Get Involved

Green Revolution is excited to announce that the reviews of our last Growing Our Community event have given us reason to do it again, but bigger! [Click here for the video](#) at Briscoe Elementary.

To help Green Revolution Agents of Change engage our mission to learn global and serve local, we have adopted The Leadership Academy at Maude Logan for this year’s Growing Our Community Service Learning Experience. A quick rundown of the event:

- **Who:** Friends and Partners of the Stop 6 Community.
- **What:** Growing Our Community Service Learning Experience – reading and giving away books, writing letters to our troops, and native plant-scape creation at the Leadership Academy at Maude Logan Elementary School.
- **When:** **Saturday, March 10** from 9 am to noon.
- **Where:** Leadership Academy at Maude Logan Elementary School, 2300 Dillard Street, Fort Worth, 76105.

Join us!
BRIT Reads Book Club on Monday, March 19, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

The Wonder of Birds by Jim Robbins

In The Wonder of Birds author Jim Robbins makes the case that birds provide our most vital connection to nature. "They compel us to look to the skies, both literally and metaphorically; draw us out into nature to seek their beauty; and let us experience vicariously what it is like to be weightless." Join the BRIT Reads book club in March as we read and discuss our first book about our avian neighbors.

For more information, please visit our [website](http://example.com) or contact Laura Venhaus at 817.546.1844.

Spring Gallery Night, March 24 - Texas Jewish Arts Association

BRIT is pleased to have the Texas Jewish Arts Association (TJAA) exhibiting art in the Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall through May 3, 2018. The wide-ranging exhibition features artworks in a variety of media from the well-respected Texas Jewish Arts Association.

Stop by on Spring Gallery Night, March 24, from 4 - 9 p.m. to view this unique group show and join us for the opening reception from 6 - 8 p.m. TJAA artists will be on hand to discuss their art with the public. BRIT members are invited to attend our opening reception and will take home a special BRIT commemorative. For more information, please contact Laura Venhaus at 817.546.1844.
Adult Education Workshops

March 3:
- Lichens: The Introductory Course
- Introduction to Botanical Illustrations with Colored Pencils
- Culinary Herbal Infusions
- Urban Gardening: Making Small Spaces Productive
- Water Harvesting

March 17: Growing Gourds & Making Soap with Luffas

April 7
- Fall in Love with Fungi
- Rare and Endangered Plants of Texas
- What is the Soil Food Web
- Soil Biology for Home Gardeners

April 21: Turf Removal and Lawn Conversion

April 28: Bees!

For more information or to register, please visit the webpage or contact Laura Venhaus at 817.546.1844.

Rare Appearance & Presentation by Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas on 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. Through our partnership with TCU we’re able to present this rare opportunity to meet Dr. Galdikas and hear her talk about her life's work in the wild!

Read Dr. Galdikas' Bio

TCU

5:30 pm – Reception
6:00 pm – Speaking Engagement

Purchase Your Tickets Here
($20/$10 Limited Seating)

“As I sit, my back leaning against a damp, moss-covered tree trunk, my eyes sweeping the canopy above, my ears straining to catch the crack of a distant branch that betrays an orangutan moving in the treetops, I think about how we humans search for God. The tropical rain forest is the most complex thing an ordinary human can experience on this planet. A walk in the rain forest is a walk into the mind of God.”

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 (BRIT)---will be sharing the data collected and 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.
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
Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

To be added to the waiting list, contact Sara Richardson at 817.332.2748.

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

Join us April 28, at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge as we step back in time and experience what the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex was like in the early 20th century. FWNC&R covers 3,621 acres of natural area comprised of forests, prairies, and wetlands and includes over 20 miles of hiking trails, making the park one of the largest city-owned nature centers in the United States. Hike will be led by Bob O’Kennon, a BRIT Board Member and a Fort Worth Nature Center Board Member.

Cost: $10 nonmembers, $5 BRIT members, and FWNCR members are free. Registration is required, and carpooling is encouraged, contact Tammie Crole at 817.332.7518 for more information.

--------------Bring Those Cell Phones for the City Nature Challenge 2018--------------

Which City is the Wildest?

Cities around the world will compete on April 27–30 to see which urban area has the most nature and the most engaged residents! This City Nature Challenge will include more than 60 cities from 17 countries around the world.

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 fungi, upload it to iNaturalist, and the online community will help you accurately identify the species.

Research, Collections, & Publications

BRIT Fern Research Presented at the Southwestern Fern Society in Dallas

In February, BRIT Research Botanist Dr. Alejandra Vasco, went to Dallas to give the first of hopefully many talks for the Southwestern Fern Society members. The Southwestern Fern Society is a group of people from the DFW area, interested in ferns and in plants in general. They meet on the second Sunday of each month at North Haven Gardens from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Alejandra’s talk was entitled “A journey filled with ferns.” During the talk Alejandra introduced herself and her research, and talked about her current and future projects at BRIT. In her own words “Ferns have brought inspiration, challenges, beauty, strength, and many nice friends to my life. They have taken me to
spectacular places and have overall been excellent companions in my journey.” Also, during the talk, Alejandra told the Southwestern Fern Society members about some interesting aspects she has learned about ferns and how those have change not only her personal view of these fabulous plants, but also how the science community approaches and thinks about them. Some members of the Fern Society will be coming to BRIT to help sort out the fern collections that make part of BRIT’s recently adopted University of Louisiana at Monroe (NLU) herbarium.

For more information about fern research happenings at BRIT, please visit Alejandra Vasco’s webpage, or call her at 817.332.4441, ext. 262.

Phylogenomics of the Snowbell Family

Although part of documenting the diversity of life on earth is discovering what and where the species are, no less important is discovering how they came to be. In a paper just published in the journal Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, Peter Fritsch and colleagues at Oberlin College and the Wuhan Botanical Garden in China used next-generation DNA sequence technology to generate data from the entire plastome of the Snowbell plant family. You may know the Snowbells by the species Styrax platanifolius subsp. texensis, found only in a small region of the Edwards Plateau. A plastome is the genome from the circular DNA molecule found in all plant plastids, the organelles that conduct photosynthesis. Its small size and conserved structure across plant groups make it ideal for inferring phylogenetic relationships of species and larger plant groups. Fritsch et al. conducted computer analyses to infer the origins and relationships of the 12 genera in this group based on the differences found among the plastome sequences. The plastome structure of the Storax family is indicated in the figure, with each colored box corresponding to specific genes that make proteins needed for plant metabolism. One outcome of the analysis is that the sequences confirmed the recognition of Perkinsiodendron, a genus moved out of the silverbell genus Halesia based on other data (see JBRIT 10:109. 2016). Next-generation sequencing methods are powerful tools for this and many other applications in the plant sciences and will be a core function of BRIT’s molecular and structural laboratory.

For more information, contact: Peter Fritsch, ext. 234.

Cultivate, Conserve, Explore and Engage as a Volunteer

Are you ready to GROW, both personally and professionally? The new partnership between the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and BRIT opens a myriad of volunteer opportunities for you to pursue your interests, contribute your skills, and take advantage of Growth opportunities. Our multitude of volunteer opportunities on our campus are now separated into four categories with motivation in mind: Cultivate, Conserve, Explore and Engage. If you love to garden and let your hands get dirty you are most likely a Cultivate volunteer. If you are motivated by supporting events and engaging the public then you fit into the Engage area. One of the best parts is that you could be a Cultivate and Explore volunteer or a Conserve and Engage volunteer or you might fit into every category. The GROW logo embodies our vision for the programs with deep roots and sprawling branches symbolizing the impact of volunteering in our community. The Grow collaborative offers meaningful experiences through
education and volunteer opportunities that enrich personal growth and sustain our planet.

To see the newest opportunities please check out our online calendar http://brit.org/grow-volunteer-calendar and for more information about volunteering contact Julie Donovan or 817.546.1846 or Montana Williams 817.817.546.8694.

BRIT Membership Benefits

Members are essential to BRIT’s success. As a BRIT member, you can be a part of preserving BRIT’s priceless library and plant collections, while supporting the Institution’s educational, environmental, and research programming and help to increase the public’s appreciation of plants and the natural world.

- Free subscription to BRIT’s Monthly Email, The Leaflet
- Free subscription to Better Homes and Gardens or Martha Stewart Living
- Free Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo gate entrance per cardholder
- Discount on facility rental and birthday parties
- Discount at local reciprocal retail nurseries
- Discount to attend Adult Education workshops, Camp BRIT, and other special programs
- Discount at 300+ botanical gardens (ahs.org), including FW Japanese Garden, Dallas Arboretum, and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Invitation to galas and benefit parties
- Invitation to exhibit openings in the Madelin R. Samples Exhibit Hall

Calendar of Events

MARCH
3rd–Volunteer University; Bella’s Saturday Story Time; Lichens: The Introductory Course; Introduction to Botanical Illustrations with Colored Pencils; Culinary Herbal Infusions; GROWing in the Garden Family Day
6th–Brown Bag; Bella Book & Nature Club
12th–Volunteer University
13th & 14th–Family Day Camp-Spring Break
14th–Seedlings
19th–BRIT Reads Book Club
20th–Teacher Tuesday; Little Sprouts
24th–Spring Gallery Night
30th–BRIT will be closed

Every Saturday (March- November) 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.