

Native Plant Society of Texas  
Big Bend Chapter  
January 2007 Newsletter

**New Officers -**

Hi all and Happy New Year. Elections are coming up at the Jan. 13 meeting, and there is good news to share.

We have an excellent presidential candidate in Polly Melton. Those of you who are Sierra Club members will know Polly and her partner Bob Patterson. Polly has been a Big Bend ex-pat for the past 6 years - although she and Bob had built a house in South Double Diamond six years ago, Polly lived in Austin working for the City of Austin as an urban designer and has only this summer shaken off the I-35 traces and headed "home."

Polly is originally from Indiana and came to Texas after more than twenty years in Cambridge, Mass. After earning a degree in Spanish at Indiana University, Polly and got a BS in Landscape Architecture at Purdue.

Polly has devoted most of her landscape architecture career to public practice, including managing the street tree planting program and park development projects for the City of Boston. She got her Masters of Landscape Architecture at the University of Massachusetts and taught landscape materials and methods at the Boston Architectural Center.

As you can see, we've hit the jackpot with Polly, whose diverse interests include cooking and gardening, historic preservation and antiques, drawing and textile arts, yoga and meditation, travel, family and friends.

Polly says, "While I don't anticipate working for government again, I will always be a landscape architect. For me it's not just a career. It's a way of relating to the world. In Alpine I plan to focus my landscape architecture practice on residential design in combination with real estate sales."

I am very much looking forward to following Polly's lead in the year ahead - we have talked about some possible projects that could really open up our mission and our work here in the Trans-Pecos - and beyond.

Others standing for election are Beth Francell, vice-president; Karen Little, recording secretary; Dallas Baxter, corresponding secretary; Martha Latta, treasurer.

My thanks to Kathy Bork and Kathie Wood, now retiring, who have served on the steering committee for the past two years and been a great asset to the chapter.

**Jan. 13 meeting and plant sale -**

After the elections and a brief business meeting, we will be treated to the design secrets of Linda Hedges' wonderful mountainside garden. Linda has taken a difficult site and made a garden oasis to which birds and animals, as well as people, flock.

Come and see why and then go home and create!

And to give you something to plant in your new oasis, after the meeting, Beth Francell will be offering trees, shrubs and flowers at prices ranging from \$5 to \$40 at her garden, 109 N. Buckeye in "downtown" Fort Davis, just off Court Street.

Here's what's available: **Natives:** Big Tooth Maple, Black Locust, Yellow Bird of Paradise, Honey Mesquite, Evergreen Sumac, Southwestern Chokecherry, Tracy Hawthorn, Agave, Texas Persimmon, Texas Pistachio-only for south county, 5 leaf creeper, Indian Currant, Coralberry, Mexican Buckeye. **Non-Native:** Jujube, Redbud, Red Stem Pussy Willow, Privet, Lilac, Martha Gonzales Rose, Mutabilis Rose, Daylily, Yellow Columbine, Iris, Crinum lily, Vinca major, Ajuga, Bromiliads and succulents, compost and fertilizer, Aloe vera and ghost plants, White perennial sweet pea, Silk Vine.

**Please call One Way, 432.837.1117, today to make reservations. Space is limited!**

### **Getting E-Mails -**

If you have two e-mail addresses for your membership, the e-mail system set up by the state office may not be sending to both. Please check, if you're a two e-mail address family, to see that each of you got this newsletter. If not, let me know.

Also, if you're getting a hard copy of this newsletter when you have an e-mail address, please let me know. It will save us money and time to send your newsletter by e-mail. Thanks.

### **Treasurer's Report -**

We made \$278 at the Nov. plant sale at Sul Ross. Many thanks, Patty Manning, for making that possible. Here's more info on chapter finances:

We began 2006 with a bank balance of \$1272.14 and ended with \$668.79 having given \$500 to the Museum of the Big Bend for use on native plant exhibits, \$500 to the Texas Plant Conservation Conference held at Sul Ross and \$25 to the Marfa Library Building Fund since we used their facility for a meeting.

Other expenditures included the publication of Beth Francell's excellent *Salvia Guide* (contact her for a copy at \$3 each).

Martha Latta, chapter treasurer, will make a more complete report at the Jan. 13 meeting.

Please keep in mind that we have two fund raisers coming up in 2007. The April half day wildscape symposium and the November overnight at the Solitario will both bring us some income. And since we are a non-profit organization, we can't sit on those funds. What projects would be worthwhile to fund? Please keep your eyes and ears open for places in the community where funding from NPSOT could make a difference.

### **Harvesting Rainwater for Wildlife -**

We just might have a winter with a little moisture, so why not try to corral some of that water for the wildlife on your land. Mike Mecke, who will present on this topic at the April wildscape symposium, has written a publication, along with some of his water colleagues, that will give you some great ideas.

This sixteen-page publication explains wildlife water sources, management considerations, rainfall catchment areas and wildlife tax valuation. It also illustrates various types of devices used to provide supplemental water for wildlife.

Harvesting Rainwater for Wildlife can be purchased for \$7.00 or downloaded at:

<http://tcebookstore.org/pubsearch.cfm>

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