

**Native Plant Society of Texas  
Big Bend Chapter  
June 2007 Newsletter**

**2008 Programs -**

Who'd have imagined the Big Bend Chapter of NPSOT would become five years old! But yes, we've been around since 2002. And in that time, we've presented nearly 4 dozen programs all over the Tri-counties. Over time, we have often heard "oh, I missed that program" and "oh, I'd love to do that again." So why not? We want YOU to plan the programs for 2008.

On a separate page of this newsletter is a list of the programs we've done since 2002. Please print the page out, indicate your ten choices and mail it to me at 803 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Alpine 79830. Or save it to your computer, mark your choices and e-mail it back to me as an attachment. Or if you are receiving a hard copy, mark that copy and mail it to me. No need to rank them. We'll tally the favorites and take it from there! And if you have a program idea we haven't done, we welcome those, too. Just jot them on the bottom or back of the page and send them in. Thank you!

**Alpine Farmers' Market -**

To have a thriving market, we need more of everything! And that means not only homegrown good food, but crafts, cooking demonstrations, locally made items such as soaps - think of what you'd like to see in a market and let me know.

Eve Trook, who started the market several years ago, is working hard to see that it becomes part of the Alpine scene that we take for granted.

This is one of those chicken and egg things - folks don't come because there aren't many vendors and vendors don't... well, you get the picture. So, be a pioneer and be part of the Farmers' Market. You don't have to be there every week, though regularity builds customer support. And you don't have to bake thousands of cookies, a few dozen will do.

Years ago, Alpine was a self-sustaining fruit and vegetable producer - and we can do it again with your help!

**Master Naturalists 2007 class -**

The schedule for this class is out - four three-day weekends: Sept. 7,8 and 9 at Balmorhea, Sept 28,29 and 30 at the Davis Mtns. Preserve, Oct 5,6 and 7 at Elephant Mountain and Oct, 26, 27, 28 at BBNP. The schedule is exciting, the speakers excellent, and we will schedule NPSOT programs not to conflict. So why wait?

Applications are available and the deadline to have them in is June 30th. As volunteers potentially working with children a background check is required. Total cost for all four training weekends is \$130.00.

For a schedule or an application, contact Steve Elfring at [selfring@bigbend.net](mailto:selfring@bigbend.net)

**Garden help available -**

NPSOT member Victoria Bannister has been working with Amelia Rodriguez on the gardens at the First Baptist Church in Alpine. Victoria reports that Amelia is raring to go on additional gardening work.

Amelia learned gardening while in prison for a drug offense. She is now out on probation and trying hard to make a living - as a convicted felon there are few if any places that will hire her.

Victoria reports that she is a hard worker, eager to learn, disciplined and good to work with. Her rate is \$8-10 an hour. She has transportation but no tools.

If you have been looking for a mature person who wants to work with you and do a good job, give Amelia a call - 837-7137.

### **A Cautionary Tale -**

From the Texas Riparian Association Newsletter, May 4, 2007 and thanks to Mike Mecke:  
Researchers Find New Pharmaceuticals in Texas Waters

Baylor University researchers announced on May 1 they have found the residue of three new human medications in fish living in the Pecan Creek in North Texas.

The pharmaceuticals, which have not been previously identified in fish, are: diphenhydramine, an over-the-counter antihistamine also commonly used as a sedative in nonprescription sleep aids and motion sickness; diltiazem, a drug for high blood pressure; and carbamazepine, a treatment for epilepsy and bipolar disorder. Residue of norfluoxetine, the active metabolite of the antidepressant fluoxetine, also was detected in this study, confirming results of a previous project by the researchers.

"These results demonstrate the increasing need to consider bioaccumulation of emerging contaminants in the environment," said Dr. Kevin Chambliss, an assistant professor of chemistry at Baylor, who is a co-lead investigator on the project. "This research proves fish are being exposed to multiple compounds in our waterways."

Most of the water in Pecan Creek is effluent from an upstream wastewater treatment facility. The data suggests there is not a human health concern, the researchers said. However, exposure to the compounds may produce adverse effects in fish. For example, high levels of antidepressants, like fluoxetine, in fish are known to cause behavioral changes, which impact aggression, feeding rate and other behaviors necessary for fish survival.

### **Piano Tuning Redux -**

For those who may have missed the previous tuner, Jean Hardy of Front St. Books has a tuner coming to town soon. Contact her if your piano needs help: [jhardy@fsbooks.com](mailto:jhardy@fsbooks.com)

### **Join the Native Prairies Association -**

NPSOT member in the Austin Chapter, Jason Spangler is president of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and invites new members. Contact him at: [jasons@wumple.com](mailto:jasons@wumple.com)

The Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) is a non-profit membership organization and land trust dedicated to the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of native prairies and grasslands in Texas and throughout the United States, including the native plant communities, grassland birds, butterflies, and other wildlife that call them home.

As a land trust, NPAT protects over 1200 acres of original and restored Texas prairie, including over 100 acres of imperiled tallgrass prairie. Less than 1% of the original 20 million acre of Texas' beautiful tallgrass prairie remains, so conserving our remaining Texas prairie heritage is very important.

Texas is a diverse prairie state, including the tallgrass prairies of the Blackland Prairies, Coastal Prairies, and Cross Timbers and Prairies, the bluestem savannas of the Edwards Plateau/Hill Country and Post Oak Savanna, the mixed grass prairies of the Rolling Plains, the short grass prairies of the High Plains, and the desert grasslands of the Trans-Pecos.

### **Long-Haul Trucks in the Big Bend -**

Stewards of the Big Bend, a group fighting the truck option of La Entrada sends this. I have attached a flyer about the meeting to the e-mail version of the newsletter. If you are inclined to do so, please print out one or more and put them where people in your town can see them.

*On Saturday afternoon, June 9 from 3-5 pm, the Stewards of the Big Bend and the Bread and Breakfast will host an information and letter writing meeting at the Bread and Breakfast, 113 W. Holland Avenue in Alpine concerning the current status of long haul trucks coming through our Big Bend communities. Please join us and tell your friends and neighbors to join us. Please forward this to everyone you think will be able to help this very important cause. Many thanks!*

Contact Susan Curry at: [uptous@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uptous@sbcglobal.net) or 837-0735

**NPSOT programs 2002-2007**

2002

*Propagating Natives*, Patty Manning, SR  
*Bringing the Chihuahuan Desert into your Garden*, Bill and Joan Carlisle and *Bio-Intensive Greenhouse Gardening*, Clyde Curry & Kate Thayer, Marathon  
*Designing Outdoor Rooms*, Nancy Robinson and Jeff Smith, Ft. Davis  
*Creating Wildscapes*  
*Catch water Systems and Gray water Use*, Sue and Early Beach, Terlingua  
*Botanizing Fern Canyon and "Everything you've always .... about native plants"* - Wynn Anderson

2003

*Invasive Exotics*, Jackie Poole, SR  
*Botanizing at Big Bend Ranch State Park*, David Long  
*Chihuahuan Desert Gardens Tour* at Museum Gardens, UTEP - Wynn Anderson  
*Lawns, Meadows and Groundcovers* - Beth Francell  
*Flora of the Novaculate Habitats* - Mike Powell, Marathon  
*Ecology and Native Grasses of the Marfa Plateau*, Hip-o Ranch, John Karges, Patty Manning  
*Soils* - Bonnie Warnock, SR  
*Harvesting Seed* - Patty Manning, Ft. Davis  
*Rangeland Restoration* - Joe Sirotnak - BBNP

2004

*Water in the Desert*, Alyson McDonald  
*Tamarisk Eradication along the Rio Grande Swales* - retaining water for rangeland grasses, Carl Potter, So. Brewster Co.  
*Potluck Native Plant Foods lunch*, Eve Trook, Alpine  
*Gray water Ponds*  
*Diamond Y Ranch* - John Karges  
*Native Food Sunday Brunch*, Beth Francell, Ft. Davis

2005

*Botanizing at Glass Mountains Ranch*, Patty Manning, Hiram Sibley  
*Water and Wildlife*, Carolyn Ohl, So Brewster Co.  
*Propagating Cactus*, Patty Manning, SR  
*Botanizing Mt. Livermore*, Pete Szilagyi, Red Rock Ranch, Van Horn  
*Trees*, Oscar Mestas, Fort Davis Historic Site  
*Symposium presentations*

2006

*Symposium presentations* presented again  
*Fire* - controlled burns & fire management - program cancelled, repeated in 2007  
*Gardening with Salvias* - Beth Francell  
*Botanizing on Elephant Mountain*  
*Landscaping the Highways and Roadside Parks with TxDOT*- Deena Gantt  
*Orienteering* - navigating with map and compass - CDRI  
*Water Gardens as Water Catchment* - Mike Mecke  
*Medicinal and Poisonous plants of the Trans-Pecos* - Martin Terry

2007

*Hardscape in the winter garden*, Linda Hedges, Ft. Davis  
*Trans-Pecos Orchids*, Karen Little, Marfa  
*Restoring Water in the Desert*, Bonnie Warnock, O2Ranch  
*Wildscapes - Gardening for Birds and Butterflies* - Jill Nokes, Lois Balin, Mike Mecke, Martha Latta

New Ideas:

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