

Native Plant Society of Texas  
Big Bend Chapter  
June 2008 Newsletter

**Glass Mountains Ranch June 14 -**

Hiram and Liz Sibley's wonderful limestone ranch offers hikes with fossils underfoot, a different "look" from the usual Tri-counties landscape and a visit to their mountain-top ranch house with its 360 degree views of the surrounding countryside where we'll eat lunch.

Patty Manning will lead the botanical part of the hike, and Hiram will fill in with stories of the ranch, his childhood on it and other historic and anecdotal info.

Meet at 8:40 a.m. at One Way in Alpine to car pool to a 9 a.m. rendezvous with Hiram at the Hwy 67/90 Triangle outside Alpine. The group will follow him to the ranch. BYO lunch, water, cameras, too and plant books, etc. We'll be home by 2 p.m.

The sign up sheet is now at One Way, so give them a call at 432.837.1117.

This meeting has been moved to June 14 to accommodate the Small Acreage Land Management Workshop - now you can do both!!

**Small-Acreage Land Management Workshop -**

A collaborative effort of five environmental organizations, this workshop takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 7 at the Sul Ross Turner Range Animal Science Center, Room 130 on Hwy 90 east in Alpine.

Early registration has passed, but on site registration, which includes lunch and an afternoon field trip is \$30.

For more information contact Steve Elfring at 432.364.2673 or [selfring@bigbend.net](mailto:selfring@bigbend.net)

**No meetings July and August -**

Summertime and the living is easy, so we'll be taking two months off to do rain dances and tend the garden. See you in September!

**2009 Programs -**

Summer is the time for planning programs for the next year, and Polly would be glad to hear your ideas for programs and field trips for 2009. There will be nine programs (we don't meet in July, August or December). Please contact Polly with ideas for next year at [melton@bigbend.net](mailto:melton@bigbend.net) and/or be ready when she contacts you for help with the 2009 programs.

**A tribute to Lady Bird Johnson at the nation's garden -**

From the E-newsletter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center:

More than two decades ago, at age 70, Lady Bird Johnson decided to throw her hat "over the windmill" and found a wildflower research center. Her decision resulted in the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, now part of The University of Texas at Austin. That is just one reason why this environmental leader is being commemorated this summer with an exhibit at the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., just a year after her death on July 11, 2007.

The exhibit created by the Wildflower Center will be on display now through October 13 as part of the Botanic Garden's Summer 2008 exhibit on sustainable living, "One Planet -- Ours!" This summer exhibit, on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, is expected to draw 300,000 visitors.

The site is the First Ladies Water Garden, and the theme is "A Clear Vision" with Mrs. Johnson's own words sculpted on silver spirals that shimmer just below the fountain surface. As friends of the Wildflower Center know, Mrs. Johnson was extraordinarily eloquent. One of the spirals says: "The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become."

To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.wildflower.org/feature/?id=16>

### **More on the border wall** -

From member Kate McKenna, this New York Times article:

#### **May 21, 2008 Homeland Security Stands by Its Fence**

NACO, Ariz. — As the Department of Homeland Security pushes to complete 670 miles of fencing along the Mexican border by the end of this year, it is confronting the sharpest resistance yet while conceding that physical barriers alone do not stop illegal crossings.

In the latest challenge, the Texas Border Coalition, an organization of mayors, county commissioners and economists opposed to the fence, filed a federal lawsuit on Friday. It says that the homeland security secretary, Michael Chertoff, failed to conduct required negotiations with property owners and local authorities when he ordered that the barrier be built in Texas. The group wants the construction halted.

To read the entire article, go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/21/washington/21fence.html?ei=5070&en=ae2c0094e5f5947c&ex=1212033600&adxnnl=1&emc=eta1&adxnnlx=1211404506-7nusZkH6YlBnda7ZwP8ZCA>

### **Newsletter contributions** -

Thanks to those who already have and encouragement to those who might like to submit articles and information for the newsletter. Please send items to me at [bigbendwoman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigbendwoman@sbcglobal.net).

### **September Meeting - Diamond Y Preserve** -

If you've seen the current issue of the Desert Candle, you may have read member Megan Wilde's excellent article on seeps and springs in the Trans-Pecos. One of those extraordinary spots, Diamond Y Preserve, is the site of our September 27 meeting. Mark your calendars.

### **Nature Notes** -

And for more insights into the wonderful natural world west of the Pecos, tune in Nature Notes on KRTS, Marfa Public Radio, 93.5 FM, Thursdays at 9:35 a.m. and again at 7:05 p.m.

The show is produced by KRTS in co-operation with the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute. It's written by CDRI staff as well as scientists and nature writers from across the Trans-Pecos and narrated by member Dallas Baxter.