International Award of Excellence in Conservation Gala
Honoring Dr. Sylvia A. Earle
The Worthington Renaissance Hotel
October 25, 2018

Honorary Hosts Sasha and Ed Bass, Ramona and Lee Bass, Laura and Greg Bird, and Stephanie and Billy Brentlinger, along with Event Chair Grant James, invite you to join us for an evening of inspiration. International Award of Excellence in Conservation recipient Dr. Sylvia A. Earle is a pioneer in the areas of ocean exploration, ocean conservation, and women in science. Come hear Dr. Earle speak about her daring undersea adventures and why, after decades of observing overfishing and increasing environmental damage, our oceans need to be protected now. For more information, please contact Sara Richardson 817.332.2748.

Late Breaking News from the Art Department...

This just in...well-known local artist Carol Ivey, will teach a one-day workshop at BRIT entitled Color Studies from the Fall Garden: a watercolor workshop with focus on drawing, design, and color. Join us for this special workshop on Saturday, October 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students will draw and study the structural and gestural shapes of stems, will create a palette of colors to mimic the nuanced colors of the season, and complete several studies of different plants. For more information, please call Laura Venhaus at 817-546-1844.

Upcoming Brown Bag Lectures

Join us in the BRIT Commons for an hour of lunch and learning! The lecture series takes place between 12-1 p.m. and is open to the public, no registration necessary. For inquiries, please contact Alyssa B. Young at 817.546.1959.
Tuesday, October 2: *Botanical Gardens and Natural Vistas of Europe*
Taylor Quedensley, BRIT Research Botanist

Research Botanist Taylor Quedensley visited Iceland, the United Kingdom, and France this past summer and visited several botanical gardens and natural areas. The natural history of Iceland will be presented, as well as his visits to world renowned gardens. Taylor also met with researchers at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in Scotland and discussed potential collaborations with them for the upcoming floristic work in the southern Philippines.

Tuesday, November 13: *Soil Health Evaluation in Three Texas Rangelands*
Jennifer Moore-Kucera, Soil Health Division, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services
Kristie A. Maczko, Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable University of Wyoming
Jeff Goodwin, Noble Resources Institute

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**DNA Analysis Uncovers a New Species of Redbud in North America**

The beautiful spray of spring color, hardiness, and wide array of forms make the redbud (*Cercis*) one of the most popular shrubs for use in Texas landscaping. The different forms are suited to different conditions of water and light availability. The breadth and distribution of this variation in native North American stands of redbuds, however, has been poorly understood, with the number of species and varieties completely unclear. Using hundreds of herbarium specimens, including those from BRIT, Peter Fritsch and colleagues demonstrated that the range of natural forms of redbuds varies continuously across North America, leaving no clear basis for recognizing more than one species. In contrast, DNA variation from across the same geography showed a dramatic break between redbuds from the far western U.S. and the eastern U.S. through southern Mexico. By combining the DNA data with the redbud fossil record, they estimated that these two parts of redbuds have been separated for at least 12 million years, thus indicating the existence of a “cryptic” species, that is, one that is not detectable with standard methods. The growing list of such species is dramatically increasing our global estimate of biodiversity.

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**Adult Education Workshops**

Relax, unplug, and learn something new with GROW Adult Education. Fall is the best part of the year for GROW Adult Education. We’re knee deep in this year’s classes and we’re up to our eyeballs in ideas for classes for next year! If there is a class you’d desperately like to take or that you’re dying to teach in 2019, please don’t hesitate to send your ideas to me and we’ll see what we can do. In the meantime, you can still register for one of our remaining 2018 classes. Join us for classes on everything from native grasses to bees and soil biology to holiday decorating. We’ve got you covered for all things botanical! For additional information, contact Laura Venhaus at 817.546.1844.
Explore Some More with GROW

Explore. The word conjures up images of historic conquistadores and epic adventures through exotic lands, but what if it meant something as familiar as inspiring a child to explore the wonder of their own backyard? That’s what Explore volunteers help us do. They help teach the public important concepts, such as how plants grow, why conservation matters, where food comes from, and they prove that exploration knows no limit. Explore volunteers support GROW by prepping educational materials, leading families through interactive activities, and reading to young children.

Worried you’re not knowledgeable enough to educate the public? Don’t fret, our educators will equip you with the information and tools you need to successfully inspire our community. We encourage all GROW volunteers with a desire to share their passion for plants to explore their creative side by signing up for one of our many opportunities this fall.

For more information, please contact Montana Williams at 817.392.5543 or visit our website.

BRIT Reads Book Club

The next meeting of the will take place on Monday, October 15 from noon – 1 p.m. in the Teacher Resource Center at BRIT. We will be tackling our second work of fiction, The Sound of Butterflies. Suggested by one of our members and voted onto the 2018 reading list through a group selection process this novel has been called “a magnificent debut” and “intriguing… paradoxical.”

In addition to reading this month’s selection, BRIT Reads is in the process of choosing books for our 2019 reading list, which we will announce in mid-October. Stay tuned and happy reading! For more information about the BRIT Reads Book Club please visit our website or contact Laura Venhaus at 817.546.1844.

A Summer Deep in the Woods

The property doesn’t look like much, driving by – a sea of seemingly uniform brown grass studded with mesquite trees, bordered by development and what looks to be a small-scale hackberry forest with a dry creek-bed running through it. Of course, everything looks different when you get close enough to see detail...

With the help of Resident Research Associate Dan Caudle, Kelly spent the summer battling high
heat, chiggers, ticks, and poison ivy to conduct surveys of the vegetation cover and biodiversity of a property in Fort Worth.

Kelly wrote, "At the start of the summer, all that I saw in that empty field was the prospect of dozens of chigger bites and a lot of work. Now, I look into the property and see opportunity, as cliché as it sounds; future work on the property will add to my findings, add to my collections, and keep a record of the biodiversity of that area, hopefully for years to come."

BRIT’s Green Revolution is an initiative that advances STEM equity and access by providing Environmental STEM (ESTEM) opportunities that inspire the natural curiosity in all youth.

With the school year full steam ahead, Green Revolution is kicking off its after-school opportunities in partnership with the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and Crowley ISD (CISD) 21st Century after-school programs. Through this partnership, Green Revolution’s ESTEM and positive youth development curriculum is being delivered to hundreds of students across 8 schools in FWISD and CISD. Students participating in partnering after-school programs will travel to BRIT for STEM-University, a 2-hour field-trip experience that provides authentic, environmental STEM education that inspires positive youth development (6th–8th grade) in STEM-related attitudes and 21st century skills. At STEM-U, students are engaged in creating solutions towards global plant conservation using coding, microscopy, data collection, and digital data basing.

Green Revolution is excited about #growingGROWTH in the lives of our youth during the 2018–2019 school year! Follow our journey with STEM-U, STEM Society, and GR After-school Programming by calling Jared Williams at 817.332.4441, ext. 237.

You Did It North Texans!

YOU gave 75 donations to BRIT totaling over $24,000, including the dollar for dollar match of $5,000 from an anonymous donor.

In celebration of the 10th Annual Giving Day the Communities Foundation of Texas added a new element allowing organizations to include offline donations that came directly to the organization (by mail) between 9/10–9/20 toward their prizes. These gifts could not be the purchase of tickets or memberships. This year, $48,487,531 was raised through more than 157,184 gifts benefiting 2690 local nonprofits. Last year, $39 million was raised through more than 137,000 gifts benefiting 2723 local nonprofits.

Great job North Texans!
The Celebration Meter

To learn more about SEED School Program or if you are interested in attending the program, please contact Tracy Friday at tfriday@brit.org.

Opening November 8, 2018, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Get your holiday shopping done at BRIT's new retail space, Shop at BRIT! Shop includes locally made goods from our artisan friends. Light food and beverage available.

Fall Gallery Night at BRIT

On Saturday, September 8, BRIT joined local galleries, museums, and restaurants to mark the unofficial start of fall with the Fort Worth Art Dealers Associations Fall Gallery Night. This year's celebration was the biggest one yet with two gallery shows, Two Views by Trailer McQuilkin and Ann Ekstrom and Symbiosis by Erika Duque, one pop-up art exhibit by the Fort Worth Art Collective, and one pop-up artisan market curated by 817 Arts Alliance. Music was provided by Guy Nesom and we were thrilled to play host to the pARTy bus run by Art Tooth and FW...
Blackhouse. If you couldn’t join us on Gallery Night, stop by soon and see how art is growing at BRIT. For more information please contact Laura Venhaus or visit our website.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER
2nd–Bella's Book & Nature Club; Brown Bag
6th–Bella's Saturday Story Time; Chocolate; Native Grasses of North Central Texas; What Is the Soil Food Web?; Soil Biology for Gardeners
10th–Seedlings
13th–Layered Bulbs in Containers, GROW Fall Fest
15th–Volunteer University; BRIT Reads Book Club
16th–Little Sprouts; Teacher Tuesday
20th–Terrariums
27th–Decorating With Botanicals

NOVEMBER
3rd–Bella's Saturday Story Time; Seed Starting; Permaculture; Terrariums; Mini Gardens
5th–Ikebana
6th–Bella's Book & Nature Club
8th–Sip & Shop at BRIT
10th–Thanksgiving Floral Arrangements
12th–Poinsettias
13th–Visiting Researcher Lecture
14th–Seedlings
12th–Volunteer University
19th–BRIT Reads Book Club
20th–Little Sprouts
27th–Teacher Tuesday

Every Saturday (Mar–Nov): Family Exploration Saturday in the Garden from 9:30 to noon.

BRIT Tours: Each Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and 1st Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Additional information can be found at brit.org.