



BRIT Has a New Director! Please Welcome Dr. Edward L. Schneider



Tuesday, October 13, BRIT's board of directors made the official announcement that Dr. Schneider has been named President and Executive Director, effective December 15, 2015. Dr. Schneider brings more than 30 years of botanical executive administration experience to BRIT and will lead the organization into the next phase of its mission of conservation and education.

He most recently served as Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest located in Chaska, Minnesota. There, he maintained a strong donor cultivation presence and orchestrated the second-ever capital campaign in the 57-year history of the Garden. Prior to running the Arboretum, he served as President and CEO of The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden from 1992 to 2010.

Schneider also spent 18 years at Texas State University in San Marcos. He and his wife, Sandy are looking forward to returning to Texas.

"BRIT is an opportunity to return to some of my roots, in plant sciences and botany," says Schneider. His charge will be to expand BRIT's high quality, plant-focused educational outreach; building stronger, rigorous, science-based research programs; and establish new and effective partnerships that will become cornerstones for the future growth of BRIT.

[BRIT Press Release](#)

[Fort Worth Business Press Article](#)

BRIT Artisan Market

Make plans now to attend the Second Annual BRIT Artisan Market Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We'll be hosting more than 20 talented local and international artisans selling a wide variety of hand-crafted items including jewelry, wood wares, embroidered textiles from Mexico, photographs, watercolors, ceramics, journals, all natural bath products, and lovely children's items. In addition, we'll be joined by a number of local, artisanal food producers with festive, gift-able food items perfect for everyone on your holiday shopping list! Our community partner will be the Unbound Book Cart, and music will be provided by local favorite Victor Andrada. It's holiday shopping you can feel good about! For more information, please visit our [webpage](#) or call [Laura Venhaus](#) at 817.332.4441, ext 259.



Gift Wrapping Station for BRIT Members

After you've purchased all those beautiful and unique gifts from our Artisan Market stop by the membership station to have them gift wrapped for free! Not a member? No worries. We can sign you up for a membership while we wrap your gifts! Wrapping from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Stop by!



International Award of Excellence in Conservation

Join us December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Worthington Hotel Downtown Fort Worth as we honor Dr. S. H. Sohmer. This prestigious event was established and flourished under the leadership of Dr. Sohmer. It is now time to honor Sy, a deserving individual who has spent his career building an organization dedicated to biodiversity conservation. This year's event will celebrate the legacy of Sy's leadership, as well as a lifetime of his research, conservation work, and fundraising for organizations with which he has been associated over his impressive career. It will celebrate the vision for BRIT and reignite the passion and commitment for continuing this important work for future generations.



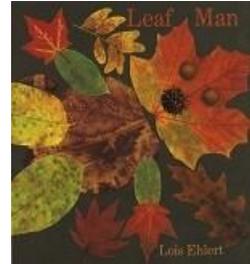
To reserve these coveted individual seats or corporate/private tables, please email or call [Jessica Geider](#) at 817.332.2748.

What's Happening with Bella at BRIT Bloom with Bella the Begonia

November's Featured Book: *Leaf Man*, written and illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Join Bella for an interactive read-aloud and family-friendly activities that provide fun explorations of art, nature, and science!

Bella's Story Time: Saturday, November 7 (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - Free.

Bella's Book and Nature Club: Tuesday, November 3 (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - Free to BRIT Members/\$10 per non-member family.



Bella is Cultivating Literacy, Math, and Science Skills

The Bella Story Time curriculum has been growing to serve children and their families here at BRIT. Now, with the support of generous donations, the Bella's Seasons of Stories, Seasons of Science curriculum is currently blooming at five childcare sites in the greater Fort Worth community. Bella's research-based best practices for early childhood learning use quality children's literature and nature as its foundation. Interactive read-aloud, purposeful play, exploration and discovery, and reflective conversation are the four strategies that nurture and grow literacy, math, and science skills.

Looking at the Cucurbitaceae

The new Bella's Book and Nature Club participants explored the Cucurbitaceae, sometimes known as the gourd or cucumber family. Bella discovered earlier in the week a thriving cantaloupe plant happily growing in the BRIT compost pile. And since participants of the Book and Nature Club always take a nature walk, we stopped at the happy cantaloupe where the co-learners discovered interesting attributes of both cantaloupe and pumpkin plants. They each have both male and female flowers growing on one plant, large hairy leaves, large tough-skinned fruit, and tendrils. The participants learned that pumpkins, cantaloupe, squashes, gourds, and even cucumbers all belong to the same family.



Come join us on November 3 when Bella's Book and Nature Club will explore all things leaves! For more information, please contact [Kimberly Whitlock](mailto:Kimberly.Whitlock@britpress.org) at 817.546.1958.

Teacher Tuesday Fall Series Connected by Nature

This fall's Teacher Tuesday series, *Connected by Nature*, is taking teachers on a journey through natural systems in order to show the interconnectedness of a healthy ecosystem. The September session provided information on the importance of soil in building the foundation for all living things. In the October session, BRIT's own Barney Lipscomb, Director of BRIT Press, Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany, explored the Power of Plants. This presentation allowed teachers to gain a greater understanding of how the plant world has populated and transformed the earth. Teachers were given examples of how plants have shaped and influenced humans throughout civilization. This presentation inspired teachers to delineate and celebrate the marvelous power of plants with their students.



Healing at Change Headquarters

Cuisine for Healing visited with Green Revolution's Agents of Change to discuss, demonstrate, and explore healthy sustainable meals. Agents are no strangers to plants, but during October's Exploration Saturday, Cuisine for Healing offered them a hands-on demonstration of how fresh organic food impacts their health and that of the environment. Agents were able to explore and participate in preparing a delicious meal made with local sustainable products. Before enjoying their meal, Agents completed an action research survey to collect data on organic food consumption from a sample of our community. This helped guide their work as they planned the implementation of last year's winning Agent

Community Service Proposal, a Community Garden.

Communicating with Plants by Delia deVer

Local artist Delia deVer joins BRIT for the final show of the 2015 season. Originally from Northern California, deVer moved to Texas after studying visual art at the San Francisco Bay area's California College of the Arts. Her unique use of color and modern approach to painting and drawing blossomed and matured in Texas where her abstract studio work and expressive plein-air paintings reflect her present and lively experiences.



Please join us for deVer's joyful show, *Communicating with Plants*, in the Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall at BRIT from November 7 through January 7. For more information about the artist, please visit: www.artistdeliadever.com.



Fall is in the Air

With a hint of fall in the air, we are reminded that Thanksgiving is not far off – and all that we have to be thankful for. And soon after Thanksgiving come the Christmas holidays -- a wonderful time for giving.

It is also the time of year that we often pledge not to eat so much or spend so much. How about pledging to seek ways this holiday season to be environmentally friendly and reduce what we send to the landfill. Here are some ideas to start you thinking:

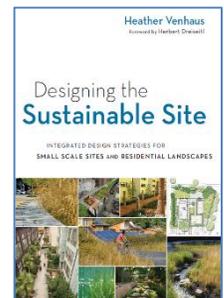
- Start with party invitations. Since there are so many free options online for party invitations, get adventurous by creating your own and add your own flair for the holidays!
- Garlands are one of the easiest decorations to make. Just string together cranberries, popcorn, or nuts. Once the party is over, your edible garland won't be wasted!
- Cut flowers are gorgeous, but let's face it, they're not very eco-conscious and they're short-lived and pricey. This year bypass the flower stand and instead use reusable ribbons tied around your potted plants to add a little holiday cheer.
- Whether you are cooking for company or making homemade gifts, shop locally and use fresh in-season ingredients. Shopping local can be a fun way to checkout some of those local breweries and wineries. And don't forget to purchase your organic eggnog locally!
- It's very tempting to go with disposables to trade in the post-party clean up for a nap! But if you must, then buy 100% recycled or eco-friendly compostable dinnerware. But really, how often do you pull out Grandma's china? It's the holidays after all!
- Be sure to keep your recycle container nearby so it is easy for your guests to toss their used paper goods and plastic ware. And remember, send home with friends or donate leftovers to a local charity.

With your help, together we can make a BIG difference in the well-being of the planet: Plant to Planet@!

New Titles for September and October

The BRIT library is constantly adding new titles to the print collection. These books are either purchased specifically for the collection, purchased for use on current research projects, or donated to BRIT from a variety of sources.

To look at these volumes or to use the rest of the collection, please visit our [webpage](#) or call [Laura Venhaus](#) at 817.332.4441, ext 259.



Author	Title	Date	Call #
Balick, Michael J.	Messages from the gods: a guide to the useful plants of Belize	2015	QK 99 .B395 B186m
Bramwell, David	Wild flowers of the Canary Islands	2001	QK 422 .B7
He, Tingnong	A worldwide monograph of Swertia and its allies	2015	QK 495 .G35 .H432w
Venhaus, Heather	Designing the sustainable site: integrated design strategies for small-scale sites and residential landscapes	2012	NA 9051 .V458d
Walcott, Mary Vaux	North American wild flowers	1925	QK 112 .W3
	The tallgrass restoration handbook	2005	SB434.3 .T148



Meet BRIT's Newest Staff Member

Dr. Peter Fritsch recently joined the BRIT team as the Director of the Herbarium. Dr. Fritsch's prior position as Curator of Collections and Chair of the Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, makes Peter a natural for directing the exciting programs centered around the ca. one million herbarium collections at BRIT. In addition, Dr. Fritsch will continue his research program on plant diversity, comparative morphology, and biogeography, with a focus on the heath family (Ericaceae) and its relatives. He will also continue his passion for biodiversity, conservation, and capacity-building work both nationally and internationally. Past and current projects have included work in China, the Philippines, Borneo, Brazil, and Madagascar.



Consider Giving a BRIT Membership During this Gift Giving Season

without your support.

BRIT's work is all about caring for the priceless collections we hold in trust and inspiring people of all ages and from all walks of life through our research and education programs. Our programs touch the lives of hundreds of North Texas students each year. You can help us expand our scientific research, serve more students, and reach more teachers just by becoming a member. We could not provide these services

With the holidays nearing, you think often about the delivery man, mailman, salon technician, neighbor, colleague, church friend, teacher, coach, babysitter, employees. Where in the world do you start? If you're looking for that perfect gift to say thank you to those you depend on throughout the year, how about giving them BRIT Family Memberships? What a wonderful thing to honor someone with a contribution to making our world a better place for all of us. Call us today to start your holiday shopping or go [online](#) to make those purchases. If you need additional information, please contact [Tammie Crole](#) at 817.332.7518.

Reciprocal Membership Partners

Do you have a retail business? Why not become a [Reciprocal Partner](#) of BRIT by offering our BRIT members a discount at your business. It's great marketing! We're always looking for new or unique shopping experiences for our members.

BRIT is thrilled to be able to offer members shopping discounts at the following local Reciprocal Partners. Remember, BRIT members can take advantage of these discounts by showing your card while shopping at these locations: [Calloway's Nursery](#), [Marshall Grain Co.](#), [Redenta's Garden](#), and [The Tree Place](#).

Corporate Membership Opportunities

Are you looking for a way for your organization or business to become more connected in the community? Or perhaps you want to give a gift to your employees? Then consider becoming a [Corporate Member](#)! With a Corporate Membership you'll receive a varying number of Family Partner Level memberships to use at your discretion. For additional information on these programs, please contact [Tammie Crole](#) at 817.332.7518.



Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

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Open Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

First Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (April-October)

November 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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.

If you'd prefer to receive this as an email please send tcrole@brit.org a note.