



Botanical Research Institute of Texas

June 2010

Public
Lecture

Texas Ferns

With [George Diggs](#), Ph.D., Professor of Biology at [Austin College](#)
and Research Associate at BRIT

Ever wondered what makes ferns different from other plants? And just what are lycophytes any way? Dr. George Diggs will examine surprising aspects of ferns and lycophytes, and explain why Texas is such a special place for these ancient groups of plants. Texas species thrive in some of the most extreme conditions—in crevices on huge exposed granite outcrops, underwater on the bottoms of ponds or lakes, in deserts, and in cave entrances. One Texas species has leaves reaching nearly thirteen feet in length. Another is a tiny floating aquatic often less than half an inch in total size. Many Texas species occur nowhere else in the entire United States.



Wednesday, Jun 9, 2010
12:00pm to 1:00pm
BRIT Conference Room
500 E. 4th Street, Fort Worth, TX

[MAP](#)

(this lecture is complimentary and free off-street parking is available)

Conferences

Society for Economic Botany Annual Meeting: *Agro-biodiversity, lessons for conservation and local development*

Xalapa, Veracruz, México, June 6-10, 2010



As conflicts between biodiversity conservation issues and economic development turn into a worldwide concern, answers are emerging from different sectors to create alternatives to face the environmental crisis and its consequences. The 2010 [Society for Economic Botany](#) (SEB) meeting, carried out in the [International Year of Biodiversity](#), will host serious and innovative discussions concerning important agro-biodiversity-related issues. Scientists and leaders from BRIT will be attending to play a part in this critical dialogue. Prior to the SEB meeting, BRIT staff will represent the field of ethnobotany in the Open Science Network (OSN) meeting.



Open Science Network in Ethnobiology Annual Meeting

Xalapa, Veracruz, México, June 5, 2010



The 2010 meeting of the [Open Science Network](#) in Ethnobiology will be held in Xalapa, Mexico on June 5, 2010, prior to the annual conference of the SEB. Funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation, the Open Science Network provides a collaborative forum for educators and students to create a new paradigm of science education. The grant, organized by BRIT, also includes travel assistance to students and educators from several countries to participate in this year's meeting.

Nearly 200 participate in "Impressions of Nature"



Photo provided by
Robert LaPrelle

In April and May, BRIT collaborated with the [Kimbell Art Museum](#) to present "Impressions of Nature" at Family Educator Mornings. Families viewed selected paintings by European and Asian artists, and explored arrangements of live flowers to discover unique patterns which can help distinguish common plant families. Staff and volunteers emphasized the skills and tools common to both artists and botanists, while giving families the chance to practice observation, synthesis and recording of information about the natural world. BRIT is honored to partner with the Kimbell to provide this multifaceted perspective of our natural and cultural treasures.

Journey to the Tetons & Beyond: Reflections on the Year

Participants in this year's [Tetons Journey](#) program gathered for the last time on May 13, 2010, to reflect and celebrate the year. Educators observed a lesson with students in the garden at [Stonewall Jackson Elementary](#) and learned how educators across grade levels work together to improve student success through outdoor inquiry-based learning. School teams also reported on their work across the year, sharing both successes and lessons-learned and providing input to BRIT Education's planning.



BRIT's 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.

Family
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Morning

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