



Botanical Research Institute of Texas

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009

Double Your Dollars

Have you been thinking of making a donation to BRIT and were just waiting for the right time? Now is the time!

BRIT has joined DonorBridge in its effort to help North Texans become more-informed donors and nonprofits become better collaborators. DonorBridge is a new online database to assist nonprofit organizations and donors in making mutual connections by hosting comprehensive information about hundreds of DFW nonprofits, including BRIT.

On May 20, 2009, DonorBridge will launch its public website. Also on that day, your donation to BRIT will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the generous support of the Communities Foundation of Texas and The Dallas Foundation. Your gift must be made via a credit card through the DonorBridge website on May 20, 2009.

Visit www.DonorBridgeTX.org on May 20th to ensure your donation goes even further.



IN SCIENCE . . .

Letter of Understanding Signed with the Regional Government of Cusco, Peru

The [Andes to Amazon Biodiversity Project](#) (AABP) has developed several important collaborative agreements with colleagues at academic and research institutions. One of the most important collaborations to date is with the natural resources and conservation unit of the Regional Government of Cusco, Peru. The [Letter of Understanding](#) received final signatures on May 11. This Letter of Understanding establishes collaborative goals for planning and implementing new conservation areas in Cusco – one of the most biologically diverse states of Peru.



Austin College Student Interning in Peru

The [Andes to Amazon Biodiversity Project](#) (AABP) team has invited Clayton Sublett, a student from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, to intern in Peru this summer. Clayton will be working closely with the Peruvian AABP team to study the Sphingidae (hawk moths) of Quincemil in the Department of Cusco. In his down time, he will also work in the project gardens and assist the team during botanical explorations of the Amazon Rainforest. [Read more about other students](#) who have interned with the AABP team.



IN EDUCATION . . .

BRIT Education Awarded NSF Grant

BRIT education is leading a [5-year National Science Foundation grant](#) to further the field of ethnobiology education. The international network of educators and students will use computer-based technologies and web-based portals, such as [Atrium](#), to facilitate a continual exchange of educational methodologies, materials and experiences to engage students in scientific inquiry into traditional ethnobiological knowledge. As we increase our knowledge of traditional uses of plants and animals in cultures throughout the world, we learn more about the importance of preserving biodiversity as well as the wisdom of the people who have depended on these plants and animals for their daily existence.

Meeting the Needs of Early Childhood Educators

[BRIT's Education Department](#) has been exploring ways to help support early childhood educators and touch the lives of young children. ['Beeology' and Botany](#), a five hour workshop attended by area preschool teachers, directors, and mentors, explored pollination and the interdependence of plants and animals. Participants were led through activities that enable young children to discover and make connections with their world through science.



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IN CELEBRATION . . .

Inspired by Dr. E.O. Wilson

While in Fort Worth to receive BRIT's 2009 International Award of Excellent in Conservation, Dr. E.O. Wilson generously spent time with Presidents from local Universities, teachers and students from local schools, staff and board members at BRIT, as well as friends and supporters of BRIT at the award dinner. If you missed seeing Dr. Wilson or want to remember how inspired you felt that night, [watch the video](#) about this remarkable scientist and [share your own thoughts](#) with us.



Fête du Vin on October 23, 2009 Save the Date

Plan to join us for BRIT's 3rd annual [Fête du Vin](#), an elegant Wine Auction and Dinner, on October 23, 2009. This is the largest wine event of its kind in Fort Worth and this year includes new wine destinations and auction items. Hope to see you then!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009

Reclaiming Our Trinity River Heritage: A Vision for Wildlife in the City

*Dana Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator, Trinity River
Audubon Center*

The [Trinity River Audubon Center](#) is the newest gateway for North Texans to explore the plant and animal communities of one of our major bottomland hardwood ecosystems. Opened in October 2008, this former urban dumpsite, just eight miles from downtown Dallas, now serves families as a destination for unique, nature-based experiences. Ms. Wilson will discuss how the center serves the community through the Audubon Society's education and conservation initiatives in Texas.

12 Noon at
BRIT's Education Office
Fire Station #5
503 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth 76104
[Map & Directions](#)

