



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.

Get Involved

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 Research Assistant, 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.



This presentation is free and open to the public. You can learn more about this project through the BRIT website.

BRIT Brown Bag Lecture Series

Please join us to learn about the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R), one of the city's most important environmental institutions. Rob Denkhaus, Manager of the FWNC&R, will discuss the journey through the three states that matter: a solid past, a fluid (liquid) present, and an ethereal (gaseous) future. Now in its 53rd year of existence, the FWNC&R has a long and colorful history featuring the best of North Central Texas natural history and Fort Worth cultural support.

Tuesday, June 6, noon – 1 p.m.

Sip at BRIT: The Secret Treasures of BRIT

Join us on **June 15 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 Reata.

Barney Lipscomb, Director of BRIT Press and Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany, will give you a behind-the-scenes look at BRIT's hidden gems in the way of museum quality botanical books and rare plant specimens from unusual places around the world. To register, contact BRIT.



LANGETWINS FortWorth
FAMILY WINERY AND VINEYARDS

BRIT

Learn and Discover with BRIT: Adult Education Classes

Our spring semester of adult education classes is winding down, and plans are well underway for a great fall semester.

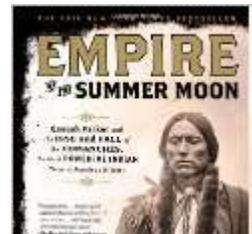
Permaculture 101 met for the last time on Saturday, May 6, but if you missed these classes on this first go-round, don't worry! We're offering a second set of Permaculture 101 classes this fall (which I guess would make them Permaculture 101.2?). Final details are still being worked out, but we plan to offer the two most popular classes again: Introduction to Permaculture and Introduction to Vegetable Gardening. We'll also add two new classes, "Urban Gardening: Permaculture for Small Spaces" and "Seed Starting 101." Keep your eye on our webpage for breaking news about these classes.

Spring TERM workshops will be coming to a close following **Saturday, June 3, from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.** as Kim Taylor, BRIT Research Botanist, introduces class participants to the world of rare plants in north central Texas. TERM Classes will be on summer vacation in July and August and will resume in September. Each of the following classes are from **1 p.m. - 3 p.m.:**

- *Monarch Migration and Local Pollinators: The Importance of Autumn*, Saturday, September 2
- *Know your Natives: Native American Plant Use*, Saturday, October 7
- *Grasses: The Rodney Dangerfield of the Vascular Plant World*, Saturday, November 4

BRIT Reads Book Club

The BRIT Reads Book Club's next book, *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History* by S. C. Gwynne, has been called "a historical feast for anyone interested in how the United States came into being." Join us on Monday, June 19, from noon – 1 p.m. as we discuss this book that details a fascinating and important slice of regional history. For more information about this group or to see our reading list, please visit our webpage.



Bella's Book and Nature Club

Families and friends grow, share, and pause for lunch as they enjoy the outdoors at BRIT. These young scientists and their mothers just explored literature and science with Bella during Bella's Book and Nature Club. Isn't it wonderful to see families and friends learning together!

When: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday of the month (excluding January & July). To pre-register and for more information, contact BRIT.

Don't miss out on registering your little ones for Camp BRIT!



Space is still available in:

Bella Goes to Camp (Pre-K & K), June 12-15 and June 19-22
Little B.I.T.s (1st & 2nd grade), July 10-13
My Plants, My Place (3rd-5th grade), June 26-29 and July 10-13
Contact BRIT for more information and to register.

Come Explore with Us!



Attend one of our free ambassador-led tours, offered every Thursday at 1:30 p.m., and every First Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Our specially-trained volunteer ambassadors will guide you through all the twists and turns of BRIT's state-of-the-art LEED® Platinum facility. From the rare book room, containing botanical books dating back to the 1500s, to the Herbarium, which houses more than one million plant specimens from all over the world, you'll be sure to discover something you never knew. Want to bring a group to BRIT for a private tour?

Email Director of Volunteers and Public Engagement, [Julie Donovan](#), or call 817.546.1846 for details.

Hidden Gardens at BRIT

When people come to visit BRIT, they frequently ask "What can I do here? What can I see?", and those questions can sometimes be a little difficult to answer. Unlike botanical organizations that function primarily as display gardens, our plant collections are usually tucked away on library shelves or in climate-controlled cabinets in the herbarium. Once a year, however, we throw open the doors of the herbarium and the library and let our collections come out and play. Join us now through June 29th and enjoy *The Hidden Gardens: BRIT Collections On Display*, our annual exhibit curated by the research department.

This exhibit traces the roots of botanical collections in this region, displaying collections made by 19th century botanists such as Ferdinand Lindheimer (Father of Texas Botany), Julius Reverchon, and Albert Ruth. The founder of the BRIT herbarium, Dr. Lloyd Shinnery, is featured with his collections, along with Dr. Eula Whitehouse, known for her moss collections and for contributing to the BRIT botanical library while at SMU. The story of how Dr. Robert Kral, founder of the Vanderbilt herbarium collections, brought the collection of southeast plants to BRIT along with some of his collections, one of which has been identified as now extinct, is also featured. Visitors will see dried and pressed specimens from various subsections of the BRIT herbarium, examples of the various digital collections currently housed at BRIT, and specimens from our Mycology and Myxomycetes collections. Adding even more interest are rare books and manuscripts from our collections along with new publications from our current research staff. Join us this summer and enjoy a visit to our Hidden Gardens!

Save the Date

Honorary Hosts: Ed Bass, Lee Bass, Ramona Bass, and Carter Smith; Event Chair: Grant James

International Award of Excellence in Conservation Gala

September 27, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at The Worthington Renaissance Hotel

Honoring

J. David Bamberger and Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve

Frank Yturria and the Frank Yturria Family Ranch

Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program



David Bamberger and Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve

David Bamberger has spent the last 45 years restoring the habitat of his 5,500-acre preserve he named Selah. He explains that Selah is a word from the Bible found in Psalms meaning "to stop, to pause, to look around you and reflect on everything you see. It's like Thoreau was to Walden Pond." Clearing the Ashe juniper and replanting native grasses as part of the restoration has brought back natural springs, which now furnish all the water used by the ranch.

Frank Yturria and the Frank Yturria Family Ranch

Dr. Frank Yturria is a trained veterinarian, along with being a rancher and a banker. The Frank Yturria family granted a 7,400-acre conservation easement to provide vital habitat for two endangered species: the ocelot cat and the aplomado falcon. Dr. Yturria is actively involved with the study of the animals. With only about 50 ocelots left in Northern America, it's exciting news that kittens are being born on the Yturria Family Ranch.

Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program

True to its mission statement, the TCU Ranch Management Program "prepares professionals to manage a broad range of global resources on an ecologically and economically sound basis while conserving and improving resources." This program has been available to students since 1955 and continues to serve the industry with the latest technology available. The curriculum offers ecologically and economically responsible business training to students interested in the agriculture business.

You are Invited!

BRIT 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.

Each year, our Green Revolution Agents of Change have the opportunity to display what they have learned throughout the year. Join us this year for our 5th Annual Green Revolution Change Symposium. Our Action Research projects on the Social Impact of Recycling are sure to be illuminating. Experience our Agents profound learnings, keen insights, and personal GROWTH from this project-based learning enterprise.

Event details:

Who? – Green Revolution Agents and families

Where? – BRIT, 1700 University Drive, Fort Worth, 76107

When? – Saturday, June 17, 2017 from noon to 2 p.m.

What? – Supporting our Green Revolution Agents of Change

Please come celebrate our Agents of Change, their knowledge and hard work. We really appreciate your support. See you there!



Support the Work at BRIT

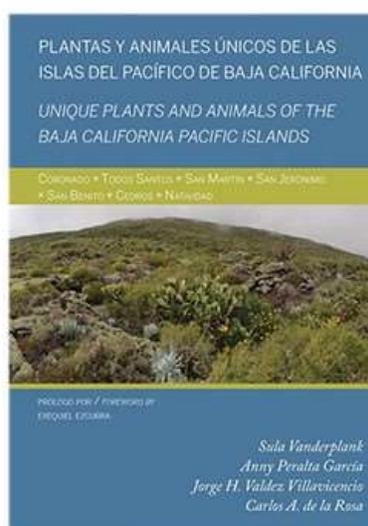


Supporting the work here at BRIT can come from many different avenues such as becoming a Member, making a donation, or by joining the Shinners Society, which is BRIT's Planned Giving Program. For additional information on any of these programs, please contact our Director of Membership and Grants Coordinator, [Tammie Cole](#), at 817.332.7518.

Research, Collections, & Publications

Book Launch in Mexico

Sunday, May 14, saw the launch of the most recent book from BRIT Press: *Plantas y animales únicos de las islas del Pacífico de Baja California/Unique plants and animals of the Baja California Pacific Islands*, by Sula Vanderplank, Anny Peralta García, Jorge H. Valdez Villavicencio, & Carlos A. de la Rosa, with a foreword by Exequiel Ezcurra. This bilingual field guide to the islands sometimes considered the southern half of the California Channel Island archipelago, was presented in Ensenada (Baja California, Mexico) at the Museo Caracol (natural history museum). The book is now available online through [ShopBRIT](#). The authors have identified a total of 69 endemic species or subspecies from the islands that run along the coast of Baja California: Islas Coronado, Todos Santos, San Martín, San Jerónimo, San Benito, Cedros, and Natividad. The endemic biota comprises 35 species or subspecies of plants, 15 reptiles, 8 birds, and 11 mammals, a surprisingly large number for islands so close to the mainland, underscoring the unique oceanic nature of these insular ecosystems. The guide is written in simple language, and each species is represented with clear photos in full color. In December 2016, these islands were declared part of a new Biosphere Reserve for Mexico ([read more](#)), making this guide all the more important as zoning of the islands begins, with rare and endemic species at the center of regional planning considerations.



First People's Demonstration Garden

If you walk around the BRIT property, be sure to take a new look at the First People's Demonstration Garden at the southeast corner of the building. This is the third year for the garden at this location and the fifth year it has been in existence at BRIT. Besides the fact that some of the plants are peeking up now, you'll see a lot of new signage explaining the philosophy of the garden and more details about it. Resident Research Associate Dr. Grace Bascope created the garden, and Volunteer Cyndy Gant spends countless hours caring for it throughout the summer and fall. If you'd like to know more about the garden or more about First Peoples' use of the prairie and other environments in North Central Texas before European contact, get in touch with [Grace](#). She'd be happy to arrange a tour and explanation!

Hidden Treasures: Flora Sibirica

As you look through the shelves in our rare book room, you see rows and rows of beautiful books. They have bindings of leather and vellum, ornate embossed and gilded decorations on the covers and spines.

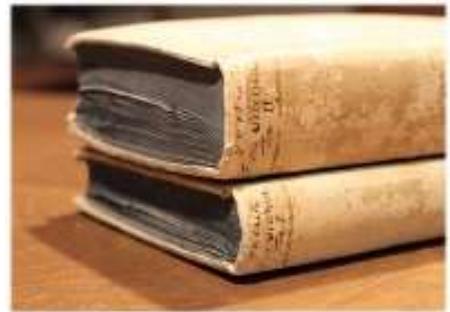
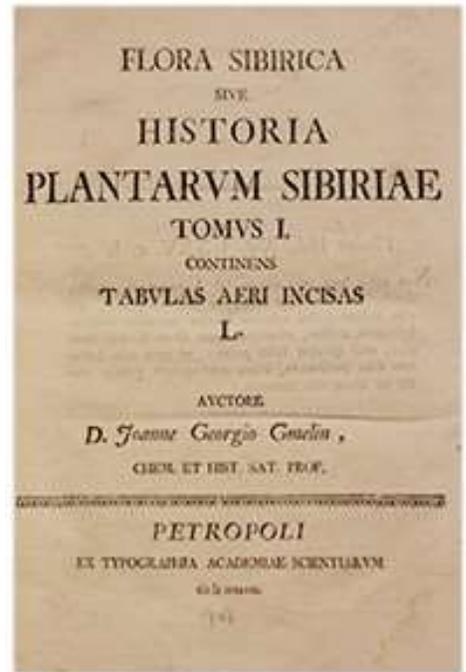
Two volumes stand out. Their bindings appear to be of tough cloth or paper, showing age more than the leather-bound neighbors. The front and back covers have no design or text. The spine is simple, with the titles handwritten in a delicate ink script: *Flora Sibirica*.

Before the invention of bookbinding machines in the latter half of the 19th Century, nearly all binding was a custom process. Publishers sold the loose pages of the book to the customer directly, who was then responsible for having the pages bound together. The customer would hire a bookbinder and dictate the design based on their financial and stylistic preferences. BRIT's *Flora Sibirica* is an extraordinarily simple binding. We believe this is the original binding, meaning the customer who purchased this book in 1747 chose the design.

We can let our imaginations wander with ideas explaining this choice. Perhaps the customer preferred to concentrate on the contents of the books rather than the exterior. Perhaps they couldn't afford a more elaborate design. Or maybe they enjoyed the look of this binding, beautiful in its simplicity. (If the latter is the case, I agree.)

Flora Sibirica was published in four volumes, 1747-1769, after Johann George Gmelin's 10-year expedition throughout Siberia. The voyage was funded by the Russian Academy of Arts and Sciences in St. Petersburg, and Gmelin explained the goal as "generally to learn everything that has scientific interest." *Flora Sibirica* describes 1178 species, 294 of which are illustrated.

Read more at BRIT's blog, [Phytophilia](#).



A Field Trip to the Tranquil Valley.....

Valle Tranquilo (the tranquil valley) is a fascinating ecotone (transition zone) at the southernmost extreme of the California Floristic Province (the mediterranean-climate region) of Baja California, Mexico. Its amazing mix of desert plants and fog-adapted plants as well as coastal Californian species makes it a very diverse area, but importantly it is also home to at least 57 plants that are endemic (or nearly so) to the state of Baja California. Due to its biological importance, almost 20,000 acres of it is protected in a private reserve (Reserva Natural Valle Tranquilo) which is owned by the Mexican land trust Terra Peninsular AC and protected under Mexican law through the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) as an "area voluntarily destined to conservation" (ADVPC). In late April, a final field trip was made to the region to look for additional plants that had not yet been documented. A checklist for the region is currently being compiled for the region. In doing so, BRIT botanist Dr. Sula Vanderplank headed to the field with three of San Diego's most talented botanists – Dr. Jon Rebman, Dr. Michael Simpson & Margie Mulligan. The team hiked remote canyons and carefully studied weedy areas, finding 50 new plants in the region following the incredible winter rains that recently soaked the area. Each new plant was vouchered with herbarium specimens that are currently being pressed and dried in Mexico, where one set of duplicates will remain while another will shortly be exported to the US. When all the plants have been fully identified, the checklist will be submitted for publication in *JBRIT*.



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. Thaddaeus Peregrinus Xaverius Haenke (1761-1817), a widely-respected Czech botanist, world explorer, and editor of the eighth edition of Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum* (1791).

Read more about the journey of these specimens as they made their way to BRIT!



Looking Back

Field Trips at BRIT

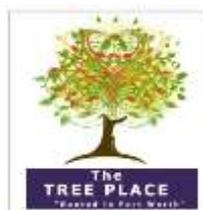
Young students from Smithfield Elementary are pouring into BRIT to learn more, explore more, and experience more. The BRIT prairie is the focal point for many of our Field Study Trips, as the 2nd graders pictured here can attest. They looked at ideas of bioengineering within our BRITscape, and we witnessed epic magic moments as students launched into a day of science inquiry through the lens of an engineer and scientist. Understanding the "what and how" motivated dozens of new "whys." These innovative learners used their newfound knowledge to answer their own questions and come up with even more.

In addition to the above, five hundred 5th graders came and questioned the reasons for plants, water, food, soil, and energy while discovering the outdoors in its natural state. Each visiting scientist got a little messy while they explored our BRIT prairie, the soil, and our Geology Wall. They discovered our growing Herbarium, learned about our BRIT building LEED standards, and detected career connections never before considered. Their day of exploration included looking at the food we eat and recognizing the benefits of a healthy environment. We appreciate all the interest and inquiry from these Birdville ISD students and future leaders!

Contact britedu@brit.org to book your field trip for the fall.



Thank You to Our Reciprocal Membership Partners!



BRIT Members receive store discounts!

PRESENTING SPONSORS



THANK YOU, PRAIRIE DAY & NIGHT SPONSORS!

In less than 24 hours, over 1100 people enjoyed a beautiful Friday evening and Saturday at BRIT. Nearly half had never heard of BRIT, fifteen

became members, and the rest became new friends. They learned about plant conservation, botany, and science camps, classes, animals, and furs, birds, bees, and snakes, Texas Parks, Ranges and Prairies, soil and water, solar energy and recycling, fossils and dinosaur eggs. Hundreds of tiny faces were painted with the likeness of a favorite prairie animal, and five fur-pets found new homes. See you next year!



Miscellaneous



Summertime Party on the Prairie

George Gershwin sings, "Summertime, and the livin' is easy." Let BRIT make your summertime parties easy with affordable rental prices, no outside vendor fees, included tables and chairs, and even complimentary hours for set up. At \$100-\$165 an hour, the Back Prairie and Oak Terrace balcony are great outdoor spots for any shindig! For a break from the heat, BRIT's Atrium is just a quick step inside with room for up to 300 guests. When you're planning your summer pool and air conditioned indoor parties, think of BRIT. Ask about our member discount. Contact events@brit.org.

Calendar of Events

JUNE

3rd - Bella's Story Time; Plant ID; Tour; TERM; Permaculture 101
6th - Bella Book & Nature Club; Brown Bag
7th - Bella Book & Nature Club
15th - Sip at BRIT, The Secret Treasures of BRIT
19th - BRIT Reads Book Club
Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.