



## VOLUNTEER VOICE

A Newsletter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

FALL 2011

Volunteer Voice is a semi-annual e-newsletter for volunteers of the Wildflower Center. It includes upcoming volunteer opportunities, events and news. To learn more about Volunteer Voice **contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102.**

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### Volunteer Dinner and Awards

**Thursday, November 3**

We're really looking forward to celebrating all your work over the past year. Mark your calendars for dinner and our recognition party: Thursday, November 3, 5 to 8 p.m. **RSVP to the reception desk at 512.232.0200.** Note that our old 292 phone numbers no longer forward, but our extensions are the same. Just dial 232-0+extension.

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### Help Raise FUN & Funds

**Get your crafty caps on**

We've had so many of you come forward with great fundraising ideas, I wanted to see if two or three of you might be interested in helping with one recently mentioned to me. The thought was that so many of you are painters, knitters, bakers and crafty in so many ways, you might like donating some of your handiwork for sale with proceeds going to the Center. This could happen as part of the Volunteer dinner in November, just in time for a little holiday shopping! Let me know if helping get this together sounds up your alley.



**Contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102.**

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### Austin Museum Day with Women in Science Program

On Sunday, September 25, help out with a free city-wide celebration of Austin's museums. We'll be free to the public and offering the Women in Science program in the Visitors Gallery, from 2 to 4 p.m. along with drop-in tours before lunch.

**Contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102 to sign up, or contact Laurel, [ltrevino@wildflower.org](mailto:ltrevino@wildflower.org) if you have any programming questions. [Try our new online sign up.](#)**

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## New Volunteer Representative to the Advisory Council

### Voice of Smarty Plants adds another role

I'm pleased to announce that Barbara Medford, will serve as the new volunteer representative to the Advisory Council for the 2011-12 term. We had excellent candidates and thank those who came forward for their time and interest.

Like so many of our volunteers, Barbara—of Smarty Plants fame—has a varied and interesting personal history. In addition to her impressive list of nonprofit and board experience in both education and horticultural organizations, she has been self-employed, managed an accounting firm and did public relations for Rocketdyne.

Barbara poured herself into Wildflower Center activities beginning in 2005 after her retirement, during the sickness and eventual passing of her spouse. She became a docent in 2006 and since has given more than 4,200 hours of service to our mission, surely the quickest to achieve this milestone in the Center's history, joining an elite group of only five other volunteers. Her volunteer contributions include service in the following areas: plant nursery, Bexar County Herbarium data entry, Botanic Garden database, [Mr. Smarty Plants](#), seed bank, preparing spreadsheets for Membership, plant sales, greeter at special events, public relations activities such as twice-monthly talks on [Wildflower Hour](#) radio, appearances on Central Texas Gardener TV, [Pollinators Live](#), garden tours, and teaching a class at SAGE at the University of Texas at Austin.

Barbara replaces Karen Hayward who has rotated off after her second term. It goes without saying that Karen has created a great model for future volunteer representatives to follow with her enthusiasm and gracious ability to inform the council about the many volunteer highlights and to keep her finger on the pulse of our growing and diverse volunteer corps. Fortunately, Karen will continue in her role as active volunteer, for which we are all very grateful.

**If you have comments, thoughts or concerns you'd like Barbara to pass along to our Advisory Council, email Barbara, [bmedford707@yahoo.com](mailto:bmedford707@yahoo.com).**



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## Fall Vegetation Survey

**Training begins Wednesday, October 5**

**Surveys begin Tuesday, October 18**

Want a fun way to learn the native grasses and wildflowers of Central Texas? We are training volunteers to help in our on-site land management studies, where plots are burned or mowed at different times of the year to examine the effects on plant communities.

Every experience level is welcome, so do not be timid. The surveys will be conducted in small teams, with staff members nearby at all times. New participants in the surveys will attend one four-hour training

class and commit to work at least two four-hour field sessions. Training is optional for those of you who have volunteered in the past.

Training sessions are available October 5, 6, 7, and 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Surveys will begin on Tuesday, October 18, and continue Tuesdays through Saturdays until completed, usually about two to three weeks. Morning (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) and afternoon (2 - 6 p.m.) shifts are available each day.

**Note: The vegetation survey could be cancelled if we have not had sufficient rain by survey time.** We will notify participants one week in advance if surveys are cancelled. For more information, contact Michelle Bertelsen at [mbertelsen@wildflower.org](mailto:mbertelsen@wildflower.org), 512-232-0171.

[Try our new online sign up.](#)

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## Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 14-16

The shifts will be Friday 12:30 to 4 p.m. and 3:45 to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Tables and tents need setting up, plants moved and tagged, tickets written, plant advice given, plants sold, volunteers fed, visitors greeted, and children helped to make ecopots, etc. SO much to do and I know you all have your favorite job and shift.

Contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102. [Try our new online sign up.](#) (This will be the first time for plant sale sign up to be online, so we'll see how it goes!)



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## Gift Store Help

We need more volunteers to work in the store on a regular basis, preferably once a week or once every other week. Because our volunteers really run the show we provide product and technical training (cash register etc.).

Contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102.

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## Goblins in the Garden Sunday, October 30

Helping with Goblins is a great way to celebrate Halloween the Wildflower Center way. We will need your help working with families during the event, as well as a little bit of preparation prior to the event.

Contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102 for Goblins. [Try our new online sign up.](#)



## Mark Your Calendars!

### 21st Annual Wild Ideas Shopping Event

Free admission, special discounts each day, Artists & Artisans weekend (Saturday/Sunday) special guests and activities December 2, 3 and 4.

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## Luminations

**Saturday and Sunday, December 10-11**

Mark your calendars for December 10 and 11, as we'll need lots of help. Join us for youth and adult crafting activities each of the two glorious nights. A wonderful time to celebrate the holidays and support our local communities. We're also looking for a volunteer duo to coordinate the Tree Display during Luminations.

Sign up in the Volunteer room or contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102. [Try our new online sign up.](#)



## Big Thanks

**Café doors receive much needed makeover**

We have placed the second set of refurbished doors on the Wildflower Café and they look fantastic. Volunteers Denton and Karen Langridge and Jim and Renee Sternadel worked their magic and managed to save the doors. Please join me in thanking them for working in 106 degree weather in the pole barn to complete the project. The doors truly look wonderful. It is a testament to their dedication to the Center. They also saved the Center over \$4000 for that one set of doors and we are truly appreciative.



## Docent Training

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 24 through February 9, 2012, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Docent training is a two-part learning program that combines three weeks (30 hours) of classroom and field study with 26 hours of practical experience geared toward interpreting the Center with service in one of five areas: our Visitors Gallery, our children's Little House, giving tours to our adult group visitors, hosting stations during school group visits, giving presentations or tabling at events out in the community.

Contact Carrie, [cmcdonald@wildflower.org](mailto:cmcdonald@wildflower.org), 512.232.0102.

[The docent application is here.](#)

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## In Memory

**Fred Webster, September 21, 1915 to July 16, 2011**

Many of you knew and worked alongside Fred Webster and have shared wonderful stories since his passing this summer. We certainly were fortunate to have had him among our ranks.



Get on the inside track with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

