Ed is also a volunteer. They love to travel, mainly in the summer when college is not in session, and they plan to have more travel adventures in the future. They also enjoy square dancing with the Kerr-Li-Qs (square dance club) where Ed is on the managing committee.

Ed has been very helpful with displays in the center and keeping the astronomy display updated with new information. Many thanks go to our "Power Ranger" for all his hard work and time! We really appreciate all you do for RNC, Ed!



Help Wanted!

The Nature Center is blessed with many talented volunteers, and now we need a few more to help with specific areas. **Promotions and Public Relations** for RNC's many events and activities is capably overseen by Director Linda Karst Stone; Linda could use some volunteer help – examples of help needed include distributing RNC brochures, writing press releases, taking photographs of activities and events, making fliers for events, researching advertising opportunities and costs. A volunteer could agree to help with one single event, such as Earth Day, or for a more ongoing basis.

Membership and Volunteers is chaired by Director Dr. Jennifer Bone, and oversees promotion of membership, recruitment and orientation of volunteers as well as volunteer recognition. Jennifer could use some more help, and this is a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with our members and volunteers. Last winter, we had a successful phonathon which helped us reach renewing members.

Grants and Fundraising is chaired by Director Paul Avery. As you know, RNC has benefited over the years from a number of small and large grants. In 2006, the Center was able to purchase new computers and a power point projector because of a grant from the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country. You could help by researching funding sources online or contacting possible sources of donations or grants to benefit RNC.

Of course, all our other committees – **Annual Events, Education, Buildings and Landscaping** – welcome volunteers. Your commitment of time enables the Nature Center to expand our programs and reach more people – and, best of all, you will make some new friends and learn more about your nature center. If you are interested in one of these opportunities, or would just like to learn more, please let Cass know, and she will put you in touch with the right person.

Jump in! The water's fine, and the opportunities to be a BIG help to RNC are unlimited!

**PLEASE WELCOME
these New RNC Members!**

**Robert Delery, Jr.
Courtney Lutz
Dyne Macha
Mr. and Mrs. Jack McDaniel**



**To Our September Donors:
Andy Pesez
Rudi Winzinger**

**THANK YOU TO OUR
DBTR VOLUNTEERS
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1):**

Sherry Egloff	Carol Ann Neunhoffer
Nina Wagner	Janet Csanyi
Sara Hendricker	Kevin Pillow
Adele Junkin	Maura Osborne
Lloyd Hemmert	Martha Miesch
Barbara Gaddis	Sharon Rodriguez
Jane Crone	Scott Magee
Barbara Lowenthal	Sandra Magee
Tori Neunhoffer	Kayla Boggs
Ravyn Derby	Alex Gathing
Rick Ertel	Caryl Derby
Jennifer Bone	Ann Schroeder
Becky Wiginton	Blaze Derby
Warren Ferguson	Judieth Brach
Trudy Andrus	Laurie Pesez
Barbara Staggs	Ann Laughlin
Priscilla Bailey	Barbara Noblin
Roger MacAskie	Bill Csanyi
Stephanie Ertel	Wanda Dobie
Jim Dobie	Jay Keen
John Quinby	Cynthia Johnson



The Riverside Nature Center

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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!!!!



Saturday, Nov. 3rd, 7:30 p.m.

A STAR PARTY!

Part of RNC's Family Fun Night Series!

This activity includes programming for all school aged kids up through adults! After a 30 minute program, 5 telescopes borrowed from Schreiner University will be set up on our grounds to view: Neptune, Uranus, star clusters, and star globulars. Come learn a little more about astronomy! Come see the spectacular sights! Every telescope will be manned with a volunteer who will be able to answer most of your questions about what's being viewed and about astronomy in general.

ENTRY FEES: \$5.00 per adult;
\$2.50 for kids 12 and under.
(half price for NRC Members)

