

RIVER LEGACY

RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION • RIVER LEGACY LIVING SCIENCE CENTER • RIVER LEGACY PARK

Newsletter vol. 27 • Summer 2019



NEW Traveling Exhibit COMING SOON!

Join us for **The Nature of Things,**
featuring **Bee-lieve It or Not!**
The Secret Lives of Honey Bees!

When we completed the transformation of River Legacy Living Science Center's Discovery Room last year, we had no idea what to expect. Thanks to you, the Discovery Room has been embraced by our families and guests. During its first summer season alone, River Legacy Living Science Center experienced an increase in visitors and that trend is likely to continue this year as well.

Now, because of your attendance and generosity, we are excited to announce River Legacy Living Science Center's first-ever traveling exhibit coming to the Discovery Room in November. This will be the first of a series of traveling exhibits rotating throughout the Discovery Room every year.

BEE sure to join us for, "The Nature of Things," featuring "Bee-lieve It or Not! The Secret Lives of Honey Bees!" Investigate the "Nature of Things" featuring "The Tooth Sleuth," "What's Bugging Belva" and "A Salamander's Tale." Learn what makes a honey bee a honey bee and discover how amphibians differ from reptiles.

Developed by the Purdue University Agriculture Exhibit Design Center, these family-oriented, interactive exhibits will open your eyes to the special role honey bees play in all our lives!

Play a video game and learn who is a pollinator. Uncover the differences between bees and wasps and learn about honey and beeswax.

Did you know that you can learn a lot about mammals just by looking at their teeth? Check out the Tooth Sleuth exhibit and search for the clues that reveal what animals eat. This mini exhibit includes animal skulls, including a tiny weasel and a polar bear.



Finally, go on an adventure with Belva at the "What's Bugging Belva" exhibit and learn that insects are beautiful, have cool features and serve important functions.



"The Nature of Things," featuring "Bee-lieve It Or Not!" will be featured in River Legacy Living Science Center's Discovery Room from Nov. 18, 2019 to Feb. 21, 2020. Admission to Discovery Room includes traveling exhibit.

Discovery Room members are invited to join us for a special VIP Preview of the traveling exhibit on Friday, Nov. 15th. To become a member and enjoy these special perks and more, call 817.860.6752 or visit www.riverlegacy.org to download a membership application.

Discover Our Membership Benefits!



Discovery Room Memberships offer some exciting benefits for our valued guests. From members-only events to unlimited Discovery Room visits, a membership offers easy access to exhibits, programs and activities all year long. This year, we are currently working with several of our community partners to augment your membership perks with discounts, freebies and more.

Your current benefits include:

- Pre-registration privileges
- Unlimited Discovery Room Visits
- Guest Passes
- Members-only after-hours animal experiences
- Gift Shop and partner discounts

In addition, members can take advantage of our second FREE-for-members All About Bats Night Hike program in August, and an exclusive VIP preview event of our upcoming traveling exhibit in November.

The All About Bats program for ages 12 and up on August 3 will feature live bats, specimens and a night hike using echolocation equipment to search for bats in River Legacy Park. Call 817.860.6752, ext. 102 to RSVP for this amazing program perk.

On November 15 from 6 to 8 pm, members will get an exclusive preview of our first-ever traveling exhibit, "The Nature of Things," featuring "Bee-Lieve it or Not, The Secret Lives of

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Member Preview of "The Nature of Things!"

An exclusive member preview on Friday, November 15th, 2019 from 6-8pm of our NEW traveling exhibit, "The Nature of Things," featuring "Bee-lieve It or Not! The Secret Lives of Honey Bees." You'll get to explore and play before the exhibit officially opens on November 18th and take home a BEE-utiful surprise! Look for invitation and information about registration coming soon.

RIVER LEGACY
DISCOVERY ROOM

www.riverlegacy.org



Directory

Officers:

Larry Fowler, President; Mark Warren, Vice President; Elizabeth Marks, Secretary; Mike Davis, Treasurer.

Directors:

Robert Blake, Keith Cargile, Dr. Marcelo Cavazos, Stephen Cavender, Susan Eaves, Stewart Garrison, Richard Greene, Carole Hoyer, Vince Hrabal, Pete Jamieson, Robert Kembel, Steven G. Martindale, Jerry McCullough, John Promise, Rezolia Roberson, Judy Rupy, Scott Slocum.

Staff:

Jill Hill, Executive Director; Jennifer Zamboni, Administrative Assistant/Registrar; Sherrie Ripple, Director of Education; Breanna Sayers, Volunteer Coordinator; Kristi Payne, Marketing/Media Manager; Shannon Porter, Event/Exhibit Manager; Becky Nussbaum Gerro, Fund Development Coordinator; Dr. Ellen Ravkind, Naturalist Supervisor; Jorge Garcia, Chad Etheridge, Anne Alderfer, Naturalists; Terry Carver, Ellis Elliott, Cindy Barry, Amy Johnson, Tiffany Dragun, Nature School Teachers; Angela Chadwick, Blake Kuppinger, Linda Dryden, Early Childhood Field Investigation Facilitators; Lisa McCaskey, Assistant; Mary Moreno, Assistant & Venue Coordinator.

Contributors:

Kristi Payne, Shannon Porter, Jill Hill, Becky Nussbaum Gerro, Sherrie Ripple, Breanna Sayers, Ellen Ravkind, Jorge Garcia

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Arno Knapen, Robert Blake, Ellen Ravkind

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Newsletter Volume 27, Summer 2019

Follow us on:



Message from the Executive Director



Discover River Legacy Living Science Center

Our amazing Discovery Room has been open for over a year and your response has been overwhelming! Without your generosity and support, our vision for this "state-of-the-art" exhibit space and venue would never have become a reality.

We are thrilled to announce that the Discovery Room will soon be home to an exciting new traveling exhibit series. "The Nature of Things," our inaugural traveling exhibit, features four modules. The first, "Bee-Lieve It or Not, the Secret Lives of Honey Bees!" showcases the importance of bees in our ecosystem.

These exhibits which feature a variety of interactive components bring fresh, dynamic content to our Discovery Room. They provide opportunities for guests to explore their environment and meet some of the most fascinating characters in nature. "The Nature of Things," will be on display from November 18, 2019 through February 21, 2020.

River Legacy is hosting a special exhibit sneak-peek for our Discovery Room members on Friday, November 15. If you would like to take advantage of this special member benefit, contact us to learn more about our membership opportunities. Memberships help us bring in exciting new content and keeps our exhibits new and dynamic!

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is seeing how our exhibits and educational programming inspire a sense of wonder and awe of nature. The scope, range and sheer quality of these programs would not be possible without YOU. Every time you visit, donate, volunteer, or invite a friend to River Legacy, you invest in our environment and inspire others to fall in love with nature.*

Your donations also help us spread the word about the amazing resources River Legacy has to offer. Reaching and growing more environmental stewards and leaders is always our mission. Enhancements like our new, colorful DISCOVER graphics in the parking lot increase our visibility and move us beyond "the best kept secret in Arlington."

Again, thank you for your continued support and passion for creating and cultivating a nature connection for so many children and families. We look forward to seeing you in the near future to share all the new things River Legacy has to offer!

Sincerely,

Jill Hill
Executive Director

**Online donations are gratefully accepted at www.riverlegacy.org or use the enclosed envelope to send your gifts today.*

Discover Our Membership Benefits!

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Honey Bees!" The preview event will include free food, activities and more. Mark your calendars now and watch your e-mail for additional event details. Of course, members also receive unlimited free access to the traveling exhibit during its entire stay from November 18, 2019 through February 21, 2020.

Your memberships help support our efforts to bring in more traveling exhibits like this one and to sustain and update our current interactive exhibits. It's not too late to become one of our valued Discovery Room Members.

If you need to renew your membership or join, just visit www.riverlegacy.org, and under the Visit Us tab, click on Membership Benefit Plans. Review the plans to find the level that best suits your needs, download the membership application and then bring to the Science Center's



gift shop. Memberships are valid for one year from date of purchase, so you can enjoy a year full of perks. In addition to current benefits, stay tuned as we continue to add more partner perks.

We look forward to having you join (or re-join) our valued Discovery Room Family!

RIVER LEGACY

Community Champions & All-Stars!

River Legacy Foundation launched a new initiative at our fundraising events this year of recognizing key sponsors, donors and leaders who have gone above and beyond in not only their support of River Legacy, but in the community as well.



Jenise Harris Cox and John Sutter receive the awards for Harris Packaging

At our 30th annual Cardboard Boat Regatta, sponsor **Harris Packaging** received the River Legacy Community Champion Award for their longtime support of the event, as well as their generosity in making it possible for many of our schools to participate by building and providing boat kits. Harris Packaging is a certified-women owned business led by second generation family members **Jana Harris** and **Jenise Harris Cox**. Longtime Regatta participant and champion **John Sutter** of Harris Packaging received the Community All-Star Award for his passion and dedication to the event. He is our boat-builder extraordinaire and provided a record 24 boat kits for our school participants this year. He didn't stop there though. After an out-of-state Summer Camp for burn victim survivors reached out to us about doing a Regatta for their campers, we put them in touch with John, who agreed to build and ship boat kits for their camp to make it easy for their campers to participate in a fun, engaging and educational adventure.

At our 10th annual Sporting Clay Shoot, **Chris Carroll**, owner of Family Restaurants which includes Spring Creek Barbeque, received the River Legacy Community Champion Award for his longtime gracious support of River Legacy Foundation as well as Arlington-area organizations and school groups. **Spring Creek Barbeque** has graciously donated lunch for the



Jill Hill presents the Community Champion Award to Chris Carroll

Clay Shoot for many years, provided food for our volunteers, and has sponsored our other fundraisers, including Cardboard Boat Regatta and After Dark in the Park. It is Spring Creek's philosophy to give back to its communities, and River Legacy Foundation is honored to be one of its grateful recipients. Spring Creek averages just over \$2.5 million per year in community giving.

Business leader **Stewart Garrison**, founder and owner of SPSPD, received the River Legacy Foundation Community All-Star award.



Jill Hill presents the Community All-Star Award to Stewart Garrison

Stewart was instrumental in helping the Foundation launch the Clay Shoot Fundraiser, has served as its chair for many years, and this year, relieved staff constraints by taking on the task of largely planning and organizing the Clay Shoot, which was attended by a record number of 220 participants. We couldn't do what we do without the help from our community volunteers, and Stewart is a true example of that.

Of course, River Legacy Foundation has numerous Community Champions and All-Stars. Because of YOU, we can connect children and families to nature and grow the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders. We are looking forward to recognizing all of our champions and all-stars with future events and awards. 

DISCOVER What's NEW at River Legacy!


After years of being Arlington's best-kept secret and lacking visibility from the street, we are taking a new branding approach that will encourage visitors to DISCOVER River Legacy Living Science Center!

In addition to our new "curb appeal" attraction and entryway arches, we have also added some fun and engaging directional signs that we hope will provide a more user-friendly experience for our guests as they discover and explore nature at the Science Center.

In order to accommodate the increase in Nature Center and River Legacy Park patrons, we are partnering with the City of Arlington and Tarrant County to build a new 45-space parking lot, which is expected to be complete by this fall. The new lot will be located just inside River Legacy Park's Northwest Green Oaks Boulevard entrance and will provide additional parking for the park as well as closer parking from the park to the entrance of River Legacy Living Science Center. Tarrant County will provide labor and equipment for the project while the City of Arlington will handle all permitting and inspections.

"We are very excited to be able to offer our Nature Center parents and visitors, as well as River Legacy Park patrons, a safe and convenient parking lot to be able to access the amenities of River Legacy Park as well as the educational offerings of the Science Center," says Executive Director Jill Hill.

"Of course, we are very saddened to see the loss of trees, but we have worked extensively with the contractors, the city and the county to take extreme measures in the design of this parking lot to preserve as many legacy trees as possible, as well as maintaining the woodland nature trails we use for field investigations, family nature hikes and educational programs," says Hill.

If you are discovering River Legacy Living Science Center for the first time, or re-discovering us, we welcome you to the Nature Center and to River Legacy Park to explore and connect with nature in a whole new way! 



What Do YOU Want To Be

WHEN You GROW Up?

Nature Education Nurtures Tomorrow's Leaders!

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Do you remember what you dreamed of being when you were a child? Our childhood aspirations are the stuff of which our dreams were made. When our curiosity is cultivated, and we are provided unique experiences, our opportunities to dream are endless.

Recently, River Legacy Nature School was spotlighted on Dream Builders, a show on MyArlingtonTV that highlights the ways our community is helping kids dream big, nurture creativity, polish skills and develop tools needed to achieve their American Dream as young adults.

With the unique experiences offered in River Legacy Living Science Center's programs, curiosity is not only nurtured, but also encouraged. The ability to learn and grow to a child's highest potential in their own unique experiential way is how children build their hopes and dreams. It's what our programs offer each and every day!

I remember an afternoon when one of our four-year-old classes walked down to the creek recently. A student noticed all the fungi that had grown since he was here last. He pointed out different colors and noticed

different types as they walked. His teachers mentioned that due to all the rain that we had lately, there was an abundance of fungi. Devin's interest was piqued and he said, "When I grow up, I want to be a mushroom farmer!" Through discovery learning, our students' curiosity is nurtured allowing them to dream BIG and love nature!

Our key initiative for all our educational programs is to educate the next generation of environmental stewards using the resources right here in our park! We offer a variety of classes for children as young as 3 years old, including **Nature School** which is a pre-K enrichment program offered for 30 weeks during the school year, **After School** and **Home School** programs for k-6th grade which meet once a month throughout the school year, weeklong **Summer Camps** during June and July for ages 3 to those entering 8th grade and **Field Investigations** for pre-k through 6th grade. All of our environmental education programs at River Legacy Living Science Center provide ways for children to explore their place in the natural world around them as well as serve to provide a hands-on, minds-on connection with nature. 



Educational Programs at River Legacy Living Science Center:

- Nature School – a preschool enrichment program for children ages 3 to 6, encourages a hands-on, minds-on exploration of our natural world.
- After-School Clubs – provide students in grades K-6th a unique experience of exploring the plants, animals and habitats of a riparian forest in the middle of the Metroplex.
- Home School Science Classes – enrich home studies with hands-on interactive science experiences.
- Summer at the Science Center – Summer Classes offer an interactive, engaging way to learn about wildlife, ecology and the environment for children Pre-K to 8th grade.
- Field Investigations – an authentic (TEKS-correlated) experience in nature for Pre-K through 6th grade school children where they safely explore the plant and animal life of River Legacy Park.

For more information about any of these programs, visit our web site at www.riverlegacy.org or please contact registrar Jennifer Zamboni at jennifer@riverlegacy.org or 817.860.6752, ext. 102.


Where Are They Now

CARSON SALTER

Carson Salter has many fond memories of his preschool days as a student in Nature School and Summer Camp at River Legacy Living Science Center. Some of those memories include learning about the different types of animal scat and searching the woods for scat and signs of animals, and dip netting for tadpoles in the lily-pod pond for curious examination. He also recalls spending many of his own hours exploring the woods, trails and trees of River Legacy Park.

Today, he is studying forestry and fire management at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. "My time at River Legacy instilled a deep love of nature that stuck with me throughout my development and into early adulthood," says Carson. "I still find solace in the solitude of the trees and look for patterns in life that exist all around us."

Carson attributes his conservation pathway and love of trees to his early time at River Legacy. "My philosophy centers around the idea that we are all connected... with dirt, rocks, trees, bugs, living things and all breathing together. I believe conservation is not only essential for the health of the earth, but essential for the human race as well."

He feels that one of the biggest mistakes made in education today is the limited availability of environmental education, and he strongly encourages parents to enroll children in environmental education programs such as what River Legacy has to offer. "They are the future of human thought and will control the fate of our Earth for better or for worse," Carson says. 



Making tracks to you with our Wildlife Outreach Programs

Can't bring your group to us?

Then let us come to you.



Our highly qualified naturalists will bring conservation to life for your students, guests or youth groups. Wildlife Outreach programs are designed to educate and entertain your guests with live animal ambassadors and engaging presentations.

A live animal outreach program is approximately 45 minutes long and will focus mainly on Native Texas species, the difference between reptiles and amphibians or amazing adaptations and survival techniques of predator and prey. These programs can include Texas wildlife as well as exotic species and domestic animals. We provide an interesting and educational program that may include some "hands-on" opportunities for the audience. Specific program content, including animals presented and topics discussed can be individually tailored to the audience. We bring animals and education to schools, scout groups, church groups, civic organizations, libraries and senior facilities.

The fee for a Wildlife Outreach Program starts at \$200 and is now available to be scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year. For more information, visit www.riverlegacy.org or contact Shannon Porter at 817.860.6752, ext. 119 or shannon@riverlegacy.org. 🦋



The Many Benefits of Native Plants!



River Legacy Living Science Center is honored to be partnering with The Native Plant Society of Texas to help us restore, maintain, and beautify our grounds using native plants. Member Josephine Keeney and her crew come once a month to plant and maintain beds around the Science Center and pond. If you are a regular visitor, you have probably seen the beautiful wildflowers along our pond.

Did you know that you can also add or convert your yard into a "native plant yard?" There are many benefits to incorporating native plants into your landscape, especially during the long, hot and dry Texas summers!

Why use native plants? They tend to be more tolerant of the climate and water availability for a particular area. Texas is considered to be home to about 5,000 native plants! Once established, these plants require little maintenance and are more drought tolerant than non-natives allowing the conservation of this precious resource. Just think, lower water bills!

Saving money is not the only benefit from having a native plant yard. Local wildlife is well adapted to them as food sources for seeds, nuts, fruit, and even eating the plant itself. Animals use them for shelters and habitats. Native plants support local pollinators who are vital for our food production. These plants are representatives of our regional biodiversity and preserve our history.

Where do we find them? How do I know what plant to put in the sun or in a shady or wet area? These questions and more can be answered by the Native Plant Society of Texas (npsot.org). Their mission is to "promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example."

There will be even more beautiful beds in the months to come at the Science Center. Keep your eyes open and come back to visit often to see the variety! 🦋



Weather or Not, FUNdraisers

Feature Fun for All Ages!

Braving the cold or weathering the storms called for an extra dose of flexibility and patience for our first two fundraisers this year. Our 30th annual Cardboard Boat Regatta and our 10th annual Sporting Clay Tournament earlier this year were successful despite our weather challenges; And we are looking forward to mixing it up with our NEW River Legacy Foundation Fall Festival & A Night With Nature in the fall. These four special events throughout the year provide much-needed monetary contributions for River Legacy Foundation's environmental education programs, while also providing a unique and fun community experience. Of course, each event is only successful thanks to our corporate sponsors, donors, participants, and YOU!

30th annual Cardboard Boat Regatta – April 13

For the first time in the history of the Cardboard Boat Regatta, we had to cancel and reschedule the event due to weather. However, we want to thank our sponsors and participants for their flexibility and understanding, as we came back the next day and had a beautiful day of boat racing on Sunday! More than 160 boats were registered to participate and as always there were some pretty spectacular ships designed and built completely out of cardboard – some seaworthy and others, not so much! A very special thanks to **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** for donating the use of the venue (for 2 days!) and for managing the concessions, and to the **Arlington Parks and Recreation Department** for providing our water safety and race results. Sponsor **Harris Packaging** was awarded River Legacy Foundation's Community Champion award for their longstanding support of Regatta; and employee **John Sutter** received the All-Star Award for going above and beyond by building a record number of boat kits for our school participants. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, and despite the weather, this year's Regatta netted almost \$36,000 for the Foundation's programs.



COMING UP:

NEW River Legacy Foundation Fall Festival October 12 & 13 – 11am - 9pm

This NEW event combines the best of River Legacy's signature fundraising event, After Dark in the Park, with the City of Arlington's annual Eco-Fest for a unique family fall festival focusing on nature and conservation.

Families will enjoy some of their favorite activities from both events, such as animal explorations, face painting, storytelling, hayrides and MORE with a mix of NEW games, demonstrations, and vendors for a one-of-a-kind fall festival. The event offers two full days of fun from 11 am to 9 pm, Oct. 12 and Oct. 13 at River Legacy Park and River Legacy Living Science Center. Admission to the River Legacy Fall Festival will be \$8 for all ages 3 and up, with more than

Stay tuned to www.riverlegacy.org for news, updates and new activities planned, and be sure to fall into nature at River Legacy Foundation's Fall Festival!



30 FREE activities will be included with admission. Special discount ticket packages will go on sale in September. Thanks to a special partnership with Shoes for Heart, guests can drop off new or gently worn shoes at admissions to receive a free activity coupon. Shoes for Heart then recycles the shoes to benefit micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries.

This new fall festival format will cater to a wider audience of all ages by offering a variety of day and evening activities and entertainment. Groups, organizations and businesses with environmental initiatives will also be recognized during the event.

Interested sponsors, vendors and participants should contact Shannon Porter, River Legacy Foundation Event/ Exhibit Manager, for more information at 817.860.6752, ext. 119 or via e-mail at shannon@riverlegacy.org.

10th annual Sporting Clay Shoot – May 10

A record number of 220 participants braved an unusually chilly Spring day and joined us at our NEW venue for a day of camaraderie and friendly competition during the 10th Annual Sporting Clay Shoot Fundraiser at Defender Outdoors Sporting Clay Ranch in Fort Worth. **Celebrity emcee Scott Murray** helped us enjoy a day of shooting sports, fellowship and fun to support environmental education programs at River Legacy! **Chris Carroll** of Spring Creek Barbeque was awarded the River Legacy Community Champion Award for his longstanding support of River Legacy Foundation and the Clay Shoot through Spring Creek's very delicious catering of the event as well as Chris Carroll's generous sponsorship and support of River Legacy's events. To check out event pictures and results, visit 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!



8th Annual A Night With Nature – November 8

Where else can you eat a bug (optional) and brag about it while enjoying an entertaining evening under the stars of River Legacy? S'mores by the fire, live music, stargazing, live animal encounters & food and drinks are all features of the 8th annual A Night With Nature on Friday, November 8. Guests will enjoy a light dinner buffet, fine wine, Deep Eddy Vodka specialty drinks and craft beer. A silent auction will include a variety of fabulous gifts, prizes and vacations for our most generous highest bidders – and again this year, guests can bid straight from their mobile phones whether at home or at the event. Thanks to last year's generous attendees, sponsors and donors, \$55,000 was raised

to help us sustain our new exhibits and bring in traveling exhibits. So be sure to join us and our NEW event hosts, **Ben and Jenny Bowers**, for a fantastic fall evening! To request your invitation, e-mail reply@riverlegacy.org or call 817.860.6752, ext. 107.



For more information on how to support River Legacy through these events, call Becky Nussbaum Gerro at 817.860.6762, ext. 120 or e-mail her at becky@riverlegacy.org or Shannon Porter at 817.860.6752, ext. 119 or e-mail her at shannon@riverlegacy.org.

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 Breanna Sayers at 817.860.6752, ext. 109 or e-mail her at breanna@riverlegacy.org.

Be sure to visit and support our 2018-2019 Event Sponsors:



Pratt Industries | Browning Seed, Inc. | Hello Nature | May Financial Solutions | Archer Western Construction | Martin Sprocket and Gear | The Thompson Group @ Classic Chevrolet | Bit By Bit Computer Consultants | Horizon Plumbing | Jerry & Becky McCullough | Republic Services | Steve Martindale | Affiliated Bank | American Landscape Systems | Don Duke | Sedalco | Frazier Roofs & Gutters | Terracon Consultants | Cody Pools | Frost Bank | Pope, Hardwicke, Christie, Schell, Kelly & Taplett, LLP | Chad Carlson/Magnolia Realty | Green's Produce | Barbara and Rai Mehta | Prince Lebanese Grill | Andy and Linda Broadus | Broadus Services | AXA Advisors – Jason Jones & Mark Seebeck | Al & Laura DiStefano | Lee & Leslie Friedman/The Redfish Studio | Kendall & Tim Lake | Debby Pond | Jill Rorschach | Stephen Zimmer | Navy Federal Credit Union | Arlington Rotary Club | In-N-Out Burger | Price Right Landscaping + Funtime Dinnertime Boxes | Deep Eddy Vodka | Lost Oak Winery | Nothing Bundt Cakes North | Van Country



Viridian is the Natural Choice for Many

One of the nation's top-selling master-planned communities, Viridian is a popular choice for home buyers seeking a prime location, quality schools and impressive amenities.

But the reason most often cited by residents for moving to Viridian is the chance to connect with nature.

Viridian offers more than 900 acres of open space and lakes and 150 acres of wooded nature. More than a dozen parks interspersed throughout Viridian mean residents are just a few minutes from recreational space no matter where they live in the community. The themed outdoor areas cater to a wide variety of interests, from letting dogs play leash-free at Arrowhead Dog Park to digging for dinosaur "bones" at Fossil Park, a tribute to the actual dinosaur excavation site located in Viridian.

Miles of trails also stretch through Viridian, and when resident outdoor enthusiasts want to extend their jog or bike ride, they can do so on pathways in River Legacy Park, which connects with Viridian's trail system.

"We moved here because we love to walk all the time and ride our bikes," said resident Ann Maryak. "Viridian gives us the best and safest place to do that. Even before all the trails were in the community, we still had 14 miles of trails to explore at River Legacy."

The 200-acre Lake Viridian offers even more outdoor fun. Residents can launch their own canoe or kayak along the shore or simply bird watch or toss in a line for relaxing catch-and-release fishing. The Viridian Sailing Center, opened in 2016, has a fleet of small sailboats and paddleboards. Passes are available to residents and the general public, although residents do receive preferential rates. The center hosts sailing courses, camps and a number of social activities.

And it is not just residents wowed by Viridian's natural splendor. The community is one of the only master-planned communities in Texas designed to meet Audubon International Gold Signature Standards and has been named a Certified Gold Signature Sanctuary by Audubon International.

Home prices in the community start in the \$260,000s. Learn more at www.viridiandfw.com.



Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital - Arlington Continues Annual Partnership with River Legacy Living Science Center

Back for a fourth year, Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital - Arlington is proud to be one of River Legacy Living Science Center's Annual Partners and supporters of its recent expansion project. The hospital has generously supported River Legacy's community festivals and events by providing guests with goody bags.

"We're so appreciative of Baylor Scott & White Arlington's ongoing support," said Becky Nussbaum, Fund Development Coordinator at River Legacy Living Science Center. "Our environmental education and recreation initiatives wouldn't be possible without their partnership. We look forward to continuing to grow the next generation of environmental stewards through Baylor Scott & White Arlington's generous community giving."

"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 Scott & White Arlington. "River Legacy is a fantastic resource for our community, both from an educational and recreational standpoint. We look forward to another great year with River Legacy."

In addition to River Legacy Living Science Center, Baylor Scott & White Arlington's community support programs include the Levitt Pavilion, The LOT Mansfield, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club of Arlington, Arlington Urban Ministries, YoungLife and UTA Athletics.

Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital - 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 boutique-style facility offers 10 operating rooms, a full-service ER, complete diagnostic imaging capabilities, and a Pain Management Center. Visit www.bswarlington.com for a full list of physicians, services and to schedule an appointment.



SA-SO Signs and Safety Products Protect People and the Environment

SA-SO Signs and Safety provides products to protect people and the environment. It is proud to partner with River Legacy to spread the word about simple ways we can work together to keep our water system clean.

To protect lakes and rivers from pollutants, we must protect storm drains. They are designed to handle storm water runoff, which is rain that falls on buildings and paved areas. Water that is not absorbed into the ground ends up in our storm drains. This water goes directly to rivers, lakes and ponds. It is not treated.

It's very important that only rain goes down the drain. Anything other than rain that goes down storm drains pollutes our drinking water and can cause harm to public health and wildlife.

Leaves, grass clippings and trash that build up along curbs and storm drains all contain phosphorus. Too much phosphorus in a lake causes algae blooms and reduces oxygen in the water. The result is summer algae blooms that harm wildlife and make our drinking water more difficult to purify.


SA-SO appreciates River Legacy's message of environmental stewardship. SA-SO's Storm Drain Markers are an excellent way to educate the public on how to keep our cities clean and promote community beautification. Applying these signs to storm drains in your area makes a great Boy Scout Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Golden Project.

Go to SA-SO.com to learn more about these and other signs and safety products.



Storm Drain Marker

Volunteer Party

We appreciate our volunteers so much and enjoyed celebrating YOU at the volunteer party in May. You help us create the next generation of environmental stewards with your service. All of you are so incredibly important to the River Legacy family, and we are so happy that our family keeps getting bigger. Since January 2019, we have had 387 volunteers help with River Legacy events. Those 387 volunteers have donated 2,289 hours, or 95 days of their time. Thank you all so much for your vital role in helping families, children and students connect with nature! 



Naturalist Corner:

A Special River Legacy Inhabitant Returns Later This Year

By Jorge Garcia

Exploring the woods at River Legacy Park is a thrilling experience any time during the year. However, it becomes even more extraordinary in early fall when a very peculiar organism starts popping up. River Legacy is home to a very distinct fungus called the Devil's Cigar (*Chorioactis geaster*), also known as the Texas star fungus.

The only member of the genus *Chorioactis*, this species was first discovered in Texas in the 1890's and has a very intriguing distribution.

Currently, it can only be found near the Austin area and in North Texas, where it has been found in all 4 major counties of the Metroplex. There is only one other place in the world where it can also be found: Japan. Mycologists, scientists who study fungi, have been able to determine that both the Texas and Japan populations have been separated for about 19 million years. This means that they could not have possibly spread by the actions of people. Though research is still ongoing, one theory suggests that spores could have traveled from Asia across the Pacific in dust clouds that occasionally settle in North America from that region.


The fungus looks like a cigar, hence the name, when it has not opened to release its spores. Once it does, it looks like a cigar that has exploded. It starts to appear typically around October. Usually, one has to wait until the first rain (or freeze, sometimes) of fall in order to search for the fruiting body, which is the part of a fungus that is visible. This fungus likes to grow on stumps or dead roots of cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) or Japanese saphireberry (*Symplocos myrtacea*), a non-native species.



One of the most interesting characteristics of this fungus is the hissing sound it makes when it opens up to release its spores in the form of a smoking cloud (again, resembling the smoking of a cigar). This happens a few weeks after the fruiting body emerges. Once open, the fungus resembles a star with roughly 5 or 6 arms.

Later this year, once it gets cooler, we strongly encourage guests to explore the trails at River Legacy Park to look for the Devil's Cigar. If you can't find it, you can always visit River Legacy

Living Science Center's Discovery Room featuring a devil's cigar exhibit where the hissing sound can be heard!

As good environmental stewards, it is imperative that we do not collect this fungus. Though the species is not in decline, it does have a very limited range and that can pose a potential danger, should it start to be damaged or collected in large numbers. This fungus belongs in nature, and it is just one of the many things that make River Legacy such a special place to visit! 



GET UP & GIVE

Join the Movement:

North Texas Giving Day is September 19!

This year, on Thursday, September 19, 2019, River Legacy Foundation is once again participating in Communities Foundation of Texas' 11th annual North Texas Giving Day, the largest community-wide giving event in the nation.

Last year, we were part of the success as Communities Foundation of Texas brought together 2,700 local nonprofits like us to raise \$48 million for our region, bringing the 10-year total to over \$240 million for our community. Thanks to your generosity that day, River Legacy Foundation received more than \$21,500 in donations, matching grants and prizes!

Help us meet and exceed our Matching Challenge Grant again this year and donate to River Legacy Foundation on September 19 from 6 am to midnight via www.northtexasgivingday.org/river-legacy-foundation.

HERE'S HOW:

1. Get up and give on September 19th!

Your gift matters! On September 19th if you donate to River Legacy Foundation online at www.northtexasgivingday.org/river-legacy-foundation between 6am and midnight your dollar will be stretched with our own matching grant as well as bonus funds and prizes raised by Communities Foundation of Texas! Gifts can also be made via check or in person. Those gifts will be eligible for our matching grant but not for bonus funds or prizes.

2. Schedule Your Gift!

Not available on September 19? No worries! Schedule your donation at www.northtexasgivingday.org/river-legacy-foundation between September 9 and September 18 and make your gift count!

3. Create a FUNdraising Page!

Become an ambassador for River Legacy Foundation by creating your own FUNdraising page to share with your network. Our impact is greater when we give together! It's easy! Beginning August 16, visit www.northtexasgivingday.org and click on the Create A FUNdraising page link. Create an account and fill out your campaign details, then share your story, passion and excitement with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues!

4. Join us for the Arlington Gives! Concert & VOTE!

Vote for River Legacy Foundation for the People's Choice Award (to help us win a \$10,000 bonus grant!) and enjoy free music and more during the Arlington Gives! Concert presented by the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation at Levitt Pavilion. The fun begins at 6:30 pm on Sept. 19 with food trucks and donation stations; program and concert begin at 7:30 pm.

5. Follow us & Spread the word!

Follow us on [Facebook.com/riverlegacyparks](https://www.facebook.com/riverlegacyparks) or [Twitter.com/risciencecenter](https://twitter.com/risciencecenter) to stay up to date on North Texas Giving Day! Spread the word to your friends and loved ones about River Legacy Foundation and North Texas Giving Day! Don't forget to tag [@RiverLegacyParks](https://twitter.com/RiverLegacyParks) and [#NTxGivingDay](https://twitter.com/NTxGivingDay) if you're posting online! Encourage your friends and family to get up and give as well! Communities Foundation of Texas is even offering a prize for the social media post that's shared the most!

For more information on North Texas Giving Day, visit NorthTexasGivingDay.org! For more information on how you can help River Legacy Foundation on North Texas Giving Day, September 19, please reach out to Becky Nussbaum Gerro at becky@riverlegacy.org or Kristi Payne at kristi@riverlegacy.org.

Thank you for joining River Legacy Foundation in the North Texas Giving Day regional giving experience! We couldn't do it without YOU!

#NTxGivingDay 9.19.19

THANK YOU to our Donors

June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019

\$5,000 and above

Anonymous Fund at the North Texas Community Foundation
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\$1,000-\$1,999

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 Network for Good In Honor of Debbie Vernon
 Roger and Ginny Zwicker In Honor of Debbie Vernon
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Honorariums

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 Amy Jackson In Honor of Diane Powell
 Betty Susini In Honor of The Chadwick Family
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 Fred and Louann Schulze In Honor of Becky Nussbaum
 Kim Ritchie In Honor of Jill Hill
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 Richard and Sylvia Greene In Honor of Leslie Friedman
 Robert and Josephine Briggs In Honor of The Sontag Twins Birthday
 TCCR Holdings, Ltd. In honor of Mr. and Mrs. David Moritz

Memorials

Becky Nussbaum In Memory of Betty Goodknight
 Dave and Laura Munson In Memory of Betty Goodknight
 Debbie Vernon In Memory of James McUsic
 Gena Reynolds-Street In Memory of Henri
 Kermit and Joyce Olson In Memory of Toni Olson
 Richard and Sylvia Greene In Memory of Bob Hazlett
 Vince Merola In Memory of Jeane Merola

Grants

Adeline and George McQueen Foundation
 Communities Foundation of Texas
 Helen Littauer Educational Trust
 Honey B Foundation, A Hive of Grace Fund at the North Texas Community Foundation
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Community Rewards Program:

River Legacy Foundation and River Legacy Living Science Center can benefit from your everyday purchases. 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 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. Just link that number to your individual Loyalty account and your purchases will benefit River Legacy Foundation. Visit www.tomthumb.com/yourstore/good-neighbor.html to download the registration form to link the accounts.

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...

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.



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



Newsletter Volume 27. Summer 2019

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NEW SPEAKER SERIES offers informative networking opportunities!

The River Legacy Speaker Series is held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. This new event and fundraiser allows business and community leaders a chance to gather at River Legacy's Nature Center to network, share information and engage in lively discussions on current business topics and practices. Corey Callaway of Callaway Financial Services and Robert Blake of BITbyBIT Computer Consultants co-host this entertaining and educational event. Topics include: Marketing Your Business; How to Get Published; Cyber Security; Funding a College Education and much more.

Join us for our upcoming speaker series and topics:

- August 20 – "Slayin' Your Lane," featuring Jocelyn Hobby, Pastor Rezolia Johnson and Becky Nussbaum Gerro.
- September 17, "5 Secrets to Make College More Affordable," featuring Tonji Lewis of Class 101 College Planning.

Join us for the Speaker Series. To reserve your spot, call Jennifer at 817.860.6752, ext. 102. Suggested \$20 donation to River Legacy Foundation. If you would like to be a speaker or part of a panel, please contact Becky Nussbaum Gerro at becky@riverlegacy.org or 817.860.6752, ext. 120.

