



From Our President

I received the most arresting email last week. It was from Pam Middleton at the NPSOT State Office addressed to the presidents of all the chapters asking if we could, "...send me the name of a popular, foolproof native plant that is regularly used in gardens in your ecological region?" She is developing a handout for every chapter's educational purposes.

I was fascinated by the requests as there are so many wonderful native plants here in Collin County. How was I to come up with only one?

For help I remembered something I had read in Russell Page's "Education of a Gardener." Ordinarily I find books written on English, Continental and formal American gardening not useful for my needs here on the Blackland Prairie but there is always something to be learned from gardeners with the experience, accomplishments and acute intelligence of a man like Russell Page. His advice as to what to consider for your garden was to look around your own environment to see what does well.

Happily, I had been doing that very thing on our Stiff Creek walk with Jim Varnum and Carol Clark and on our Heard grounds walk with David Powell, Carol and Fran Woodfin. The plants at the Heard and on the Stiff Creek farms were just fantastic and I derived a deepened appreciation of what thrives naturally in Collin County and gives uniqueness to our floral heritage and current landscape.

I'm not divulging the plant I recommended so as not to be enveloped in excessive, good-natured controversy. In fact I cheated a bit and suggested a vine, a grass and a flower. It was all I could do to hold back on recommendations for a shrub and a tree. Think the question over and see what you come up with. If you need inspiration for your garden plantings get out in the "unimproved" portions of our landscape and see what you find. The Heard and my neighbors' farms are treasures.

Before closing for this month I want to give special thanks to all of those who contributed to our Chapter sponsored 5th Annual Stiff Creek Wildflower Walk. They include Jim Varnum and Carol Clark who led the walk. I can't imagine better people to learn from. They include the Buckners and Laplantes who are so generous in letting us on their farms. Appreciation also goes to Fran Woodfin who set up our brunch arrangements and to Tony Manasseri and Betsy Farris who were responsible for our successful raffle. Thanks also to everyone who came including Diane Sacks all the way from Houston and the Dotys from Austin. It was a great day.

Bill Woodfin Chalk Hill Farm wwoodfin@dfwair.net

July 7: Show & Tell

Members Show & Tell

The Heard Museum (Laughlin Hall)

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Program starts at 7:15.

There is no admission charge.

The meeting on July 7th features a Members Show and Tell, with a presentation of members' photographs of native plants in their landscape or elsewhere in Texas.

Something for Everyone

Fran Woodfin

Want to spend a morning in the countryside looking at wildflowers? Like getting a little exercise to justify a good meal? Need to know the difference between a lemma and a glume? Think riding around on hay bales in a flatbed trailer is fun? Want to know the names of some of the local flora? Have a desire to take a small monetary chance in a raffle on richly illustrated books on plants? If you were interested in any or all of the above the 5th Annual Stiff Creek Wildflower Walk on May 30 was for you.

Three different but adjacent sites set the scene for the walk. Jim Varnum and Carol Clark led the tour of about 60 people over the course of 2 hours. The wildflowers were in excellent form. One of the most spectacular was *Ipomopsis rubra*, Standing Cypress, and of course the fields of Indian Blanket or Firewheel, *Gaillardia pulchella*.

At noon it was time for a pot lunch brunch, some much needed shade and the exciting raffle. Jim and Carol listed over a 100 species seen and one he and Carol had not seen, *Argythamnia humilis*, Low Wild Mercury. The raffle orchestrated by Tony Manasseri and Betsy Ferris netted around \$275 for the club to fund speakers and community outreach (handouts, brochures, booth fees, etc.).

Make plans for the 6th Annual Stiff Creek wildflower walk next year which we will have a little earlier to see a much different palate of north Texas flora.

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; visiting

7:15 p.m. – Program starts

After program – Short business meeting

August 4: Tree Planting & Establishment

Steve Houser, certified arborist and founder of Arborological Services, Master Naturalist, and chair of the City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee.

September 8: Floristics Defined and Role in the Herbaria in North America

Dr. Nelson Rich, Collin College

October 6: How to Know the Grasses of the Blackland Prairie

Rich Jaynes

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.

2009 OFFICERS

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NPSOT News

Betsy Farris

The next **NPSOT state quarterly board meeting** will be held in Fredericksburg on July 18, 2009 at 10:00 am. The address for the meeting is 320 West San Antonio Street, Fredericksburg. It is in the Historical Society building and the meeting room is at the end of the walk that goes around the right side of the building. All chapter members are welcome to attend. Lunch will be served so RSVP to the state coordinator Pam Middleton (state@npsot.org or 830.997.9272) to let her know if you will be attending.

The Work Plan/Timeline Supplement for the **NPSOT Strategic Plan** was voted on and accepted at the April board meeting. The following paragraph was added to the document:

'This document is intended as a planning document, subject to revision by the State Board at any time. It should not be considered a rigid document, but rather a flexible guideline.'

In anticipation of implementing the Strategic Plan, The positions of Vice President Environmental Liaison and Vice President Advocacy have been added to the state By-Laws. Also added were the Duties of and what board members will comprise the Executive Board.

The **2009 NPSOT symposium** will be in Wichita Falls Oct 15 – 18. Improvements to the Symposium online registration system are being gathered. Efforts to prioritize and address the improvements will be an ongoing task for future symposiums.

The **HB 1739** establishing a day to celebrate Texas native Plants was signed by Governor Perry on June 19. The third week in October is now the official Native Plant Week.

HB 2088 increasing awareness of native plants by requiring nurseries to make available a brochure on native plants, never made it through the committees.

Calendar Updates

August 15, 2009: Chapter field trip to BRIT (Botanical Research Institute of Texas) in Ft Worth (www.brit.org)

Oct 15-18, 2009: 2009 NPSOT Symposium (Wichita Falls)

Oct 7-10, 2010: 2010 NPSOT Symposium (Denton)

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.

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