ENGAGE: WITH THE FWBG AND BRIT COMMUNITY

BRIT's 2020 International Award of Excellence in Conservation to be awarded to Cristina Mittermeier and Dr. Russell A. Mittermeier at October Gala

*Buy tickets now for either in-person or virtual attendance*

BRIT is proud to announce that Cristina Mittermeier and Dr. Russell A. Mittermeier are recipients of its 2020 International Award of Excellence in Conservation for their conservation achievements and their ongoing work in biodiversity.

Lauren-Ashton and John Moncrief will serve as event chairs for the award gala to be held on Thursday, October 22, 2020, at [Palmwood Event & Conference](#), Frost Tower, Fort Worth, Texas.

Both Mittermeiers have devoted their lives to protecting Earth’s natural habitat and informing and influencing people as to the delicate balance between nature and traditional cultures.

[Learn more about the Mittermeier's contributions to global conservation](#) and [reserve your tickets for the upcoming Gala now](#).
Enjoy the newest summer exhibition from the Botanical Art Collective of North Central Texas. The artists represented in this virtual exhibition are inspired by plants and the natural world, and their work celebrates the range of the genre of botanical art. The Collective comprises a community of regional artists interested in sharing, exploring, and expanding both the traditional and contemporary practice of botanical art and illustration. Interviews with selected artists are available [here].

Above: Jara Lang, To Bee or Not to Bee Unwanted, oil on panel

PLANT: THE SEEDS OF A STEM EDUCATION

Preserve Your Favorite Plants with a DIY Plant Press

Flowers and plants are beautiful—but they don’t last. Or do they? It’s actually very easy to save samples of the plants you love. It takes just a few common household supplies and a little time.

This month you and your family can learn all about preserving plants by making a plant press. [A video from Grow Girl](#) will explain all of the materials you need and give you step-by-step instructions. [Then you can read all about ideas for using your pressed plants in both art and science projects.](#)

[And remember to check out all of BRIT’s online educational resources.](#) New videos and activities are posted every week.

RESEARCH: FROM PLANT TO PLANET
New Beetle Species Named in Honor of BRIT Senior Research Associate Bob O'Kennon

BRIT Board Member and Senior Resident Research Associate Bob O'Kennon has had many honors in his career, but now he can brag because he shares a distinction with Pope John Paul II, talk show host Stephen Colbert, former president George W. Bush and actress Kate Winslet. Like these celebrities, a newly discovered species of beetle was named in his honor.

This fascinating new insect species, *Cis okennoni*, was found at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge near Fort Worth, Texas. The *Cis* genus of beetles live, breed and feed only on wood-rotting fungi. The beetle is tiny, only about 1 millimeter in length and dark in color.

As for O'Kennon, he reports feeling both proud and humbled. “My very own beetle,” he said. “It’s not something you really see coming or really feel cool enough to take credit for.”

*Cis okennoni* was formally described in the *March issue of The Coleopterists Bulletin* (Abstract only. Full article with subscription). Let’s all congratulate Bob for his research and hard work finding this magnificent new species!

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GARDEN: WHAT'S IN BLOOM

Look to Agaves to Beat the Heat

It’s summer again in Texas, and many plants in the Botanic Garden survive this season only with care and watering. But at least one type of plant is thriving: the agaves in the Cactus Garden.

“Agaves don’t mind the heat at all,” said Botanic Garden Sr. Horticulturist Steve Huddleston. “They come from a desert climate and keep going strong all summer long.”

[Learn more about adding heat- and drought-tolerant agaves to your garden.](#)
LEARN: STAY CURIOUS

Embrace the Challenge of Homebrewing to Create Your Own Garden-Inspired Beer

If you’ve ever walked into a brew pub and noticed the array of vats, tubes, valves and equipment, you might have gotten the impression that brewing beer is a complicated, technical process best left to professionals.

“Don’t let all of that intimidate you,” said Michael Harper, head brewer at Fort Worth’s Funky Picnic Brewery and Cafe. “You can brew your own beer at home with a few buckets, some tubing and a cooler.”

Learn Harper’s three basic steps to get started with homebrewing and pick up ideas on how to bring nature into your own beer.

Join TODAY!
fwGROW.org

Like Taddie, I’m thrilled. Thrilled to have such supportive members and to be able to walk around the Gardens daily. While we all go through these tough times together, consider what thrills you. Outdoors? Grandchildren? Moy Grande Hibiscus? A membership at the Garden and BRIT brings these thrills year-round. Please consider becoming a member today or sharing this link with a friend to help us continue bringing the community outstanding outdoor experiences, educational courses, special events and, for members, exclusive benefits.

As a reminder those who were members during the March-May closure may receive an extension on their membership by simply reaching out to the membership office at membership@fwgrow.org or 817-463-4103.

Thank you,
Katherine Campbell, director of membership

When the Botanic Garden and BRIT developed the GROW membership, volunteer, and education collaboration, I was thrilled. I have enjoyed the Garden all my life, and my grandsons think it was built just for them! Membership is inexpensive, and at the Supporter level, I can take my grandsons every day for free! Membership is the best way to ensure we have a beautiful Garden for future generations!

– Taddie Hamilton,
GROW Volunteer and Member