



## International Award of Excellence in Conservation Gala and Dinner

Honoring Carter Smith  
October 20, 2016

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Carter Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and his contributions to conservation will be recognized with this prestigious award. A fabulous celebration is being planned, and your support will help sustain and grow BRIT.

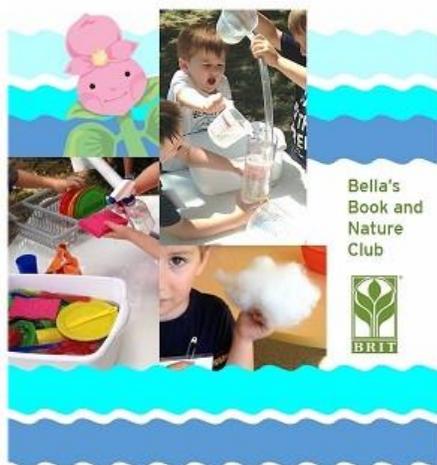


Honorary Hosts Ed Bass, Ramona and Lee Bass, and Laura and Greg Bird, along with Event Chair Grant James, look forward to welcoming you to gala and dinner.



The Worthington Renaissance Hotel is partnering with BRIT to provide our guests with a reduced room rate of \$179 per night. The hotel's \$20 million room renovation will be complete in time for the gala. Overnight guests are in for a special treat when they discover a local flavor in theme and materials alongside world class luxury amenities. [Book your group rate for Botanical Research Institute of Texas BRIT Awards Dinner.](#)

For more information, contact [Sara Richardson](#) at 817.332.2748.



## What's Happening with Bella at BRIT

### Bloom with Bella the Begonia

We need Water, Plants need Water, Let's Explore Water!

Join Bella for an interactive read-aloud of *Listen to the Rain* by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault with family-friendly activities that provide fun explorations of all things water!

Bella's Story Time: Saturday, August 6 (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - FREE

Bella's Book Club: Tuesday, August 2 (10:30 a.m. -

11:30 a.m.) - FREE to BRIT Members/\$10 per non-member family.

For more information, please contact [Kimberly Whitlock](#) at 817.546.1958.

## The Wildflowers

by Weldon R. Bryant

Wildflowers were growing in the meadow,  
There was every color and hue,  
They were growing in the field together,  
The way wildflowers always do.

The blue bonnets dominated the scene,  
And while most of them were blue.  
A few albino ones were growing,  
And glistened in the morning dew!

I could not help but wonder,  
As I saw the patches of white,  
Although they were of a different color,  
Their beauty still seemed quite right.

Maybe that's the way life is,  
Color, location, and type really don't matter,  
The time we spend debating differences,  
Becomes mindless pitter-patter.

So as we pursue being better or right,  
Our energy is wasted and spent,  
If we look at quite closely at ourselves  
Maybe we're the ones that are different!



## Photo Contest for a Free Membership

The Leaflet header photo at the top of this page of the *Trifolium incarnatum* (crimson clover) and *Lupinus* predominantly (bluebonnets) was the winning photograph submitted by Weldon R. Bryant. The photo of the Bluebonnets and Crimson Clovers was chosen for its depth and brilliant color and lighting.

Mr. Weldon also wanted to share this poem and photo (just above). Thank you, Weldon for sharing these beautiful works of art! Be on the lookout for your new BRIT membership.



## Stay Calm and Boot Camp



BRIT Education has had a busy summer with its first year to host the complete series of Green Revolution Environmental STEM (E-STEM) Boot Camps. This popular three-year teacher experience introduces teachers to environmental issues on local, regional, and global levels. BRIT staff worked with teachers to design project-based challenges for their students that will address community and global needs. Boot Camp I was created to introduce local challenges with water, soil, renewable energy, food systems, and plants. Boot Camp II is designed to enrich the prior years' experience with technology and engineering components to help address environmental issues. Teachers spent two days at the Noble Foundation learning from scientists about new technologies and how to address feeding a growing population with sustainable practices. Texas Instruments worked with the teachers on the third day to connect them with coding and how it leads to designing more challenging project-based opportunities for students. Teachers will take the information learned from camp I & II and apply it to their Boot Camp III experience next summer.

To learn more about the boot camp experience or to help sponsor a teacher experience, please contact [Tracy Friday](#).

Thankful **by nature.**



### “We’ll Be Back Next Year For Sure!” A Super Camp of Summer Fun

**Little B.I.T. (Botanists-In-Training)** is a camp for children entering 1st and 2nd grade. This year, the camp focused on exploring trees. The Little B.I.T.’s picked their own tree from the prairie, collected leaves to identify, and drew a picture of themselves as a tree. They learned about xylem and phloem, the rings in a tree trunk, carbon dioxide and oxygen gas exchange in leaves, and more!

**My Plants, My Place** is for children entering 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade. This year, campers learned all about the prairie – from its underwater history to the pocket prairie in BRIT’s own backyard. They collected and pressed their own plants, made nature bracelets, and dissected a cactus paddle. Many of the campers expressed how much fun they had, and one parent commented, “[My child is] having a great time. We’ll be back next year for sure!”

Each week concluded with a parent presentation. The Little B.I.T.’s even treated everyone to a tree version of the Hokey Pokey, ending with putting the Whole Tree (their whole body) in and out and shaking it all about. “We’re really just like trees and that’s what makes us sing and shout; that’s what this song’s about!” Stay tuned to our website for upcoming movies and pictures showing the excitement from the summer!

## Explorers by nature.

### BRIT's Green Revolution

#### Meet our Newest BRIT Ambassadors

On May 10, 2016 BRIT welcomed it’s youngest and first-ever Command Agent Ambassadors. The evening was a special event held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Schneider in honor of our Green Revolution Command Agents. Command Agents are students, who help lead and plan all Green Revolution activities and volunteer tireless hours towards environmental stewardship. As BRIT Command Agent Ambassadors they will present the values and mission of BRIT to the greater community and expose a new generation to the limitless possibilities environmental stewardship offer. During the evening Command Agents were honored by being pinned with a BRIT lapel pin by Dr. Schneider and received full membership to BRIT.



#### Morningside Community Partnership Trash Bash 2016

Green Revolution’s Agents of Change were once again leading the way for their peers at the annual Morningside Community Partnership (MCP) Trash Bash. Agents arrived early to scope out the neighbor and begin making plans for picking up trash in areas that needed it the most. After leading their peers in the Morningside Park area, Agents lead the way in the Trash Bash raffle. Agents won top prizes including the grand prize, a brand new mountain bike. Our Agents of Change continue to be an example of what great opportunity our environmental future has.

## Change Symposium

Each year Green Revolution host its annual Change Symposium to allow students to display some of the knowledge they have acquired throughout the year. Agents of Change form groups of their own selection and work towards completion of an environmentally based community service project. Agents work for months gathering data and forming ideas to produce a service project proposal. They then put all of their research into a presentation given in front of a judge's panel and peers. This year's winning proposal used the creation of a renewable filtration system geared towards helping those without access to clean drinking water. Other notable projects included painting an eco-friendly mural depicting an environmental subject and creating deposit stations for re-purposed clothing and new canned food. If you would like to assist the research or development of any of these projects being implemented next school year, please send your information to [greenrevolution@brit.org](mailto:greenrevolution@brit.org). Please help us celebrate these bright young students by continuing your support to BRIT and Green Revolution.



## Grey Fox: Exploring an Ancient Maya Center

Over the past two summers (2015-2016), BRIT Resident Research Associate Dr. Grace Bascopé, a Medical and Environmental Anthropologist, worked with the Maya Research Program's (MRP) Blue Creek Archaeological Project to investigate the flora in far northwestern Belize. Working with her were Dr. Will McClatchey, ethnobotanist and former BRIT research director and Dr. Thomas Guderjan, Associate Professor of Anthropology (University of Texas, Tyler) and director of the MRP Blue Creek project.



MRP staff has witnessed the ongoing loss of forests and archaeological sites to clearing for modern agriculture and is taking steps to protect remaining sites. They recently purchased the "Grey Fox" site, one of only four Maya plaza-pyramid centers remaining in northwestern Belize. Bascopé and McClatchey contributed to an inventory of the Grey Fox site and collected specimens for the BRIT herbarium and the National Herbarium of Belize in Belmopan. They also trained senior staff of the MRP Project in collecting plant specimens and properly drying and storing them. [Read More](#)



## Dissection Kits Donated by Excelta Corporation

Excelta donated several dissection kits to BRIT after asking what tools our research team needed. The kits contain probes, scissors, and tweezers in a variety of sizes, all stored in customized wooden boxes. The tools are a perfect companion to our microscope stations, allowing more precision and care in studying items in BRIT's holdings, such as herbarium specimens. Expanding our scientific tools and resources better prepares BRIT in supporting visiting botanists who travel from all over the world to access our collections.





the charismatic cardón (*Pachycereus pringlei*) had increased in number on many of the islands. Invasive ice-plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*) was only found on one island, thanks to the efforts of CONANP (the Mexican National Commission for Natural Protected Areas), and the team were able to assess the abundance and distribution of the island-endemic barrel cactus (*Ferocactus gatesii*). The students will present this research to the community in August, and the results will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.



### What's in A Name?

Peter Fritsch published the paper “Novedades nomenclaturales para *Gaultheria* (Ericaceae) en Chile” (Nomenclatural novelties for *Gaultheria* [Ericaceae] in Chile) in the journal *Gayana Botánica*, with first author Dr. Sebastián Teillier, from the Central University of Santiago, Chile. Sure, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but two different roses with the same name would really stink! Well, from a scientific point of view, anyway. This paper addresses several naming problems of Chilean species of the

wintergreen genus *Gaultheria*. Fritsch's contribution deals with the problem of a nomenclatural homonym, that is, two distinct species published inadvertently with the same name. This is strictly forbidden in the international code of botanical nomenclature: there can be only one correct name (genus and specific epithet) for a species of plant. Fritsch detected a homonym in a recently published taxonomic treatment of *Gaultheria* in Chile, and worked with the first author of the present article to correct the nomenclatural problem. Because the first name to be published retains priority over any other later homonyms, the authors originated a new name for the second of the published species of *Gaultheria angustifolia*, naming it *Gaultheria marticorenae* after a famous Chilean botanist. The original *Gaultheria angustifolia* remains in use for a species from Mexico.

## Curious by nature.

### Mensa Foundation

In late June, Biodiversity Explorer Dr. Sula Vanderplank was one of four invited speakers at the annual colloquium of the Mensa Foundation. The foundation aims to create a society that is non-political and free from all racial or religious distinctions. The society welcomes people from every walk of life whose IQ is in the top 2% of the population, with the objective of enjoying each other's company and participating in a wide range of social and cultural activities. The colloquium this year focused on the Nature of Genetics: Flora, Fauna and the Future. The Mensa



Colloquium annually provides Mensans and the public alike the opportunity to gather with experts, noted authors and scientists to take an intense look at socially relevant topics. Dr. Vanderplank spoke on the topic of Baja California as a future refuge for San Diego's Rare Plants.

## The Nature of Things – Daphne Prairie by Deborah Paris

Two years ago, Texas artist Deborah Paris learned that “sometimes the artist chooses her subject matter; sometimes the subject matter chooses her” when she discovered Daphne Prairie, one of the last remnants of tall-grass prairie in east Texas. Although she wasn’t looking for a new project at the time she soon became intrigued by this unique piece of land and embarked on a two-year journey to bring an “intellectual voice” to Daphne Prairie.

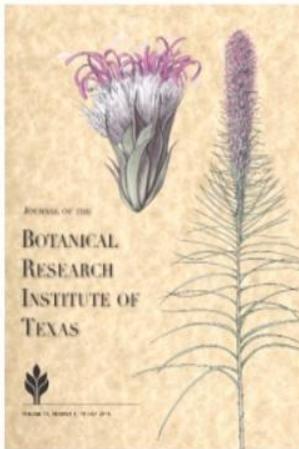


To experience Paris’ art in person, please join us at BRIT for Fall Gallery Night on Saturday, September 10 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The artist will give a gallery talk at 6 p.m. and the owner of Daphne Prairie, B. F. Hicks will also be in attendance. For more information about the exhibit please click [HERE](#).

**BRIT Members who bring their membership card will receive a FREE BRIT wine glass.**

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## *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (JBRIT)*



On July 18, 2016, BRIT Press published Volume 10, Number 1 of the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (JBRIT)*. At 314 pages, the issue contains a mix of twenty-four scientific papers covering a cross-section of plant systematics and floristics. Twenty-four new names and combinations are published: five new genera, ten new species, and nine new plant names reflecting updated evolutionary relationships for already described plants. In the Systematics Section, there are ten new species described from North America to South America: euphorbs (Texas), morning glories (Mexico), passion-flowers (Costa Rica), orchids (Honduras), prayer plants (Colombia), and new fossil flowers from amber collections (Baltic region, Dominican Republic, Myanmar). BRIT staff member Dr. Peter Fritsch and co-authors described the new genus *Perkinsiodendron* (Storax Family) from China. The Floristics, Ecology, and Conservation section includes six papers with substantial new plant discoveries for Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, and

Texas. BRIT staff member Kim Norton Taylor and Resident Research Associate Robert J. O’Kennon contributed an updated flora of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area which includes 948 taxa.

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## *Younger by Nature*

### Welcome to our Jr Volunteers and Summer Interns

This summer the average age of volunteers has lowered considerably thanks to our Jr Volunteers and Summer Interns. The Jr Volunteers are part of a returning program and are helping with camps, computer programming, and completing herbarium special projects. Jr volunteers are 14-18 years of age and are selected after completing applications. All of the young volunteers have the opportunity to grow their scientific knowledge as they support our staff. The application process for next year’s Jr



Volunteers will be posted on our website in January 2017. We are lucky to have summer interns representing A&M, UTA, and Hendrix College trying their hand at teaching, researching and curating. The interns are exposed to careers in botany and education while focusing on specific projects. This summer one of our herbarium interns was co-presenter at a visiting research seminar. We are fortunate to have one education intern preparing materials, assisting with the children, and learning by example from our BRIT staff. If you know of someone who would be interested in interning at BRIT, please have that individual send a resume to [Julie Donovan](#).

BRIT is well on its way to having a great summer thanks to both the Jr Volunteers and our interns.

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## More Value with Your BRIT Membership

- Reciprocal Partner Discounts: Discounts here at BRIT on our programs, merchandise, and services; and shopping discounts with these local area reciprocal partners: [Calloway's Nursery](#), [Marshall Grain Co.](#), [Redenta's Garden](#), [The Tree Place](#), and our newest partner [Mingos Nursery & Garden Center](#) - thank you Mingo's!

### BRIT Membership Reciprocal Partners



- BRIT joined the American Horticultural Society (AHS). As a BRIT member you'll automatically be part of their Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP), which offers free admission and/or additional benefits at 300 gardens throughout North America and the Cayman Islands. Learn more at [ahs.org](http://ahs.org).
- BRIT also recently joined the American Public Gardens Association (APGA). With the added bonus of the APGA membership, you will receive twelve (12) free issues, digital or by mail, of the Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

## Other Ways to Support the Work We Do at BRIT

- You could [volunteer](#) at the coolest place in town all summer long to loan your skills, and learn at the same time!
- Consider joining BRIT's planned giving program, the [Shinners Society](#) by remembering BRIT in your estate planning. No matter how large or small, any amount to BRIT in your estate plans will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.
- Maybe you own your own company and need ways to show your appreciation to your staff? Become a [Corporate BRIT Member](#), which allows you to give your staff annual BRIT memberships, while you stay connected to your local community.
- Become a [Reciprocal Membership Partner](#) by providing BRIT members discounts at your retail business or by providing gift in-kinds of goods or services to BRIT.



For additional information on any of these membership programs, please contact our Director of Membership and Grants Coordinator, [Tammie Crole](#) at 817.332.7518.

### AUGUST

6th - Bella Story Time; public tour; plant ID  
2nd - Bella Book & Nature Club  
Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

3rd - Bella Story Time; public tour; plant ID  
6th - Bella Book & Nature Club; Brown Bag  
10th - Fall Gallery Night  
19th - BRIT Reads book club  
20th - Teacher Tuesday  
Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.

Additional information can be found at [brit.org](http://brit.org).

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