



the Leaflet



Visiting Researcher Seminar with Charlie de la Rosa

Join us on Thursday, January 7, from noon – 1 p.m. for the first Visiting Researcher Seminar of 2016. Charlie de la Rosa, a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Los Angeles, will be discussing his study of the foraging and ranging behavior of cattle in “A new, open-source methodology to study free-ranging cattle diet and ranging behavior using time-lapse video and GPS.” For this work de la Rosa uses animal-mounted GoPro cameras with customized hardware and software and small, inexpensive GPS data loggers that provide him with visual and spatial data and give an unprecedented window into the lives of free-ranging livestock as they interact with their environment. For more information about this talk or our visiting researcher events, please visit <http://www.brit.org/events/lecture-series>.



BRIT's Brown Bag Speaker Series Resumes February 2

Join us the first Tuesday of each month during 2016 for our Brown Bag Speaker series and hear about interesting and timely topics from a variety of educators, scientists, and community leaders. Make plans to be here for these upcoming talks:

- February 2 - Bob O'Kennon & Kim Taylor, Flora Diversity of the LBJ National Grasslands
- March 1 - Gail Manning, Supporting Monarch Butterflies
- April 5 - Amy Hays, Hugh Aljoe, & Mike Proctor, Moving Forward in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources with the Noble Foundation

These talks will take place in the BRIT Commons from noon – 1pm. Bring your lunch and bring a friend and come learn with us! For more information about our Brown Bag series please visit our [webpage](#).

Do You Want to Guarantee a Good New Year?

It's the start of a new year, and BRIT would be the perfect place to check off one of your resolutions, to volunteer, while you learn about plants and connect your knowledge to the community around us. At BRIT we have volunteer opportunities with education, herbarium, research, Butterflies in the Garden, and more.



Speaking of butterflies, the 2016 exhibit will run from March 1st through April 3rd, and for the first time ever, you

may sign-up for your required February training date and your event shifts at the same time. Remember there will also be Education Volunteer Activities for school groups at BRIT.

Dr. Ed Schneider has joined BRIT as Executive Director, and we will be having three different volunteer small-group meetings with him. More details will be sent to you soon via email, but please find the date for your group and mark your calendar now:

- Ambassadors: January 14 at 3:30 p.m. in the Classroom
- Development, Education, Library, Operations, Press, Research Volunteers: January 19 at 10 a.m. in the Commons
- Herbarium Volunteers: January 25 at 11 a.m. in the TRC

When we welcome you back to volunteering on January 4th, please use the new check in system on the laptop computer in the Volunteer Spot. Julie will be happy to help you become more familiar with NGO.

Your volunteer time can make a difference for children, the community, and for you. For more information about volunteer opportunities, Butterflies in the Garden, meetings with Dr. Schneider, or NGO please contact [Julie Donovan](#), Director of Volunteers and Visitor Relations, at 817.546.1846.

End of Year Library Wrap Up

Year 2015 was a good one for the BRIT library. The stated goal for the library in 2015 was to make ourselves more relevant and responsive to the needs of the BRIT staff, and to that end we added 154 titles and hundreds of journal issues from around the world to the main research collection and we addressed accessibility issues by shifting volumes so that the collection would be more logically arranged, adding signage in the stacks so that books could be more easily located and reclassifying those books in our collection that were originally cataloged using the Dewey system rather than the Library of Congress system. We began a project to catalog BRIT's art collection, we continued cataloging the rare book portion of the Burk Children's Collection, and we reorganized the oversized book collection. If you'd like to come see the changes we're making or if you'd like to schedule a time to use the research collection, please send us an email at library@brit.org or for more information, please visit our [webpage](#) or call [Laura Venhaus](#) at 817.332.4441, ext 259.

Titles added to the collection in November and December 2015			
Author	Title	Date	Call No.
Chester, Edward W.	A fifth checklist of Tennessee vascular plants	2009	QK 187 .F469 2009
Hamilton, Helen	Wildflowers & grasses of Virginia's coastal plain	2013	QK 191 .H218w 2013
Herrera Arrieta, Yolanda	Gramíneas de Zacatecas, México	2010	QK 495 .G74 H565g 2010
Hong, De-yuan	Plants of China	2015	QK 355 .P714 2015
Lipscomb, Barney	Floristics in the new millennium	2000	QK 125 .F632 1998f
Luer, Carlyle A.	Ein Schatz von Masdevallia	1996	QK 495.064 L848 1996
Riley, Jim	Plant guide : Maritime Succulent Scrub Region, Northwest Baja California, Mexico	2015	QK 97.5 .R573p 2015
	Annotated checklist of the vascular plants of Alabama	2011	QK 145 .A615 2011
	Flora of Australia. Vol. 37. Asteraceae 1	2015	QK 431 F632 v.37 2015

Botanical Explorer Dwayne Estes' Webinar

Dr. Dwayne Estes, BRIT Botanical Explorer based in Tennessee, presented a webinar Tuesday, December 15, about BRIT's Pennyroyal Plain Prairie restoration project in Tennessee and Kentucky. Dwayne was invited to give a webinar by the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium, an organization based out of the University of Missouri. The Consortium's goal is to "increase the availability and consideration of credible fire science information to those making land management decisions." Dwayne's 50-minute webinar was attended by 42 participants from across the southeastern U.S. An archive of the webinar can be viewed anytime at www.oakfirescience.com/past-events-webinars/. Many other highly informative webinars are available for free for those interested in fire ecology, fire history, and prairie, savanna, and woodland restoration.

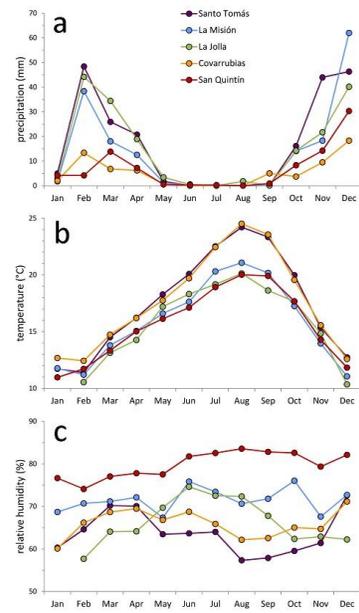


Marine Influences on Plants in Mediterranean Mexico

Differences in climate don't just affect where plants can live, they also affect when plants flower and for how long! A recent publication in the *Journal of Plant Ecology* by Biodiversity Explorer Sula

Vanderplank and her colleague Exequiel Ezcurra shows that fog can have a significant effect on the timing and duration of flowering. Their study along the coast of NW Baja California compares the weather and flowering times at five sites in different positions. The sites closer to the coast have greater humidity (fog) which lowers summer temperatures and correlates to earlier and longer flowering of many plant species. This shows the importance of conserving coastal habitat, which might be critical to plant conservation in a changing climate.

To learn more, read the article online at: [How Marine Influence Controls Plant Phenological Dynamics in Mediterranean Mexico](#)



Agents Examine ESTEM Career Choices

December's Green Revolution Exploration Saturday had the Agents of Change examining their career goals and looking for passion and opportunity in the world around them. Assistant Principal Reggie Robinson helped the students design a plan to achieve their career goals and dreams. Stephanie Zavala, a water conservationist specialist with City of Fort Worth, talked about incorporating your hobbies into your career goals. TCU PhD candidate Jared

Williams spoke about educational planning and engaged the students in a fun coding activity. And BRIT Botanist Brooke Best showed the Agents the hidden careers all around them, including fire starting, kite flying, model building, illustrating, publishing, storytelling, and travelling! By the end of the day, Agents reported learning how to focus on their goals, what steps to take now to move toward them, and how to dream big and think outside the box. We look forward to one day seeing these students change the world!



Thank you to our Annual Event Sponsors, Guests, and Committee

Thank you to our committee, sponsors, donors, and guests for your support at this year's Annual Award of Excellence in Conservation Gala. Your contribution is making a difference in our community to increase awareness of the value of plants and to teach the importance of good stewardship to sustain a healthy planet.



Bella's Visiting Family for the Holidays. Check Back with Her in February! Happy New Year!

4-H and FFA Wildlife Contest at BRIT

The Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo has included a Wildlife Contest to its list of student competitions during the 2016 event. The contest will be held at BRIT on January 18, 2016. Area students that are enrolled in public or private sciences in the state of Texas and trained under the supervision of an Agricultural Science teacher or County Extension Agent are eligible to compete. Coaches can enter individuals or teams to compete in this event. All contestants must be at least nine years of age, but not older than nineteen years of age, by January 1, 2016. This contest is designed to challenge any student currently in wildlife study and enhance their education in the subject of wildlife species and wildlife habitat management.



If you have any questions about this event, please contact [Tracy Friday](#). Volunteers are needed to assist with registration. If you are interested in volunteering to help make this educational event a success, please contact [Julie Donovan](#).

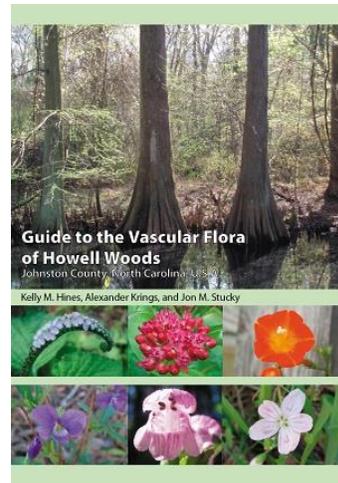
BRIT Press Publishes North Carolina Flora Book

Guide to the Vascular Flora of Howell Woods, Johnston County, North Carolina, U.S.A. by Kelly M. Hines, Alexander Krings, and Jon M. Stucky. ISBN 978-1-889-878-47-8. \$20.00, + \$2.50 shipping, 30 Nov 2015, 7"x10" (soft cover), 276 pp.

About the Book

Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center (Johnston County, North Carolina; "Howell Woods") is "the most significant terrestrial natural area in the county" as designated by the NC Natural Heritage Program. Comprising 1155 ha, the site is one of the largest tracts of intact forest remaining in the county. Howell Woods is home to ten natural plant communities and numerous rare plant species. The *Guide to the Vascular Flora of Howell Woods* provides a checklist of the flora compiled from the first author's collections, historic collections, and reports of species from the site. The illustrated guide is based on the checklist of over 580 species in 123 families and includes 108 new county records. Keys are provided to all vouchered or reported species and genera. Habitat, exotic status, flowering and fruiting phenology, abundance, and synonymy are incorporated. In addition, relevant voucher information is provided. This is first in a series of Illustrated Floras of North Carolina Project from the North Carolina State University Vascular Plant Herbarium (NCSC), designed to be useful to both botanical specialists and a more general audience.

The *Guide to the Vascular Flora of Howell Woods* is available at [Shop BRIT](#).



BRIT Education Goes Global

Tracy Friday and Christina Middlebrook, BRIT's education program directors, traveled to Costa Rica to work with members of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS) on the creation of a joint environmental educational exploration for educators and students. Third-year educators continuing with the Green Revolution Boot Camp program and Green Revolution Command Agents, meeting community service criteria, may have the opportunity to share self-developed local service-learning design projects with a global

audience. BRIT and OTS are interested in developing experiences that reinforce and encourage environmental STEM initiatives. The exploration will allow educators and students, from both countries, to work with scientists and community organizations, gaining a greater understanding of pressing global environmental issues and collaboratively designing solutions for local community needs.

The Las Cruces Biological Station, home of the Wilson Botanical Garden, will serve as headquarters for this unique and life-changing exploration. Las Cruces is located in the southeastern corner of the country between Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula and the La Amistad International Biosphere Reserve. The Wilson Botanical Garden is an important botanical garden in Central America. If you would like to learn more, or are interested in supporting the exploration with a donation, please contact [Tracy Friday](#) or [Christina Middlebrook](#) for more information.



Warm wishes for a Happy New Year!

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Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Please email tcrole@brit.org if you prefer to receive this as an email.

Our Mission is to conserve our natural heritage by deepening our knowledge of the plant world and achieving public understanding of the value plants bring to life.