



the Leaflet



Those Dammed Rivers...

In June and July of this year, BRIT Biodiversity Explorer Sula Vanderplank joined researchers from the University of California-Riverside and Scripps Oceanographic Institute to travel to mainland Mexico and investigate the down-stream impacts of hydroelectric dams. What they found was remarkable. The lack of sedimentation reaching the coast had resulted in serious erosion of the coastline, with mangrove forests disappearing into the ocean. As the ocean ate away at the beach, the fringe of the mangroves suffocated, leading to eventual die-off of the trees and continual loss of coastal habitat. The trip was led by Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, following his analysis of satellite imagery that suggested that the coasts had been disappearing near the mouths of rivers that were dammed upstream. In one case, more than 1 km of coastal habitat had already vanished into the waves.



Mangroves are incredibly important habitats that provide spawning grounds for more than 50% of commercially harvested fish species in the Gulf of California. The loss of mangrove habitat is also a cause of concern for the unusual mangrove species themselves and their role in carbon sequestration in these arid coastal environments. Mangroves are an important source of organic matter in desert areas, and their erosion in Nayarit and Sinaloa has undoubtedly impacted the local communities and their economy, which is largely based on the near-shore fisheries. ♦

Final 2015 Farmers Market

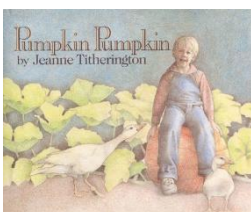
Join us for the final BRIT Farmers Market of the 2015 season on Saturday, October 3 from 8 a.m. to Noon. Shop your favorite vendors, treat yourself to a frozen pop from Pop Star Popsicles, enjoy music from Victor Andrada and bask in the beautiful early fall weather.



This month you can also visit with three wonderful Community Partners – Lonestar Ag Credit, Recycle Bank and the Fort Worth Garden Club who will once again be giving out free tree saplings while supplies last. For more information about the market, please visit the [webpage](#). ♦



What's Happening with Bella at BRIT?



Bloom with Bella the Begonia

October's featured book: *Pumpkin Pumpkin*, written and Illustrated by Jeanne Tetherington. Join Bella for an interactive read aloud and family friendly activities.

Bella's Story Time: Saturday, October 3 (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - Free
Bella's Book and Nature Club: Tuesday, October 6 (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - Free to BRIT Members/\$10 per nonmember family.

Bella's Book Club is Now Bella's Book and Nature Club

October launches a new format for the First Tuesday's Bella's Book Club. The "new" Bella's Book and Nature Club participants are still offered an interactive read-a-loud along with child-centered activities that allow for creative exploration. Families not only receive a "Take it Home" journal with extension activities that help build literacy, science and math skills, but the participating children also receive a "Nature's Treasure Box." Families are encouraged to GO OUTSIDE and explore nature. At the start of each Bella Book and Nature Club event, children are asked to share their treasures. This month children and their adult co-learners are exploring all things pumpkin!

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



Healthy by Nature

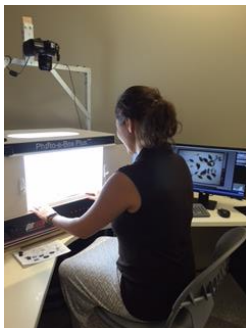
Volunteering makes you a healthier individual! What wonderful news to hear at the Directors of Volunteers in Agencies Professional Development Workshop last month. BRIT can help you live a stronger and more wholesome life by giving you a great place to spend your time. Who knew? Many of our volunteers already knew that by volunteering they were engaging in social activities and making their minds work. There have been several recent studies by Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, and other universities about how individuals who give back to their community have lower blood pressure, a more optimistic outlook on life, and live longer. "It may be that volunteers are generally more active and socially engaged, and therefore healthier," writes Maia Szalavitz of Time magazine. So come back to volunteering at BRIT in the Plant Preservation Studio or with the new Student Experiences in the Education Department and you will help others while helping yourself to live restoratively. For information on the latest volunteer opportunities, please check VolunteerSpot <http://vols.pt/c19pqS> or email [Julie Donovan](#), Director of Volunteers and Visitor Relations at 817.546.1846. ♦



Everything's Possible: Command Agents Take on Cleburne State Park

On September 5th BRIT's Green Revolution Command Agents of Change returned to Cleburne State Park for another Exploration Saturday. During their time at the state park, Command Agents collected water samples and tested pH levels, identified native plants, held a nature photo

shoot, and developed their leadership skills. Command Agents also led and conducted their own leadership council meeting to discuss training of new Agents of Change, which will be joining the program this year. This meeting also allowed Command Agents to forecast and resolve any possible roadblocks that may hinder future explorations, proving there is no such thing as impossible for this group of young leaders. ♦



Dive into Digitization

BRIT is actively digitizing specimens from its herbarium collection through support from the National Science Foundation. This process includes both capturing a digital image of each specimen and transcribing the data written on each specimen sheet. In the last three months we have imaged over 50,000 specimens, but we need your help as we begin the process of transcription. BRIT is teaming up with the WeDigBio Project (<https://www.wedigbio.org/>) to host an online transcription blitz. With your help, we'll transcribe the critical data recorded on each specimen so they can be accessed virtually around the world. Details for this event are still being finalized, but if you're interested in joining us on-site (October 23) or virtually (October 23 - 25), please keep an eye on the project website (<http://www.brit.org/herbarium/digitization/>) and look for announcements on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BRITorg>). ♦

BRIT/EECU (Excellence of Environmental Education Awards)

EECU and BRIT are proud to announce the recipients of the 2015 Green Revolution Excellence of Environmental Education Award. The awards honor two teachers that attend BRIT Education programs and

use the innovative strategies/content in environmental education to inspire learners to connect with the outdoors and have a positive impact on their school and community.

The 2015 Recipients are:

Pam Frye, a 5th grade teacher at Brawner Intermediate in Granbury ISD, with 35 years of experience in the classroom and rarely misses a BRIT “Teacher Tuesday” program. Pam states that, “the BRIT Teacher Tuesday program has by far had the greatest impact on my classroom. Having been an educator for 35 years I have attended numerous events and no one has been as successful and valuable to me as BRIT.” The programs have motivated her to write grants to help fund the learning opportunities she created after attending the Teacher Tuesday programs. Some of these learning opportunities include a PBL project involving geocaching, implementing the “Ten on Tuesday” program, a student-designed garden, incorporating Huggle Kulture, enriching student learning with apps allowing them to gather specimens and learn to use field guides for identification purposes.



Steven Horvath, a 6th grade teacher from McLean 6th Grade Center in Fort Worth ISD, who has 14 years of experience and has attended the Green Revolution Environmental PBL Boot Camp. Boot Camp is a 4-day experience in the summer focused on plants, soil, water, renewable energy, and food and incorporates sustainability into all of those aspects. Steven and his students have created a recycling and composting program for their school. Steven is always working on new engaging challenges to introduce his students to nature and connect to real-world problems that support the curriculum. His science classroom is evidence that science is fun and meaningful.



EECU provided both teachers with a check for \$1000. BRIT thanks them for their support of teachers and the BRIT education programs. We are looking forward to the 2015-16 school year and working to support the needs of science teachers in our area. ♦



Giving Day Update and Special Giving Opportunity Extended

As we begin to enter fall we want to celebrate our friends and family who helped BRIT to raise over \$9,000 during the North Texas Giving Day event! Incredibly, the North Texas Giving Day raised \$31.1 million for all north Texas nonprofits this year. Because of friends like you who care about the world we live in, BRIT can continue our mission to conserve our natural heritage and share knowledge about the plant world to enhance life for people and all living things.

Even better news is that all Giving Day donations were matched, dollar-for-dollar, with a challenge gift from the BRIT Board of Directors. That means we have over \$18,000 to invest in the day-to-day work of scientists and educators as they explore perplexing questions and educate the public about sustainability and the role plants play in solving globally challenging problems.

We are extremely grateful to you, to our Board of Directors and the Communities Foundation of Texas. With your support, together we are making a difference in the world as we know it for the sake of future generations.

Now the Best News!

BRIT Board of Directors have agreed to extend the match to all donations given to the General Operating Fund during October! If you missed Giving Day and would like to double your impact for conservation, please make your tax deductible donation before the end of October! ♦

Coming Soon - BRIT Artisan Market



Make plans now to join us for the Second Annual BRIT Artisan Market Saturday, November 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At this year's Market BRIT will play host to thirty talented local and international artisans selling a variety of hand-crafted items including jewelry, wood housewares, hand-embroidered textiles from Mexico, photographic art, ceramics, unique clothing and accessories, all natural bath products and lovely hand-made children's items. In addition, we will have a number of local, artisanal food producers with festive, gift-

worthy food items on-hand. Its holiday shopping you can feel good about! For more information, please call [Laura Venhaus](mailto:Laura.Venhaus@brit.org) at 817.332.4441, ext 259. ♦

Congratulations to the Winners of the Third Annual EcoScape Residential Summer Landscape Contest

BRIT, City of Fort Worth, and Weston Gardens, sponsored the third annual EcoScape residential summer landscape contest, are pleased to announce the winners of this year's water-efficient yard competition.



First place goes to Debbie York of North Richland Hills whose yard featured a creative reuse of materials including brick from previous construction and a winding French drainage system that provided for the natural movement of water in the landscape with choice plants that were adapted to that environment. Second place is for Mr. and Mrs. Tobin Clark of Fort Worth who highlight the use of dry environment native and adapted non-native plants in an upscale urban environment. Third place winner is for Michelle Thomason, also of Fort Worth whose landscape design showed an excellent use of materials from rock to propagating plants and turf replacement with native and adapted plants.

The contest is an effort to raise awareness of wasteful water use and to challenge homeowners to create an attractive, water-efficient yard, taking landscaping to the next level without the use of a lot of water. It is estimated that between 30 and 40 percent of the total household water use during the summer months goes to landscapes. ♦

Membership Partners

BRIT is thrilled to have following local Membership Partners. Thank you to Calloway's Nursery, Marshall Grain Company, Redenta's Garden, and The Tree Place! Remember to take advantage of your BRIT membership by showing your card for your special store discounts while shopping at these locations:

[Calloway's Nursery](#) / [Marshall Grain Co.](#)
[Redenta's Garden](#) / [The Tree Place](#)



Stop in for your fall décor and help us show our appreciation!

Corporate Membership Opportunities

Are you looking for a way for your organization to get connected in the community? Please consider becoming a [Corporate Member](#) or [Reciprocal Partner](#) of BRIT. We're always looking for new and unique shopping experiences for our members. For additional information on these programs, please contact [Tammie Crole](#) at 817.332.7518. ♦



Oktoberfest!

Tuesday, October 27: BRIT Atrium
Friday, October 30: Private home

An evening of German and Viennese masters! Hall Ensemble continues its series of Beethoven string quartets with the Opus 18, No. 4. Mozart, von Weber as well as a delightful selection of waltzes and polkas will set the Oktoberfest mood.

After a season of sold out casual concerts at Avoca Coffee the group will move to the BRIT (Botanical Research Institute of Texas) Atrium. Ample free parking, table seating and a cash bar will be available. Guests may bring their own snacks. The signature House Concerts will continue to feature amenities such as complimentary valet parking and hors d'oeuvres buffet.

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. for socializing.
Single tickets: \$25 for BRIT Series, \$15 Students/Under 18
Tickets available on the Web: www.hallensemble.org
Tel. 817.456.3584, Email: hallensemble@sbcglobal.net ♦

Brown Bag Presentation

October, 6, 2015 Allan Jones, Ph.D.

This presentation will occur from noon – 1 p.m.

Feel free to bring your lunch and join us for this special presentation! ♦

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Phone: 817.332.4441 | Fax: 817.332.4112
Open Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
First Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. - 12 noon (April-October)