



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.

Get Involved



International Award of Excellence in Conservation

Presenting Sponsor

WALSH

Honorary Hosts:

Ed Bass, Lee Bass, Ramona Bass, and Carter Smith

Event Chair: Grant James

September 27, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Worthington Renaissance Hotel

Honoring

[J. David Bamberger and Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve](#)

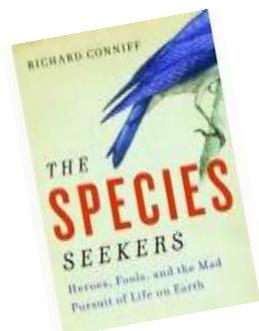
David Bamberger has spent the last 45 years restoring the habitat of his 5,500-acre preserve he named Selah. He explains that Selah is a word from the Bible found in Psalms meaning “to stop, to pause, to look around you and reflect on everything you see. It’s like Thoreau was to Walden Pond.” Clearing the Ashe juniper and replanting native grasses as part of the restoration has brought back natural springs, which now furnish all the water used by the ranch.

[Frank Yturria and the Frank Yturria Family Ranch](#)

Dr. Frank Yturria is a trained veterinarian, along with being a rancher and a banker. The Frank Yturria family granted a 7,400-acre conservation easement to provide vital habitat for two endangered species: the ocelot cat and the aplomado falcon. Dr. Yturria is actively involved with the study of the animals. With only about 50 ocelots left in Northern America, it’s exciting news that kittens are being born on the Yturria Family Ranch.

[Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program](#)

True to its mission statement, the TCU Ranch Management Program "prepares professionals to manage a broad range of global resources on an ecologically and economically sound basis while conserving and improving resources." This program has been available to students since 1955 and continues to serve the industry with the latest technology available. The curriculum offers ecologically and economically responsible business training to students interested in the agriculture business.



BRIT Reads Book Club

This August, while the BRIT Reads Book Club takes a short summer vacation, we encourage you to pick up our captivating read for September - Richard Conniff's *The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth*. There will not be a meeting in August, so that leaves plenty of time to devour what the Wall Street Journal calls a “beautifully written book [with] the verve of an adventure story,” and join us for the next meeting on September 18, from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, please contact [Laura Venhaus](#) at 817.546.1844.

Classes - Registration Open!

We're excited to announce that registration is now open for BRIT's fall Adult Education classes. Join us this fall for one of these fun and informative classes:

- Permaculture Basics for Home Gardeners - Saturday, September 2, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Introduction to Vegetable Gardening - Saturday, September 2, 1–3 p.m.
- Urban Gardening: Permaculture for Small Spaces - Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Seed Starting 101 - Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- The Monarch Migration and Local Pollinators: The Importance of Autumn - Saturday, September 2, 1–3 p.m.
- Know your Natives: Native American Plant Use - Saturday, October 7, 1–3 p.m.
- Grasses: The Rodney Dangerfield of the Vascular Plant World - Saturday, November 4, 1–3 p.m.

For more information and to register, please call Laura Venhaus at 817.546.1844.

Desert, Water, Life... Death Valley in Bloom

Photographs by Becky Watson, Grace Bascopé, and Dan Gruen

With a name like Death Valley, it is easy to assume that nothing can grow in the national park that sits between eastern California and western Nevada. During the winter of 2015 and early spring of 2016, however, the park experienced a “superbloom” caused by steady downfalls of rain. In an area that typically averages only 1.9 inches of precipitation a year, this rare event is a gift from nature that comes about once a decade. In February 2016, Dr. Grace Bascopé, a BRIT Resident Research Associate, Dr. Becky Watson, educator and photographer, and Dan Gruen, a BRIT volunteer, were fortunate enough to bear witness to what park rangers called a “mega hyper superbloom” – an even rarer abundance of flowers seen only about every 100 years. They will share some of their photos of this breathtaking event in BRIT's Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall beginning July 7 and running through August 17.



Interns and Volunteers Contribute to BRIT's Success



What an impact 11 well-educated, eager, young interns have had on BRIT! They have come from universities coast-to-coast 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. The intern program is beneficial to BRIT because they tackle projects we have been hoping to complete and do it with excitement. Interns have spent the summer assisting across departments in the herbarium, Camp BRIT, Green Revolution, research, landscape plots, development, and the library.

We also had five Jr Volunteers helping with Camp BRIT 2017. Jr volunteers are 14-17 years of age and are selected after completing applications. All the young volunteers can grow their scientific knowledge as they support our staff. This program builds confidence and science knowledge, and in fact one of our interns is a returning Jr volunteer from last summer.

If you know of someone who would be interested in interning at BRIT, please have that individual send a resume to the Director of Volunteers and Public Engagement, [Julie Donovan](#), or call 817.546.1846. Please look for the Jr Volunteer applications on our website in early 2018.



\$10 Senior's Lifetime Pass to the National Parks Until August 27

August 27 is the deadline for \$10 Lifetime National Park Passes for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. Orders postmarked after August 27 will be processed at the \$80 price. Additional processing fees of \$10 apply. We recommend you print and mail your order in right away! ACT NOW!

Members can come by BRIT to photocopy their IDs & print their forms for FREE!

Fall Gallery Night

The Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall at BRIT will be participating once again in FWADA's Fall Gallery Night on Saturday, September 9, from 4–9 p.m. Local artist, master printmaker, and founder of Shaw Street Studio, David Conn, will be showing "Paintings and Prints 2000–2016." Conn, who grew up in New Jersey, has always found refuge in nature. Now he makes linocuts and large paintings of scenes from nature using only black and white. From a distance, the images are pictorial. Up close, they are alive with abstract shapes. His hope is that these images will resonate with the memories and experiences of those who see them. No RSVP is required for Gallery Night. For more information about this exhibit, please contact **Laura Venhaus** at 817.546.1844.



BRIT Members are invited to join us for

Champagne and Conversation with **the Artist**

September 9 from 5–6 p.m. in the Oak Board Room

Limited Seating - **RSVP** is Required 817.332.7518.

Research, Collections, & Publications

BRIT Takes Steps in Rescuing the ULM Herbarium Collection

This week, BRIT began transporting the 470,000 herbarium specimens at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, which could no longer be maintained by the university. Half the collection was moved into two freezer trucks for transport and pest prevention and will be sited on the second floor of the BRIT herbarium, and the other half will be moved in two weeks.

Taking in orphaned collections is at the core of BRIT's mission to deepening our knowledge of the plant world. In 1987, BRIT was founded to house the 450,000 specimens from Southern Methodist University, a collection which forms the nucleus of the Institute. The herbarium adopted another orphaned collection in 1997 with 400,000 specimens from the Vanderbilt University Herbarium. BRIT has taken in and cared for a number of orphaned collections of various sizes in our 30 years.



BRIT recognizes the hard work of the many curators, as well as those people who worked closely with and supported the collections. BRIT vows to honor their contributions by making sure this priceless scientific collection continues to be accessible to the world. This herbarium will live on (and retain its name as the R. Dale Thomas Collection)!

Our herbarium staff and researchers are working hard preparing for the arrival of the first shipment of specimens, scheduled this Friday. If you would like to support our efforts through a BRIT membership or donation, we'd very much appreciate it, call 817.332.7518 to donate.

BRIT Press Publishes Two New Books

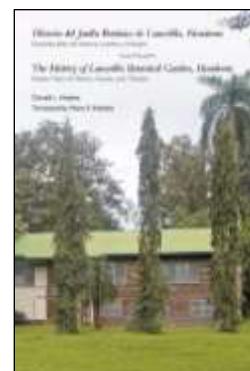
Historia del Jardín Botánico de Lancetilla, Honduras (Noventa años de historia, cuentos y tributos). The History of Lancetilla Botanical Garden, Honduras (Ninety Years of History, Stories, and Tributes)

Publication Date: May 2017

6.5" × 9.5" | flexbound | 140 pp. | 978-1-889878-53-9 | \$17.95 | color

Author: Donald L. Hazlett. Translated by Marta E. Hazlett

One of the Honduran treasures is The Lancetilla Botanical Garden. This Garden was founded by the United Fruit Company in 1926 and once boasted to have the largest collection of tropical fruits in Latin America. Information regarding the colorful history of Lancetilla was available only as oral traditions or in hard-to-find places. To remedy this situation, the author has compiled a 90-year timeline of Lancetilla (1926–2016), including events in the history of Honduran banana companies, dates of protection for north coast natural areas, folklore stories, and tributes to exceptional Honduran guides and botanists.



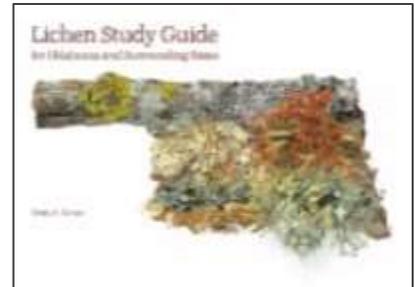
Lichen Study Guide for Oklahoma and Surrounding States

Publication Date: May 2017

6.5" x 9.5" | flexbound | 80 pp. | 978-1-889878-53-9 | \$25.00 | color throughout

Author: Sheila A. Strawn

A lichen is composed of one or more (out of tens of thousands of) species of fungi living with one or more (out of hundreds of) species of algae and possibly one (of fewer than one hundred of) cyanobacterial species. Combinations of those three taxa have created characteristics that defy human-made rules to classify them. It would take longer than a human lifetime to become an expert in all the species of lichens. It would certainly take a much larger book to describe all the variable characteristics that arise due to those combinations. While thin-layer chromatography (TLC) procedures and molecular DNA studies are being used to sort out lichen relationships and lineages of lichen taxa, they are beyond the scope of a general introductory guide. This guide is intended to help the user begin the journey of learning about lichens based on ecological, morphological, and chemical characteristics of species found in the Southern Great Plains region. To order your copies, call 817-332-4441 ext. 264.



FROM YAY TO HOORAY!

Overheard at the plant dissection & exploration table during CampBRIT's Little BITS (1st-2nd grades), "Destroying things is how I learn!"

Campers in My Plants, My Place (3rd-5th grades) explored BRIT campus as well as how the bioswales work to filter water. Campers conducted deeper studies into trees & woodlands as part of this year's theme.

The Celebration Meter
To learn more about BRIT's SEED School Programs, or if you are interested in sponsoring a teacher or students to attend these programs, please contact Tracy Friday at tfriday@brit.org.

Five things the SEED School is celebrating this month!

Thirty energetic educators from across the metroplex began their first BRIT E-STEM Boot Camp I experience. The educators, pictured here along with John Taggart, addressed local environmental issues that assisted them in creating project-based learning opportunities that reinforce sustainable practices within our DFW communities.

The BRIT E-STEM Boot Camp III goes Global!
The 3-year program completes its first training cycle in Costa Rica. Area teachers and BRIT Ed. staff worked with the Organization of Tropical Studies at the Wilson Botanic Garden to collect data, help create a pollinator program, and conduct plant adaptation and biomimicry studies. The highlight of the trip connected Boot Camp teachers with teachers from Colegio Tecnico Profesional, a 7th - 12th grade agricultural academy, to design a global environmental project.

Boot Camp II explores Noble!
The Noble Foundation hosted our second-year boot campers at their Oklahoma facility and helped teachers build on their Boot Camp I experiences to develop a stronger relationship with environmental concepts based on an agricultural platform. Texas Instruments provided the technology for data collection and staff members to brainstorm on future projects.

AUGUST

- 1st - Bella Book & Nature Club
- 2nd - Bella Book & Nature Club
- 5th - Bella's Story Time; Plant ID; Tour
- Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd - Bella's Story Time; Plant ID; Tour
- 5th - Bella Book & Nature Club
- 6th - Bella Book & Nature Club
- 9th - Fall Gallery Night
- 9th - Champagne & Conversation with the Artist
- 14th - North Texas Giving Day
- 18th - BRIT Reads Book Club
- 19th - Teacher Tuesday
- 21st - Sip at BRIT
- Every Thursday - BRIT tours at 1:30 p.m.



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Explorers by nature.