

Collin County Chapter NPSOT News



Volume 2, Issue 1

Native Plant Society of Texas

January 2009

From the President

Bill Woodfin looks forward to a great year

I'm looking forward to an enjoyable, engaged and active year for our members and chapter beginning Tuesday evening, January 6, with our first meeting for 2009. We have a number of native plant related presentations by knowledgeable speakers lined up for our monthly meetings and additional activities planned to get us out into the fields and the community.

Our native plants are an integral part of our north Texas history. I see one mission of our Chapter as educating ourselves as to that heritage and sharing it with the younger Collin county population as well as with adults whose interests in the Blackland prairie ecosystem may be newly awakening. If our native plants are going to survive in our county's meadows, woods and public places and if people are going to be placing them in their suburban landscapes we need to be out and about extolling their values and pleasures.

I think that much of this publicizing and educating can be done in conjunction with other organizations in our county that share similar interests. In that regard I would like to see us combining more of our activities and educational efforts with the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists, the Connemara Conservancy, the Prairies and Timbers Audubon Society and with local educators and nursery professionals. There is a good deal we can contribute to one another.

As we start our year I very much look forward to the opportunity to serve our Chapter and am avid to have input and suggestions as we go through the seasons of 2009. Our officers are hard at work but we need the encouragement and help of all the members.

Thank you,
Bill Woodfin
wwoodfin@dfwair.net

Heard Native Plant Sale

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 20th annual spring native plant sale at the Heard Natural Science Museum on April 17-19. Buy some great plants – and volunteer to help set up or sell the plants.

Jan. 6 Program

Betsy Farris, NPSOT Texas Treasure

Topic: Wild in the Thicket

Betsy Farris, treasurer for NPSOT and for the Collin County chapter, will present a summary of the NPSOT 2008 Symposium, "Jasper: Wild in the Thicket - The Big Thicket National Preserve".

The Big Thicket was the subject of the 2008 NPSOT Symposium. It was established in 1974 and consists of twelve land units and six water corridors that comprise some 100,000 acres, throughout seven southeast Texas counties.

Betsy's presentation will highlight three of the many field trips during the Symposium: the Big Beech Creek field trip which was the backdrop for the Mushroom Foray, and tours of the Pitcher Plant Trail and the Sundew Trail which are named for two of the four carnivorous plants that occur in the Big Thicket National Preserve.

Texas Legacy Project

Check in out: <http://www.texaslegacy.org>

The Conservation History Association of Texas has an online archive of video, audio, text, and other materials collected through interviews and correspondence with the people who have shaped and continue to influence the protection of Texas natural resources. Several native plant folks, such as Bob and Mickey Burleson, David Bamberger, Scooter Cheatham, are included.

You'll need the Real player to see the videos; there's a link to download Real player on the web site.

Native Plant Society of Texas

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example.

Monthly Meetings

January – October at the Heard
The Heard Natural Science Museum
(Laughlin Hall)

1 Nature Place; McKinney, TX
www.heardmuseum.org (972) 562-5566

7:00 p.m. – Doors open

7:30 p.m. – Program starts

After program – Short business meeting

Jan. 6: Wild in the Big Thicket

Betsy Farris participated in the NPSOT annual state symposium last Fall and will show her slides and give us the scoop on what she learned.

Feb. 3: Attracting Birds to Your Winter Garden

Carolyn Oldham will help us understand what birds need in the winter and what we can do to make sure the birds spend time in your area.

Members and guests are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings. There is no admission charge. Bring plants or seeds you'd like to trade with other members.

Information is available on our web site:

<http://www.npsot.org/CollinCounty/>

2009 OFFICERS

President: Bill Woodfin

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Newsletter: Linda Smittle

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Questions? Contact 214-693-0103.

2010 Symposium in Denton

Plan to Get Involved

By Betsy Farris

The 2010 NPSOT symposium will be held in Denton. The Collin County chapter will be a part of planning, implementing and staffing that symposium.

We need everyone's help! Our chapter's support – and your individual contribution – will be critical to the success

Attend a meeting or watch the web site for specific volunteer opportunities.

It will be fun!

Web sites

There are lots of organizations in the Dallas area that extend our knowledge about our natural environment and provide opportunities for us to make a difference. Some organizations of interest:

Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists (classes start in Feb.)

www.bptmn.org

Connemara Conservancy

www.connemaraconservancy.org

Prairie and Timbers Audubon

www.prairieandtimbers.org

Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest

<http://springcreekforest.org>

Email Notifications

If you would like to receive email notification about our meetings and items of interest or if you need to update your email address, please contact Jim Smittle at jim@smittle.com.

Website Updates

Our web site is THE information place for Collin County NPSOT. Send your suggestions for web site changes to our web master Dolores Williams at quiltingpony@hotmail.com

Newsletter

This newsletter (and our web site) will be more valuable if members (like you!) write articles about Texas native plants. Send your articles or photos for the newsletter to Linda Smittle linda@smittle.com

<http://www.npsot.org/CollinCounty/>

