

# RIVER LEGACY

RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION • RIVER LEGACY LIVING SCIENCE CENTER • RIVER LEGACY PARKS

Newsletter vol. 25 • Summer 2017

## Thanks to YOU, Transformation is Happening Now!



The cycles in nature are amazing. Spring is full of activity and new growth. Summer's heat gives way to Fall's settling and preparing for Winter. From the egg a caterpillar bursts forth to eat and grow. Then it spins a cocoon and finally a butterfly emerges. Transformation is a constant in nature.

**Thanks to YOU, The Living Science Center is experiencing its own amazing TRANSFORMATION** - a complete renovation of River Legacy's exhibit hall. The \$2.5 million Capital Campaign will TRANSFORM River Legacy Living Science Center into *THE* destination Nature Center in North Texas.

Construction crews cocooned River Legacy's exhibit hall with heavy plastic and particleboard at the end of July. Unlike the caterpillar's cocoon you can see the changes and progress of our transformation by looking through the glass wall in the Atrium or online as we post updates each Tuesday **#RiverLegacy #TransformationTuesday**.

We expect our TRANSFORMATION to emerge in mid-November! The Exhibit Hall will be TRANSFORMED into River Legacy Discovery Room.

### What will a visit to the River Legacy Discovery Room be like?

Immerse yourself in the wonders of nature in the *Watery World*. You will see eyeball to

eyeball with a larger-than-life leopard frog and be able to move a giant rock to explore crayfish and other organisms found in a healthy water system while fish "swim" and water lilies "float" overhead.

You will be drawn to explore riverbanks *Where Land and Water Meet*. Learn fun facts as you lift flaps and explore artifacts in



discovery boxes. Step into the woods for a *Life in the Forest* adventure. Learn about the plants and animals that call River Legacy home. You will be awestruck by an interactive video projection experience designed by 900 lbs of Creative, illustrating the changing seasons, metamorphosis and wildlife of River Legacy Park. You can learn how the Texas spiny lizard establishes its place in nature by rapidly moving up and down and then compete with a lizard by doing push ups to see who the top reptile is!



*Sylvia Greene points out animals hiding in their aquariums during our Transformation Kick Off Celebration in March.*

*The Area of Environmental Stewardship* will highlight what YOU can do to make a difference and offer opportunities for you to be involved in local clean up days, composting and recycling. This area will focus on how our actions and choices impact water quality here and all the way to the sea.

### Does the TRANSFORMATION alter the Living Science Center building?

No, the TRANSFORMATION offers awe-inspiring new exhibits and flexible learning labs by renovating the existing space. It will NOT change the footprint of the Living Science Center's iconic design. We will add an inviting new entrance and expanded parking off the main entrance to River Legacy Park.

### Will River Legacy continue to offer Field Investigations? YES!

The TRANSFORMATION will create two Learning Labs, specialized spaces for engaging students in activities that stimulate early science process skills and sustainable living practices.

In the past, we have had to close the exhibit hall during classes and Field Investigations because we simply ran out of space. The TRANSFORMATION will allow us to keep the River Legacy Discovery Room open to the public while we provide hands-on explorations in nature to 14,000 school children each year.



*Jill Hill and guests cut the ribbon to kick off our Transformation Campaign in March.*



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## Directory

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### Contributors:

Kristi Payne, Becky Nussbaum, Debbie Vernon, Jill Hill, Josh Ripple, Shannon Porter, Sherrie Ripple

### Photography:

Arno Knapen, Lauri Miller, Sherrie Ripple, Robert Blake, Angela Chadwick

### River Legacy Foundation River Legacy Living Science Center

703 NW Green Oaks Boulevard  
Arlington, Texas 76006  
817.860.6752 817.860.1595 fax  
[www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org)



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### Follow us on:



## Message from the Executive Director



# Your Kindness Goes Above & Beyond Every Day!

The City of Arlington recently launched a kindness initiative for residents to report Random Acts of Kindness noted around the city. I am happy to report the kindness shown by our guests, donors and supporters every day, with each donation – whether it's a coin or dollar dropped in the donation box, an

online donation, or a check sent in the mail. I am grateful for YOU, and the legacy you are creating in Arlington and beyond.

Because of YOU, children, families and students get to see, touch and experience nature in a personal way. Families, students, and preschoolers in our programs discover that an understanding of nature breeds an appreciation for it. Learning the names and characteristics of the plants and animals in River Legacy Park and in their own backyards encourages them to take the time to notice the beauty of the box turtle along the path or the snake slithering across a rock. They know that by leaving them undisturbed, they are taking an active role in allowing nature to prosper.

You are also helping to preserve this beautiful amenity in the heart of the Metroplex. It provides a peaceful place to walk along the shaded trails and enjoy the park, helping educate people about these natural surroundings, and showing them how their actions impact the environment – from littering to landscaping to water usage.



Today, your donations are more critical than ever in helping us to preserve and sustain our environmental education programs.

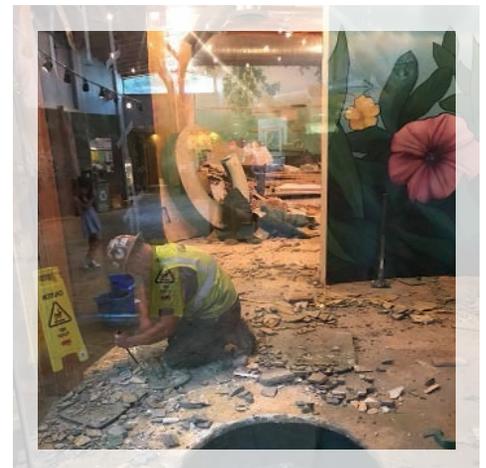
We are moving forward with our Exhibit Transformation of River Legacy Living Science Center, confident that we will close the \$200,000 gap needed to reach the final \$2.5 million project total. However, we can only complete what is funded.

We still need to support our environmental education programs and day-to-day operations of River Legacy Living Science Center, so that families can continue to meet our wildlife ambassadors, experience our exhibits and enjoy our nature trails.

Thank you for investing in future environmental stewards by investing in River Legacy. We are grateful for your faithful support. If you would like to give a gift, please donate online at [www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org) or return the enclosed envelope.

Warm Regards,

Jill Hill  
Executive Director



## Transformation

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### Will this TRANSFORMATION increase my taxes? Absolutely not!

The TRANSFORMATION is funded by donations to River Legacy Foundation. This \$2.5 million renovation began with an exciting challenge grant. The Arlington Tomorrow Foundation awarded River Legacy a \$1 million matching grant. They challenged the Foundation to match their generous gift in 18 months. Thanks to generous and forward-thinking foundations like the Gene and Jerry Jones Family Arlington Youth Foundation, the Amon G. Carter Foundation, Sid W Richardson, the Meadows Foundation, and businesses including Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington and ACP International, River Legacy met the \$1M challenge in NINE MONTHS! And now because of support from our donors, community and business partners, grantors and YOU, we were able to start construction when summer classes ended in late July.

### How can you be part of the TRANSFORMATION?

River Legacy needs your help. We have a \$200,000 funding gap to meet our goal. During our renovation we will only complete what is funded, but thanks to another generous challenge grant of \$100,000, we are almost there – and you can make the difference! To discuss ways you can DOUBLE YOUR DONATION, donor recognition or to schedule a tour, please contact Becky Nussbaum at 817.860.6752 ext. 120 or [beckyn@riverlegacy.org](mailto:beckyn@riverlegacy.org). 

### Special Thanks to Project Designers & Architects:

- 900 lbs of Creative
- Quorum Design.Spaces.People
- Sedalco Construction
- Split Rock Studios

# Student, Volunteer, Intern: A personal passion, connection to River Legacy!

By Josh Ripple

*Josh Ripple assists students in pond dip netting during a recent Summer Class.*



Seventeen years ago, at the age of 3, I found myself in the Turtle's Log classroom, enrolled as an eager River Legacy Nature School student. Three years ago, at the age of 17, I was volunteering in the Owl's Nest room, helping with a class called Hide & Seek, exploring the functions of camouflage in the wild. A few weeks ago, now 20 years old and back home for the summer after completing my sophomore year at Stanford University, I worked as an intern, assisting in the facilitation of a variety of summer classes designed for kindergarten through 8th grade students.

There's something inviting about River Legacy Living Science Center. In my experience, this appeal has been virtually magnetic. Over the course of nearly two decades, I've found myself perpetually returning, each successive involvement taking on a new form. Once student, then volunteer, now intern - I've spent an appreciable amount of time reflecting, attempting to identify why it is that I find River Legacy so alluring.

Its mission resonates with the things about which I am passionate. At Stanford, I co-founded an organization called Full Power. Our aim is to use videogames as a tool for education and mentorship in low-income and marginalized communities of young students. We want to transform something often understood as a distraction into an effective instrument of change.

River Legacy, at first glance, seems to be an organization whose mission nearly contrasts that of Full Power: students spend time outdoors on nature trails, participate in direct contact with wildlife, and manifest the things they've learned in the form of creative artistic activities. There is little time for videogames.

But River Legacy and Full Power both

embrace what is, in my view, a crucial component in the educational development of young people: active, inclusive, participatory learning.

In their teachers, River Legacy students have available to them encyclopedic knowledge regarding the environment in which they are situated. This is not information, however, that they passively absorb in dull corridors or colorless lecture halls. Instead, students are presented with the enchanting opportunity to learn actively, to simultaneously *do* and *learn*. As such, they delight in their education.

This is the charm of the educational practice employed at River Legacy; it is the same motivating idea that drives myself and my co-participants in Stanford Full Power – that students learn best not when simply *given* knowledge, but when given the opportunity to *discover* knowledge under the watchful guidance of brilliant and caring teachers.

I could not have suspected it at the time, but as I was involved in the Turtle's Log classroom activities as a 3-year-old, I was taking the first stride of what would become a decades-long interaction with River Legacy. This is not an engagement of which I have regretted a single moment.

I believe in River Legacy's mission, because they believe in their students enough to allow them to learn with agency. Working as an intern has allowed me to learn immensely from the teachers, the young students, and those who orchestrate the operations of the Foundation behind the scenes. These lessons have impacted the way I view the role and value of education. I will continue to be inspired by my experiences at River Legacy as I embark on other projects at Stanford and beyond. 

# Hands-On Learning at River Legacy



The energetic buzz of children's voices fills the Learning Lab, punctuated by squeals of "Whoa! It's slimy!" and "I can see its eyes!!" Fourth-graders from the Arlington school district are happily engaged in an up-close-and-personal encounter with snails during a visit to River Legacy Living Science Center for a field investigation that explores our woodland ecosystem.

For many of these children, it is the first time they have ever observed these fascinating creatures, let alone *touched* them! A snail's body structure and life cycle, as well as the role that they play in a healthy woodland environment, offer an engaging way to explore some of the state-mandated knowledge standards for this grade level. And because things that we learn while having a fun experience are more likely to stay with us, these students will most certainly remember what they are learning on this day – *as will many of the parent chaperones too!*

Research has long-indicated that children (and adults too!) learn best through their senses,

by touching and manipulating things in the world around them. Allowing them to handle objects not only engages their brains, but also fuels an inner sense of wonder and curiosity, and a love of learning. Hands-on explorations also allow children to connect abstract concepts to real-world experiences and objects. For this reason, River Legacy students might have a chance to simulate the cycle of rock formation by crushing, kneading and heating chocolate chips, observe a small log segment they have added to their own corsage box terrarium, or put together a meal of appropriate rubber food sources for an omnivorous raccoon. Hands-on activities like these serve to enhance not only a child's understanding of the natural world and its inhabitants, but also their own role in preserving it.

Children learn through ALL of their senses; when activities that require touching, observing, listening and talking are combined, multiple areas of the brain are stimulated at the same time. The more parts of the brain that a child uses, the more likely they are to retain information. Hands-on activities like the snail exploration offer something to every type of learner: tactile/kinesthetic learners have movement and touch to stimulate them. Visual learners are observing things at close range. Auditory learners have an opportunity to talk about and listen to others express thoughts



about what they are learning.

The application of best practices to support how children learn isn't limited to our Field Investigation programs—it's at the core of all of River Legacy's education programs! Whether in a Nature School, Home School, After School or Summer class setting, children actively explore live animals, plants, and other natural specimens in the classroom, or out on the trails. They record and discuss their observations with friends. They report back to the group and ask additional questions.

Often these classes also offer additional opportunities to refine, reinforce and store new

knowledge through a variety of art experiences and other classroom activities that focus on the lesson's topic. Arts and crafts that include cutting, painting, coloring and drawing/writing experiences provide opportunities to reach every child in the room, regardless of learning style. Creative, hands-on activities like stamping the symmetrical pattern of dots on a ladybug's wings not only introduce a new math concept and help children to focus on and successfully store new-found knowledge – they also emphasize the beauty of the natural world.

The hands-on focus of all of our programs also fosters another critical form of development: a sense of social responsibility and conscience. We live in a world that all too often celebrates success at any cost, or where individual needs and wants are given top priority. Experiences in nature can help to shape individuals who care not only about the plants and animals outside, but about other people in their lives.

Children who are given opportunities to care for living things, or who spend time observing how various creatures survive, are more likely to experience the intrinsic rewards that come with caring for something other than themselves. Education theorist Nel Noddings suggests that we are able to care for and about each other "because we carry with us the memories of and longing for caring and being cared for." By extension, allowing children to learn about, understand and care for nature is the first step in developing a lifelong commitment to stewardship in the natural world.

Our teachers model this in the smallest of ways, such as making a point of stepping over rather than on a bug on the trail, or putting an earthworm back where it was found after sharing it with a Nature School class. It is reinforced on a larger scale when discussing the arrangement of outdoor learning area materials to minimize impact on the inhabitants of the surrounding forest habitat. For both the youngest, most impressionable learners and their older siblings and peers, these tactics provide a model for constructing a sense of caring and respect for all living things.

The "hands-on" approach that River Legacy employs in all of its programs enhances the learning experiences of students of all ages. But of equal importance is the long-term benefit of developing a new generation of environmental stewards who share a deep connection with the natural world and an understanding of their role in protecting it. 

***"For in the end, we will conserve only what we love.***

***We will love only what we understand.***

***We will understand only what we are taught."***

***Baba Dioum***

## Take advantage of River Legacy's experiential learning practices through:

- Nature School
- After-School Clubs
- Home School Classes
- Scout Programs
- Summer at the Science Center
- Saturday Public Programs

Sign up for these programs online at [www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org) or call 817.860.6752 to learn more.

Help us sustain and steward these programs through a donation to River Legacy Foundation. Give online, in person, or return the enclosed giving envelope.

# Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington

## Continues Annual Partnership with River Legacy Living Science Center



Back for a second year, Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington is proud to be one of River Legacy Living Science Center's Annual Partners and supporters of its Transformation project.

Baylor Arlington has generously supported River Legacy's community festivals and events by providing guests with goody bags. The hospital even made mini first aid kits available to participants in the National Trails Day event in June.

"We can't thank Baylor Arlington enough for their partnership," said Becky Nussbaum, River Legacy's Fund Development Manager. "We're so appreciative of their ongoing support of River Legacy Living Science Center's environmental education and recreation initiatives. We couldn't grow the next generation of environmental stewards without Baylor Arlington's generous community giving."

Baylor Arlington employees also have embraced River Legacy by taking part in many of the center's signature events.

In April, the "Bone Crusher" team from Baylor Arlington won second place in the Cardboard Boat Regatta. The hospital also helped a team from Carter Junior High School take part in the race by helping provide T-shirts and supplies for their boat.



In June's Clay Shooting Tournament, Baylor Arlington entered a team and hosted an exhibit booth to share hospital and health information and giveaways with event participants. And in October, Baylor Arlington employees volunteered for After Dark in the Park. Employees look forward to being actively involved in these events again next year.

"We're so pleased to continue our partnership with River Legacy Living Science Center to promote science education right here in our backyard," said Allan Beck, CEO of Baylor Arlington. "We're always proud to support local activities and venues that help teach our kids important lessons about science and nature. Our employees have become active in the partnership as well, so it's been a valuable experience for our team. We look forward to another great year with River Legacy."

In addition to River Legacy Living Science Center, Baylor Arlington's community support programs include the Levitt Pavilion, The LOT Mansfield, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club of Arlington, Arlington Urban Ministries, YoungLife, and the Education Foundations for Arlington and Mansfield Independent School Districts.

Baylor Arlington is a unique, industry-leading specialty hospital focused on comprehensive outpatient and inpatient treatment of orthopedic and spine disorders. As the only hospital in Dallas-Fort Worth that's focused strictly on providing orthopedic and spine care, the recently expanded, boutique-style facility offers 10 operating rooms, a full-service ER, complete diagnostic imaging capabilities, and a new Pain Management Center. Visit [www.baylorarlington.com](http://www.baylorarlington.com) for a full list of physicians, services and to schedule an appointment.



## Viridian, A Natural Partner with River Legacy Foundation!

Enjoying nature's bounty is an everyday event for residents of nearby Viridian, a master-planned community minutes from River Legacy. The 2,000-acre development is an Audubon International "Certified Gold Sanctuary" and boasts world-class amenities, including the Viridian Lake Club, which offers multiple pools, an outdoor pavilion with fireplace, sand volleyball court and natural beach area. Opening in late 2017 is an 8,500-square-foot event center, an infinity-edge pool just for adults and four tennis courts.

Viridian has been an avid supporter and partner of River Legacy Foundation for the past five years and has been a natural fit for the organization. Viridian's environmental initiatives and commitment to nature allow River Legacy and Viridian the opportunity to share their common message with the community.

Now open is the Viridian Sailing Center, a facility on the 250-acre Lake Viridian that offers use of sailboats to annual pass holders and hosts classes as well as summer camps. The public can shop locally sourced goods at Viridian's monthly artisan market, plus sign up to receive regular baskets of produce, grass-fed and pasture-raised meats, farm-fresh eggs and more delivered to Viridian Lake Club on Thursdays.

Learn more about Viridian, its amenities and upcoming events at [www.viridiandfw.com](http://www.viridiandfw.com).

**INTERESTED** in learning how to join BOSHA, SA-SO & Viridian as annual partners with River Legacy Foundation and investing in a nature connection for families?

Contact Becky Nussbaum at 817.860.6752, ext. 120 or [beckyn@riverlegacy.org](mailto:beckyn@riverlegacy.org).

## Together – Enhancing Lives and Communities!

SA-SO Signs & Safety of Arlington is proud to serve as an annual sponsor of River Legacy Living Science Center.

It is part of SA-SO's mission to enhance the quality of life of residents all across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan area. Part of that work includes distributing products that increase the safety of pedestrians and drivers while also showing care and respect for the Earth's natural resources. Another integral part of the mission is dedicated to partnering with organizations that also further the cause of improving lives. River Legacy Living Science Center has a long-

standing reputation of growing community stewards through education and recreation, and SA-SO is proud to be a part of that through this sponsorship.

SA-SO manufactures and distributes traffic and safety signs that meet customer needs, increase safety in local communities, and conserve energy. Signs communicate a variety of vital messages that protect people, animals, and investments.

With River Legacy Living Science Center, SA-SO Signs & Safety plans to support the community for a long time!



Visit SA-SO Signs & Safety online at [www.SA-SO.com](http://www.SA-SO.com) or call 972-641-4911. SA-SO Signs & Safety is in the business of helping public and private organizations communicate more effectively with quality, environmentally-friendly, and MUTCD-compliant signs. Anything you need, just say-so (SA-SO)!

# FUNdraisers

## Feature Fun for All Ages!

From cardboard boat races and a friendly sporting competition, to a family-friendly fall festival and an evening under the stars, there is an event for everyone to enjoy while they support River Legacy. These four special events throughout the year provide much-needed monetary contributions for

River Legacy Foundation's environmental education programs, while also providing unique and fun community experiences. Of course, each event is only successful thanks to our corporate sponsors, donors and participants! We couldn't do it without you!

### 28th annual Cardboard Boat Regatta – April 22

More than 150 crews not only braved the waves, but also braved a rather chilly April day at River Legacy Foundation's 28th annual Cardboard Boat Regatta at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor on April 22! As always there were some pretty spectacular ships designed and built completely out of cardboard – some seaworthy and others, not so much! (Those others had their chance to win the Titanic Award!) Harris Packaging, one of our generous sponsors, helped many of our school participants by providing pre-built boat kits. To see a list of this year's winners, visit [www.riverlegacy.org/cardboard-boat-regatta](http://www.riverlegacy.org/cardboard-boat-regatta). A special thanks to Six Flags Hurricane Harbor for donating the use of the venue and for managing the concessions, and to the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department for providing our water safety and race results. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, this year's Regatta netted more than \$43,000 for the Foundation's programs.



### 8th annual Sporting Clay Shoot – June 9

Mother Nature also tried to dampen our 8th Annual Sporting Clay Shoot, but more than 150 shooters overcame the morning rains and flooding to enjoy a day of camaraderie and friendly competition at Ellis County Sportsmans Club in Waxahachie on June 9. A special thanks to Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams for being a good sport and showing up to lend us his golf swing for another Mayor's Golf Ball Shootout. Unfortunately, the golf ball shooting challenge was canceled due to the weather. We appreciate Mayor Williams' time and support, and hope to do it again next year. Another huge thanks to Spring Creek Barbeque for catering the event (in the rain)! To check out event pictures and results, visit [www.riverlegacy.org/sporting-clay-shoot-tournament](http://www.riverlegacy.org/sporting-clay-shoot-tournament).

Thanks to the generosity of our shooters, company sponsors and guests, more than \$65,000 was raised for River Legacy Foundation!



### COMING UP: 21st annual After Dark in the Park Fall Festival– October 6, 7 & 8

This very popular fall festival has become THE event that families turn to for a safe and fun seasonal experience in the great outdoors. So be sure to join us this year for all of your fall favorites, plus some NEW activities during our 21st annual After Dark in the Park, Oct. 6-8 at River Legacy Living Science Center and River Legacy Park. Join us for games, crafts, activities, storytelling, karaoke, bounce houses, pumpkin patch, food trucks and so much more! Be sure to watch our Web site ([www.riverlegacy.org/after-dark-in-the-park](http://www.riverlegacy.org/after-dark-in-the-park)) and Facebook page to see what food vendors, games, activities and events will be on hand for this year's event. Thanks to the thousands of guests who enjoyed the festival last year and our gracious sponsors, After Dark in the Park garnered almost \$40,000 for the Foundation's environmental education programs. We are looking forward to another great event and hope to see you and your family at After Dark in the Park in October!



### 6th annual A Night With Nature – November 10

Enjoy s'mores by the fire, live music, stargazing, live animal encounters & food and drinks at the 6th annual A Night With Nature on Friday, November 10. This fall evening benefit is sure to entertain and engage our expected 200 adult guests with a beautiful nature experience under the stars of River Legacy Park. Guests will enjoy a light dinner buffet provided by Blue Mesa Grill, fine wine, Deep Eddy Vodka specialty drinks and craft beer provided by Division Brewing. A silent auction will include a variety of fabulous gifts, prizes and vacations for our most generous bidders – and this year, guests can bid straight from their mobile phones. Thanks to last year's generous attendees, sponsors and donors, almost \$65,000 was raised for the Exhibit

Transformation Campaign. This year's proceeds will help us close the FINAL gap to complete the campaign. Our Night With Nature guests will also get an exclusive **sneak peek** at our renovation progress and exhibits. Be sure to save the date and watch for invitations and information regarding this year's event! To request your invitation, e-mail [reply@riverlegacy.org](mailto:reply@riverlegacy.org) or call 817.860.6752, ext. 107.



Volunteers are a major part of the success of all of our events and we are grateful for their contributions of time and skill. To learn more about volunteering, contact Sherrie Ripple at 817.860.6752 or e-mail her at [sherrie@riverlegacy.org](mailto:sherrie@riverlegacy.org).

For more information on how to support River Legacy through these events, call Becky Nussbaum at 817.860.6762, ext. 120 or e-mail her at [beckyn@riverlegacy.org](mailto:beckyn@riverlegacy.org) or call Kristi Payne at 817.860.6752, ext. 107 or e-mail her at [kristi@riverlegacy.org](mailto:kristi@riverlegacy.org).

Be sure to visit and support our 2016-2017 Event Sponsors:



QuikTrip | Green's Produce | Children's Dentistry of Arlington | Frost Bank | Chicken Express | Jerry & Becky McCullough | Al & Laura Distefano & Planet Dyma Designs | The Copeland Horton Financial Consulting Group of Wells Fargo Advisors | Atmos Energy | Diane & Kent Rasmussen | Redfish Studios | 900 lbs of Creative | David's Barbeque | Steve and Paula Martindale | Division Brewing | Deep Eddy Vodka | Mighty Swell Cocktails | Smurfit Kappa | Humphrey & Associates | Archer & Western Construction | Mario Sinacola & Sons | May Financial Solutions | Cody Pools | American Landscape Systems | Pope, Hardwicke, Christie, Schell, Kelly & Taplett, L.L.P

# SAVE THE DATE

## 9th annual North Texas Giving Day: September 14, 2017

This year, on Thursday, September 14, 2017, River Legacy Foundation is once again participating in Communities Foundation of Texas' ninth annual North Texas Giving Day, a one-day online giving extravaganza.

Last year, we were a part of the record-breaking success as Communities Foundation of Texas brought together more than 2,500 North Texas nonprofits to celebrate and raise \$37 million on North Texas Giving Day. Thanks to you, River Legacy Foundation received more than 120 donations netting us more than \$32,000 with bonus funds and matching grants.

Since its founding in 2009, North Texas Giving Day has inspired people to give, resulting in increased donations and services provided in North Texas. We invite you to join the movement, and again support River Legacy Foundation on Thursday, Sept. 14. This year's donations will help us close the \$200,000 gap on our \$2.5 million Transformation Campaign.

Here's how you can join the movement:

### 1. Get up & Give on Sept. 14!

Stretch your dollar by donating to River Legacy Foundation on Sept. 14 at <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/river-legacy-foundation>. All donations up to \$10,000 will be multiplied by bonus funds and prizes – AND all donations made to River Legacy Foundation will also be DOUBLED thanks to a generous \$100,000 matching donor. Give online at the link above between 6 am and midnight on Sept. 14.



### 2. Schedule Your Gift in Advance!

This year you can schedule your gift to River Legacy Foundation between September 7 and September 14 online at <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/river-legacy-foundation>.

So if you know you will be out of town, you can still support us by scheduling your donation between Sept. 7 and Sept. 14.

### 3. Arlington Gives! Concert

Join and support River Legacy Foundation at the FREE Arlington Gives! Concert from 6:30 to 9:30 pm, Sept. 14, at Levitt Pavilion, 100 W. Abram St. Enjoy musical performances by Josh Weathers and entertainment, food trucks and donation stations where you can donate via North Texas Giving Day to River Legacy and your favorite Arlington nonprofits.

### 4. Spread the Word!

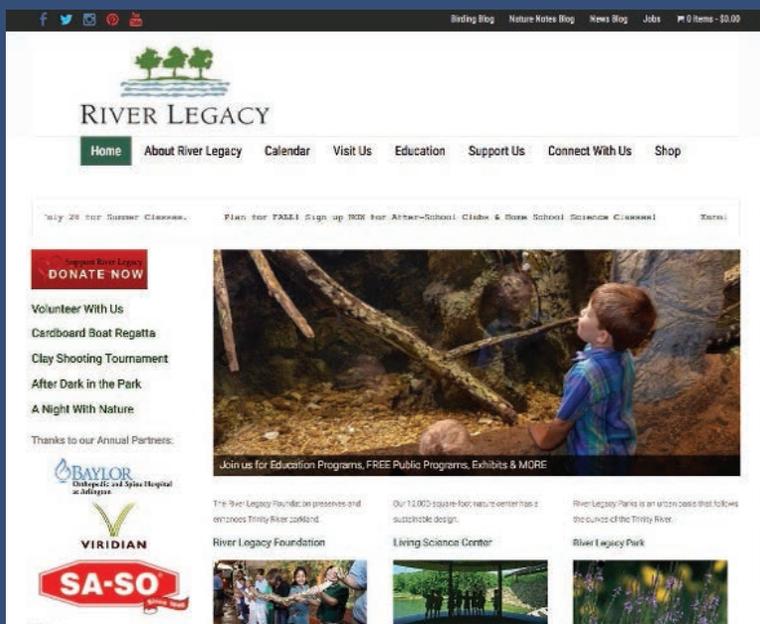
Spread the word to your family and friends about our organization and North Texas Giving

Day! Don't forget to tag us at **#RiverLegacy** and **#NTxGivingDay** if you are posting online! Encourage your friends and family to join the movement and to get up and give to River Legacy Foundation on Sept. 14th.

### 5. Follow Us!

Like and share us on Facebook & Twitter to stay up to date on North Texas Giving Day. Follow us at [www.facebook.com/riverlegacycenters](http://www.facebook.com/riverlegacycenters) and at [www.twitter.com/rlsciencecenter](http://www.twitter.com/rlsciencecenter)

For more information on North Texas Giving Day, visit [www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org](http://www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org). For more information on how you can support River Legacy Foundation on North Texas Giving Day visit our unique giving link at <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/river-legacy-foundation> or contact us at 817.860.6752 and we would be happy to assist you with your online gift. Thank you for joining River Legacy Foundation in the North Texas Giving Day movement! 



## Stay Connected to River Legacy

Stay up to date on all of River Legacy's programs, events and news with our refreshed and easy to use Web site at [www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org).

The new look includes more pictures, an updated and simplified menu, new blog postings, and easier connections and links to our Social Media platforms.

The refurbished web site is designed to be a better communications tool between River Legacy, its patrons, supporters and the general public.

New features include blog forums on nature, news and birding, a more interactive calendar and announcements, and updated content regarding some of our most popular education programs.

Please check us out at [www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org), and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube to stay tuned in to what's going on at River Legacy Living Science Center. 



*Southern Copperhead*

## What is the difference between venomous and poisonous?

Often used interchangeably, the terms venomous and poisonous are distinctly different. Both venom and poison are toxic to other life forms (plants and animals), but are delivered in different ways.

Venomous animals produce venom for protection or for capturing prey, and they use a specialized body part (fang or stinger) to inject venom. Different venoms can cause a wide range of reactions, including pain, paralysis, or death.

Poisonous organisms (plants and some animals) secrete their harmful chemicals through their skin, leaf surface or seeds. The poison only affects other living creatures if they eat or touch it. Different poisons produce different reactions.

Pictured are a few venomous and poisonous organisms that are native to Texas. 



*Cicada Killer - Wasp*



*Pokeweed Berries*



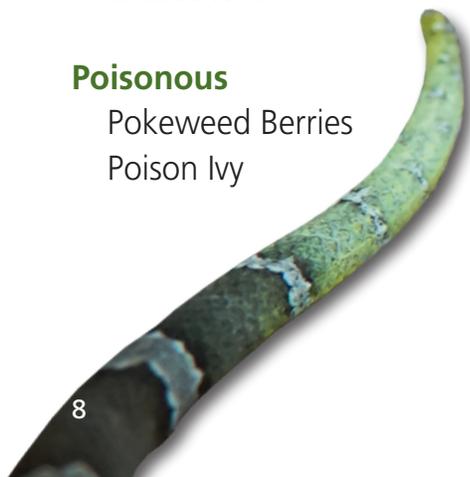
*Poison Ivy*

### Venomous

- Southern Copperhead
- Cicada Killer

### Poisonous

- Pokeweed Berries
- Poison Ivy



## Scouts Get Day to Complete Multiple Badges



Scouts can check those badges off the list during Scout Badge Day, an activity-filled day combining hands-on activities, question and answer sessions and fun projects to help Scouts earn multiple badges. This year's Scout Badge Day will offer six badges for Girl Scouts and five badges for Boy Scouts.

Make plans now to attend Scout Badge Day between **10 am and 2 pm, Saturday, Dec. 2 at River Legacy Living Science Center.**

River Legacy Living Science Center began hosting Scout Badge Day in 2015 as a way to provide more accessible badge opportunities for troop leaders and parents and to reach out to as many Scouts as possible. In its first year, more than 200 Scouts attended.

River Legacy partners with the Boy Scouts Longhorn Council and the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains to provide activities and lessons geared toward either full or partial completion for a number of badges and journeys. Last year, two new badges were added: Flowers for Girl Scouts; and Into the Woods for Boy Scouts. Programs will take place rain or shine, with a portion of the event held outside, so dress accordingly.

For a listing of the badges and journeys provided on Scout Badge Day, visit [www.riverlegacy.org/scout-programs](http://www.riverlegacy.org/scout-programs). For more information, contact Shannon Porter at 817.860.6752, ext. 119 or e-mail her at [Shannon@riverlegacy.org](mailto:Shannon@riverlegacy.org). 

**Scout Badge Day**  
10 am – 2 pm, Saturday, Dec. 2



**RIVER LEGACY**  
LIVING SCIENCE CENTER

703 NW Green Oaks Blvd.  
Arlington, TX 76006  
Cost is \$15 per Scout/sibling  
Register online at  
[www.riverlegacy.org/scout-programs](http://www.riverlegacy.org/scout-programs)  
For more information, call  
817.860.6752, ext. 119

# Constructing A Legacy In Honor of Dad

By Kate Goodrich

My father Mike loved being outside, and we shared many memories walking and biking the trails at River Legacy. When I was a child, we played soccer at River Legacy, participated in community Easter egg hunts, and adventured through the trails together. He loved walking and talking, but he also loved walking and listening. He listened to other people, to animals, and to his own inner voice on his near daily long walks.

After he passed away unexpectedly, his friends and family wanted to do a service project to honor him. River Legacy felt like an obvious place to make our mark on his behalf. To commemorate his birthday and the anniversary of his death this past March, a group of about 50 friends and family constructed a bird blind at River Legacy Living Science Center. This



fence with viewing windows will allow guests to see and hear birds without disrupting them.

Providing a place to enjoy the sounds of laughter, the sounds of silence, and particularly the sounds of birds is a way of continuing Mike's legacy of service and love to others. 🦋

## Volunteers are integral to the work of River Legacy!

Want to do something satisfying and of great service to your community? Become a volunteer at River Legacy Living Science Center! To keep up with all the latest information and opportunities follow us on our Volunteer Facebook page at [facebook.com/riverlegacyvolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/riverlegacyvolunteers) or on Instagram at [lscvolunteers](https://www.instagram.com/lscvolunteers).

### Upcoming volunteer events:

#### \*Front Desk Ambassador

- Welcome patrons, provide information about the Science Center and its programming, and assist customers in the Acorns Gift Shop!

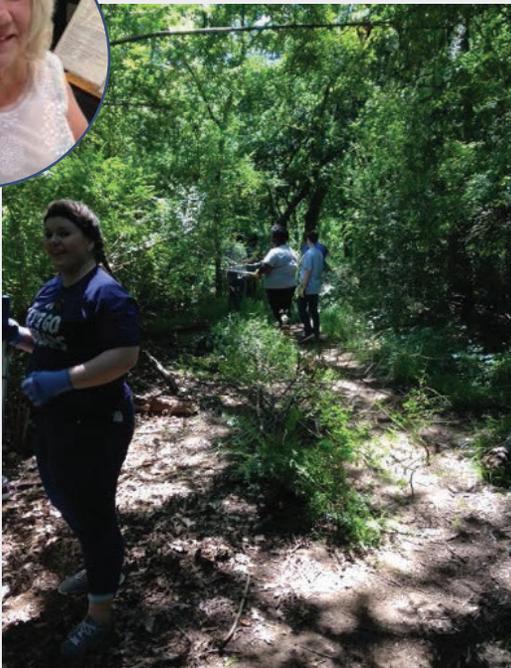
This is a **once a week commitment (4-hr shift each week) for a minimum of six months!**

#### \*Privet - Join us in the removal of an invasive plant from River Legacy Park. If left untouched this plant can disturb the natural ecosystem here along the Trinity River. Make a huge difference in the beauty and ecology of our park system by removing this problem species. No experience necessary!

**\*After Dark in the Park** - Annual fall festival fundraiser that combines the best of the Science Center's education programs with a mix of entertainment and festival fare. Volunteers are needed for setup and breakdown, to prepare and sell concessions, and to facilitate games and crafts. 🦋



To learn more about volunteer opportunities for you or your group at River Legacy Living Science Center, contact Volunteer Manager Sherrie Ripple at [sherrie@riverlegacy.org](mailto:sherrie@riverlegacy.org) or 817.860.6752, ext. 109.



## Celebrate & Conserve Water With Us



Did you know that two-thirds of the water your family uses indoors is in the bathroom? Brushing your teeth uses about 2 gallons of water.

Did you know that each person in North Texas on average uses about 100 gallons a day in their home? During medieval times, a person used only 5 gallons per day.

Did you know that nearly 97 percent of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable? Another 2 percent is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1 percent for all of humanity's needs – agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community and personal.

River Legacy Living Science Center is teaming up with the Arlington Water Utilities Department to help promote and support the Tarrant Regional Water District's Water is Awesome initiative. Visit [www.waterisawesome.com](http://www.waterisawesome.com)

to learn more fun water facts as well as resources and tips to help you conserve water both indoors and outdoors in your home and landscaping needs.

Learn how to be water wiser with River Legacy and the Water Utilities Department at our FREE W.A.T.E.R. Festival from 10 am to 2 pm, Sept. 9 at River Legacy Living Science Center. During the W.A.T.E.R (Water Awareness Through Education & Recreation) Festival, families will learn to celebrate and conserve our water resources through a variety of family activities, demonstrations, games and crafts.

Use it. Enjoy it. Just don't waste it. 🦋

# Thank you to our Donors

June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017

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# Community Rewards Program:

River Legacy Foundation and River Legacy Living Science Center can benefit from your everyday purchases through Amazon, Kroger and Tom Thumb. So shop and support by following the guidelines for each one below:

### AMAZON

Registration is done online. Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and login to your Amazon account or create a new account and then select River Legacy Foundation as the charitable organization of choice. This only has to be done once a year and it will apply to all purchases that are eligible for charitable donations.

### KROGER

Registration is done online. Go to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and sign in or create a new account and then select River Legacy Foundation as the charitable organization of choice. This only has to be done once a year and River Legacy Foundation will benefit every time your Kroger card is scanned or used.

### TOM THUMB

River Legacy Foundation's charity number is 2998. Participants can download a Good Neighbor application form from [www.tomthumb.com](http://www.tomthumb.com) or fill one out at the Courtesy Desk at any Tom Thumb. Once complete, River Legacy Foundation is registered as your chosen charitable organization every time you use your Tom Thumb Reward card.

If you would like to learn more about these opportunities, please call Executive Director Jill Hill to set up a private consultation. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, your attorney and your CPA.

### CHARITABLE PLANNING:

What if you could have more money for your retirement and your heirs by giving money to charity? Some of the "Ripple Effects" of these strategies include:

- Avoid Taxes on Appreciated Assets such as Stocks, Real Estate, the Sale of a Business, etc...
- More Retirement Income
- Convert a Portion or All of an IRA to a Roth Without Having to Pay Taxes
- More Money for Your Heirs – Tax Free
- More Money Goes to a Charity – Tax Free
- And More...



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[www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org)



Newsletter Volume 25. Summer 2017

Follow us on:



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# 2017-2018 Calendar of Events

Join River Legacy Living Science for a variety of family-friendly and adult-oriented workshops and events.

Ongoing activities include Animal Explorations on the first Saturday of every month; Nature Walks on second Saturdays; Story Times on third Saturdays; and adult workshops on fourth Saturdays. To RSVP for these programs, call 817.860.6752. Animal Feedings are held every Friday at 4:30 pm!

**August 31: Artini Hour**  
6-8 pm, River Legacy Living Science Center. Cost \$20 per person. Adults 21 & up only. Must RSVP.

**September-December: Ongoing Beginner Adult Yoga Classes.** 10 am – 11 am, River Legacy Living Science Center. Cost is \$10 per class. Class dates are Sep. 2; Sep. 16; Sep. 23; Sep. 30; Oct. 14; Oct. 21; Oct. 28; Nov. 4; Nov. 11; Nov. 18; Dec. 9; Dec. 16; Dec. 30.

**September 9: W.A.T.E.R. Festival - FREE**  
10 am – 2 pm, River Legacy Living Science Center

**September 11-15: 2017-2018 Nature School Classes begin** – Registration Available Now – Call 817.860.6752 or visit [www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org)

**September 12 & 19: After School Clubs begin** 2017-2018 session – Registration Available Now – Call 817.860.6752 or visit [www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org)

**September 13: Monthly Home School Science Classes** begin 2017-2018 sessions – Registration Available Now – Call 817.860.6752 or visit [www.riverlegacy.org](http://www.riverlegacy.org)

**September 14 North Texas Giving Day/ Arlington Gives! Concert**  
Donate online at [www.northtexasgivingday.org](http://www.northtexasgivingday.org) between 6 am and midnight

**September 28: Artini Hour**  
6-8 pm, River Legacy Living Science Center. Cost \$20 per person. Adults 21 & up only. Must RSVP.

**October 6-8: After Dark in the Park Family Fall Festival**  
River Legacy Parks & River Legacy Living Science Center. Family Fun Packs go on sale in mid-September. Gate admission is \$8 per person all ages 3 and up.

**October 21: EcoFest**  
Founders Plaza. Come visit River Legacy Living Science Center's booth.



**October 26: Artini Hour**  
6-8 pm, River Legacy Living Science Center. Cost \$20 per person. Adults 21 & up only. Must RSVP.

**November 10: A Night With Nature Fall Benefit Gala**  
7 pm – 10 pm, River Legacy Living Science Center (Request an invitation at [reply@riverlegacy.org](mailto:reply@riverlegacy.org))



**November 18: Artini Hour**  
5:30-7:30 pm, River Legacy Living Science Center. Cost \$20 per person. Adults 21 & up only. Must RSVP.

**November 23-24: Living Science Center closed for Thanksgiving holiday**

**December 2: Scout Badge Day**  
River Legacy Living Science Center. Call 817.860.6752 to register your scout group. \$15 per Scout/sibling.

**December 22-25: Living Science Center closed for Christmas holiday**

**January 1, 2018: Living Science Center closed for New Year's Day**

**February 17, 2018: Great Backyard Bird Count Festival – FREE**  
10 am – 2 pm, River Legacy Living Science Center



**March 12-16, 2018: Spring Break Week at River Legacy Living Science Center**  
Various daily activities

**May 28, 2018: Living Science Center closed for Memorial Day**