

**Native Plant Society of Texas
Big Bend Chapter
November 2008 Newsletter**

November Meeting -

This one's on a Monday - for all of you who can't get away on Saturdays! The Big Bend Chapter of NPSOT joins with the Texas Agri-Life Extension and the Texas Forest Service for an almost full day of Desert Landscaping - emphasizing Water Harvesting with some of the state's heavy hitters in this department telling all they know!

When: **Monday Nov. 17 from 8:30 to 4**

Where: Paisano Hotel Ballroom, Marfa

What: Topics include

- Native plant selection
- Water-wise tree selection
- Care of native plants
- Water and wildlife
- Landscape rainwater collection focusing on three areas
 - Passive collection
 - Rain gardens
 - Drip systems (and making your own rain barrel)

Who: Presenters include Debbie Bengé, Ector County extension horticulturist; Oscar Mestas, urban forester with the Texas Forest Service; Gary Bryant, Extension water specialist and Billy Kniffen, Extension water harvesting and resource specialist.

No reservations necessary for this event - and it's free! Bring a friend and come to the Paisano at 8:30 to register. Two breaks during the day will offer simple snacks and drinks. Lunch is on your own - a great chance to try the Food Shark, Squeeze Marfa or the Pizza Foundation!

2009 Programs -

Polly hopes to have them at the Nov. 17 meeting. We'll also send out an e-mail version when details are complete.

Trees for Travis County -

Kevin Connally, senior environmental resource management specialist with Travis County Natural Resources and Environmental Quality, is asking for help from NPSOT members for planting hundreds of trees in parks throughout Travis County (Austin) and the Balcones Canyonland Preserve.

If you'll be in Austin and would like to lend a hand or have friends or family there who would like to do so, contact Connally at 512-854-7213 office or 512-848-7697 mobile.

Or in Arizona -

The Santa Rita Experimental Station in Tucson is looking for a caretaker. Could this be you? Contact them at <http://cals.arizona.edu/srer>

Or in New Mexico -

Rio Grande Return is a non profit group in New Mexico working to restore our beautiful Rio Grande. They have a gift catalogue the proceeds from which support various conservations programs and other aspects of their mission. Check it out at: www.riograndereturn.com