Summer Brown Bag

Join us Tuesday, July 10, noon - 1 p.m. along with Diane Pierce as she shares her "Teardrop Trailer Camping" experience. You will learn more about trailer selection, safety procedures, operation, equipment, camping options, and group and individual activities.

Find more information about your Brown Bag Lecture Series on our website. For inquiries, please contact Alyssa B. Young at 817.546.1959.

BRIT Reads Book Club


To read more about them and the BRIT Reads Book Club, please visit our website. To join the mailing list for this group, please contact Laura Venhaus at 817.546.1844.

Students Successfully Impact GROW and BRIT Programs

What an impact 11 well educated and eager interns have had on BRIT! Our interns have come from local universities such as TCU and UTA and further afield such as Emory and the University of Illinois to share their enthusiasm for the environment with us while we share our knowledge with them. This opportunity to work with experienced professional staff is valuable to our interns and will help them decide what path they want to take when choosing their careers. During the summer some of our interns are curating the BRIT fern collection, reviewing human resource policy, creating camp programming for
Green Revolution, organizing the begonia collection, and curating the Type herbarium specimens. The intern program is beneficial to BRIT because projects are tackled which we have been hoping to complete. BRIT is well on its way to having a great summer thanks to our interns.

If you know of someone who would be interested in interning at BRIT or GROW, please have that individual send a resume to Julie Donovan. For the fall semester we are interested in interns for all areas including marketing and horticulture.

Limited Seating - Register Now

**BRIT's Back to School for Grown-ups, Wednesday, August 22**

Summer will soon be winding down so now's the perfect time to make plans for a fun and educational fall. Join us for* Back to School with BRIT* on Wednesday, August 22, from 5 - 7:30 p.m. and preview some of GROW’s exciting Adult Education offerings. Guests will enjoy tasty snacks and drinks, while registering for three of our mini-classes:

1.) Make (& take!) a teeny, tiny terrarium with our friends from the Tarrant Area Master Gardeners and the Begonia Society.
2.) Join instructor Samantha Peters and learn *How to Paint the Perfect Watercolor Leaf.*
3.) Dr. Brooke Best will be giving an intro to her November class *Supermarket Botany.*
4.) Kay Seiko will be teaching guests *How to Make an Origami Seed-Starting Pot.*
5.) Dr. Grace Bascope will preview her popular *Native American Plant Use* class.

Guests will wrap up the evening with dessert and conversation in the cafeteria. While you’re here, you can be one of the first to sign up for our fall classes and workshops. Don’t miss out on the fun and excitement of back to school time! Register now for August 22, $35/$30 Members (Join Here).

Education/Research/Collections/Publications

**Adult Education Workshops**

7/16 Cooking: Cooking with Herbs
7/21 Introduction to Oil Painting: Botanical Still Lifes
7/28 Teen Workshop: Botanical Drawing & Watercolors I
8/4 Teen Workshop: Botanical Drawing & Watercolors II
8/20 Cooking: Homemade Salsa

For more information or to register, please visit our [webpage](#) or contact Laura Venhaus at
817.546.1844. Don’t forget you’re eligible for discounted classes if you sign up to be a BRIT Member. Contact our Membership Office at 817.332.7518.

Natural Science Collections Alliance

BRIT is one of ca. 100 institutional members of the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA), a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our own VP of Research Dr. Peter Fritsch serves on its board of directors. The association provides a voice for collections to government, advocating for museum collections and basic scientific research, and educating policymakers and their staff about collections issues. It provides timely reports on federal policy developments, enabling members to effectively communicate with decision-makers. It also compiles critical data on the use of collections by scientists and institutions and provides feature publications on the latest innovations in collections data dissemination and use. In its focus on collections, the NSCA is in excellent alignment with the goals of the BRIT herbarium and BRIT’s mission to conserve our natural heritage. For more information go to NSCA or contact Peter Fritsch at 817.332.4441 ext. 231.
This summer marks the beginning of the Green Revolution’s 2018 GROWTH Fellowship and Internship Experiences for graduate and undergraduate students. This program provides its participants with authentic leadership experiences designed towards developing their executive acumen. This year’s fellow and interns have been tasked with completing Green Revolution’s six-year comprehensive review – in collaboration with Harvard University’s PEAR Institute – to measurably quantify the platform’s impact on its Agents of Change (grades 6th-12th).

This group of capable leaders have also been tasked with employing the results from this study in their strategic planning & development for the fall launch of Green Revolution’s new environmental programs: STEM University for Middle School Students, STEM Society for High School Students, & STEM Resources for Educators. Join Green Revolution in welcoming...

- Natalie Davis – Fellow, science educator, & Ph.D. student at Texas Tech University
- Angeles Margarida – Intern & master’s student at University of Texas, Arlington
- Melissa Lemuz – Intern & master’s student at University of Texas, Arlington
- Henny Rau – Intern & undergraduate at Texas Christian University student

BRIT Partners with University of Antioquia to Study Colombian Flora

Last month BRIT signed a 5-year MOU with the University of Antioquia located in Medellin, Colombia, particularly with the Natural Science Institute and the Herbarium. The agreement will foster a collaboration between scientists and herbaria of both Institutions to study the rich Colombian flora and will be the beginning of a set of collecting trips and exchange of herbarium specimens for scientific purposes. The University of Antioquia’s herbarium (HUA) is one of the largest herbaria in Colombia with ca. 200,000 specimens in their collections. HUA specializes in the flora of Antioquia, one of the most biodiverse states in Colombia with more than 8,300 vascular plant species. If you want to know more about this exciting new collaboration, contact Dr. Alejandra Vasco at 817.546.1840.

BRIT Research Botanist Alejandra Vasco (center, front row) and colleagues during a preliminary field trip in the Colombian Andes.

Miscellaneous

Double Your Donation!

Does your company have a Matching Gift Program? Many employers match their employees’ and retirees’ contributions to nonprofits - doubling or even tripling your gift. You’ll be recognized for both amounts, as well as recognizing your company. Check here to see if your company has a Matching Gift Program or ask your Human Resources office to provide you information.

Does your company have a Volunteer Grant Program? Bank of America, Verizon, and Texas Instruments are just a few companies that support their employees and retirees who volunteer thousands of hours globally each year. In fact, more than 3,000 charitable organizations benefit from employees’ and retirees’ dedication each year. Check this list or your HR office to
see if your employer will reward your community involvement by making a corporate donation based on the time you've invested with us at BRIT!

Party with Bella

Last month the Fort Worth Moms Blog turned 5 years old. To help celebrate, Bella the Begonia™ popped by for a story, crafts, and a little snack time.

Want a birthday party with Bella? Easy! Parties are two hours and include a story time from one of Bella’s seasonal books such as Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert. Crafts can include planting a flower or creating art from nature. We even have party favors for everyone (adults included)!

Let us provide all the fun and learning for your preschooler’s special day! To book your party, contact Katherine Campbell at 817.332.4441 ext. 243.

*BRIT members receive special discounts.

New Virtual View of the BRIT Living Roof

Since we moved into this building in 2011, a web camera captured video and images of the Living Roof. This allowed us to document the growth and change of the plants on the roof, as well as the occasional critter that made the roof its home. Late last year, our camera stopped functioning after six years of exposure to the elements. Recognizing the importance of being able to easily view and document the Living Roof, BRIT supporters Ellen and Craig Hamilton graciously provided funding to purchase and install a new camera. Thank you to Ellen and Craig!

The new camera, an Axis P563-E Mk II, provides a much-improved image resolution and zoom capability, which allows us to see even greater detail. You can see a live view of the roof [here](#) or read more about BRIT's Living Roof. If you have questions about the roof camera, please contact Jason Best at 817.546.8697. If you have questions about the Living Roof, please contact Dr. Brooke Best at 817.332.4441 ext. 225.

Save the Date - September 8
Fall Gallery Night to Feature Trailer McQuilkin

Although the calendar and the temperature might tell you differently, Fall Gallery Night marks the arrival of fall in Fort Worth, so mark your calendar to join us Saturday, September 8, from 4 – 9 p.m. Two Views: Botanical sculpture by Trailer McQuilkin and Botanical paintings by Ann Ekstrom will be in the Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall, and Portraits by Erika Duque will be in the Welcome Center Gallery. BRIT will also be hosting two pop-up events: a pop-up exhibit by the Fort Worth Art Collective and a pop-up artisan market featuring the work of a variety of talented local craftspeople.

Don't miss out and tell your friends! For more information, please visit our [webpage](#) or contact Laura Venhaus.
2018 International Award of Excellence in Conservation Gala
October 25, 2018
The Worthington Renaissance Hotel

Honorary Hosts Sasha and Ed Bass, Ramona and Lee Bass, Laura and Greg Bird, Stephanie and Billy Brentlinger, Event Chair Grant James, and Executive Director Edward Schneider invite you to join us for an evening of inspiration. Our International Award of Excellence in Conservation recipient, Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, is a pioneer in the areas of ocean exploration, ocean conservation, and women in science. Come and hear Dr. Earle speak about her daring undersea adventures and why, after decades of observing overfishing and increasing environmental damage, our oceans need to be protected now. For more information, please contact Sara Richardson 817.332.2748 or visit BRIT.org.

Botanical Art: Flowers, Fruit, and Fungi

On Thursday, June 14, the Botanical Art Collective of North Central Texas (BAC) invited the public to join them for the opening of their first group show *Botanical Art: Flowers, fruit, and fungi* in BRIT’s Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall, and nearly 200 people took them up on the invitation! Many of the artists were in attendance, and Dr. Denis Benjamin, BRIT Resident Research Associate and the driving force behind the BAC, offered introductory remarks. The People’s Choice award was presented to Fort Worth artist Mouty Shackelford for her piece *PollenNation*.

The BAC is a collaborative community of artists interested in sharing, exploring, and expanding both the traditional and contemporary practice of botanical art and illustration. For more information about the BAC, please visit their webpage. *Botanical Art: Flowers, fruit, and fungi* is open to the public Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through August 9. For more information about the exhibit, please visit the BRIT exhibits webpage.

Recycling Takes Little Effort for an Insanely Big Difference!

The top five American cities for recycling are San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, Denver, and Portland. Let’s put Fort Worth in the top 5!

Need encouragement? Consider these facts:

- It takes 70% less energy to recycle paper than to make it new.
- 40% of all bottled water sold in the world is tap water.
- Plastic grocery bags take 500 - 1,000 years to degrade.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours.
- A glass bottle can take 4,000 years to decompose.
- Recycled aluminum cans can be back on your local grocery store shelves in just 2 months.
- Burying coffins also means that 90,272 tons of steel, 2,700 tons of copper and bronze, and over 30 million feet of hard wood covered in toxic laminates are also buried per year. However, a British company called “Ecopod” offers coffins made from 100% recycled paper.
The most thrown away products include diapers, pens, razor blades, tires, and aluminum - all of which can be recycled or have reusable alternatives.

Calendar of Events

**JULY**

9th–Volunteer University
10th–Brown Bag
16th–Book Club – The Triumph of Seeds by Thor Hanson; Adult Education – Cooking with Herbs
21st–Adult Education – Introduction to Oil Painting: Botanical still-lifes
28th–Teen Workshop: Botanical drawing & watercolors, Day 1

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