

## **Retzer Nature Center Plans Two Central America Natural History Tours in 2014**

The Friends of Retzer Nature Center are planning two natural history trips to Central America early next year – one a third annual trip to Costa Rica and one a first time venture to Belize.

Interest meetings for both 11-day trips are scheduled concurrently at Retzer Nature Center for Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Interested folks can hear much more about both trips at these meetings, and can seek additional information about schedules, itineraries, costs and accommodations at that time.

Back by popular demand, the third annual Costa Rica natural history tour will be led by Retzer Nature Center Director Larry Kascht, and is tentatively scheduled for early March. The trip features visits to three Costa Rican national parks (Poas, Arenal, and Manuel Antonio) and three biological reserves (Tirimbina, Monteverde, and Carara), and includes daily programming with *Costa Rica Rainforest Experience* naturalists. Clean guest house accommodations, clean drinking water, and safe drivers are assured throughout.

The first time offering of a Belize natural history tour will be led by Friends of Retzer Board member David Block, and is tentatively scheduled for late January or early February. This trip focuses on the ecology of Belize's lowland tropical forests, and includes visits to three notable Mayan archaeological sites (including the famous Tikal site in neighboring Guatemala!) plus a canoe tour of a sacred Mayan cave. Participants will enjoy quiet birdwatching mornings along the way, plus daily travel with *Programme for Belize* naturalists. The trip concludes with two days of snorkeling on Belize's renowned coral reef or just a few days of relaxing on the Caribbean island of Ambergris Caye. Once again, clean guest house accommodations, clean drinking water, and safe drivers are assured throughout.

Much more information will be available at the upcoming interest meetings in August and September. Interested parties should plan on attending one of them. If neither meeting can be attended, please contact David Block (262-524-9111) for more information on the Belize trip or Larry Kascht (896-8007) for more information on the Costa Rica trip.

Late winter in the tropics – what could be better!