New Membership Reflects Growing Collaboration

BRIT® and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, expanding on their GROW education and volunteer program, began selling joint memberships effective March 9. The membership allows affordable, regular Japanese Garden visits and ultimately, Garden admission once fees are implemented later this year. It also provides reciprocal free admission to more than 300 public gardens across the United States – including Dallas Arboretum – event discounts, and more.

BRIT, which already had a membership team in place led by Membership Director Katherine Campbell, will administer the joint membership program with net revenues divided between the Botanic Garden and BRIT. Ms. Campbell explained that all existing BRIT and Botanical Society members became GROW members, adding that after the announcement, new memberships sales began “flying off the shelves” especially upon hearing that all 2019 GROW members also enjoy Charter Member status.

Annual memberships start at just $50 per individual and $80 per family. For more information, visit fwgrow.org, email membership@fwgrow.org or call 817.332.4441.

Table of Contents

News
Busiest Spring Ever Increases Demand for Volunteers
UNTHSC, BRIT Researchers to Benefit from Shared Agreement
Haley Hunter Joins BRIT Advancement Team

Education
SEED School Updates
Curious, Intelligent, Empowered (Book Club)
What Are You Curious About? (Adult Education)

Libraries
TCU Students Study Art and Science During BRIT Visit

Events
Calendar of Events
2019 Bioblitz, Help Us Move Dallas/Fort Worth into First Place
Busiest Spring Ever Increases Demand

If you like meeting new people, interacting with the public and making a difference, there’s no better time than the present to sign up as a volunteer for one of two fabulous spring Botanic Garden events: Lanterns in the Garden and Japanese Spring Festival. Hundreds – did we mention hundreds? – of volunteers are needed to ensure success. There are shifts to accommodate all preferences, including morning, afternoon, evening, weekday, and weekend – something to fit every schedule. Some volunteers who have signed up for several shifts say that they also enjoy the social time and making new friends. There’s an added incentive: For every 15 hours of volunteer service, you receive two passes to Lanterns in the Garden.

Thank you to all of those who have and will volunteer in support of GROW, the continuing collaboration between the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and BRIT. To sign up for date(s) you are available, email Montana Williams at mwilliams@BRIT.org. We appreciate your service.

UNTHSC, BRIT Researchers to Benefit from Shared Agreement

In March, BRIT and the UNT Health Science Center agreed to collaborate on research, educational activities and community programs, forming a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) benefiting both institutions.

“With more than 1.5 million species of plants, endless volumes of books and a large collection of illustrations, BRIT provides a rare opportunity for UNTHSC’s medical and pharmaceutical students,” said BRIT President Ed Schneider. “Both institutions are expected to benefit from sharing research as well as having access to lab space, facilities and scientific equipment,” said Robert McClain, PhD., Associate Vice President for Research & Innovation at UNTHSC.

Read more via coverage in Fort Worth Business Press

SEED School Updates
TCU Students Study Art and Science During BRIT Visit

Texas Christian University Instructor and Art Historian Erin Starr White frequently engages her classes with hands-on experience. Ms. White’s History of Visual Communication class recently visited BRIT to study, examine, and learn about graphic art design from our rich and historical art and science collections. “The majority of the students are in the graphic design department, with most aiming for careers as designers of all types – print, web, music industry, user experience, etc.,” she said.

After studying the history of early bookmaking and printing in class, students enjoyed an off-site learning opportunity at BRIT to study our collection of rare botanical books (and art), with several from the incunabula period (printed in Europe before the year 1501).

With BRIT Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany Barney Lipscomb leading the tour, students saw real life examples of objects studied and discussed in class, making classroom lectures come to life in meaningful and valuable ways. Students remarked at how
quality and detail of books in the collection surpassed their expectations and felt
the designs they saw enhanced their understanding of book illustration and
design.

Vine to Table

*** SOLD OUT ***

Many thanks to our sponsors and donors who registered for the 2019 Vine to Table event. For more information contact Sara Richardson at 817.332.2748.

2019 Bioblitz: Help Us Move Dallas/Fort Worth into First Place

Join Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge and BRIT during an April 27 bioblitz at the Nature Center. A bioblitz is an event engaging volunteers to find and identify as many species as possible. As part of “Nature Conservation,” an Earth Day celebration that includes a Fun Run and Festival, bioblitz activities will be offered for those interested in participating in the national 2019 City Nature Challenge. Last year, Dallas/Fort Worth placed second worldwide in observations.

BRIT Conservation Research Botanist Kim Norton Taylor, Resident Research Associate Bob O’Kennon and Nature Center biologists will lead hikes and assist in iNaturalist training from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact robert.denkhaus@fortworthtexas.gov or csmith@brit.org.

Curious. Intelligent. Empowered.

These are the first three words that sprang to mind when asked to describe the BRIT Reads Book Club. Join us the third Monday of each month from noon – 1 p.m. and be a part of this curious, intelligent, and empowered group of individuals as we discuss new and classic works of fiction and nonfiction that focus on botany, horticulture, natural history and other related topics.

Our next meeting is April 15, and we will be discussing Reading the Landscape of America by May
Theilgaard Watts.

For more information about this group, please visit our website or contact Laura Venhaus.

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**Haley Hunter Joins BRIT Advancement Team**

BRIT is pleased to announce the addition of Haley Hunter to the Advancement Team as our first Special Events Coordinator. A DFW native, Haley has worked in the events industry since graduating from the University of Texas at Austin in 2012. Previous experience includes planning music concerts, weddings, and large sporting tournaments; and overseeing all corresponding marketing and sales objectives.

Along with a creative eye, Haley brings a wealth of graphic design, organization, and positivity to every event she oversees.

Contact Haley at hhunter@brit.org or 817.463.4103.

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**Celebrate Your Graduate at BRIT**

With graduation season right around the corner, BRIT offers the perfect venue to celebrate that special graduate. Let BRIT make your parties easy with affordable rental prices, no outside vendor fees, tables and chairs included, and even complimentary hours for setup. For more information visit the rentals website, email events@brit.org or call 817.332.7750 to schedule.

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**What Are You Curious About?**

Do you want to explore the world of botanical art, get your vegetable garden off to a good start this spring, or perhaps take a refresher course on basic botany? Then join us for one of our upcoming GROW adult education classes.

We offer hands-on and lecture-based classes at both BRIT and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden taught by experts in their fields.

For more information please visit our website or contact Laura Venhaus. For a listing of April events, please see the calendar below.
Save the Date!

BRIT is pleased to announce that it has been selected as one of the four American host sites for the United States Botanic Garden and the American Society of Botanical Artists’ exhibit Botanical Art Worldwide: America’s Flora. Make plans now to attend this blockbuster exhibit that celebrates the glorious diversity of our nation’s plant life.

Botanical Art Worldwide: America’s Flora will be on view at BRIT from September 26 – November 27, 2019. For more information, please contact Laura Venhaus at LVenhaus@brit.org or visit the ASBA website.

Calendar of Events

APRIL

April 2 – GROW: Bella’s Book and Nature Club
April 6 – ADULT ED: Growing Bulbs for the Garden and Patio
April 6 – GROW: Bella’s Saturday Storytime
April 10 – GROW: Seedlings
April 13 – ADULT ED: Texas Wildflowers in Fabric
April 16 – GROW: Little Sprouts
April 23 – May 7 ADULT ED: Introduction to Watercolor
April 6, 13, 20, 27 – GROW: Family Exploration Saturdays

Learn more here: http://brit.org/events

BRIT Tours: 3/2 at 10:30 a.m. and 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28 at 1:30 p.m.