



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.



Be Curious

Education is the pathway to a more sustainable planet. Be curious and join us for one of our new Adult Education Programs at BRIT where you'll see global issues through a local lens. Our new Permaculture 101 classes will introduce you to the basics of permaculture and help you become a better gardener and steward of your land by learning how to work with, not against, your property. Permaculture 101 - **Saturday,**

February 4, 10 a.m. – noon, please register [here](#).

Our new TERM (Techniques for Ecological Research and Management) workshops will give you unique, hands-on experience in wildlife and plant science. TERM workshop - **Saturday, February 4,** 1 – 3 p.m., please register [here](#).

For more information about these and other adult education programs and events, please visit our [webpage](#).

Sip at BRIT - Celebrating BRIT's 30th Anniversary

These events will be 30-minute mixers followed by an hour of light and fun learning. Third Thursdays of the Month from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 (\$10 for members).

- **March 16** - High Performance Landscaping, Heather Bass, BRIT, and Keri Barfield, BRIT
- **April 20** - Photographing People with Wildflowers, Mackenzie Hughes, Fort Worth Camera
- **May 18** - Sip and Walk Plant Tour, Greg Gunn, BRIT, and Bob O'Kennon, BRIT
- **June 15** - The Secret Treasures of BRIT, Barney Lipscomb, BRIT
- **July 20** - The Science of Whiskey, Rob Arnold, TX Whiskey
- **September 21** - Sip and Walk Plant Tour, Greg Gunn, BRIT, and Bob O'Kennon, BRIT
- **October 19** - Bubbling Cauldrons and Ghastly Plants, Barney Lipscomb, BRIT, and Tiana Rehman, BRIT

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

Graciously sponsored by



BRIT Reads Book Club Returns



The BRIT Reads Book Club returns for its second year on **Monday, February 20 from noon – 1 p.m.** when we'll be discussing *The American Canopy: Trees, Forests and the Making of a Nation* by Eric Rutkow. Come join the conversation about this fascinating book that "tells the remarkable story of the relationship between Americans and their trees across the entire span of our nation's history."

For more information, please [click here](#).

Biodiversity and Species Discovery in the Philippines with Dr. Peter Fritsch

Join us on Tuesday, February 7, from noon – 1 p.m. in the BRIT Commons as Dr. Peter Fritsch kicks off the 13th year of our Brown Bag Lunchtime Lecture series with a talk on his work in the Philippines. Dr. Fritsch will summarize the history of floristic work in the Philippines, including efforts at BRIT, and highlight the three recent expeditions he led to Luzon and Mindanao. He will discuss new species discoveries in the blueberry group and explain how scientific exploration and education can help save the forests of these fascinating islands. No registration is necessary. For more information on BRIT's Brown Bags, please visit our [Brown Bag webpage](#).



Native to this Place: Earth and Sky

Come visit BRIT's current exhibit *Native to this Place: Earth and Sky* and experience peace, beauty, and light as depicted by well-known Texas artist Rebecca Zook. Working with acrylics, Zook portrays a variety of subjects, with natural landscapes and skyscapes being personal favorites.

"If you stop and watch the sky for any length of time, you realize how quickly it transforms itself. Clouds spring to life, change shape and dissipate right before your eyes. Almost second by second the colors grow and fade. My paintings capture one brief moment of that perpetually changing beauty."

Viewers have commented that they feel as if they could step into her paintings, as if the frame were a window to another world. Come enjoy Rebecca Zook's take on the unique beauty that Texas has to offer! Exhibit on display through February 23.

[More details.](#)

Membership is Just One Way to Support the Work at BRIT



For additional information on any of these programs, please contact our Director of Membership and Grants Coordinator, [Tammie Crole](#), at 817.332.7518.

Green Revolution

The What:

Here at Green Revolution, we've been hard at work revising our curriculum to help Agents be better positioned for the modern workplace. This time next year, they will be fully engaged in project-based service learning to help them own the last line of the Green Revolution pledge: I belong, I am capable, and I can make a difference because I AM an agent of change.

The Why:

Studies have proven that when implemented well, project-based learning (PBL) can increase retention of content and improves students' attitudes towards learning, among other benefits. These methods engage students in creating, questioning, and revising knowledge, while developing their skills in critical thinking, collaboration, communication, reasoning, synthesis, and resilience.

The Vision:

The revision actualizes the necessity of exposure to a full spectrum of important life skills: public speaking, strategic planning and implementation, data collection and analysis, anecdotal storytelling, agency, measurable impact, environmental awareness, community leadership, and continuous improvement.

Stay tuned.



All good things are wild and free.
~Henry David Thoreau



Bella's Season of Stories, Seasons of Science

Let your botanical knowledge of trees "bloom with Bella." This month, Bella's Book and Nature Club and First Saturday Story Time will celebrate trees with Diane Muldrow's sweet book, *We Planted a Tree*. Participating families coming to Bella's Book and Nature Club on either the first Tuesday or first Wednesday of February will enjoy an interactive read-aloud in the Burk Children's Library, an outdoor tree game, and free choice "think stations" in the Tree House.

[Click here](#) to preregister for spring Book and Nature Club sessions.



Bella, Books, and Botany: Beyond BRIT and in the Community!

The generosity of donors and friends continues to make it possible for BRIT's Education Department to share the rich science and literacy program, Bella, Books, and Botany, with children, early childhood educators, and families in the greater community. We are proud to be making a difference in the lives of children and their families beyond the walls of BRIT.

For more information, please contact [Kimberly Whitlock](#) at 817.546.1958.

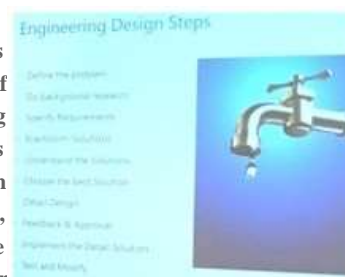
The Perfect Fit at BRIT

On January 21st BRIT hosted the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (FWSS&R) sponsored Range & Pasture Plant ID contest. This was the first time for the competition to be held off of the FWSS&R grounds. Moving the event turned out to be the perfect fit for everyone involved. 4-H and FFA students (ranging from 3rd grade to high school seniors), coaches, and parents enjoyed their experience at BRIT. The competitors had room to study prior to taking this very challenging test, and BRIT staff were on hand to give tours and to assist the students in prepping for the test. The students, parents, and coaches also took advantage of the beautiful day to explore the BRITscape. Over fifty 4-H and FFA students registered for this competition and traveled from 10 different counties to take part in this contest. Students were asked to show their knowledge of plants and characteristics that make each plant unique. Students were competing for knowledge and prizes, with the largest prize being a \$4000 scholarship. Everyone left looking forward to next year's competition at BRIT!



Design Thinking in Water Conservation

The first Teacher Tuesday of 2017 provided teachers with ideas to help students think like an engineer to examine issues and design solutions for the future of water conservation. Participants left the two-hour session with new learning opportunities and strategies that will promote the need for better solutions for conserving this amazing substance. Wesley Tait, an engineer that works on designing and coordinating projects for wastewater and water treatment plants, outlined a project plan using the design thinking process. Denise Hickey, from the North Texas Municipal Water District, presented information on the role her organization plays in water quality and environmental protection, and brought with her educational resources for the teachers to take back to their classrooms.



Building Stewardship through Competition

BRIT hosted the 2nd Annual Wildlife Contest held by the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo on January 16, 2017. The contest promotes various pathways of knowledge and skills for area youth interested in wildlife management. It

was a great turnout with over 60 4-H and FFA students participating from Tarrant and surrounding counties. The students ranged from 5th grade to seniors in high school. This contest reaches both students who are involved in agriculture as well as those who live in the heart of an urban area and encourages them to be aware of environmental and ecological issues. Many of the competitors use the knowledge and skills needed to compete in this contest in their everyday lives. One competitor used the information for the contest to start planning a food plot which allows him to know when to plant and how big the planting area needs to be. Another competitor used her knowledge of native plants to attract different species animals to her family's ranch.

Hidden Treasures: Curtis's Botanical Magazine

One of the treasures of BRIT's rare book collection is Curtis's Botanical Magazine, a premier journal for early botanical illustrations and descriptions. The journal has featured over 10,000 color illustrations in its 230 years of publication. Originally titled The Botanical Magazine, it is the longest running illustrated botanical periodical and is still being published today.

The first volume was published on February 1, 1787, by William Curtis, an English botanist and apothecary who aspired to make information about ornamental and exotic plants affordable and accessible. As stated on the title page, the magazine was 'intended for the use of such ladies, gentlemen, and gardeners, as wish to become scientifically acquainted with the plants they cultivate.' It gained popularity due to its approachable mix of beautiful

illustrations and practical information, presenting serious botanical science in an easy-to-understand format.

Curtis instructed his artists to draw the plates "from the living plant, and coloured as near to nature, as the imperfection of colouring will admit." The first 30 volumes feature copper engravings that were colored by hand, leading to slight (but precious) inconsistencies between each copy. Accompanying each plate is a description of the plant containing the scientific name, common names, plant properties, growth characteristics, and history.



BRIT's first six volumes of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* belonged to Charles Cotesworth Pickney (1746-1825), a Revolutionary War veteran, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and a signer of the United States Constitution.

Contact library@brit.org for more information about this magazine or our rare book collection.

Photo: Botanical illustration and printed description of a plant identified as *Calycanthus praecox*, common name "Japanese All-Spice," in a 1899 volume of Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*.



Do You Love Nature? Would You Love to Share Your Knowledge?

We have several fulfilling volunteer opportunities with our Education Specialists helping students and teachers develop their own sense of place in our community. We are always looking for more volunteers for our education programs who are willing to share their enthusiasm for nature.

These are great hands-on opportunities to plant the seeds of wonder in a child or adult, whether it is helping with Bella's Book Club and Story Time with our youngest visitors, assisting with a Field Study Trip for older students, or welcoming teachers to our popular Teacher Tuesday program. You might be just the person who opens an elementary student's eyes to all that surrounds them! Many of our volunteers find education programs a fun way to connect plants to people and share knowledge. You don't need a deep awareness of botany or education to be a great volunteer; we will provide you with all the training you will need. You do need an interest in our mission and enjoy talking with people. If you would like more information about volunteering with the Education Department or with another area of BRIT, please contact [Julie Donovan](#), Director of Volunteers and Public Engagement, at 817.546.1846.



Blooming Trouble: Toxic Flower Cakes

In the spring of 2016 the North Texas Poison Control Center at Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas sent to BRIT for identification images of a plant implicated in an accidental poisoning of several family members. Barney Lipscomb identified/confirmed that the plant in question was Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) in the Loganiaceae family. Identification was based on a number of characters: twining vine habit, opposite leaves, blades ovate to lanceolate or elliptic, short petiolate, and axillary flowers with showy, funnellform, yellow corollas. Specimen material of the plant in question was collected by paramedics responding to the emergency and is now deposited in the BRIT Herbarium thanks to Collections Manager Tiana Rehman. The poison case was written up and presented at the 2016 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology Conference and published in *Clinical Toxicology* (Aug 2016).

The citation of the published abstract is: Brian Kendall, Joann Schulte, Patrick Liu, Mahesh Thiagarajah, Kristina Domanski, Barney Lipscomb, Kurt Kleinschmidt, and Kapil Sharma. 2016. 253. Blooming Trouble: Toxic Flower Cakes. *North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology Abstracts. Clinical Toxicology* 54(8):776. To read the abstract on page 776 go here [online](#).

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E-STEM platform for BRIT SEED School



General Operating



General Operating



50 Hotel Nights



Flowering Plants of the Trans Pecos

FEBRUARY

4th - Bella Book & Nature Club; TERM; Permaculture 101
7th - Bella Book & Nature Club; Brown Bag
13th - Volunteer University
20th - BRIT Reads Book Club
22nd - Soil Book Event - Cancelled
21st - Teacher Tuesday
Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.

MARCH

1st - Bella Book & Nature Club; TERM; Permaculture 101
4th - Bella's Story Time; Plant ID; Tour
7th - Bella Book & Nature Club; Brown Bag
16th - Sip at BRIT, High Performance Landscaping
20th - BRIT Reads Book Club
21st - Teacher Tuesday
Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.

Additional information can be found at BRIT.org.

Coming...



Stay Connected:



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