



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

An Evening with Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas - April 3

Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas has lived, studied, and worked with the orangutans of Indonesian Borneo in their natural habitat. Her ceaseless work to save orangutans and their forest home is unparalleled by any other person in human history. Hear her share incredible insights into her life, research, and the current conservation crisis as the world's foremost authority on the orangutan. [Read Dr. Galdikas' Bio](#)

FEW SEATS REMAINING



5:30 p.m. – Reception



6:00 p.m. – Talk

[Registration](#)

High Performance Landscapes: FINAL Results!



Is your landscape using too much water? Are you interested in helping pollinators and using native species? Are you tired of spending lots of time maintaining your landscape?

Join us on Wednesday, April 4, at 4 p.m. in the BRIT Commons to hear more about the final results collected from the collaborative project between BRIT and the General Services Administration (GSA) regarding high performance landscapes. Heather Bass and Keri

Barfield will be sharing the final results from this 2-year project. Find out how landscaping decisions can affect water use, pollinator visitation, and carbon footprint, and learn how to use the free High Performance Landscape Calculator Tool.

Green Revolution Urban Ag Day

Green Revolution --- an Environmental STEM, positive-youth-development, out-of-school-time (grade 6 - 12) program that immerses youth in formative experiences to advance their personal development, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship --- is proud to host the 3rd annual Urban Agriculture Day. This experience is designed to increase farm-to-table awareness, identify existing food solutions in an urban context, and have fun while learning outdoors.



A quick rundown:

- Who: Green Revolution and friends
- What: Urban Ag Day – investigating the interactions between food systems and urbanity, and exploring the role water plays in both
- When: Saturday, April 14, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Where: Right here at BRIT – 1700 University Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76107

Nature Hike and City Challenge at Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge



Join us at the [Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge](#) on a hike led by BRIT board member and Resident Research Associate Bob O'Kennon. Covering more than 3,500 acres in forest, prairies, and wetlands, the Nature Center provides a glimpse of what our area looked like before it was developed. Bring a sack lunch, water, a hat, sunscreen, and a hiking stick; snacks and water refills are provided. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 28, 9601

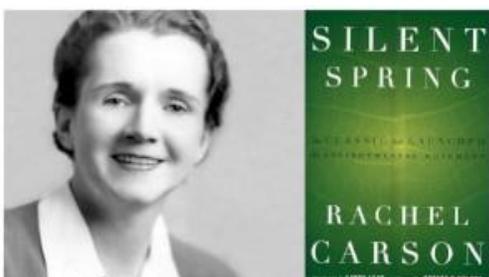
Fossil Ridge Road. Call ahead for carpooling from at BRIT at 7:15 a.m.

Registration is required - [register here](#): \$10 nonmembers, \$5 BRIT members, and FWNCR members are free. Contact [Tammie Crole](#) at 817.332.7518 for more information.

Bring Your Smartphone for the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge

It's easy to participate. Either join us on our nature hike or you can make observations on your own using the iNaturalist app. Take a picture of a wild animal, plant, or fungus, upload it to [iNaturalist](#), and the online community will help you accurately identify the species. The City Challenge will automatically find observations in the DFW area and add them to the challenge tally. DFW won the challenge in 2017 with the most total observations recorded. Help us defend that title this year! [Learn more about the City Nature Challenge here.](#)

Silent Spring: The Book that Spawned a Movement



Written by Rachel Carson, an American marine biologist, and published in 1962, *Silent Spring* drew the public's attention to environmental problems caused by the widespread, indiscriminate use of synthetic pesticides. Join the BRIT Reads Book Club on Monday, April 16, from noon – 1 p.m. as we discuss this influential book that is credited with launching the environmental movement, leading to the

creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact [Laura Venhaus](#) at 817.546.1844.

Adult Education Workshops

GROW, the new educational and volunteer collaboration between BRIT and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, is pleased to provide a wide variety of opportunities for the adult learner to expand their knowledge. Join us for classes that range from fun and frivolous to serious and in-depth in botanically related categories including Horticulture and Gardening, Botanical Arts and Crafts, Food, Health and Wellness, and Botany, Ecology and Nature. For more information or to register, please visit the [webpage](#) or contact [Laura Venhaus](#) at 817.546.1844.

- 4/7 Fall in Love with Fungi
 - 4/7 Rare and Endangered Plants of Texas: Identification and monitoring techniques
 - 4/7 What is the Soil Food Web?
 - 4/7 Soil Biology for Gardeners
 - 4/14 Lawn Conversion: Creating a garden where you once had a lawn
 - 4/28 Bees! Part I
 - 4/28 Bees! Part II
 - 5/5 Plant Collection and Preservation
 - 5/5 Creative Nature Journaling
-

Vine to Table - April 11

Wine Dinner & Auction & Special Presentation of the 2018 International Sustainable Winegrowing Award to Alexander Valley Vineyards of Sonoma County, California.

Event Chairs, Gina & Bob Ravnaas

Al fresco at Botanical Research Institute of Texas on Wednesday, April 11, at 6 p.m.

Thank you to our generous sponsors!



Texas Horned Lizards Research Presentation

Dr. Dean Williams from Texas Christian University's Department of Biology will be presenting a research talk entitled *The Ecology of Small Town Texas Horned Lizards*. The presentation will be held at noon, Friday, April 13 in the BRIT Commons. All are welcome to attend. For any questions about this presentation please contact [Taylor Quedensley](#) at 817.335.8157.

A Ferntastic Day with NLU



On Sunday, February 25th, BRIT staff had the pleasure of hosting members of the Southwestern Fern Society for a volunteer day. Six volunteers worked hard to organize and sort ferns and lycophytes from the recently acquired University of Louisiana at Monroe's (NLU) herbarium collection. To read more about the day and potential volunteer opportunities, visit our [website](#).

For additional questions about the NLU collection or how you can get involved, please email [Miranda Madrid](#) or [Ashley](#)

[Bordelon](#).

FROM YAY TO HOORAY!

Young scientists observe the natural world around them as they learn with their classmates at BRIT. Field Study Trips are an engaging way to inspire environmental stewardship.

Register Now for Camp BRIT! Sign up for a week of activities featuring our amazing outdoor & indoor spaces. Campers meet BRIT botanists & special guests & discover new plants, insects, & friends! Camps are for kids entering Pre-K (age 4) -- 5th grade.

The Celebration Meter

To learn more about SEED School Programs, or if you are interested in sponsoring a teacher or school to attend these programs, please contact Tracy Friday at tfriday@brit.org

Five things the SEED School is celebrating this month!

GROW Education & Green Revolution brought hands-on science activities to the first FWISD STEM Expo. Attendees were invited to try a surface tension challenge & take a closer look at nature with digital iGo microscopes.

GROW programs blossomed on March 3rd in the FWBG as hundreds from our community shared in the new collaboration. Continue to GROW with Us & enjoy nature! Visit BRIT.ORG/GROW for more info.

Little Sprouts got down in the dirt this month! Families with children 18 months to 3 years enjoyed soil, explored & discovered little critters such as snails, worms, & spiders, and used scientific tools in the Backyard Vegetable Garden. Little Sprouts is free & meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10:30-11:30 am.

The Botanical Art Collective of North Central Texas

Funny how life can take individuals and organizations in previously unthought-of and unplanned-for directions, isn't it? As Ferris Bueller said of his well-known day off, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." Thankfully, Denis Benjamin, Resident Research Associate here at BRIT, heeded this good advice and took a moment to stop and look around BRIT, North Central Texas, and the surrounding states and realized that while there is a growing interest in botanical art, there is a lack of support and organization for same. This observation, coupled with Benjamin's own interest in botanical art, specifically watercolors, and support from BRIT's executive leadership, has brought into existence the Botanical Art Collective of North Central Texas. To learn more about this new group please visit our [webpage](#) or contact [Denis Benjamin](#).



Research, Collections, & Publications

The Legacy of Dr. Eula Whitehouse

Eula Whitehouse is a name that's familiar at BRIT. Our herbarium contains over 500 specimens she collected, our library houses six of her publications, and the Eula Whitehouse Collection in the BRIT Archives documents her life's work. To celebrate Women's History Month, we want to tell the story of this remarkable woman who contributed so much to the collections that would eventually form the core of BRIT.



Dr. Whitehouse was an esteemed scientist and botanical artist. In 1936, she wrote and illustrated *Texas Flowers in Natural Colors*, which remains a favorite book among many Texas botanists. She also published over a dozen scholarly articles, named several taxa, and collected specimens in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus, India, Singapore, Fiji, Mexico, and Europe.

Dr. Whitehouse received her doctorate from University of Texas in 1939, making her one of 429 women in the United States to earn a PhD between 1939-1940. She was listed in *Who's Who of American Women (1959)* and *American Men of Science (1944)*, seemingly because there was no publication devoted to honoring women in science.

Learn more about Dr. Eula Whitehouse and her connection to BRIT in our "Hidden Treasures" [blog](#) series.

Begonias Have Style



In February 2018, Research Botanist Dr. Taylor Quedensley began visiting the Begonia greenhouses at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden (FWBG) with the goal of pressing species in bloom and collecting leaf samples to be dried in silica. Conservation and biodiversity are two major components to Quedensley's research track, and through multiple trips to the greenhouses across the parking lot from BRIT he hopes to make quality voucher specimens of as many of the 400+ species that

are currently growing at the garden and preserve silica-dried leaf material of each species for future genetics studies. In April, Taylor will attend the American Begonia Society Convention in New Orleans, joining several people from FWBG and planning on talking with Begonia experts regarding potential collaborations with the BRIT Herbarium. Living collections with high species diversity such as the FWBG Begonia collections promote strong ties with botanists. BRIT houses many Begonia herbarium specimens from around the world, especially from southeast Asia. The photograph shown here is of the pistillate flowers of *Begonia subvillosa*. For more information, please contact [Taylor Quedensley](#) at 817.335.8157.

Miscellaneous

Volunteer to GROW Young Minds Through Garden Exploration

Are you an avid gardener? Do you believe children should spend more time outdoors with plants? Maybe you just want to get your hands dirty while engaging your community in plant-related dialogue. Whatever your reason, if you have a passion for plants and want to volunteer with children, GROW has the perfect opportunity for you. Garden Exploration is GROW's newest family program, whose mission is "to encourage families to explore the wonder of plants through the art and science of gardening." The program is divided into three subsets based on age: Seedlings, Little Sprouts, and Family Exploration Saturdays. With Seedlings, come sow the seeds of curiosity in our learners age 4-6 through activities in the Children's Garden, or with Little Sprouts, you can start their love for plants young with learners age 18 months to 3 years. Only free on the weekends? Don't fret! We need your help with our Family Exploration Saturdays. On these days, you can help with educational activities ranging from planting seeds to using scientific tools to investigate nature.



If you would like more information about volunteering, please contact [Julie Donovan](#) at 817.546.1846 or [Montana Williams](#) at 817.546.8694 or check out our [online calendar](#).

ommunity Solutions Program Certificate of Appreciation

Last summer, BRIT was chosen from 100 institutions to host Community Solutions Fellow Vuanghao Lim from Penang, Malaysia. The Community Solutions Program is part of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

Dr. Lim joined us from August 11 through December 7, 2017, visiting the U.S. for the very first time. Dr. Ed Schneider was his program host here at BRIT, and Dr. Peter Fritsch was his mentor. The core of Dr. Lim's work here in Fort Worth was participating in the design of a medicinal garden around the new Interdisciplinary Research Building on UNTHSC campus. Components of his work plan here were also to implement and promote sustainable, integrative health care to youth with disabilities through lectures, seminars, and classes.

During his fellowship in the U.S., Dr. Lim worked to learn about sustainable integrative medicine education among undergraduates and integrative medicine healthcare among people living with disabilities. Now that he has returned to Malaysia, Dr. Lim plans to assimilate knowledge and increase awareness among communities from different ethnic backgrounds in his home community through implementing integrative medicine seminars, workshops, and hands-on trainings.

Dr. Lim was embraced by everyone at BRIT during his stay, and along with his academic pursuits, he said he learned about management, cultures, plants, and a lot about food and chocolates. BRIT and UNTHSC learned from Dr. Lim as well, especially about food and cultures. It was an excellent experience for all.

In February BRIT received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Community Solutions Program thanking BRIT for "helping the U.S. Department of State advance its public diplomacy priorities with emerging leaders around the world and ensure a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous future for people everywhere."

Calendar of Events

APRIL

3rd—Brown Bag; Bella Book & Nature Club; An Evening With Dr. Galdikas

4th—High Performance Landscapes presentation

7th—Bella's Saturday Story Time; Family Exploration Saturday; Adult Education Classes and Workshops

9th—Volunteer University

11th—Vine to Table event; Seedlings

14th—Green Revolution Ag Day; Family Exploration Saturday; Adult Education Classes and Workshops

16th—BRIT Reads Book Club

17th—Teacher Tuesday; Little Sprouts

21st—Family Exploration Saturday

28th—Nature Hike at FWNCR; Family Exploration Saturday; Adult Education Classes and Workshops

Every Saturday (Mar- Nov): Family Exploration Saturday in the Garden from 1-4

p.m. BRIT Tours: Each Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and 1st Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Additional

information can be found at brit.org.

Botanical Research Institute of Texas

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