August GROWing Together™ Newsletter

To our current GROW members and those soon to join, we appreciate your support! Since the Garden began charging admission July 19, membership sales have been increasing – and admission to our Garden is just one benefit. One volunteer was overhead telling folks how she had already saved more than $200 using her GROW membership card to visit other gardens, which were part of the 300 others nationwide offering free reciprocal admissions. We love hearing those stories! For more information on membership, visit fwgrow.org.

Table of Contents

News
Mark Your Calendars for a Festive Fall Gallery Night

Research/Library
Research Team Surveys New Species in Philippines
BRIT Library Represented in European Conference

Education
Nature-Based Yoga Connects Children, Storytime

Calendar of Events
August Calendar

Mark Your Calendars for a Festive Fall Gallery Night
Fall Gallery Night is one of our favorite days at BRIT. It’s a joyous celebration of the intersection of art and science, and this year since Gallery Night and First Saturday happen to fall on the same day, it promises to be even bigger than usual!

Join us Saturday Sept. 7 as we celebrate the arrival of fall with a day packed full of classes, activities and fun. Take a class, bring your kids for story time with Bella, learn about BRIT on the free tour, do some shopping at the Gallery Night Artisan Market, and then enjoy an evening of beautiful art. This year, for your viewing pleasure, we have multiple shows for you to enjoy:

- **Botanical Art – 6 Ways** featuring the work of six regional botanical artists working in a variety of mediums in the Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall.
- **The Fifth Kingdom** by Denis Benjamin in the Welcome Center Gallery.
- **Outside/In** by Carol Benson on the Prairie.
- **River Birds of Texas** by Scott and Stuart Gentling in the BRIT Library

10 a.m.
Adult Ed – Plant Portraits: Acrylic Techniques
Adult Ed – Pesto-mania

10:30 a.m.
Free tour of BRIT
Bella’s Saturday Storytime

11 a.m.
Artisan Market opens

1 p.m.
Adult Ed – Preserving Nature’s Bounty: Canning Pickled Peppers
Adult Ed – Wildflower Hand Embroidery

6 p.m.
Gallery Night Reception opens
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for The Stansbery Collection for Botanical Art

For a complete schedule visit our website.

[Image shown is Corpse Flower, Acrylic on canvas, Melanie Campbell-Carter]

Research Team Surveys New Species in Philippines

The first BRIT research expedition to the Philippines from May 29 to June 29 was deemed a success by all who participated.

The expedition team consisted of 27 scientists from institutions across the U.S. and the Philippines. Four sites were visited – three on the island of Mindanao, and one on the island of Camiguin. The latter is notable in containing more volcanic cinder cones per square mile than anywhere in the world.

On July 19, the Garden began charging admission.
Please visit our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for answers to questions and concerns.
The team made a total of at least 2,500 herbarium specimen numbers of plants and lichens, and with four “duplicate” sets estimated, that equates to more than 10,000 specimens. These specimens are still being dried and processed at Central Mindanao University (main collaborating partner institution). For every herbarium collection, high-quality photographic images were taken, field data were recorded, including geocoordinates, and two duplicates of leaf material quick-dried in silica gel for DNA extraction were obtained.

Because the areas selected have only been spottily surveyed in the past, or not surveyed at all, undoubtedly new species to science, new species records for the Philippines, and new locality records have been discovered. Everyone stayed safe and the team enjoyed the forests, despite the land leeches, muddy and wet camp sites, and slippery volcanic slopes.

Expedition two, also funded by the National Science Foundation, is being planned for December 2019 and January 2020.

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**Nature-Based Yoga Connects Children, Storytime**

BRIT is partnering with Nanda Yoga, the children's yoga community of Fort Worth, to provide nature-based Storytime Yoga once a month. Children will learn calmness, breathing, and mindfulness, while developing strength, flexibility, and focus. Storytime Yoga at BRIT provides a space where families can connect to nature and experience integrated learning.

Children are given the opportunity to explore and challenge their bodies, expand and connect physical movements to themes and stories, and increase their vocabularies. This process allows them to better express themselves both physically and emotionally.

Storytime yoga is a great way to connect with your child and enjoy some mindful moments. Come out and join us on August 7 for the first session!

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at BRIT
$15/member family | $20/non-member family
Check out the latest video adventure of Bella the Begonia as she tours the BRIT campus. Stay tuned to see where she goes next!

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**BRIT Library Represented in European Conference**

BRIT Librarian Brandy Watts and Library Director Barney Lipscomb recently attended the 26th Annual Meeting of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) Group and 23rd Linnaeus Link Partners’ Meeting in Champex-Lac, Switzerland. The EBHL is an association that promotes and facilitates cooperation and communication between those working in European botanical and horticultural libraries.

The event included talks on alpine floras, alpine and rock botanical gardens (history and future), plant exploration, plant exploitation and plant hunting in mountains, seed conservation of mountain areas, as well as artificial Intelligence for libraries.

Watts presented a paper on the value of field photographs in botanical research.

Her talk focused on the value of field photographs in terms of their metadata, as visual records, as well as in relation to other collection material.
Calendar of Events

August 5 through August 31

August 6 – Bella’s Book & Nature Club
August 6-10 – Girl Scout Badge Workshops & Lock-In
August 7 – Storytime Yoga
August 10 – Girl Scouts S’mores Celebration
August 13-30 – Summer Field Trips
August 14 – Seedlings
August 20 – Little Sprouts

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