SAVE THE DATE

September 1–5, 2017

Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center

Big Bend National Park Ecotourism Trip

- Big Bend National Park – part of the most biologically diverse desert in the world, the international Chihuahuan Desert Biosphere Reserve
- Visit will occur toward the end of the summer rainy season for the best chance to see the wildflowers
- The summer birds should still be at Big Bend, and some early fall migrants might be coming through
- Stay in the Chisos Mountains Lodge and enjoy the mountain summer weather and incredible vistas

Trip will include transportation and lodging

More details soon at www.naturecenterfriends.org

“In Big Bend, there are usually two major flowering periods per year—spring and late summer/early fall. The spring flower season, because it depends largely on the amount and timing of winter precipitation, is less predictable than the summer/fall season, which is fueled by the dependable summer monsoon.

“The late summer flowering season is dominated by members of the sunflower family. These plants are sometimes called composites because the “flower” is actually a tightly clustered group of very small individual flowers. Most summer-flowering composites are yellow or white, with yellows being abundant in the Chisos Mountains. Several varieties of sage (genus Salvia) sport eye-catching red, blue, or purple flowers in the Chisos Mountains in summer. The high country wildflower show can last well into the fall, before the first freeze hits the mountains.

“Another group of plants commonly called “desert sage” or cenizo grow in the mid to lower elevations of the park. These are not true sages (members of the mint family) but rather, are members of the figwort family. These hardy desert shrubs often explode in a profusion of blossoms (pale lavender, magenta, or deep purple) after significant summer rains.”
Big Bend, Jornada, and Mapimi: The Chihuahuan Desert Biosphere Reserve

“The “biosphere” is that veneer of our Earth’s crust, waters and atmosphere that supports life. It reaches from the deepest ocean floor 12 miles upward to the tops of the highest mountains and contains 193 distinct biogeographical zones or ecosystems. One of these is the vast Chihuahuan Desert of northern Mexico, southern Texas, and New Mexico. It is a biogeographical zone rich in geologic history and natural lifeforms.”

Images and selected text courtesy of Big Bend National Park Website & Park Administration Office