MISSION
To restore and preserve the Eastern Cross Timbers ecosystem through environmental leadership, education, and compatible outdoor activities.

VALUES
Educate, Conserve, Preserve

FOCUS
The Bob Jones Nature Center (BJ NC) is a public facility owned by the City of Southlake and managed by the Bob Jones Nature Center Organization (BJNCO), a nonprofit 501c3 organization. With access to over 750 acres of Cross Timbers ecosystem, the nature center plays a valuable role in the preservation and conservation of this important resource.

The BJ NC offers a wide variety of classes and activities focused on exploring our natural environment. Admission into the Nature Center and Preserve is free for all ages.

OUR GOALS
- Become a trusted environmental expert for the community
- Provide quality educational programs
- Create a robust, well trained volunteer workforce
- Develop and grow a sustainable funding base
Every child is born a naturalist. His eyes are, by nature, open to the glories of the stars, the beauty of the flowers, and the mystery of life.”

—R. Search
2017 STAFF
Lori Higgins, Executive Director
Dan Friedman, Education Programs Coordinator
Tracy Garcia/Sandra McIntosh, Community Relations Coordinators
Bonita Herron, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Emily Asbury, Operations Specialist

Education
Robin Swindle
Cecelia LaFavers
Rusty Pafford

Seasonal Educators
Lori Hicks
Emalee Martin
Julia Kelley
Torie Bonty
Brooke Dowd
Kelli White
Cameron Klein

Operations Support/Interns
Sophia Pfarrer
Sullivan Perkins
Camille Krumwiede

Volunteer Research & Conservation Team
Jan LaPine
Mark Byrd
Clair Johnson
Andrea Marshall
Carol Dowd & Renie Strickland Team

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Cross Timbers Forest Preschool has doubled its size, offering 5 classes 4 days per week.
- Successful year of BJNC's summer day camp serving 237 youth between 3-14 years over 9 weeks of summer.
- Introduced Tweens Summer “Wilderness Survival” workshops that proved popular during the later weeks of summer serving almost 30 youth.
- Enhancements to Home Away from Homeschool program with field trips to other wildlife and cultural centers in the region.

“In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks.” — John Muir

In every endeavor made by Bob Jones Nature Center, we have received far more benefits than we could have ever envisioned. Even in times of stress, unbelievable amounts of generosity, kindness and beauty found their way to our 758 acres of wilderness.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the supporters of Bob Jones Nature Center for all they have done to make BJNC thrive. We appreciate the generous support of the community at large, and we especially appreciate the ongoing support of the Southlake City Council.

Cross Timbers Forest Preschool and Home Away From Home School enrollment enjoyed an increase. We added more classes and additional instruction. Due to BJNC classes, more children will reap the benefits of natural environments – from improved test scores and GPAs to increased creativity and problem solving skills, their time at BJNC will leave a lasting impact on their academic careers for years to come.

The BJNC grounds were enhanced thanks to the kindness of numerous volunteers from across the Metroplex. Mark Byrd of Our Bluebird Trails led a bluebird house workshop for Boy and Girl Scout troops. Mr. Byrd and the Scouts built professional-quality birdhouses, installed a video bird watch system and traded out the old birdhouses along the Bluebird Trail for the newly-built ones.
YEAR IN REVIEW

ACTIVITIES
- Introduced Glow in the Dark Night Hike.
- Seasonal Lecture Series:
  - Birds of Spring by Jane LaPine and Donna Berry
  - Fall Pollinator Paradise with Andrea Marshall
  - Wintering Birds with Dr. Ray Chancellor
  - Careers in Sustainability with Dr. Jill DeVito
- Storytime & Scavenger Hunt in partnership with Southlake Library and Stacy Wells
- Provided annual Junior Naturalist Spring Break Camp.
- Seasonal community open house opportunities to learn more about BJNC.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Bioblitz Nature Center listed as a site for pollinator photos.
- Hosted Lulu Lemon’s employee recognition event.
- REI’s site Wildemess First Aid Training hosted over 100 guests from several states.
- In partnership with the City of Southlake “Live Fit,” facilitated a guided hike experience.
- Hosted the Southlake Garden Club and Native Plant Society of Texas’s Native Landscape Certification Classes.

OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- Installation of new pavilion replacing the tent structure.
- Implementation of Volgistics, a logistic system utilized for volunteer management.
- Hosted HGTV Filming of a pilot project on our grounds.
- Partnered with City of Southlake to redesign and update our trail map.
- Redesigned the exhibit space of BJNC with enhanced colors and display shelves courtesy of Eli Huhem’s Eagle Scout project.
- Staff attended the City of Southlake’s Customer Service Training program.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The Monarch Butterfly Festival (MBF) is an annual event held each year at BJ NC on the third Saturday in September with the Perennial Garden Society of Southlake (PGS). The third annual Monarch Butterfly Festival was held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 9:00-11:00 am. In only three short years, the number of attendees has grown from 50 to 500 to well over 1,000.

Snapshot of 2017 Monarch Festival Activities
- Monarch butterfly release led by Perennial Garden Society of Southlake
- Butterfly costume parade
- Wildflower seed bomb toss
- Butterfly crafts with Arts on the Go mobile fine arts studio
- Bughouse craft by The Home Depot
- Face painting by Sisterhood Creations
- Event photography by Michael Hogan
- Photo booth by photographer Farah Janjua
- Interactive Migration Science Station led by educator Dinah Chancellor
- Monarch Watch, tagging and citizen scientists information presented by Naturalist Jenny McLane
- Food trucks and merchandise for sale during the festival

If you’d like to join us at this fun, fall festival or learn more about the various ways you can support this exciting, educational day for the community, please contact BJ NC.
FUNDRAISING

- Naturally Sweet was rebranded as the “BJ NC Annual Fundraiser” and the date was changed to February 2018.
- Monarch Butterfly Festival restructured to raise funds for BJNC.
- Awarded grant funds from TIAA (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association) in honor of their centennial year in business and a desire to give back to the community in an impactful way.
- Outreach
  - Guest at Walnut Grove Elementary Science Night
  - Grapevine, Colleyville, Southlake Moms League Summer Camp Expo
  - Hillwood Middle School Summer Expo

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT & PARTICIPATION

- Volunteer groups who made their mark at the Nature Center: Tarrant County Master Gardeners, Denton County Master Gardeners, Eagle Scouts, Fort Worth Astronomical Society, Church of Latter Day Saints, The Clubhouse for Special Needs, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and the BJ NC Board of Directors.

The Tarrant County Master Gardeners continue to transform empty plots to gorgeous perennial garden beds at BJ NC. In 2017, they focused on creating a milkweed butterfly garden to support monarchs released at the annual Monarch Butterfly Festival. Plus, they maintained the existing Texas native gardens.

The community’s generous support continued to show itself again and again not only through time given but also through fundraising. From North Texas Day of Giving to Monarch Butterfly Festival to #GivingTuesday, donors and sponsors opened their hearts and checkbooks and provided funds needed to facilitate and execute all of the services we provide to the community.

We can’t help but be moved by the selflessness of the community and all of the beauty we see each day here at BJ NC. We get to look out the window and see a myriad of gorgeous birds thanks to the efforts of Andrea Marshall—each week she faithfully refills the birdfeeders with feed she picks up on her own time. We get to watch hundreds of monarchs released and the pure joy that brings to children and adults alike. We get the privilege of seeing up-close images of flora and fauna thanks to participants of our annual Photo Contest.

There is truly beauty everywhere—it’s so important that we all remember to look for it and share it with the next generation.

Lori Higgins
Executive Director
Our results for the year were driven primarily by an increase in the level of BJ NC programs. Revenues from Programs & Activities exceeded the prior year by 35%. The magnitude of this accomplishment cannot be understated, but is even more impressive when viewed in the context of executing our mission with a corresponding reduction in overall expenses versus the prior year.

Fundraising revenues were lower this year due to a change in timing of the annual fundraiser. Membership revenues were lower than the prior year, but this impact was more than offset by a 6% increase in Donations & Restricted Grants.

Administrative expenses were slightly below the prior year. This is an impressive achievement given the increase in the scope of our program offerings.

Our focus for the coming year will be to refocus our fundraising activities and continue to enhance our program offerings while maintaining a cost structure consistent with prior year levels.
BJNC holds nearly 50 special events each year, including birthday parties.

BJNC on average holds at least 1 community outreach event per month.
Annual Fund Donors

2017

Gifts received from January through December.

Giving and support includes membership.

*A Indicates Corporate Business Partners & Supporters with contributions of $500 and above.

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The Bob Jones Nature Center Organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Monetary donations are tax-deductible. Your donations support educational programs, trail preservation, maintenance, and habitat restoration. In-kind donations are welcome but subject to acceptance by the Executive Director.

You can donate online, using your credit or debit card, via our secure PayPal account.

The Bob Jones Nature Center extends its most heart-felt gratitude to the many donors who made our work possible in 2017.

If your name was inadvertently left off the list, we apologize. Please call us at 817-491-6333 or email admin@bjnc.org to let us know.

Thank you to everyone for supporting The Bob Jones Nature Center.
The BJNC Organization operates under a Management Agreement with the City of Southlake.

Bob Jones Nature Center
355 E. Bob Jones Road
Southlake, TX
817-491-6333
844-249-7456 (fax)

NATURE CENTER
Open Tuesday-Saturday
9am-5pm

PRESENCE AND TRAILS
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7:00 AM-8:00 PM (during daylight savings time)