

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

September meeting - Buzzing Around, High Country Pollinators -

10 a.m. to noon on Saturday Sept. 15, at Beth Francell's garden on Buckeye Street, corner of Court, in Fort Davis. Deadline for reservations is 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14.

Sul Ross entomologist Kendall Craig will open the door to the wonders of the insect world here in the high country desert. AND we'll probably talk about this year's grasshopper plague and what, if anything, can be done when those beautiful bad guys show up at your garden gate.

Please call One Way Plant Nursery, 432.837.1117, to make a reservation. Visitors are always welcome and are asked to make a \$5 per person donation - or join - new members encouraged!

Fall Meetings -

October 20 - Patty Manning presents on native ornamental grasses. We'll meet in Marathon at the Baxter Gallery - east side of town, has a rabbit painted on the side. Then those who would like are invited for lunch at Eve's Garden, the fantastical Bed and Breakfast up the hill from the Gage Hotel. The cost for lunch is \$15 which includes entrée, dessert, beverage and gratuity. And you'll have a chance to tour the house, greenhouse and guest suites - inspirational.

Nov. 9, 10 - Overnight at the Solitario/Saucedo/Big Bend Ranch State Park. Cost is \$100 per person which covers bunk in the bunkhouse, indoor plumbing, 4 meals and guides for hikes in the Solitario. *This event is limited to members who were members (name on the member roll) before September 1, 2007.* Because we are limited to 30 people (the number of bunks available), we have to draw the line. To date, all our events have welcomed visitors, but this is a rare opportunity, and we have to limit, so it's only fair to limit to members. Registration information at the beginning of Oct.

December - No meeting -

2008 Programs -

The results are in, have been tabulated and the *Program Committee will meet Monday, Oct. 1 at the Front Street Books Annex in Alpine at 515 p.m.* to put the 2008 programs together.

This is your opportunity to step up to the plate and take part in planning next year's meetings and field trips. We'll meet for 90 minutes (or less) and hope to wrap up the whole year! Please e-mail me if you'd like to be part of this. We will also be calling to ask for your participation! Hope you'll join in!

August meeting Thank You -

Thank you to Alice Stevens for inviting us to use One Way for the August social. A beautiful setting, good conversation and dozens of salvia varieties made it a great event. Also special thanks to Suzy and Terry Ervin who took the seed exchange to heart and brought more than two dozen kinds of native seed to share with fellow NPSOT members. There is extra seed, and it is in glass jars in the area near the Sustainability Project book shelves near the cash register at One Way. Free for the taking, so come by and help yourself. And when you do, admire the beauty of the seed in the jars. Wow!

Sunshine House Gardens -

More than two dozen different community members have worked with NPSOT on the Sunshine House garden refurbishment. Polly Melton, Beth Francell and Martha Latta have designed new gardens and hardscape and gathering places. Our work days so far have spruced up the parking lot, the foundation planting and the lawns.

On Sept. 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Sunshine House 30th Anniversary celebration, 205 E. Sul Ross in Alpine, we will have the existing grounds in tip-top shape, the designs posted along with the designers to explain them and the donation jar prominently displayed so that we find funds to implement the "new look."

Come by to see what we've done and plan to do. There is also a silent auction and refreshments!

Odds and Ends -

* Need gardening help? Rachel Lindley, whom you may know from the Marfa Book Coffee Bar in Marfa is at your service. \$10 an hour... Call her at 432.729.3309

* Alice has extra Buffalo grass sod at One Way. Give her a call at 432.837.1117.

Reading Around -

* This from Earth Kind News - the newsletter of the Texas A&M Extension Service:

Low Volume Irrigation Systems :

Efficient irrigation is one of the key Earth Kind practices for conserving water in the landscape. Low volume irrigation systems (sometimes referred to as drip or trickle irrigation) are among the most effective means of achieving significant water savings. Despite the tremendous potential for water conservation, these systems are not widely used in residential landscapes.

To read the entire article, go to <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/Listserv.html> And if you'd like to talk to one who knows, Martha Latta is a licensed irrigation guru - 432.837.1070.

* Part of an article from the e-newsletter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - two thoughts after reading the whole piece: a) another reason to do all possible to keep La Entrada from becoming La Intrusive and b) how great it is that we live here and are part of this! For the full story: <http://www.wildflower.org/feature/?id=4>

Collecting Seeds Across Texas

Ask Sean Watson and Phillip Schulze how they spent their summer, and they will tell you they journeyed almost 3,000 miles in a pickup truck, visited some of the most botanically diverse parts of Texas and collected 100 species of seeds and plants for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Nursery manager Watson and land steward Schulze spent six days working near the Rio Grande from Boca Chica to Laredo, followed by a seven-day trip to West Texas.

"It would take decades-probably longer-to compile an annotated list of all of the vascular plant species in West Texas," Watson said. "Often each canyon had its own set of unique species that you may not find in the canyon just around the bend. There are just so many niches and protected areas in the mountains.

The fact that West Texas is so sparsely populated and still relatively undeveloped has allowed this diversity to continue. You can still find many areas of overgrazed land, but man's footprint does not go too far beyond that. There is no urban sprawl, no big cities besides El Paso, and not as much habitat destruction because of the lack of people. Water is limited and the environment is harsh," he added. "This has probably been the land's saving grace."

NPSOT

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