



# 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

---



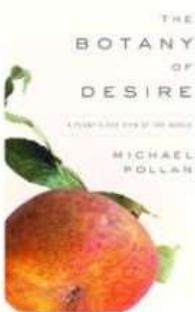
### Sip at BRIT: The Science of Whiskey

Join us on July 20 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 great wines from our generous vintner friends, Trefethen and LangeTwins, and scrumptiously tasty hors d' oeuvres compliments of Michael's Cuisine.

Hear Rob Arnold, TX Blended Whiskey Master Distiller, explain the science behind what it takes to make an award-winning whiskey and treat your own palate!

\$20 per person (Members save 50%) Contact Sara Richardson at 817.332.2748.

*Special thanks to our sponsors*



### BRIT Reads Book Club

*The Botany of Desire* by New York Times bestselling author Michael Pollan, links what he calls the four fundamental human desires – sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control – with the plants that satisfy them. Read along with us and discover which plants Pollan is talking about and how they have evolved over the years to sate these most basic desires. Our next meeting is Monday, July 17 from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, please contact [Laura Venhaus](#) at 817.546.1844.

---

### International Award of Excellence in Conservation Gala

September 27, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel  
Honorary Hosts: Ed Bass, Lee Bass, Ramona Bass, and Carter Smith  
Event Chair: Grant James



*Honoring  
J. David Bamberger and Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve  
Frank Yturria and the Frank Yturria Family Ranch  
Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program*

#### J. 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.



**Contact Sara Richardson at 817.332.2748.**

## Desert, Water, Life...Death Valley in Bloom

### Photo Exhibit July 7 - August 17

When it rains in the desert things come to life. This is nowhere truer than in Death Valley National Park, which straddles eastern California and western Nevada, an area that averages only 1.9 inches of precipitation per year. Throughout the winter of 2015 and the early spring of 2016 the park experienced steady downfalls of rain and the desert sprang to life, experiencing a “superbloom,” an event that happens only every 10 years or so. In February 2016, BRIT Resident Research Associate, Dr. Grace Bascopé, university administrator and photographer, Dr. Becky Watson, and BRIT volunteer, Dan Gruen, struck pure gold and were able to witness and document what park rangers called a “mega hyper superbloom” - an abundance of flowers seen only about every 100 years. They will share some of their photos of this rare event in the Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall at BRIT runs through August 17.



## Volunteer University is Way Easier than College

We invite all volunteers to attend Volunteer University; a collaborative effort that gathers volunteers of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and BRIT monthly to learn about plants from every viewpoint.



- *Living Roof 101*, Monday, July 10, 2 – 3 p.m. Location: BRIT. What is the vision behind the BRIT Living Roof and how did those plants end up there? Join Dr. Brooke Best, Editor and Botanist, as she shares the history of the living roof and explains why it is a good idea for our environment.
- *Botany in Books 101*, Monday, August 14, 10 – 11 a.m. Location: BRIT Library. Explore BRIT's libraries and learn about the treasures in our collections from the BRIT Librarian, Laura Venhaus. Class size limited to 30.
- *Creating a Colorful Fall & Winter Landscape*, Monday, September 11, 6 – 7 p.m. Location: Fort Worth Botanic Garden. North Central Texans have many plants to choose from to create landscape color through flowers, foliage, and fruit. You'll never think of winter as a drab season again.

Classes are offered at no charge but registration is encouraged. For more information please contact Director of Volunteers and Public Engagement, [Julie Donovan](#), or call 817.546.1846.



### BRIT Green Revolution

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

Our 5th Annual Green Revolution Change Symposium helped end the 2016 – 2017 year with a bang. The Agents were active participants in an Action Research Project on the social impact of recycling and they sure learned a lot. Out of all of the profound learnings, keen insights, and personal GROWTH this project-based learning experience delivered, we are most impressed that Agents walked away with an increased sense of responsibility and the tools to make a change.

For example, Agents of Change at Forest Oak Middle School worked as a team to collect more than 2,700 lbs. of recycled paper in just 4 months – an amount equivalent to the weight of a base model Hyundai Elantra! They then learned to make paper with the recycled material.

We challenge our Agents to dream about the potential possibilities of every school in Fort Worth ISD recycling for an entire year. How much waste diversion could we generate? How much wildlife could we save? How much of our natural heritage could we preserve? We extend a similar challenge to you – what will you do to help Green Revolution Agents of Change continue to grow our community and the world?



To get involved, please contact [Reggie Robinson](#) at 817.546.1847 for more information.

## Research, Collections, & Publications

### Researchers to Assess Risk of Extinction of Rare Texas Plants



Research Botanist Kim Taylor received a grant for BRIT from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Conservation License Plate (CLP) Fund in collaboration with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The project will work to assess the NatureServe Conservation Status Ranks of several rare Texas species. These Status Ranks assess the risk of species extinction at the global scale, or extirpation (loss from an area) at the national and state scales. NatureServe Conservation Status Ranks have been assessed for species in the state of Texas, but the presence of new information and new threats warrants a reassessment. A complete reassessment of all 449 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) listed in the Texas Conservation Action Plan is needed and is currently underway by Texas Parks and Wildlife. BRIT will assist this effort by using the most current available information on a species' range, rarity, threats, and trends to assign new ranks to several of our rare Texas plants.

## Cabinet Curiosities: The New Zealand Kauri

The New Zealand Kauri (*Agathis australis*) is a truly magnificent tree, revered in New Zealand by the native Maori and Europeans alike. The Kauri's ancestors lived over 130 million years ago – making it one of the most ancient trees in the world! - and the gargantuan trees can reach heights of over 160 feet and a diameter of over 66 feet. The ancient Maori used Kauri wood to build boats, make carvings and weapons, and build houses and public structures.

Having lived in New Zealand briefly, I was thrilled to discover that BRIT's own herbarium has a specimen of one of these amazing trees! The specimen was collected January 27, 1935 from the Bay of Islands, a subtropical micro-region of Northland, North Island, New Zealand.



At one time Kauri forests covered 2.9 million acres in New Zealand, but due to severe exploitation there now remain only 200,000 acres today. New Zealand's oldest living Kauri trees are 1,200-1,500 years old. Unfortunately, the oldest used to be a 4,000+ year-old giant named "Kairaru" which was destroyed in a fire in 1886.

Lately there have been conservation efforts across New Zealand attempting to preserve Kauri forests, limit commercial use of the trees, and contain a new disease called Kauri Dieback, which is having devastating effects on populations. Perhaps information provided by herbarium specimens - historic populations and distribution, habitat characterization, and DNA – can help with further conservation efforts for these incredible emblems of living history and New Zealand culture.

By: Haley Rylander, Research



---

## Miscellaneous

---



## Camp BRIT

Camp BRIT is in full swing this summer. BRIT's SEED School is especially excited to reach new audiences as we welcome some scholarship students to camps this year. Four and five-year-olds are enjoying the "Bella Goes to Camp" experience, which focuses on the theme of energy this year. You'll find our Bella campers in the Tree House or outside experimenting with sun, wind, and water. The older groups will be exploring plants in "Little B.I.T.s (Botanists in Training)", and woodlands in "My Plants, My Place."

---

## School's Out for Summer



After an exciting and busy spring, BRIT's two new series of classes, Permaculture 101 and TERM, are taking a short summer break in July and August. But don't think we're sitting by the pool and sipping fruity drinks...we're hard at work planning classes for fall 2017 and spring 2018. Details will be posted on the website soon and watch for a list of classes in the August *Leaflet*. Stay tuned!

---

## Have You Taken Advantage of Our Reciprocal Membership Partners?



**BRIT Members receive discounts at these retail stores and reciprocal admission to more than 300 public gardens; visit [ahs.org](http://ahs.org) for a complete list.**

Not a member yet? Join online at [BRIT.org](http://BRIT.org) or call 817.332.7518.

---

## Calendar of Events

---

### JULY

1st & 4th - BRIT will be closed for the holiday

6th - No Public Tour

11th - Brown Bag

17th - BRIT Reads Book Club

20th - Sip at BRIT, The Science of Whisky

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

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



Botanical Research Institute of Texas

1700 University Drive | Fort Worth | Texas | 76107

Phone: 817.332.4441 | Fax: 817.332.4112 | [BRIT.org](http://BRIT.org)

*Copyright © 2017 Botanical Research Institute of Texas*

If you have an email account, please help us save paper & postage by emailing Tammie Crole at [tcrole@brit.org](mailto:tcrole@brit.org), so we can update your information in our system.

Thank you