



Quick Links

- First Saturday Farmers Market & BRIT Research Day
- Bella at BRIT
- Researcher Seminars
- Teacher Boot Camps Kick-off the Summer Season at BRIT
- Your Volunteer Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It
- What's Happening at Camp BRIT?
- Think of BRIT When Looking for a Place to Host a Gathering
- Plant ID App for the Fort Worth Prairie Region
- Bella Attends Dynamo's Birthday Party
- Fall Gallery Night at BRIT with the "est of Texas Clay"
- Tips for Staying Cool as Temperatures Rise
- Become a Member

First Saturday Farmers Market & BRIT Research Day

Saturday, August 1, is going to be a busy day here at BRIT. Please join us from 8 a.m. – noon for our regularly scheduled Farmers Market, Bella's Story Time, and for our annual BRIT Research Day: Highlighting our Collections and the Process of Science.

8 a.m. – Noon

- Farmers Market
- Plant ID Station
- Children's Activities
- Research Exhibit: BRIT Collections and The Process of Science

10:30 a.m.

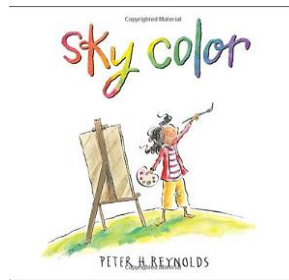
- Bella's Story Time: *Sky Color*, written and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.
- BRIT's Free Tour



You can learn more about BRIT's valuable collections through an interactive exhibit. You will have the opportunity to learn more about the process of science and see it in action! There will be several hands-on activities for visitors to participate in the process of science, and you can meet some of the BRIT scientists. During the month of August, we will be highlighting the research occurring at BRIT in our Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall. For more information regarding the first Saturday program, please visit our [website](#).



Bella at BRIT



Bella's Story Time's August featured story: *Sky Color*, written and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.

Bella's Story Time: Saturday, August 1, 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. - Free to the Public.

Join Bella for interactive read-aloud and family-friendly activities that provide fun explorations of art, nature, and science!

Bella's Book Club: Tuesday, August 4, 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. - Free to BRIT Members/\$10 per non-member family.

For more information, please contact [Kimberly Whitlock](#) at 817.546.1958.

[Scroll to Top](#)

Researcher Seminars

Throughout the month of August we will be hosting several seminars on conducting botanical research through the use of natural collections and field work and sharing new technology that is being used to help in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data. Please join us for Researcher Seminars to learn more about the world of science.

Bring your brown bag lunch to these seminars from **noon - 1 p.m.** They will begin with a presentation by the researcher with time for Q & A and discussion. RSVPs are not required.

August 4 - **Dwayne Estes**, *We Can't See the Forest for the Trees: Using Floristics to Guide Ecosystem Conservation*.

August 25 - **Jason Best**, *Cabinet Contents: Collaborative Curation & Crowd-Sourcing*.

The following presentations will occur from **5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** with light refreshments:

August 13 - **Barney Lipscomb**, *BRIT Collections: The Hidden Gardens of BRIT*.

August 20 - **Sula Vanderplank**, *Plant Guide: Maritime Succulent Scrub Region, Northwest Baja California, Mexico*.

For more information on any of these lectures, please visit our [website](#).



[Scroll to Top](#)

Teacher Boot Camps Kick-off the Summer Season at BRIT



Teachers spent their first weeks of summer at BRIT experiencing the Green Revolution Environmental Project-Based Learning Boot Camps. Teachers from 10 area school districts participated in this year's Boot Camp 1 experience. Third grade to Advance Placement Environmental Science teachers spent 4 days connecting with BRIT staff, local business leaders, and government agencies to gain a greater understanding of the BRIT Nexus (soil, water, alternative

energy, plants, and food) and the importance of the Nexus to the environment. Teachers created student-centered projects focusing on the BRIT Nexus designed to connect students to local environmental issues and empower them to develop solutions that provide a positive impact on their school/community.

Teachers from the 2014 Green Revolution Boot Camp returned for a 3-day Project-Based Learning reconnection in Boot Camp 2. The teachers began their first day of exploration at the TCU Academy of Tomorrow helping to inspire innovation and 21st century learning strategies. Teachers gained insights on hot topics, including alternative energy from the TCU Alternative Energy Institute. Later that afternoon, a representative from the TCU Link Project shared ideas and activities to promote the importance of outdoor play



for all students. The teachers returned to BRIT for two days of collaboration, outdoor connections, and inspiration from individuals on the topics of pollinator garden designs, composting, the impact of soil health on our environment, and how technology is changing the way we think about our world. Boot Camp 3 will be coming to BRIT next summer!

[Scroll to Top](#)

Your Volunteer Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It

We have a new volunteer opportunity starting which we are calling the "Key to the Cabinets: Building and Sustaining a Research Database for a Global Biodiversity Hotspot." BRIT is the recipient of National Science Foundation funding to support the digitization of plant specimens collected in the Southeastern United States so we will be photographing the Tennessee and Alabama specimens from the VDB collection (Vanderbilt University Herbarium) at BRIT.

There are various things that need to happen to a herbarium specimen before it is imaged. We call these steps "pre-imaging curation."

A specimen must be in good repair and possess a label.

It must have a barcode.

It must be stamped "VDB."

We must also weed out the duplicate collections.

We need YOUR help to do this so we can say "mission accomplished."

Most of these volunteer opportunities will be on Tuesday and Thursday either morning or afternoon. BRIT provides volunteers with a unique atmosphere, hot coffee, and cool air conditioning. Please contact [Julie Donovan](#) at 817.546.1846 with any questions.



[Scroll to Top](#)

What's Happening at Camp BRIT?



There is a tremendous amount of exploring, discovering, playing, snacking, researching, painting, journaling, laughing, and LEARNING at Camp BRIT. But none of the above would be possible without the time and talents of the dedicated staff.

Bella Goes to Camp lead teacher, Erin Horne, is a certified early childhood teacher currently teaching at FWISD's Western Hills Primary School. As the department chair at her school, Erin is a gifted early childhood educator who also brings to Camp BRIT her years of experience in facilitating learning in the outdoors as her school's garden coordinator.

Sheryl and Bob Schickedanz are a dynamic husband and wife team and are co-teaching the Little B.I.T.'s camp. Bob majored in early childhood, was a former children's pastor, and is currently teaching special education at Central High School in Keller ISD. His wife, Sheryl, is in her twentieth year as an eighth grade science teacher at Timberview Middle School, also in Keller ISD. Together, they are creating and facilitating magical botanical moments for our young botanists.

Donna Hollowell is the award-winning lead teacher of the My Plants My Place camp. Her teaching career began thirty-two years ago during which she created Burleson ISD's Outdoor Learning Center and served as its director. Donna currently teaches at Everman High School in Everman ISD. Donna brings a wealth of experience to create and deliver camp curriculum that helps us grow future scientists and stewards of our lovely prairie home.

Bethany Baas, a student at TCU, is majoring in biology. She is the camp operations and logistics manager. It is her job to make sure that everyone has everything they

need, when and where they need it!

Assisting Bethany and the camp's lead teachers are Kelsey Heffern, an environmental science major at TCU, and Io Kessler from Texas A&M, also an environmental science major. Joining this wonderful support staff are Bria Ellenburg and Piper Tinney, exceptional high school students here to help the teachers and children as at Camp BRIT this summer. Anna Browder, who attended the middle school camp last year, returned as a Junior Volunteer to assist Erin Horne in the Bella Goes to Camp program. Anna will be attending Nolan High School in the fall.

[Scroll to Top](#)

Think of BRIT When Looking for a Place to Host a Gathering

BRIT would love to open our home to you. Whether it be for a wedding reception, anniversary party or corporate meeting, our campus offers the perfect setting for your special occasion. The Exhibit Hall and Commons are ideal event spaces with size flexibility and an open feel. With beautiful views, our Carus Terrace is ideal for smaller, outdoor gatherings. Our Atrium offers a unique place with stunning architecture and floor to ceiling windows. You will surely please your guests. To reserve a space, please call Jessica Geider at 817.332.2748 or [email her](#).

[Scroll to Top](#)



Plant ID App for the Fort Worth Prairie Region



Curious about the plants in your area?

Purchase the FLORA OF TEXAS: FORT WORTH PRAIRIE app, a plant identification app developed by BRIT and High Country Apps. The app provides a user-friendly, multifunction search key to filter through more than 325 plant species in the Fort Worth Prairie region and parts

of the Western Cross Timbers. For more information about the Flora of Texas: Fort Worth Prairie app, visit our [webpage](#). Available at these app stores for \$7.99: [Apple iOS](#), [Google Play](#), and [Amazon](#).

An updated version will be available on August 1. It will include additional plants not included in the first release.

Already bought the app? We would like to hear from you! We welcome your comments, critiques, corrections, and suggestions. Please email us at info@brit.org. For technical information, please contact [High Country Apps](#).

[Scroll to Top](#)

Bella Attends Dynamo's Birthday Party



When Bella was invited to Dynamo the Dinosaur's tenth birthday party on July 10th at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, she gladly accepted. Dynamo, a *Brontosaurus* who lives at the museum, loved Bella's gift, a lovely fern representing the kinds of plants thriving during the Cretaceous Period. Friends like Bella and TCU's Super Frog joined the many families who came to celebrate Dynamo's special day.

[Scroll to Top](#)

Fall Gallery Night at BRIT with the "Best of Texas Clay"

Make plans now to join BRIT for the Fall 2015 Fort Worth Art Dealers Association Gallery Night on Saturday, September 12, from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. The Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall at BRIT will be playing host to the show "Best of Texas Clay" produced by The Texas Pottery and Sculpture Guild. This third biennial group show will feature extraordinary clay works from across Texas. This year, in honor of BRIT, the exhibit will feature a botanic theme represented by sculptural and functional ceramic creations. Also joining us for Gallery Night will be The Fort Worth Art Collective (FWAC) who will bring their pop-up art gallery concept to the BRIT Commons. FWAC combines raw space and raw talent, showcasing a list of invited local artists in a unique, temporary environment. The opening reception for Best of Texas Clay will take place on Gallery Night, September 12, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Admission is free.



September 12
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

[Scroll to Top](#)

Tips for Staying Cool as Temperatures Rise

We want everyone to enjoy the outdoors and to be safe while doing so! The summer heat can be very dangerous - remember to take proper precautions.

Stay indoors during the hottest hours of the day, which typically are mid-morning until mid-afternoon.

Dress lightly with breathable and loose-fitting clothing.

Keep a hat in your car for those times you are outdoors or try to stay in shaded areas.

Drink plenty of water and other fluids. Studies show we should drink a gallon a day.

To avoid becoming dehydrated, stay away from alcohol, carbonated drinks, and caffeine when temperatures are at the highest.

Run errands and exercise in the early morning hours.

Never leave a person or pet in the car during hot conditions.

Properly supervise children during outdoor play, especially in pools and on hot surfaces.

Remember your pets on those hot surfaces also!

Be sure pets have access to plenty of cool water and shade.

Use a fan to keep air moving and cool.

Use small appliances like slow cookers, outdoor grills, and microwaves to keep the house cool.

If you become nauseous or experience muscle cramps or headache or if you feel weak or look pale, you should seek medical care.

Looking for a place to cool down? How about coming to BRIT for a tour of our LEED Platinum building or volunteer in the coolest place in town - our Philecology Herbarium!

[Scroll to Top](#)



Become a Member

You're passionate about the planet and eager to learn more about living things. So are we!

Our research and education programs touch the lives of hundreds of North Texas students each year.

Now you can join us by becoming a member of BRIT. Help us expand our scientific research, serve more students, and reach more teachers with our education programs. You may become a member [online](#) or for additional information contact [Tammie Crole](#) at 817.332.7518.

We're life-long learners. So are you. Please join us!

[Scroll to Top](#)



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[Redenta's Garden](#) / [The Tree Place](#)

If your organization would like to become a BRIT Membership Reciprocal Partner, please email our [membership department](#) or give us a call at 817.332.7518.

Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

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Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

First Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (April–October)

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.

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