



the Leaflet



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.



PRAIRIE NIGHT

MAY 12

FOOD • DRINK • MUSIC

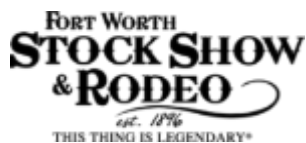
DOORS OPEN @ 6 PM

HEADLINER

ELEVEN HUNDRED SPRINGS

WITH JOEY GREEN BAND & THE DICK BELDINGS

General admission: bring a blanket or lawn chair for dinner and live bands under the stars! Food available for purchase by savvy chef David Hollister of the Gas Monkey Bar N' Grill and cash bar. Activities include a free photo booth, t-shirts on demand, giant Jenga, corn-hole, and more. VIP guests will enjoy complimentary passed appetizers, & Bar, 2 drink tickets, air conditioned bathrooms, and swag.



7TH ANNUAL

PRAIRIE DAY MAY 13

9 AM - 3 PM

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 13, to join us for this **free**, family-friendly day of fun, learning, demonstrations, activities, and giveaways! Learn about hardy Texas native plants, as well as the culture and natural history that define our region, through activities and games for the whole family. Highlights of this 7th annual festival include:

- 40+ Exhibitors
- Live music from Matt Snook, Hartley Hall, and Amber Leigh White
- Petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, and children's crafts
- Birds of Prey and World of Reptiles presentations
- Animal Hope Pet Adoptions
- Bella's Story Time, guided prairie walks, and BRIT tour
- Raffle prizes and food trucks.

May is Research Month!

Please join us this month for two very special brown bag presentations featuring the BRIT researchers. Bring your lunch and join us from noon -- 1 p.m. Each presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.



- Tuesday, May 2, noon: Kim Taylor, Heather Bass, and Dr. Harold Keller will give presentations about some of their recent and noteworthy projects.
- Tuesday, May 16, noon: Meet the Researchers! Several members of the research staff will give short presentations explaining why they love science and how they got started in their careers. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about our staff members and the fields in which they work.

Research month also includes the return of a beloved exhibit: "BRIT Collections: The Hidden Gardens of BRIT." An array of important items from BRIT's collections will be on display in our exhibit hall beginning May 15th. Stop by to learn about significant specimens from the herbarium and valuable rare books from the library collection.

Sip at BRIT: Sip and Walk Plant Tour

Join us on May 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for the next in our series of happy hour learning events occurring the third Thursday of each month. It begins with a half-hour mixer made festive with good wine from our generous vintner friends, Trefethen and LangeTwins, and tasty hors d' oeuvres compliments of City Club.

After the mixer, BRIT's Greg Gunn and Bob O'Kennon will expound on the glories of using native plants and give you a tour of the BRIT landscape. Find out what will work in your spring garden! To register, call Sara Richardson at 817.332.2748.



CITY CLUB
FORT WORTH
MEMBERSHIP TO DINING, FITNESS & SPA

Trefethen
Family Winery

L **LANGETWINS**
FAMILY WINERY AND VINEYARDS

FortWorth
magazine

Hidden Treasures: *Alexander von Humboldt and the Scientific Discovery of America*



BRIT Reads, our monthly book club, recently enjoyed Andrea Wulf's bestseller *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World*. This month's discussion was made even more special because we have a relevant item in our rare book collection: the 1808 botanical volume of Alexander von Humboldt and Amié Bonpland's *Voyage to the Equinoctial Regions of the New Continent*.

If you want to read more give us a call and we will mail you a copy.

Bella and Spring are Blooming at BRIT!



Wednesday, March 1
Saturday, March 4
Tuesday, March 7

Saturday, April 1
Tuesday, April 4
Wednesday, April 5

Tuesday, May 2
Wednesday, May 3
Saturday, May 6

For more information, visit www.brit.org.

BudBurst at BRIT

BRIT welcomes the community to contribute to a national database and citizen science project known as Project BudBurst. Spring is here, and we are greeting the season with an opportunity to explore our BRITscape through an outdoor activity designed to document designated flowering plants and contribute to our ongoing observations of our landscape. Spread and plant the seeds of stewardship and your love of nature!

Visit this [link](#) for more information on Project BudBurst.

If your child enjoys this challenge, they will surely enjoy our innovative summer camps. Click for further [details](#) or contact our Education team at britedu@brit.org.

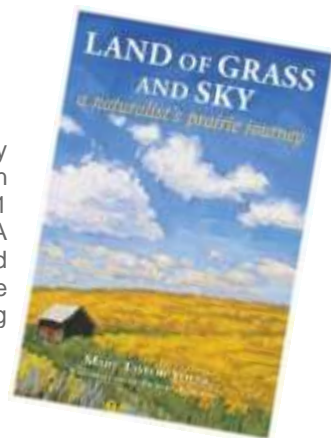


Is the BRITscape Part of Your Story?

Many families from near and far share our brilliant, blooming prairie this time of year, and who could blame them? The pop of color, the swaying of branches in the breeze, and the warm spring sunshine only add to the natural Texas luster of our BRITscape. Some guests stop to walk the paths or marvel at the ducks in the pond, and all seem enamored to take a picture. What a lovely moment as a grandfather snaps a picture of his grandchildren and daughter; we are honored to be a part of their story!

BRIT Reads Book Club

"Maybe it's my contrary nature that makes me love a landscape despised by others." What landscape is author Mary Taylor Young talking about? Join the BRIT Reads Book Club this month on Monday, May 15, from noon to 1 p.m. and find out as we read and discuss *Land of Grass and Sky: A naturalist's prairie journey*. The BRIT Reads Book Club meets the third Monday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. in various locations around the BRIT campus. For more information about this group or to see our reading list, please visit our webpage.



High Performance Landscapes Project

Is your landscape using too much water? Is it taking too much time to maintain? Would you like to know more about attracting pollinators and using native plants?

If so, then join us on Thursday, June 1st, at 3 p.m. in the BRIT Commons to learn more about the collaborative project between BRIT and the General Services Administration (GSA) regarding High Performance Landscapes (HPL). This 2-year project focuses on landscaping decisions and their effects on water use, pollinators, and carbon footprint. The principal investigators---Heather Bass (BRIT), Amy Belaire (BRIT Research Associate, Urban Ecologist), and Heather Venhaus (BRIT Research Associate, Environmental Designer and Sustainable SITES consultant) ---will be providing a presentation about the preliminary data collected from the first year of this project.



Bella Goes to Camp

This half-day camp is for Pre-K or K children, ages 4 or 5.

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

BRIT Members: \$90 | Non-BRIT Members: \$110

June 12-15 | June 19-22

Little B.I.T.s™ - Little Botanists In Training

This full day camp is for children entering 1st or 2nd grades, ages 6 or 7.

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

BRIT Members: \$200 | Non-BRIT Members: \$250

June 26-29 | July 10-13



My Plants, My Place

This full day camp is for children entering 3rd, 4th, or 5th grades, ages 8, 9, or 10.

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

BRIT Members: \$200 | Non-BRIT Members: \$250

June 26-29 | July 10-13

Visit <http://brit.org/education/camp-brit> for more information and to register.

Friday on the Farm

Tracy Friday, the Director of the BRIT SEED School, was chosen to be a part of the "STEM on the Farm" program held in March, sponsored by the American Farm Bureau. The event is designed for those who create and facilitate learning experiences which explore the practice of STEM concepts in real world applications. Tracy's work with area ranchers, industries, and environmental/agriculture specialists to create environmental STEM learning opportunities for both students and teachers made her the perfect candidate for this program. Having received over 400 applications for just 50 spots, the program was excited to invite a non-profit that focuses on Environmental STEM be a part of the experience. Tracy left the 3-day training in California with new ideas for programs and a network of individuals that have the same growth mindset in making environmental connections through STEM.



STEM Saves Trees

The Teacher Tuesday Spring series ended in April with a bang! The session focused on tree conservation and the impact STEM plays in an arborist's job. Gareth Harrier, a certified Arborist and Manager for Bartlett Tree Experts, presented to a full house of area teachers. He discussed how trees enrich our lives, even in urban environments, and how STEM programs help prepare students for a career in arboriculture and urban forestry. Teachers left the presentation with great questions and ideas on how to implement the information in their classes.

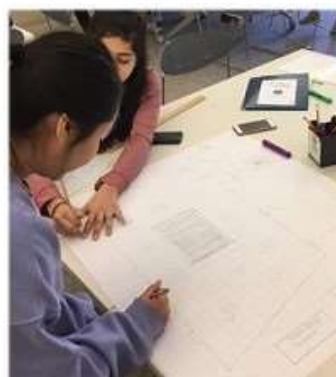
Gareth and his colleagues at Bartlett Tree Experts will be handing out saplings at BRIT's Prairie Day event this year. Come join us and pick up a sapling!

Field Study Trips at BRIT



We all know that, at BRIT, learning is doing. In April, an inquisitive group of early scientists from 3 different Lake Worth ISD elementary schools explored our BRITscape, Herbarium, and Soil Lab. The students not only shared their findings, but they were eager to learn more about the living roof. They hope to be part of a Citizen Science project that will be implemented on their own campuses next year when these enthusiastic learners will no doubt be back to discover more about proper planet stewardship and native species.

Also, the Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) class from Fort Worth Country Day enjoyed a day of exploring the BRIT LEED building to learn about LEED requirements and their impact on the environment. The students gained a greater understanding of both the external and internal design features that allowed BRIT to receive the ranking of Platinum, the highest award given by the U.S. Green Building Council to buildings in its LEED program. After exploring the building with BRIT education staff, the students were challenged to use both the information they had learned and the inspiration of the BRIT building to design a LEED building for the year 2025. The creative design presentations honored the true meaning of LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – and left the students thinking about other design opportunities.



Contact our [BRIT SEED School](#) for further information.

Lowery Road Elementary School Field Study Trip



Along with the buzzing of the bees, the fluttering of butterfly wings, and a pollen-filled mighty breeze, BRIT was visited in late April by the Kinder 100 from Lowery Road Elementary School of FWISD. These young scientists (Little B.I.T.s or Botanists In Training), their teachers, and a few parent volunteers experienced Bella's Early Childhood curriculum which

promotes the connection between science and literacy. The Field Study Trip allows for purposeful play with intentional learning exploration in literature, nature, insects, and native Texas plants. These environmental experiences change 5-year-old lives with the help of our BRIT staff who guide the learners to question their surroundings and have fun while learning.



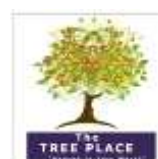
Volunteers Get a Clue About Conservation

BRIT is grateful to have wonderful volunteers who help us spread our love of plants to the public by greeting our guests, engaging preschoolers at story time, curating specimens, cataloging books in the library, filing specimens, sorting press journals, transcribing labels remotely, and much more. With over 7899 hours given to BRIT in the last year, a mystery-themed party, complete with costumes, was the least we could do for these dedicated people. Volunteers were given a chance to "Get a Clue about Conservation" as they followed clues to learn about endangered plants. A wonderful video caught several great moments of volunteers in action, and Dr. Ed Schneider thanked all the people who spend time focused on our mission. At the conclusion, the volunteers were also treated to the return of the traditional thank-you song by the BRIT Limited Performers as the staff sang, "Thank you, volunteers, awesome volunteers!"

The 2016 Sustainers, who each donated over 200 hours in one calendar year, were revealed at the party:

Robert Faires - 214.5	Charles Gardner - 246
Mary Kellogg - 217	Anne Hollingworth - 307.5
Marylou Lindsey - 226.5	Craig Elam - 366
Tim Mason - 228	Kay Yount - 414
Pamela Edmondson - 229.5	Dan Caudle - 468
Sara Harbaugh - 236.5	

Thank You to Our Reciprocal Membership Partners!



BRIT Members receive store discounts!

Bringing Botany into the Classroom

For the second year, Fort Worth Academy Elementary Science Specialist Dr. April Sawey has done her part to ignite a love of botany in her students and to fill the ever-widening gap in botanical education in our schools. Sawey, a former BRIT Education Specialist, was inspired by a project that she worked on with Pat Harrison, Senior Vice President, and Karen Hall, former BRIT Applied Ecologist, that identified the alarming lack of botanical instruction in all levels of education. To help instill the love of botany and to reinforce the value that plants bring to life, Sawey introduces her second-grade students to the art and science of plant collections and makes this unique lesson a family affair. Before a long holiday weekend, children are given a lesson on plant collection and plant presses and are given their own plant press to take home. Working with their families, children make at least five collections over the weekend and return the full press to Fort Worth Academy on Monday. From Fort Worth Academy, the presses travel to BRIT where Collections Manager Tiana Rehman makes sure the collections are properly dried and ready for mounting. FWA students learn the proper way to mount specimens, to use the metadata they collected about their plants to create labels for their specimens, and how botanical specimens are used in scientific research. After their specimens are mounted, the students receive a visit from BRIT Botanist and Editor of the BRIT Press, Barney Lipscomb. The students enjoy learning even more about Botany from Mr. Lipscomb and having their plants identified for taking home and for gifting to the collection at the Academy. Thanks to Dr. Sawey and her students, FWA now has a growing herbarium of their very own!



BRIT Library Update



The BRIT Library started the New Year off right by continuing to address issues of collection discoverability and accessibility identified during the knowledge management survey conducted in 2015. The first project of 2017 was physically shifting the print collection to give our existing books some "breathing space" and to allow room for expansion of our holdings in the future. While the shifting was going on, Library volunteers conducted a complete inventory of the volumes in the Rare Book Room and the journals housed in the Library's remote stacks. By inventorying both areas and by ensuring that everything in each of these areas has an accurate catalog record, we increased both the discoverability (how people find out that BRIT owns a resource) and the accessibility (how people physically locate the resource once they know BRIT owns it) of our collection.

The BRIT Library has also been busy on the public engagement front during the first quarter of 2017 hosting the Garden Writers of America "Connect" meeting on January 27, hosting three meetings of the BRIT Reads

Book Club, and by supplying materials for the Texas Medical Association's exhibit "Deep Roots: Botanical Medicine from Plants to Prescriptions." This exhibit, which will be on display from January 2017 through January 2018 in Austin, Texas, "traces the earliest known uses of plants to treat disease and promote health through to the development of modern drugs and pharmacology. Major themes of the exhibit include: the traditional use of botanicals for healing, the role of the herbalist across cultures, the scientific discipline of phytochemistry, the development of drugs from botanical extractions, and the contemporary state of herbalism, alternative medicine, and regulation of the supplement industry." The BRIT Library, Herbarium, and staff members furnished books, specimens, and ephemera for this exhibit, which we are hoping to bring to BRIT in 2018.



Green Revolution Urban Ag Day

BRIT's Green Revolution (GR) - an Environmental STEM and positive youth development out-of-school time program (grades 6-12) - provides educational experiences that sustain the natural curiosity in youth.

This month the program headed on a journey out west to the Dixon Water Foundation's Bear Creek Ranch for the 2nd Annual GR Urban Ag Day. During

this event, the Agents of Change investigated the interactions between food systems and urbanity. The Agents gathered new experiences in ranch and farm food production during fun and engaging activities. With these new sets of experiences, the Agents were challenged to solve food-crisis-scenarios, using their Environmental STEM skills to determine the amount of harvested products needed to feed a community. Now that's GROWTH!

The 2nd GR Urban Ag Day has been made possible by the collaborative efforts and generous contributions of many BRIT partners. Special thanks to TCU Ranch Management, Burgundy Beef, and The Dixon Water Foundation for making this event come alive with cattle, hay bales, crop planting, soil quality testing, and lasso instruction.



Keeping the TORCH Lit: Lawton, Oklahoma



This year marked the 10th annual meeting of the Texas Oklahoma Regional Consortium of Herbaria (TORCH), which was held April 15th, in Lawton, Oklahoma. This meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meeting for the Southwest Association of Naturalists (SWAN). BRIT has an interesting shared connection with this organization: SMU curator Dr. Lloyd Shinnery (whose collection is now deposited at BRIT) was also the first scientific editor for SWAN's scientific journal, *The Southwest Naturalist*.

More than 28 attendees were regaled by one of the 12 talks in the botany/TORCH and poster sessions of the conference, covering a huge taxonomic (milkweeds, redbuds, orchids, oaks, etc.), temporal (cretaceous to present), and subject range (digitization, photography, nutrient content, fire ecology, phytogeography, molecular systematics, etc.). BRIT staff authored 3 talks, sharing information about cryptic species, technological innovations, and botanical forays. Ilse Barrios-Perez, a BRIT intern, presented a 4th talk from BRIT, discussing the curation of our algal collection. Sarah Brown, another BRIT intern, presented a poster discussing her work in the herbarium with Dr. Allan Nelson at Tarleton State University. Mike Husak, curator of the herbarium at Cameron University, provided a herbarium and laboratory tour following the Curator Meeting.



Cabinet Curiosities: Botanical Specimens with a Mysterious Past!

"Wow!" is the most frequent comment from visitors viewing the two oldest plant specimens in the BRIT Herbarium. Both specimens were collected in Mexico in 1791 by Dr. Thaddeus Peregrinus Xaverius Haenke (1761-1817), a widely-respected Czech botanist, world explorer, and editor of the eighth edition of Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum* (1791).

If you want to read more give us a call and we will mail you a copy.

MAY

2nd - Bella Book & Nature Club; Brown Bag

3rd - Bella Book & Nature Club

6th - Bella's Story Time; Plant ID; Tour; TERM; Permaculture 101

12th - Prairie Night

13th - Prairie Day

15th - BRIT Reads Book Club

16th - Teacher Tuesday

18th - Sip at BRIT, Sip and Walk Plant Tour

Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.

Additional information can be found at brit.org.

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