



Barbara Stidham

RIVERSIDE NATURE NOTES

From the Executive Director

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

The volunteers who gave their time and toil in 2011

Are cordially invited to attend

Afternoon Tea with Wine

Wednesday, 25 January

4:15 to 5:45 p.m.



If you haven't already done so, please RSVP to the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration by email office@riversidenaturecenter.org or by telephone 257-4837 or cell phone 210-383-8638. We wish to have as close to a final attendee count as possible by January 16 so we can plan the refreshments. Thanks

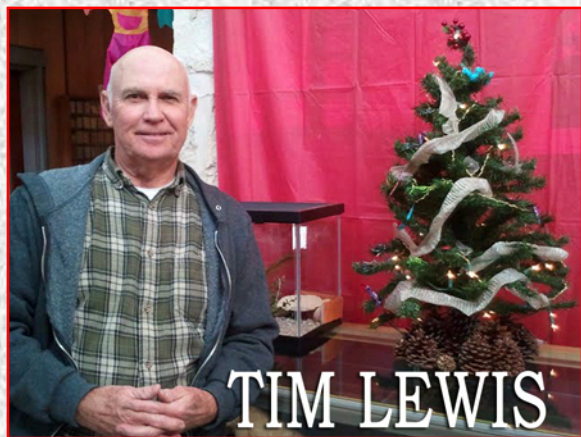
As you know, I will be leaving my position here at RNC toward the end of February. And while it is my decision to retire, I want you to know that the Riverside Nature Center is special to me and so are its people. I love the place, the mission, the volunteers and staff. I am sure that my future activities will somehow include RNC.

The last four years have been rewarding and satisfying even if they have also been challenging. I am honored to have known you and I am looking forward to watching the future growth and changes. Thank you for your friendship and support.

Barbara Stidham



Spotlight on Tim Lewis



This East Texas boy grew up wanting to be three things: biologist, oilfield worker, soldier. Tim Lewis, B.S., M.S., and a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, has been “blessed to do everything I’ve ever wanted to do since I was a little child.” He probably didn’t count on adding grounds maintenance at Riverside Nature Center, but he wears that cap, too.

Born in Liberty, Texas, reared in Dayton, Tim received his B.S. in biology from Tarleton State College, graduating May 28, 1966. At Tarleton, he met his future wife, Anita, a native of Cuba also attending Tarleton. They first laid eyes on each other in the school cafeteria, at 10 a.m., Sept. 14, 1964. An

officer in the Corps of Cadets, Tim wore his uniform, when freshman Anita and a girlfriend just happened to walk up and ask, “What do all those medals mean?”

It was love at first sight for Tim, so he quickly put out the word, “Don’t mess with the little Cuban girl. She’s mine.” They married in 1965.

After college Tim fulfilled his biologist desire by conducting medical research at Baylor Medical School. Yet the yearning to be a soldier still had him gripped. June 1967, he went on active duty in the Army, spending a rewarding career as a petroleum officer.

He commanded three companies in Germany, then volunteered for Vietnam in 1969, where he was Petroleum Call Forward Officer in Saigon. He made sure petroleum got to where it was supposed to go. Within 5 months, he commanded the 512th Quartermaster Company, Petroleum Operating, in Long Binh.

Next assigned to Washington, D.C., he was aide de camp to Brig. Gen. William R. Bigler, then to Rear Admiral William Oller.

The Army then ordered Tim to the island of Aruba, in the capacity of petroleum quality assurance representative for the Caribbean and all of South America. Tim returned to school in 1975 to receive a master’s in petroleum engineering from the University of Missouri Rolla. He graduated in 1977. Thereafter, he earned a master’s in logistics management from Florida Institute of Technology; he also attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va., and the Defense Language School in Monterey, Calif., studying Turkish at the latter. His language skills were put to use in Izmir, Turkey, the biblical Smyrna.

In a total change of pace, he next went to South Korea to command the 2nd Quartermaster Group, operating the sole petroleum pipeline in South Korea. “We were the only unit in the entire military to return money to the U.S. Treasury,” he said. “We rented out the pipeline to Korean oil companies.”

His last military post was TRADOC system manager for the petroleum and water systems being developed for American military use.

Retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel, he got his teaching certificate from UH Clear Lake. He then taught high school chemistry, physics, biology, and marine science in Baytown, and coached in the UIL and decathlon programs. “I loved teaching,” he said, “but I was offered a job where I got more in an annual bonus than I made all year as a teacher.” He and Anita had a son and a daughter approaching college; he took the job. For 18 years, he worked near Port Arthur as Big Hill Site Director for DM Petroleum Operations Company, working with the DOE’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

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Finally retired last January, he and Anita moved to Kerrville. Yet he's not on the porch, watching the deer. He volunteers with the Tierra Linda VFD, the Texas Wildlife Association, Kerrville First United Methodist Church, Kerr County Habitat for Humanity, the Kerrville Garden Club, the Texas Stream Team with TCEQ. and he's a recent graduate of the Master Naturalist program.

He relaxes by giving back to the community. RNC can be thankful for that. You'll find Tim hereabouts on Thursdays. Some of his projects have included disassembling a high fence, rejuvenating signs, and he's worked on the gutters and the water collection system behind the shed. He added, "I've done a lot of building maintenance and carpentry work."

He's also helped with set up for special events, has kept the trail cut, and mans the chipper/mulcher. While he says he doesn't mind being Recycling Chief, it would be nice to get him some help, where he can concentrate on our long Honey-Do list. Why does he do so much for us? He replied, "I love the people here."

Tim, RNC *thanks you so much* for all you have done in less than a year. You are very much needed. We appreciate you even more than you're needed, if that is possible.

~Martha Hix

COMING EVENTS



Riverside Nature Center

www.riversidenaturecenter.org

THANKS



JANUARY

25th "Volunteer Appreciation"

4:15-5:45 pm Calling all RNC volunteers! Please come to the party! Enjoy good food, drinks, and company. With games and party favors, too! Volunteers only. **FREE**

FEBRUARY

14th Brown Bag "Lunch & Learn" 11:30am -12:45pm—Ann Brown of the Texas Agriculture Dept. will be speaking on "Rainwater collection systems for your needs". Discussed will be a wide variety of collection methods including the simplest methods used by a gardener . Members \$3, Non Members \$6.

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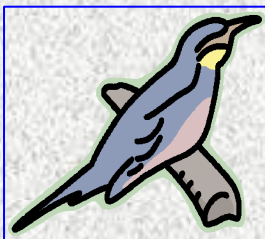
Coming Events *continued*

APRIL



21st “Hill Country Charity Ball”

6:00 pm – 1:00 am at the YO Ranch Hotel A fine dinner, dancing, and a live auction highlight the annual Hill Country Charity Ball. For information and tickets go to www.hillcountrycharityball.org. Proceeds benefit the Riverside Nature Center.



27th Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale Members

Only Pre-Sale 5:00 – 6:30 pm Members of the Riverside Nature Center or the Native Plant Society of Texas can shop for plants before the big sale while the selection is best. Not a member? Join and shop the same day. **FREE Admission**



28th Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale 8:00 am –

3:00 pm Come enjoy the Hill Country’s popular Spring Festival and Native Plant sale. Attend seminars on important environmental topics; enjoy the family oriented activities, educational displays, and more. **FREE Admission**

MAY



4th “First Friday WineShare” 6:00 – 7:30 pm

The Riverside Nature Center is the place to be on the first Friday in May. Come join the fun. See your friends and neighbors, meet new people and enjoy good wine. The beautiful grounds of the Riverside Nature Center are open for strolling and relaxing during this festive event. Bring your favorite wine glass. Each couple should bring a bottle of wine. **Free Admission**



Notes From The Meadow

WINTER IN THE MEADOW

By Pat Perkison

The meadow appears to be dormant but is still really teeming with life. If you look carefully with an appreciative eye, you can see rosettes of standing cypress, a variety of sage plants, Engelmann Daisy, penstemon, Texas bluebonnet and many others. The rue (herb of grace) is still a charming sight with its deeply indented, blue-green leaves and the Rose Pavonia has survived and is ready for rain and spring. A hardy (and possibly lost) orange fritillary type butterfly was also seen sunning in the butterfly garden near the rue.

But I was really pleased to see an oak motte (a copse or small stand of trees) growing in the meadow for the first time since the fence was erected. Before the fence, the young oak sprouts were immediately "mowed" down by the deer. Now these sprouts can grow up to be Live Oaks too. You may not like them in your yard, but the motte provides an important environment for wildlife. (If you don't want the motte in your yard, cut the sprouts off but do not use herbicide or tiller, as it will detrimentally affect the parent tree.)

Come and visit the meadow and see how many emerging plants you can identify and expect a beautiful spring!

"If you wish to be happy for a year, plant a garden. If you wish to be happy for a lifetime, plant a tree."





Tom Schall
Nature Photo Exhibit
KACC, March 8 –
April 1, 2012
Public Reception,
March 10, 2012; 1:00
– 3:00 PM
Proceeds benefit
Riverside Nature
Center

Many of you know our friend, Tom Schall, a naturalist and photographer. You may not know that Tom's work will be featured at a show at KACC's Hill Country Nature Photography exhibit and that proceeds will benefit the Riverside Nature Center. We appreciate Tom's generosity very much and want to recognize him for his support. Here is a little information about Tom. We hope you will see his exhibit.

Tom was born in the anthracite coal region of northeastern Pennsylvania. His Dad was an avid outdoorsman. Gratefully, his dad passed that love of nature on to Tom. Tom received his first bird, butterfly and tree field guides at 6 years of age. Much of his youth was spent on a farm, fully immersed in nature. Soon after graduation, he joined IBM as a mechanical engineer and spent 34 fairy-tale years in their employment. Since retirement in 1996 he has devoted his time to the enjoyment of nature by traveling the US, six of the seven continents and 59 countries of the world...often in pursuit of birds, but, also the cultural beauty of these marvelous countries, as well.



Tom Schall

In 2006 Tom and his wife bought a ranchette in Tierra Linda and joyfully call Kerrville and the Hill Country their home. As the photographic revolution progressed into digital image capture, his interest increased dramatically. It is a rare day that Tom does not take 100 + images. Tom has chosen many of his favorites for his exhibit in the hope that you will enjoy them as much as he does.



Exhibit Photo

All proceeds from the sale of his photos will be donated to the Riverside Nature Center. Thank you for taking time to view the exhibit and enjoy "Hill Country Nature". It is a bonus that you will be benefiting RNC. Thank you, Tom.



RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER

RNCA Membership Form

Personal Levels

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____ Date _____

◇ Individual	\$ 35.00
◇ Family	50.00
◇ Friend	100.00
◇ Supporter	250.00
◇ Sustaining	500.00
◇ Benefactor	750.00
◇ Patron	1,000.00

Please return to: **Riverside Nature Center Association, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville, TX 78028**

Phone 830/257-4837

email: office@riversidenaturecenter.org



VOLUNTEER VINE

By Martha Hix — Membership & Volunteer Coordinator

Happy New Year! January brings RNC's annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. It takes place at the center Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. We're planning games, favors, fun, and friendship for our **2011 volunteers**. This event is a full English tea, catered by Queen B's Tea Room, accompanied by nice bottles of wine. We survive and thrive, thanks to your help. We do want to say THANKS.

Please let us know by Jan. 15 if you're attending and if you'll bring a guest.

It's nice to be appreciated. Barbara Stidham thanks everyone for their efforts, but I wanted to take this opportunity to point out some unsung RNC heroes. We know it's not possible for every member to volunteer time at the center. Often, donations are all a person can give. Monetary gifts, large or small, are always welcome. Without them, we couldn't stay alive. *Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

Other ways to support RNC is to attend our various functions and programs, or by talking us up to newcomers, prospective donors, or to philanthropic groups. If this is how you support RNC, please know how much we appreciate you – *so very much!*

But the fact remains, RNC is a large headquarters, a number of other buildings, and our acreage. We conduct many programs and host numerous events. While we do have staff, our volunteers administer, facilitate, and maintain the whole of RNC.

You have done a beautiful job of that for almost 23 years. Yet ... a goodly number of the folks who have volunteered in past years are still the ones volunteering. Not that we'd turn away a seasoned volunteer – we certainly wouldn't! – but we need new blood. We need more Tim Lewises. (See "Spotlight.")

With RNC as trailhead for the new River Trail, and given that RNC is the 2012 Charity Ball beneficiary, we have a number of new opportunities. We need docents, special events floaters, display/artistry to rejuvenate the atrium, gardening for new gardens, grounds/building maintenance, fill-in and special events office help, and a recycling chief (with a pickup truck). Are you up to any of those responsibilities?

Maybe you want to volunteer but don't know where else we need help. Below, you'll find a list of ongoing programs. Don't be shy. Please don't hesitate to phone or visit me. I am reached at the office, 257-4837; by cell phone, 210-383-8638; or email rncmembership@gmail.com.

Always remember, YOU ARE APPRECIATED! Thank you.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Annual & special events
- Collections/library
- Displays and artistry
- Docents (includes plant identification)
- Education, adult and youth
- Gardening
- Gleaning/meadow
- Grounds & bldg maint/landscape
- Office, computer
- Office, general
- Newsletter
- Program development
- Publicity/speaker's bureau/community outreach
- Science, program development
- Volunteer training
- Wildlife (birding & kiosks)

RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER

150 Francisco Lemos Street
Kerrville Texas 78028

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We're on the Web
www.riversidenaturecenter.org

Dedicated to appreciation of the Texas Hill Country education, information, and example

Change Service Requested



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Board Members :

Kathleen Boyce, RN
Rick Ertel, Atty.
Peter Lewis
Tracy Crawford-Gournay

Facts and Figures (Dec)

New Members	0
Rentals	7
Rental Income	\$ 350
Donations	\$ 13,040

We now have the capability to accept donations and membership fees on-line at our website. You can submit your secure payment through your PayPal account or with a Credit Card. Visit our website at www.riversidenaturecenter.org for further information.